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Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session - Cent cinquante-cinquième session -
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

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

5 December 2016

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.38 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 38
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.38
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today. A special word of welcome to new Council Members: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Kenya, Lesotho, Montenegro, Qatar, Romania, Sudan, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Zambia.

Before proceeding, I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its member states is contained in information document CL 155/INF/3. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before continuing any further, in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a short video presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation

Présentation video

Videopresentación

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe solicitan, a través de Usted, guardar un minuto de silencio en honor del ex Presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro. Nuestra identidad latinoamericana nos llama a pueblos y amigos, hermanos, a evocar la memoria de un hombre que hizo historia. Sin duda, Fidel Castro fue el constructor de la Cuba revolucionaria, per más aun, fue una de las figuras emblemáticas de la segunda mitad del siglo XX.

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe expresan el compromiso de seguir acompañando a Cuba y a su pueblo, como siempre lo hemos hecho, en su marcha histórica hacia una sociedad más incluyente y próspera.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, you have heard the request made by Mexico on behalf of GRULAC. May I take it that the Council wishes to accede to the request to observe one minute of silence in remembrance of the late former President of Cuba, Fidel Castro?

It is so decided. Let us stand to observe one minute of silence.

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original Language Chinese)

China supports this proposal and China also proposes that the representative of Asia speak on behalf of the Asia Regional Group with another proposal.

Mr Mynt NAUNG (Observer for Myanmar)

During a full period of seven decades of contribution to agriculture and more than 4 000 projects on sustainable resources conservation with the goal to end hunger, on behalf of the Asia Regional Group,

I would like to request a minute of silence to commemorate the late king of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. May I take it that the Council wishes to accede to the request made by the representative of Asia to observe one minute of silence in remembrance of the late king of the Kingdom of Thailand? It is so decided. Let us stand to observe one minute of silence.

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, who has joined us at the start of the Session, and kindly invite him to address the Council. Mr Graziano, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Members of the Council, Ministers, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to FAO, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honour to open the last Session of the Council in 2016.

I would like to start by mentioning that, this year, important steps were taken on our common path to sustainable development.

In March, the United Nations Statistical Commission approved a set of 230 indicators to monitor progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This was a missing piece in the architecture of the 2030 Agenda.

And, last month, the historic Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force, two years earlier than expected.

We can consider that the framework for action to promote sustainable development is complete.

Now, we urgently need to act. We have to strongly implement the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It is a race against time to safeguard our planet and people's lives.

In this context, I am proposing to adjust our management structure.

As you know, we are creating three units in our working structure: a new Deputy Director-General, who will be responsible for Programmes; a new Office of the Chief Statistician; and a Department for Climate, Land and Water.

I presented the rationale behind these changes in an informal seminar on 13 October. I addressed this issue during the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees, which welcomed the proposal. And through an Information Note to this Council, we have provided the additional information requested by the Programme and Finance Committees for better clarification.

More specifically, the Note addressed three points: first, the importance of approving the changes now, in this Council meeting; second, the relationship between the Office of the Chief Statistician and the Statistics Division; and third, the budget neutrality of the changes.

As you can see, these adjustments are about management.

The new Deputy Director-General for Programmes (DDG-P) will coordinate the work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He will be accountable for the performance of the Strategic Programme Leaders (SPLs) who have the main responsibilities towards supporting countries to achieve the SDGs.

The DDG-P will also oversee the related work on technical cooperation, resource mobilization, partnerships, South-South cooperation, the investment centre and monitoring.

All these functions together will be a fundamental part of FAO's work in the coming years.

This is too much responsibility for the Assistant Director-General, TC alone to handle, which is the situation we have now in place. We must elevate the reporting line concerning the SDGs implementation and give to this function the relevance it deserves.

The work on statistics and climate change will also substantially increase with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Just to compare: the Millennium Development Goals' framework had 61 indicators, of which FAO was responsible for only four. The SDGs have 230 indicators. Almost four times more than the MDGs. And FAO is custodian of 25 of them, more than 10 percent. It is six times more, a huge increase.

The Chief Statistician's team will coordinate and align statistical processes at headquarters and in the field, based on SDGs' requirements, and will be supervised by the new DDG-P, as well as the five SPLs.

The Statistics Division, in turn, will continue to produce the normative work and the services that are used by Member Nations and others stakeholders.

Regarding climate change, the UN Climate Conference held in Marrakech (COP22) marked the recognition that agriculture and food systems are fundamental for sustainable development.

Countries will need to increasingly focus on agriculture and food systems for adaptation and mitigation purposes. So we are proposing that FAO has a specific department to address climate change, which is now a cross-cutting theme in our Strategic Framework.

The time to promote these adjustments is now. Otherwise, FAO will lose precious time to better support countries achieve the SDGs.

Concerning budgetary implications, let me be clear: there is no request for additional funding to bear the costs of these three new positions. These will be borne by savings in efficiency that have been found in the current biennium.

This means that there will be no incremental budget requirements neither in this biennium nor in the next. This also means that we do not have to wait for the next PWB proposal to implement the changes.

Let me also mention some other measures we are taking to align our work with the SDGs. This is highlighted in the Reviewed Strategic Framework and Outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2018-21.

We have already identified 40 SDG targets to which FAO's work directly contributes. These SDG targets will be incorporated as the targets of five Strategic Objectives of FAO.

And we have also identified 53 SDG indicators to measure the work of the Strategic Programmes. So the Organization will work in total coordination with the Sustainable Development Goals, under the supervision of the new DDG-P.

With respect to the independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization, both the Joint Meeting and the Programme Committee welcomed the Roadmap to the next Conference.

The draft report of the external experts will be presented at an informal briefing to Permanent Representatives on 9 February 2017. Members and the Secretariat will be able to provide their views and comments.

The experts will then finalize their report, which will be presented to the Session of the Council in April and to the Conference in July.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would now like to refer to the appointment of secretaries under Article XIV Bodies.

Let me start by saying that we cannot prolong this situation in which important bodies do not have secretaries. This generates concrete risks for FAO in administrative terms.

We had to stop the recruitment for the IOTC after receiving the applications last January; and we need to soon open the Vacancy Announcement for the Treaty.

I am sure that keeping this situation pending is also not in the interest of the bodies concerned.

To resolve the situation, I have proposed to include two representatives of Members in the selection panel of secretaries. A shortlist of selected candidates will be then appointed by the Director-General and submitted to board members for confirmation, in accordance with legal texts and UN rules and practices.

To try to move forward, I am proposing that the secretary be appointed for a period of two years. At the end of this period, the bodies themselves will be able to reconfirm or not the appointment of the secretary. During this period of two years, the secretariat or the Independent Chairperson of the Council, if decided by the Council, will carry out consultations with bodies to find a final solution.

Let me clarify that we have already been in informal consultations with IOTC members, as well as with Members of the Treaty, since last year.

Last April, we formally brought to the attention of IOTC Members our concerns and proposals through a written circular communication.

We reiterated these concerns through a formal statement to the last session of the IOTC in May. The Legal Counsel attended this meeting on my behalf. But Members have not taken action, nor replied to our demands.

I call for your support to this proposal that is presented today, as a temporary compromise that will allow us to move forward and continue to seek a final solution.

We have to urgently resolve this administrative issue, and focus our attention on the main challenges we need to address together.

For those who believe we can still wait for more consultation, I recommend the article today in the New York Times international edition signed by the former Commissioner of Marine Affairs of the European Union, Maria Daminaki.

Ladies and gentlemen, last week, we held a very successful symposium on improved nutrition and healthy diets.

We took stock on the implementation of the ICN2 commitments and provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and practices.

Let me highlight the two main conclusions of the symposium:

1. Nutrition must be considered a public issue in all countries, rich and poor, and it needs to be addressed through adequate national policies and legislation;
2. To produce healthy diets, we need to start with healthy soils and seeds, then promote sustainable agricultural development and finally achieve a food chain that can minimize food waste and loss. In the meantime, we need to assure adequate remuneration for family farmers and empower consumers to choose healthy food.

So we need to promote healthy and sustainable food systems from production to consumption.

Next week, we are co-organizing a high-level event on gender. This will gather governments, UN Agencies, civil society and others to reflect on the causes and consequences of gender disparities in rural areas. And to identify challenges and opportunities for unleashing the potential of rural women and girls to end hunger and poverty, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

FAO pays a lot of attention to gender, which is one of our cross-cutting themes in the Strategic Framework. We have good results on gender, as demonstrated in the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15, and we will provide an update in the Medium-Term Report in 2017, as requested by Council.

In addition, the evaluations of all five Strategic Objectives will contain an annex on gender and there will be a global evaluation to be presented to the Conference in 2019.

FAO takes gender seriously. This is very important in achieving our objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, before concluding, I am very proud to share with you the formal recognition of the United Kingdom to FAO's good performance over the last years.

In 2011, the UK's Multilateral Development Review (MDR) had placed FAO in the "special measures" category, and classified the Organization as "poor value for money" for the UK taxpayers. FAO was then formally informed that if we did not improve, our funding would be at risk.

But now, in the 2016 Multilateral Development Review, FAO has been appointed as the organization that has improved the most.

Let me mention an extract of the review: "FAO stands out in this 2016 Review as a much improved performer. This improvement was underpinned by strong direction from the top of the Organization".

All 38 UN Agencies are categorized as weak, adequate, good or very good. FAO is classified as "good", along with WFP and IFAD. This is an outstanding recognition of the measures we have implemented in the last years, management and member countries together, to make FAO more and more efficient and effective.

Let me highlight that since I took office, I have been pushing for consensus in our decisions. And I have been saying from the very beginning that building consensus takes time. But once we achieve it, we pave the way for moving ahead smoothly and strongly.

However, the temporary lack of consensus should not block decisions or actions that the Organization needs to take. It is time to act. It is time to implement the commitments we have made to achieve sustainable development.

I look forward to meeting you again in the closing session of this Council, and announce some concrete substantive actions we intend to take until the Conference next July.

I thank you very much for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Director-General, for highlighting recent important global developments and how FAO has positioned itself to respond to the challenges associated to them.

Further, giving a short overview on some specific items under the Agenda of this Council, your views will be taken into consideration by the Members of the Council. Again, I thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to remind delegates that, to ask for the floor, they simply need to press the red button located by their microphone. The light will flash until the delegate has spoken. The order of speakers will be automatically noted and displayed on the screen above the podium.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give an overview of document delivery for this session.

SECRETARY- GENERAL

The documentation for this session of Council includes 20 main documents.

Fourteen documents were published by the deadline of 7 November. Five documents were online one week later; these were reports of meetings that took place after or just before the deadline for despatch of Council documents, and one document was issued within two weeks before the Council opening session.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier
Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario
 (CL 155/1; CL 155/INF/1 Rev.1; CL 155/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item on the agenda is the *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable* as set out in documents CL 155/1, CL 155/INF/1 Rev.1 and CL 155/INF/3.

Document CL 155/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 5 October 2016 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session.

Since our 154th Session in June this year, no invitations have been issued to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-item 10.1 *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions* and sub-item 10.2 *Applications for Membership in the Organization* can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendment?

Thank you. The Agenda is adopted as amended.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

With respect to the Provisional Timetable, you have before you document CL 155/INF/1 Rev.1. I should like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday 7 December. This in turn should enable the Committee to finish its work in good time on Thursday and thereby enable the Report to be adopted by the Council on Friday afternoon.

Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 10, meet with the approval of the Council?

Thank you. The Timetable is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to draw the Council's attention to my pre-session letters proposing a procedure to be followed when examining specific matters covered under more than one Agenda item.

My proposal is that the following issues, considered by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on 7 November 2016, not be discussed under item 5, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and 164th Session of the Finance Committee*, but be deliberated upon as follows:

- "Rome-based Agencies Collaboration" be considered under item 11, which is dedicated to RBA collaboration.
- "Procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of Article XIV bodies and other entities hosted by FAO" be considered under item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the CCLM*;
- "Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization" be considered under item 6, *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee*;

I also wish to propose that input from the *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee* and the *Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21* be considered under item 3 of the Provisional Agenda.

And that specific comments on the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change found in the respective reports of the technical committees (COAG, CCP, COFI and COFO) be considered by Council under item 6, *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee*, and not under item 4.

This approach has been followed at past sessions and proved useful in focusing our deliberations on specific issues, and in helping to avoid repetition of input by Members.

I take it that the Council approves this approach, and will remind Members of it as we work our way through the Agenda.

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

Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

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

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 2, *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: Mr Richard Lesiyampe of Kenya; Ambassador Abdulaziz Ahmed Al Malki Al-Jehani of Qatar; Mr Vlad Mustaciosu of Romania.

If there are no objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mr Spyridon Ellinas of Cyprus as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

Are there any objections? Thank you, it is so decided.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je saisis cette occasion pour saluer tout le monde et vous dire que vous avez toute la confiance du Congo sur la manière dont vous présidez notre Conseil. Le Congo intervient pour souligner qu'en raison probablement d'un problème de transmission des noms ce n'est pas le Congo qui a été choisi, mais la Guinée équatoriale. Veuillez bien rectifier, au lieu du Congo, notez la Guinée équatoriale.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. That is noted.

As mentioned in my pre-session letters, may I suggest that, in line with our consolidated method of work, Council Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

Similarly, the quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace.

I should also like to remind you that the full written text of your interventions may be submitted for inclusion in the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management.

Furthermore, may I also request that, if you wish to make a statement during the meeting, a copy of the text be provided to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas

as clearly as possible. The relevant email address for the submission of electronic versions of statements will be projected on the screen behind me and is also given in the Order of the Day. Timely submission of texts facilitate the work of the verbatim reporters and ensures greater accuracy.

Following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session.

The report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at past sessions of Council. I invite you to point out any inadvertent omissions that you believe should be included in the draft report rather than waiting for the meeting of the Drafting Committee. In this way, the task of the Drafting Committee will be made easier.

In addition, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting punctually. Please ensure that you are here in the Red Room at the times indicated in the Order of the Day.

- Item 4. Technical Committees – Programme and Budget Matters arising from**
Point 4. Comités techniques – Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant des rapports suivants
Tema 4. Comités técnicos: asuntos programáticos y presupuestarios planteados en los siguientes informes

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to item 4, *Programme and Budget Matters arising from Reports of Technical Committees*.

During the Informal Meeting of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of Regional Groups held on Monday, 21 November, clarification was requested regarding the process followed for proposals calling for International Years. In response I asked the Secretariat to provide Members with an overview of the applicable guidelines and procedures.

In this regard, document CL 155/INF/8 has been issued to provide the Council with background on the issue, including criteria established by ECOSOC and by the FAO Council.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As just mentioned by Mr Ngirwa, document CL 155/INF/8 comprises background on the proclamation of International Years, and guidelines approved by ECOSOC in 1980 and the FAO Council at its 144th Session in 2012.

Proposals for International Years are normally made at the initiative of a Member or a group of Members, or emerge from a Technical Committee. Proposals are usually reviewed by the relevant Technical Committee and submitted to Council for endorsement.

The guidelines adopted by the Council in 2012 can be summarised as follows:

- There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years, and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects;
- In general, there should also be a period of two years between the proclamation and the beginning of an International Year;
- An International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing, which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions, and all organizational arrangements are confirmed;
- Each International Year should have objectives that are likely to lead to identifiable and practical results; and
- Arrangements for evaluation should be established in the preparatory phase and form part of the implementation of, and follow-up to, each International Year.

Should Council endorse a proposal calling for the proclamation of an International Year, a draft resolution is forwarded to the FAO Conference for adoption, with the request that the Director-General transmit the resolution to the UN Secretary-General for submission to the UN General Assembly for final approval.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. Before continuing with item 4, I should like to remind Members of our agreement that any input from the Technical Committees regarding the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change be considered by Council under item 6, *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee*, which is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Item 4.1 Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Point 4.1 Rapport de la vingt-cinquième session du Comité de l'agriculture

Tema 4.1 Informe del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura

(C 2017/21; CL 155/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

The first sub-item is 4.1, *Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture*, which took place in Rome from 26 to 30 September 2016. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/21 before you.

I will now invite His Excellency Ambassador François Pythoud, who was elected Chairperson by the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, to present the report.

M. François PYTHOUD (Président du Comité de l'agriculture)

C'est un plaisir et un honneur de vous présenter le rapport de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture, qui s'est tenue du 26 au 30 septembre 2016, sous la présidence de mon prédécesseur M. Joseph Sam Sesay, ancien Ministre de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la sécurité alimentaire de la République de Sierra Leone, que je voudrais aujourd'hui saluer et remercier chaleureusement pour son excellent travail et son leadership dans la préparation et la conduite de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Les 14 thèmes débattus ont été choisis pour refléter les sujets prioritaires du moment et en rapport avec le Cadre stratégique de l'Organisation.

Il est important de noter que, pour la première fois, les trois Comités techniques - COAG, COFI et COFO - ont discuté conjointement trois thèmes prioritaires, plus spécifiquement « l'Agenda 2030 », la nutrition dans le contexte du suivi de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et le changement climatique.

L'ensemble des conclusions et recommandations du COAG sont contenues dans le rapport que vous avez devant vous. Je vais maintenant vous présenter de manière succincte les principaux résultats.

Le Comité, en particulier, a souligné la nécessité de promouvoir, dans le cadre de « Agriculture et Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 », des mesures plus intégrées, et a approuvé les cinq éléments élaborés par la FAO pour servir de base au dialogue sur les politiques et aux dispositifs de gouvernance nécessaires à l'identification des voies de développement durable pour tous les objectifs de développement durable.

Il s'est félicité de la stratégie relative au changement climatique et a prié la FAO et les États Membres d'intégrer (en anglais « mainstream ») la biodiversité dans l'agriculture, y compris l'élevage, afin de promouvoir la contribution de celle-ci aux services écosystémiques, ainsi qu'à l'adaptation au changement climatique et à l'atténuation de ses effets.

Le COAG a fait sienne l'approche d'une agriculture durable tenant compte de la nutrition, et a demandé à la FAO de contribuer, dans le cadre du « Programme 2030 », au renforcement des capacités des institutions gouvernementales et des communautés locales afin de promouvoir la question de la nutrition et de l'intégrer aux programmes de gestion et de formation agricoles.

Il a également accueilli favorablement les principales priorités définies pour les activités de la FAO dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Il a préconisé que la FAO continue à renforcer

ses activités en prêtant une attention particulière à l'agroécologie, aux biotechnologies, à la production durable, au changement climatique, à la biodiversité, à la mécanisation, aux statistiques, à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, à la nutrition, aux jeunes et à la parité hommes-femmes.

Il a recommandé que la FAO contribue davantage à aider les pays et les communautés locales à élaborer leurs stratégies en matière de système d'innovation agricole, et ceci en rapport avec son Cadre stratégique.

Il a demandé au Secrétariat de faire rapport au Comité du Programme sur la mise en œuvre du Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants.

Il s'est aussi félicité de l'élaboration d'un plan d'action quinquennal du programme sur la résistance aux antimicrobiens et a encouragé la FAO à continuer de collaborer activement avec l'OMS et l'OIE, à l'application de la déclaration des Nations Unies.

Il a demandé à la FAO, aux Membres et à l'ensemble des parties concernées de poursuivre leurs activités concernant les légumineuses, y compris la promotion de celles-ci après 2016.

Le Comité a accueilli avec satisfaction le contenu du premier volume du Programme mondial de recensement agricole 2020. Il a invité la FAO à publier le deuxième volume et l'a encouragée à fournir une assistance technique aux pays, y compris à travers la coopération Sud-Sud.

Le Comité a également encouragé la FAO à assurer un alignement plus étroit du programme et des activités du SIPAM - les Systèmes ingénieurs du patrimoine agricole mondial - à l'intérieur de ses objectifs stratégiques.

Le Comité a approuvé la structure de gouvernance proposée pour le Programme mondial pour un élevage durable et a invité la FAO à y jouer un rôle plus actif.

Finalement, le Comité s'est dit favorable au principe de la célébration d'une Année internationale des camélidés, tout en soulignant qu'il fallait suivre les procédures instaurées dans le cadre de la Politique de la FAO relative à la proclamation et au déroulement des années internationales. Nous venons d'entendre d'ailleurs la présentation de ces pratiques par M. Gagnon.

Le Comité a également proposé la mise en place d'un certain nombre de sous-comités pour se pencher sur des problèmes spécifiques.

Premièrement, il a mandaté le Bureau de créer un Groupe de travail informel à composition non limitée, chargé d'étudier les possibilités de financement adéquat et durable du programme conjoint de l'OMS et de la FAO, relatif à la fourniture d'avis scientifiques sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, en tenant compte des recommandations de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius, et de présenter ses conclusions pour examen à un organe directeur compétent de la FAO en 2017 ou 2018.

Deuxièmement, il a également chargé son Bureau d'examiner la possibilité de créer un futur sous-comité ad hoc sur le changement climatique, et a demandé au Bureau de présenter ses propositions à la prochaine session du Comité.

Troisièmement, il a pris note de la proposition relative à la création d'un sous-comité de l'élevage et a demandé qu'un document d'information sur cette question soit rédigé, et lui soit présenté lors de sa prochaine session.

Finalement, le Comité soumet au Conseil pour examen les thématiques suivantes, qui requièrent également l'attention de la Conférence.

Premièrement, le Comité a accueilli favorablement le document «Projet de directives volontaires pour une gestion durable des sols», qui est présenté à l'annexe C du rapport; ce projet a été développé dans le cadre du Partenariat mondial sur les sols et vous est présenté pour examen.

Le Comité a également préparé deux projets de résolution en rapport avec les propositions de journées ou d'années internationales.

Tout d'abord, la Journée mondiale des abeilles: le Comité a approuvé la proposition du Gouvernement slovène relative à l'institution, par le système des Nations Unies, d'une Journée mondiale des abeilles,

qui serait célébrée le 20 mai de chaque année, ainsi que le projet de résolution de la Conférence figurant à l'annexe D, que nous vous soumettons pour examen.

Le Comité a approuvé la proposition du Gouvernement finlandais visant à ce que le système des Nations Unies déclare l'année 2020 Année internationale de la santé des végétaux, ainsi que le projet de résolution de la Conférence figurant à l'annexe E, que nous vous soumettons pour examen.

Finalement, nous attirons votre attention sur le fait que le Comité a recommandé que la Conférence de la FAO examine à sa prochaine session ordinaire les décisions prises à la vingt-deuxième Conférence des Parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques et à la treizième réunion de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique en ce qui concerne les implications pour les activités de la FAO.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom)

I would like to request the floor for the Slovak Republic who will make a statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino also aligns itself with this statement.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for a good preparation of the last COAG session. This committee is crucial for the work of the Organization for setting mainly the priorities for the next Programme of Work and Budget, the Medium-Term Plan 2018-2021 and the review of the Strategic Framework.

We would like to reiterate the importance and the need for FAO's continued work in the areas of food safety and quality policies, including the *Codex Alimentarius* and International Plant Protection Convention, sustainable management of natural resources, including the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, plant and animal health, including transboundary pests and diseases, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We strongly emphasize the importance of addressing the gender dimension in each priority, with specific actions at all levels in order to better tackle all types of gender inequalities and promote women's empowerment. We also call on FAO to strengthen its work on youth, particularly addressing the challenges of employment for youth to alleviate rural poverty.

We encourage FAO to further use its Programme Implementation Report (PIR) to report on progress made, including on the implementation of the AMR Action Plan. We appreciate the announcement of FAO to strengthen this important area of its work.

In line with the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, we appreciate great attention given to the sustainability during the COAG. Transition to resilient and more sustainable agriculture and food systems in the context of climate change is one of the main challenges ahead of us. We stress the need for FAO to support this transition, through science and evidence-based work, including through innovations, agro-ecological approaches, sustainable production intensification and organic production. We support the work of FAO on GIAHS for its contribution to sustainable agriculture, conservation of biodiversity, food security and environmental sustainability.

We are also looking forward to the finalization of the strategy for FAO's work on climate change and the incorporation of the related Plan of Action into the reviewed Strategic Framework. We also expect that the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock will provide good insights for improved sustainability in the livestock sector.

Regarding the creation of an informal, open-ended working group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for the FAO/WHO programme for scientific food-safety advice which builds on the recommendations of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission, we stress the need for any option proposed by the OEWG to guarantee the neutrality, independence and integrity of the scientific advice and to avoid any risk of conflict of interest.

We welcome the strong support and endorsement by the COAG of Slovenia's proposal to establish the observance by the UN system of a World Bee Day to be celebrated on 20 May as well as for the Finnish proposal for observance of an International Year of Plant Health in 2020. We support submission of both proposals to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for approval. We believe that bees and plant health have both a critical role to play in reaching the SDGs.

Finally, we support the 'Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Soil Resources' as endorsed by the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly and the COAG. We encourage the voluntary use of the guidelines at all levels.

With all these remarks, we endorse the COAG report.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China is delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We support the adoption of the Report of the 25th Session of COAG. We support the comments that were made, in particular regarding South-South cooperation and the GIAHS system.

China believes that one of the important outcomes of this COAG session is the strengthening of FAO's work in the GIAHS and greater emphasis was also given to South-South cooperation. We have three comments to make.

The first regards the implementation of these recommendations. China has taken note of the fact that the COAG Report considers 16 different points that are being submitted and this is a good basis for our work in the future. Each objective that is set out in the list of the Report requires our joint efforts and active collaboration, and China looks forward to seeing a more detailed description of the work provided by the Secretariat. We think that a roadmap and a timeline and a person holding responsibility for the work should be designated to facilitate the work.

Consensus was reached on all of the points set out in the list and the point is really to know how to implement these different points. China hopes that the Secretariat will not only prepare some documents for this specific purpose but also organize activities and involve also representatives of the private sector to participate in these activities.

Second point, greater emphasis should be given to technical policies and implementation. COAG should consider the policies in this area, technological innovation and its management. It should be part of its Programme of Work. We hope that COAG will encourage FAO to work towards substantial progress in these different areas.

Finally, there is a need for integrated use of South-South and triangular cooperation resources to leverage FAO's role as a knowledge centre and also a neutral platform.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you Chairperson. As per your letter of 28 November, the statement by Afghanistan excludes any reference to climate change. Our statement will touch on the following eight points covered in the report of the 25th Session of COAG.

First, we support that FAO's normative work in the areas of agroecology, biotechnology, climate change adaptation, food safety, nutrition, gender development and statistics be given priority in the MTP 2018-21.

Second, we welcome the importance given to South-South cooperation and the involvement of the private sector in agriculture-related work of FAO, especially in its field operations.

Third, we agree with the proposition to maintain strong linkage between the work of COAG and the SDGs, especially with respect to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock.

Fourth, we highly appreciate the importance given in the report to innovations in alleviating rural poverty, reducing rural unemployment and promoting the participation of rural young men and women in rural transformation, as well as the need for an enabling environment that would enhance the impact of innovations.

Fifth, we strongly support point (c) of paragraph 45 of the COAG Report that “requested FAO to intensify its food safety work and technical support to smallholders at local level concerning the safe use of fertilizers and pesticides”.

Sixth, on Antimicrobial Resistance we support the mentioning of continued collaboration with WHO and OIE in the implementation of national action plans, with focus on building awareness and surveillance and the use of best practices.

Seventh, we endorse the suggestion in the report of the need to further align the GIAHS programme and activities within FAO’s Strategic Objectives through country and regional delivery mechanisms.

Eighth, we welcome support given in the report to the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, the International Year of Pulses, the International Year of Plant Health, the International Year of Camelids and the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture.

With these comments, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

M. Mamadou SOGODOGO (Mali)

Le Mali voudrait remercier le Président du COAG pour la clarté de son rapport. Nous voudrions aussi solliciter le Président pour donner la parole au Burkina afin que le Ministre puisse intervenir.

M. Jacob OUÉDRAOGO (Observateur de Burkina Faso)

Avant tout, je voudrais remercier le Conseil et son Président pour l'honneur fait au Burkina d'être invité à la 155^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO. Nous sommes reconnaissants au Groupe régional Afrique de nous donner la parole en cette audience et soutenons les nombreuses actions du Groupe régional qui œuvre en vue d'harmoniser les positions de l'Afrique.

Le Burkina Faso voudrait réaffirmer toute sa disponibilité à contribuer activement en tant que pays membre aux efforts de notre Organisation dans la lutte contre la faim, la pauvreté, en vue de faire face efficacement aux défis du changement climatique dans « le Programme 2030 » des ODD (objectifs de développement durable). À l'issue de la COP22, à Marrakech, les recommandations des parties ont mis l'accent sur un certain nombre d'initiatives soutenues par la FAO. Je voudrais que notre pays, tout comme les pays africains, appuie avec force « l'initiative AAA », c'est-à-dire l'Adaptation de l'agriculture africaine. Cette initiative, qui appelle à une production durable permettant à l'agriculture africaine de s'adapter aux changements climatiques et de réduire les risques qui y sont liés, prend en compte deux aspects fondamentaux: la lutte contre la faim, mais aussi le développement de la résilience.

Je voudrais encore dire, comme je l'ai souligné dans le cadre des concertations à la COP22, qu'aucun pays, quelles que soient ses forces, ne peut tout seul faire face aux défis du changement climatique. Nous devons tous conjuguer nos efforts dans un esprit de solidarité pour assurer sa survie à notre planète.

Je voudrais souligner combien il est important, dans le cadre du renforcement de la décentralisation de notre Organisation que je salue fortement, que des capacités soient offertes aux pays à travers un appui de proximité plus accru pour le développement inclusif de leurs activités agricoles. Cette décision de décentralisation offre à tout pays de la sous-région éligible l'opportunité d'accueillir le siège du bureau sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

C'est à ce titre que le Burkina Faso a décidé de présenter sa candidature à l'instar des Républiques de la Côte d'Ivoire et du Sénégal. C'est pour moi ici le lieu de saluer les candidatures de ces deux pays frères et amis avec lesquels le Burkina a des liens séculiers.

En effet, nous sommes tous membres des organisations régionales telles que l'Union africaine, et sous-régionales, dont entre autres le CILSS, la CEDEAO, l'UEMOA. Dans ces organisations, nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec une même vision, avec les mêmes objectifs qui consistent à conduire nos pays vers un développement durable et partagé.

Nous appréhendons et apprécions les capacités intrinsèques de chacun de ces pays frères d'abriter ce siège. Cependant, la candidature du Burkina Faso vient montrer la volonté de notre pays de consolider

les acquis de notre sous-région. Plus que jamais, nous devons conjuguer les expériences de bonnes pratiques agricoles, de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté, pour renforcer la résilience dans un partenariat solide avec les institutions et donateurs, et développer des relations de bon voisinage pour un dialogue direct et fraternel que nous avons toujours privilégié en Afrique.

Le Président du Burkina Faso, son gouvernement et le peuple Burkinabè, par ma voix, vous assurent la disponibilité de notre pays à ne ménager aucun effort pour offrir des conditions de travail les meilleures avec les facilités diplomatiques requises, dans un cadre séculaire et de sécurité conforme aux normes des Nations Unies, et un environnement qui assure « value for money » (un bon rapport coût-bénéfice) pour abriter le siège du bureau sous-régional en appui aux pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

En terminant mon propos, je voudrais remercier et féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, M. José Graziano da Silva, pour toutes les actions tangibles entreprises en faveur du développement depuis son accession à la tête de l'institution, marquant ainsi sa volonté d'atteindre les objectifs stratégiques assignés à notre institution. Nous soutenons aussi le nouvel organigramme qui permettra d'accompagner les objectifs 2015-2030 du développement durable, ainsi que l'initiative de l'ouverture d'un bureau sous-régional en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Je saisis aussi cette opportunité qui m'est offerte pour exprimer toute la gratitude du Gouvernement du Burkina Faso à la FAO pour la confiance en lui placée pour l'organisation de la clôture de l'année internationale des légumineuses 2016, proclamée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Avant que les invitations officielles ne vous parviennent, le Président du Burkina Faso et le peuple Burkinabè seront honorés de votre participation à ce grand événement qui se tiendra les 27 et 28 janvier 2017.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

Hago esta intervención en nombre de los países del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). En primer lugar, quisiera agradecer muy cumplidamente al Presidente del Comité de Agricultura y el Embajador Pythoud por la presentación del informe del comité.

El GRULAC endosa las recomendaciones del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura.

Al respecto, deseamos hacer algunos comentarios. Deseamos reafirmar la importancia de que la FAO fortalezca la capacidad técnica en los países para garantizar la adopción de enfoques agrícolas racionales, integrados e intersectoriales para el cambio climático, también las necesidades de adaptación y el potencial de mitigación de la agricultura de conformidad con las contribuciones determinadas a nivel nacional (CDN) para la aplicación del Acuerdo de París. La agricultura de conservación es un ámbito que debe fortalecerse.

Asimismo, al abordar las cuestiones relacionadas con la incorporación general de la biodiversidad, como tema transversal deben analizarse de conjunto con los Comité de Pesca y el Comité Forestal y también con la Comisión de la FAO sobre Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, que en enero de 2017 presentará el Primer Informe sobre el Estado Mundial de la Biodiversidad para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Sobre el tema de la biodiversidad, reiteramos la recomendación del párrafo 13 del informe del Comité de Agricultura que solicitó a la Conferencia de la FAO que en su siguiente período de sesiones considerase las decisiones adoptadas en la 13.ª Reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes (COP13) del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB), que está ocurriendo actualmente en México, que sean pertinentes para la labor de la FAO.

Sobre la COP13 del CDB, su Declaración Ministerial, adoptada el pasado 3 de diciembre, hace un llamado a que la diversidad biológica se incorpore y se aborde de una manera integral, incluyendo los aspectos relacionados con seguridad alimentaria, lo que constituye un apoyo político a la labor de la FAO en esta área.

Con respecto al seguimiento de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición 2, en el sector agropecuario, apoyamos la recomendación de que es necesaria la contribución de la agricultura para satisfacer las necesidades nutricionales de las poblaciones y el enfoque de la agricultura sostenible atento a la nutrición teniendo en cuenta todas las etapas del sistema alimentario.

El Comité exhortó a la FAO a desempeñar un papel más destacado en el Programa Mundial para la Ganadería Sostenible, sea como parte intergubernamental interesada, sea como organización colaboradora a nivel programático en la provisión de conocimientos especializados, así como a reforzar su función de Secretaría y promover una cooperación más estrecha entre los países y un mayor equilibrio regional. El GRULAC endosa esa recomendación.

Tomamos nota de la propuesta de creación de un Subcomité de Ganadería y aguardaremos el documento a ser presentado en la próxima sesión del COAG para discutir ese tema. Reconocemos que el desarrollo sostenible del sector ganadero está respaldado por los Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible y que la Cooperación Sur-Sur puede aportar muchos beneficios en esta área.

Alentamos a la FAO a proseguir su labor sobre los sistemas de innovación agrícola (SIA) de conformidad con las esferas señaladas en el documento COAG/2016/6, incluyendo la agroecología y la biotecnología, y a integrar en mayor medida dicha labor en el Marco Estratégico.

Apoyamos las propuestas de la celebración del Día Mundial de las Abejas, el Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal, y el Año Internacional de los Camélidos, sin lugar a dudas estos temas son de gran importancia para la seguridad alimentaria, la biodiversidad y también para la creación de empleos en los diferentes contextos nacionales y regionales. El GRULAC solicita se realicen los procedimientos requeridos para que puedan presentarse a la Conferencia de 2017 y espera un adecuado intercambio y asesoría de parte de la Secretaría, en particular para elaborar la propuesta de decisión del Año Internacional de los Camélidos.

Si me permite, Señor Presidente, ahora haré una breve declaración en nombre de México.

La Delegación Mexicana desea informar al Consejo de la FAO sobre la adopción de la Declaración de Cancún sobre la Integración de la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de la Biodiversidad para el Bienestar. La Declaración fue aprobada por aclamación el 3 de diciembre en el plenario de clausura del segmento de alto nivel de la COP13 del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, cuya presidencia está a cargo de México. La declaración será remitida a la asamblea general de las Naciones Unidas, al Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre Desarrollo Sostenible 2017 y a la Tercera Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente.

La Declaración expresa la preocupación de los Ministros y los Representantes de los 196 países miembros del convenio por la pérdida de la biodiversidad, en vista de lo cual hacen un llamado urgente para actuar de manera coherente y de forma transectorial para atender la conservación de la naturaleza y promover un uso sustentable del capital natural para el bienestar de los pueblos, con sentido de justicia y equidad social como nos hemos comprometido en los objetivos de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo sustentable.

La Declaración provee una metodología básica sobre los principios básicos y acciones que deben tomarse para la integración de la biodiversidad, con recomendaciones más precisas sobre los sectores económicos de la agricultura, la pesca y los bosques. Igualmente hace un llamado al sector privado para actuar con mayor responsabilidad ambiental, adoptando prácticas de producción y consumo responsables.

Mr Kayoya MASUHWA (Zambia)

Zambia speaks on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, and would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the report.

Agriculture and food systems, through their links to food security and nutrition, health, rural development and the environment, contribute towards many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Livestock farming could play a significant role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals but investments in the livestock sector is required to improve the quality and quantity of animal production, ensuring high level nutritional standards. Farmers are crucial actors to reach these ambitious goals, but they need to work in partnership with other stakeholders to be more effective. The role of livestock and its contribution to ensure food security and nutrition has been recognized within the policy debates at global level.

Healthy animals are of paramount importance for sustainable livestock production. Healthy animals are the safe conduct for the access to global markets. Animal health contributes to animal welfare whereas animal welfare contributes to better health.

Antimicrobial drugs play a critical role in maintaining animal health. However, antimicrobials are often misused for treatment and prevention of diseases in the livestock sector. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an issue of increasing concern, and it is also at the centre of global policy debates on food-related issues.

The Africa Regional Group supports FAO's work on AMR as called for by Conference Resolution 4/2015 and supports the strengthening of the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to promote and integrate nutrition into agriculture management and training programmes.

The Africa Regional Group would like to appreciate the many 2016 activities undertaken during the International Year of Pulses. The Africa Regional Group acknowledges that pulses contribute to sustainability, food security, nutritional health and environmental protection. Therefore, encourage countries to engage in raising public awareness on the multiple benefits of pulses and to develop and implement appropriate policies for promoting the improved production and consumption beyond the International Year of Pulses (IYP). Africa supports the official closing ceremony of the IYP to be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in early 2017. This will be a unique opportunity to recap the achievements of the year and turn the IYP legacy into a tangible set of activities.

With this, Africa endorses the report.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Since this is the first time that Thailand takes the floor, the Thai Delegation would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Chair of Council and Council delegates for the condolences and minute of silence to commemorate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thailand associates itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group.

Thailand endorses the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture. We particularly welcome FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the next PWB 2018 -19. We realize the threat of AMR to food security and human health. We have developed a strategy to control, prevent and solve the problem of AMR.

The first strategy will be implemented between 2017 and 2021. However, to limit the expansion of AMR, we need cooperation and collaboration at an international level as well. We need to raise awareness and promote the understanding on the consequences of overuse and misuse of antimicrobial drugs. FAO should play a role in supporting countries to develop comprehensive policies that integrate veterinary, public health, and safe food production throughout the supply chain; in promoting natural farming to reduce the use of antibiotics and chemicals; and in strengthening standards and measures for biosecurity.

Regarding the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, we agree with the recommendation by COAG that FAO should play a greater role as an intergovernmental stakeholder, and providing technical expertise to develop agriculture, and to contribute to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, Thailand endorses the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM), and requests the Secretariat to initiate a roadmap for VGSSM implementation.

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Russia highly commends the outcome of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We view this important sectoral body as one of the key ones in FAO's governance system. We consider that COAG should play the leading role in setting the Organization's priorities in areas of sustainable food production, the strengthening of the agricultural sector and the development of rural areas.

We are satisfied with the results of FAO's activities in the field of agriculture over the last biennium and, on the whole, we support the future areas of work for the Organization in this area laid down by the Committee.

We welcome the policy of ensuring FAO contributes to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, the attention of COAG to issues of agriculture and innovation, specialist statistics, combatting animal diseases, and animal antimicrobial resistance.

We note with satisfaction the fruitful discussions of the Committee on the links between climate change and agriculture. The agricultural sector depends more than any other on the weather and itself makes a contribution to global warming. This underscores the importance for a measured approach to implementing the tasks of adaptation of agriculture to climate change, the mitigation of its effects, guaranteeing food security, healthy nutrition, and sustainable economic development.

In this connection, it is difficult to overestimate the significance of FAO's endeavours to ensure rational utilization of soil resources since soil is the greatest carbon reservoir on earth and is a factor in the production of 95 percent of the world's food.

Russia supports the work of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and highly commends the rate of development of this mechanism. We welcome the adoption of Action Plans on all five GSP pillars, the preparation of the first report of its kind on the World Soil Resources, as well as the strengthening of the regional dimension of its cooperation.

We highlight the active work in the Eurasian Subregional Soil Partnership to which we are happy to extend our support. Our delegation is grateful to the members of the Committee for the positive response to Russia's proposal to prepare voluntary guidelines for sustainable soil management. They are a scientifically based instrument for promoting rational utilization of soils, the development of ecosystem services, the protection of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.

Bearing in mind that the application of the principles in practice should make a contribution to implementing specific tasks in the Sustainable Development Goals, we call on Council to approve this document. We are also deeply satisfied with the decision of the Fourth Plenary Assembly of the GSP to establish a World Soil Prize which has received the name of the outstanding Russian soil scientist and geologist, Konstantin Dmitrievich Glinka. We view it as an honour for us to extend support to this useful initiative which we trust will give a further boost to FAO's outreach efforts.

It is symbolic that the first awarding of the prize will take place today during the event in connection with the celebration of World Soil Day and the closure of the International Year of Pulses 2016. We consider that the initiatives to hold sectoral International Years and World Days at the United Nations is a useful mechanism for enhancing the level of awareness of the broader public regarding the most topical issues in agriculture.

In this context, we reaffirm our support for the proposals of Slovenia and Finland to establish a World Bee Day and the International Year of Plant Health. We also learned with interest of Bolivia's proposal to the General Assembly to hold an International Year on Camelids and we are prepared to support this initiative given the importance of camelids in agriculture around the world, of course, as long as the procedures of the FAO are abided by.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

Canada is very pleased to note COAG's decision to establish an informal, open-ended working group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for the Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme for Codex. In order to fulfil its mandate, the Codex Alimentarius Commission must be able to rely on the continuity and predictability of the provision of an independent, unbiased, and timely scientific advice from the joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees.

Despite FAO's inclusion of scientific advice work in its regular budget, the main challenge remains to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for the increasing number of complex requests for scientific advice. Canada strongly believes that innovative funding mechanisms must be explored.

We welcome COAG's decision to support FAO's work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and recognition of the need to prioritize AMR activities in the next PWB. Adequately predictable and

sustained funding for FAO's vital work on AMR cannot rely on extra-budgetary contributions alone. We very much welcome the commitment to put greater emphasis on the One Health approach and on the risks related to antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use as mentioned in paragraph 296 of the outline of the Medium-Term Plan.

We look forward to seeing this commitment being carried over into the PWB 2018-19 where we expect to see a reallocation of regular resources to what is clearly an urgent priority area. It is all the more important as FAO is uniquely placed to contribute to international efforts to combat one of the greatest threats to public health worldwide.

We welcome COAG's endorsement of the five elements developed by FAO for the policy dialogue and governance arrangements relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. Likewise, we welcome the most needed collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies towards a stronger and more effective contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the 2030 Agenda.

Canada encourages any initiative that integrates agriculture, forestry and fisheries to consider gender equality and particularly, the promotion of women's empowerment.

We welcome COAG's decision to mainstream biodiversity as a crosscutting issue in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Strengthening strategic partnerships is critical, particularly with other Rome-based Agencies.

Canada is strongly supportive of FAO's continued work on climate-smart agriculture as an approach that brings concrete and diverse solutions to climate change, while addressing adaptation, mitigation and enhanced productivity concurrently.

We welcome COAG's decision to support the proposal to establish 2020 for the observance by the UN System of the International Year of Plant Health. International Year of Plant Health is a fundamental opportunity to increase the awareness on plant health globally and to help civil society and decision makers understand the importance of protecting the world's plant resources.

Canada is also of the view that funding for this and all International Years should come from voluntary contributions.

Ms Hana SEVCIKOVA (Czechia)

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Slovak Republic on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We would however like to add a few words of support to the Slovenian proposal to observe the World Bee Day every year on May 20.

In line with other European Union Member States, the Czech Republic also supports the Finnish proposal to observe an International Year of Plant Health in 2020. We fully recognize the fact that both bees and plant health are critical for a sustainable environment supportive of agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Mr Daiji KAWAGUCHI (Japan)

First of all Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement delivered by China. Japan is expressing concern on adequate and sustainable funding for WHO and FAO's food security scientific programmes which are crucial to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It was received well by Member Nations of COAG. In this regard, we look forward to the outcome of the international informal open-ended working group. However it is also necessary to ensure adequate funding for the programme in the PWB 2018-2019 and to make stronger efforts for the efficient use of resources.

With regard to the proposal for an International Year of Camelids, before the Council decides to submit the proposal to the Conference for approval, we would like more information on some specific issues, in particular on its financial arrangements in accordance with the FAO policy on proclamation and implementation of international years.

With these comments and concerns, Japan endorses the Report of COAG.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Gracias al Embajador Pythoud, Presidente del COAG, por el resumen excelente que nos ha brindado. Argentina apoya la declaración realizada por México en nombre del GRULAC. Desea realizar algunas precisiones sobre el documento que nos ocupa.

En primer lugar, queremos resaltar el párrafo 25, en donde se pidió a la FAO que siguiera reforzando su labor con especial atención a la agroecología, la biotecnología, la producción sostenible, el cambio climático, la biodiversidad, la mecanización, las estadísticas, la inocuidad de los alimentos, la nutrición, los jóvenes y el género. Asimismo, Argentina desea señalar que no hay desarrollo rural sostenible sin innovación agrícola. Y por esto nos congratulamos de que esté claramente definido en los párrafos 36 y 37.

Asimismo, agradecemos el alineamiento con respecto a la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en relación al trabajo de la agricultura del párrafo 44. Argentina solicita a la FAO que continúe con su trabajo y con su Plan de Acción en materia de resistencia antimicrobiana. Asimismo apoyamos los Años y los Días Internacionales presentados por Eslovaquia, Finlandia y Bolivia.

Quisiéramos también señalar y sostener el trabajo que la FAO está haciendo en materia de SIPAM. Y desde este punto de vista, apoyamos lo señalado por el distinguido Embajador de China.

Por último, deseamos que este Comité tenga en cuenta la importancia que ha tenido el Año Internacional de las Legumbres, que se está acabando, y cuya clausura se realizará en Burkina Faso, de la cual nos congratulamos. Más allá de eso, creo que nos tenemos que preguntar como Comité, cuál va a ser el legado de este Año Internacional. Entendemos que tenemos que aprovechar este *momentum* para lanzar algunas propuestas que tengan que ver con este Año Internacional que ha finalizado. Si no, habrá sido solo una buena intención, un buen *momentum* para habernos juntado alrededor de esta idea, o sea, de la importancia de las legumbres en la nutrición y seguridad alimentaria, pero no tendremos nada delante de nosotros.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to make a very brief statement on this Report of the COAG. I would like to thank the Committee and its Chairperson for the presentation of this Report and the illustration of the activities as well as the recommendations and conclusions that are set out in this document.

Allow me to start by saying to what extent as representative of Sudan I feel honoured to take part in this debate. It is an honour for us all to participate in this Council session of FAO. Speaking on behalf of the people and Government of Sudan, I would like to salute the Members of all of the delegations who have gathered here and with whom we will be working together to achieve the objectives of this Organization which is increasingly playing a more important role in dealing with malnutrition, food insecurity and the other issues on a global scale in this area.

Sudan is chiefly an agricultural country. We have different types of soil cover and climate and therefore it is very important for us to make the best optimal use of natural resources to achieve food security. We very much appreciate the efforts that have been made by FAO to help improve the situation in the agriculture sector to be able to face the challenges of agriculture sustainable development, enhancing productivity levels and having the appropriate methods to ensure sustainable agriculture and sustainable use of resources so that we can help free our part of the world from hunger and malnutrition and that we may all be able to access adequate and healthy food.

We support the COAG Report and in particular we support the references to sustainable production of food, which is one of the chief objectives and therefore it is important that we have a set of programmes and agricultural activities that will ensure the sustainability of this sector. Sudan has over 20 million hectares in surface area of the country but the crops and the agriculture system are not irrigated and it is very difficult to maintain the same levels of agricultural production year after year which would be so important to ensure food security.

We need programmes therefore also in the framework of this community to enhance sustainability and to understand better how to make the optimal use of the available water resources through agricultural technology that will make it possible to provide the plants growing with the required amount of water

through specialized irrigation systems. We need to address hunger and malnutrition through the sustainable development of our sector.

Sudan along with other countries depends on this non-irrigated agriculture. We do have a national plan for the development of agriculture covering the different activities and we are trying to transform our agricultural system into a very dynamic and sustainable sector for agricultural production.

We hope to expand the scope of collaboration to secure adequate food especially in those areas that are more often affected by natural disasters. Our priority is agriculture and meeting the needs of the poor in rural development to ensure sustainable development and to ensure that they can also benefit from the attainment of these objectives. More than 70 percent of our rural population depends on agriculture.

In November last year we organized the Third African Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in Khartoum and a set of recommendations were adopted to strengthen agricultural development focusing on the practical implementation signs, and we have a joint Africa Arab world programme to support agriculture in both Africa and the Arab world. The outcomes will be presented in the Malawi African Summit that will be held shortly. This is all part of our efforts to improve the infrastructure of our sector.

Once again I would emphasize the importance of COAG and support its findings and recommendations and the importance of technology and provision of appropriate information so that policy makers can understand best how to make use of the available resources sustainably.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

We thank His Excellency Ambassador Pythoud for his very clear presentation.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Zambia on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. We have one additional remark related to AMR. We acknowledge the increasing attention to this important issue both at national and international level and we support the COAG Report which calls for a more active role of FAO in collaboration with WHO and OIE in implementing the United Nations Declaration on antimicrobial resistance, including strengthening the capacity of countries and regions using One Health and multi-sectorial approaches.

In addition, we highlight the challenges posed to many countries in financing their national efforts. In this regard, and in light of the General Assembly Resolution, we would like to call on FAO in collaboration with WHO and the OIE regional and multi-lateral development banks, including the World Bank, to support the development and implementation of national action plans and earmarked activities at national, regional and global levels.

Mr Akeel Hatoor (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

If there are no other requests from Members I would ask you to give the floor to Jordan.

Mr Fiesal Rasheed AL Argan (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to support the statement delivered by Egypt.

Sr. Luis SÀNCHEZ-GÒMEZ CUQUERELLA (Observador del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Realizo esta Declaración en nombre del Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia.

Mi Gobierno apoya *in extenso* la declaración del GRULAC sobre las recomendaciones del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, realizado del 26 al 30 de septiembre de este año, y agradece todos los apoyos recibidos hasta este momento

Al respecto, deseamos hacer algunos comentarios con relación a la celebración de un Año Internacional de los Camélidos.

En primer lugar, destacamos que el Comité de Agricultura en su 25.º periodo de sesiones, respaldó el principio de establecer un Año Internacional de los Camélidos, a tiempo de reconocer la importancia de estas especies para la seguridad alimentaria, la reducción de la pobreza, y los medios de vida especialmente en las tierras más áridas.

En ocasión de la presentación de esta iniciativa ante el Comité de Agricultura, el Ministro de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras de Bolivia, Don César Cocarico Yana, informó ampliamente sobre cómo los camélidos, en los diferentes contextos y realidades de los 90 países en los que están presentes, son la principal vía de subsistencia para millones de familias, que habitan los ecosistemas más inhóspitos del planeta. Hizo hincapié en las ventajas comparativas presentes en los productos alimenticios que generan, especialmente la carne y la leche, cuyos estudios demuestran ser altamente saludables y nutritivos.

De igual manera, se refirió al alto valor de sus fibras, y a la acción fertilizante que presta a los suelos, permitiendo obtener mayores rendimientos en las cosechas. Explicó también su contribución a la medicina; y cómo son una de las especies más resilientes al cambio climático, además de constituirse en unos valiosos aliados en la lucha contra la degradación ambiental.

Por lo enunciado precedentemente, encontramos que los camélidos en las diferentes regiones del mundo en las que están presentes, pueden convertirse en importantes herramientas que ayuden a enfrentar los grandes desafíos de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, desde una perspectiva de sostenibilidad ambiental y responsabilidad social.

Un Año Internacional de los Camélidos ayudaría a alcanzar varios de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible; unos objetivos que están dirigidos, precisamente, a las poblaciones más necesitadas y vulnerables del planeta, muchas de las cuales, precisamente, son las que se relacionan y dependen altamente de los camélidos para subsistir, y que viven en condiciones climáticas extremas.

Salta a la vista que, promover una acción concertada de protección de los camélidos, permitirá incrementar la cantidad y calidad de sus productos, así como evitar la extinción de algunas de esas especies, lo cual coadyuvará en la lucha contra la pobreza extrema para poner fin al hambre en el mundo y lograr la Seguridad Alimentaria; garantizar una modalidad alternativa en la producción de alimentos y patrones de consumo responsables; promover el uso sostenible de los ecosistemas terrestres; luchar contra la desertificación; detener e invertir la degradación de las tierras, y frenar la pérdida de la diversidad biológica; y permitirá igualmente, el empoderamiento de la mujer y los jóvenes por su alta participación laboral en el aprovechamiento de las fibras de los camélidos, y en las labores pastoriles; los camélidos pueden generar una actividad económica más sostenible y más respetuosa con el medio ambiente, siendo esta especie una de las menos aportantes en las emisiones de carbono.

El 25.º Comité de Agricultura en su informe, refirió “la necesidad de seguir los procedimientos establecidos en la política de la FAO para la proclamación y celebración de los años internacionales de 2013”.

La iniciativa del Año Internacional de los Camélidos en este Consejo no va acompañada de un proyecto de Resolución porque entendemos que primero debe incorporar plenamente las sugerencias que se hicieron en el Comité de Agricultura. Para garantizar el cumplimiento preciso de la política para la proclamación y celebración de los Años Internacionales por lo cual debe ser promovido en adelante para que sea sometido a aprobación en el 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, a realizarse en abril del 2017.

En el plazo hasta la celebración del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, contactaremos a la Secretaría del COAG para conjuntamente promover acciones que permitan un mayor conocimiento de los aportes de los camélidos como recurso genético de gran importancia social, económica y cultural desde hace siglos y que permiten la vida de millones de personas en ecosistemas difíciles.

Para finalizar, son los sectores poblacionales relacionados con los camélidos los que necesitan ser atendidos por la estructura de cooperación global existente, y en este caso, la Cooperación Técnica de la FAO puede jugar un rol clave. Trabajamos en el proyecto de resolución del Año Internacional de los Camélidos, y esperamos contar con el apoyo de los Estados Miembros para presentarlo al 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo y a la Conferencia de la FAO del 2017, mientras realizamos algunas acciones que promoverán la iniciativa, y buscamos obtener el consenso necesario de los Estados Miembros.

Mr Majid DEGHAN SHOAR (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran)

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chair of COAG for this very exhaustive presentation of the Report.

We have been talking about mechanisms in COAG and also on how we all committed ourselves to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: zero hunger, which now reports 800 million people. It might be more serious and we are facing the problem of climate change. We all know that 70 percent of our food is produced by a small landholders with less than 2.2 hectare of land and many of them are women who we should support too under the Gender Policy.

One of the key issues to achieve SDG 2, one of the targets is the increase of productivity. The key issues for increasing productivity is access of a small landholder to a small scale agro-machinery, not only for plantation, but also for harvesting. We have lots of loss during harvest and they have not got access to small tools.

Therefore, we recommend and request FAO and all Member States that they support the idea that FAO should request to collaborate with UNIDO. FAO as a leading agency for agriculture and production and UNIDO as a United Nations Agency involved in agro-industry should work together, collaborate to develop and introduce small scale machinery for increasing productivity, plus reduction of losses. In that case, these two sister agencies should work together; otherwise it is very difficult for FAO alone to do it because agro-industry is not just a mandate. It is a key mandate for UNIDO.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. I am sure this would be helpful for small landholders not only in Near East Africa but in all regions. We should not forget 70 percent of food is produced by small landholder of less than 2.2 hectares.

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

I do not believe there are many questions or issues that need clarification from the Secretariat. Perhaps only two comments on the request towards the end of the interventions from Egypt on FAO that should strengthen its activities in supporting the development of national or regional plans or strategies on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

I am pleased to report that we already started work in this direction with the support of our Member Nations. For instance, the United Kingdom provided funding to start our implementation of the FAO action plan on AMR in certain countries.

As for the comment made by the Ambassador of Iran on FAO's work on mechanization. I am pleased to report that during the recent year FAO has been actually working with not only UNIDO but also the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other partners such as the European Agriculture Machinery (CEMA) in developing strategies and publications actually on sustainable agriculture mechanization. So we will continue that collaboration.

Let me just add that I am very grateful to the strong endorsement by Member Nations and Members of the Council in endorsing the COAG resolutions, which give us, the Secretariat, a strong guidance to continue our work.

M. François PYTHOUD (President du Comité de l'agriculture)

Je souhaite ici simplement vous remercier pour le soutien que vous avez apporté aux conclusions et recommandations qui ont été proposées par le Comité de l'agriculture et nous allons ensemble, avec le nouveau Bureau, continuer à travailler sur les traces de nos prédécesseurs pour assurer que la réunion du COAG en 2018 soit aussi pleine de succès que celle de cette année.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to make my conclusions on item 4.1 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular:

a) the main priorities identified for FAO's work in food and agriculture, especially agroecology, biotechnology, sustainable production, climate change, biodiversity, mechanization, statistics, food

safety, nutrition and social protection, including youth and gender mainstreaming, noting that this work would be delivered through multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships with particular attention to South-South cooperation and the engagement with the private sector and civil society organizations;

- b) the five elements developed by FAO as a basis for the policy dialogue and governance arrangements needed to identify sustainable development pathways across the SDGs, across sectors and along related value chains;
- c) the need for FAO and countries to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock, to promote its contribution to ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- d) support by FAO, as part of the 2030 Agenda, in assisting countries and local communities in the development of their Agricultural Innovation System strategies and integration of this role into the Strategic Framework of FAO;
- e) FAO's support to countries, in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies, to strengthen the capacity of government institutions and local communities in promoting and integrating nutrition into agriculture management and training programmes, including through South-South cooperation;
- f) reporting to the Programme Committee on the implementation of the *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme;
- g) continued active collaboration with WHO and OIE, and other relevant stakeholders, in implementing the UN Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance, including strengthening the capacity of countries and regions;
- h) support for the work of FAO and countries on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) for its contribution to sustainable agriculture, the conservation of biodiversity, food security and environmental sustainability;
- i) FAO's work on climate change, to encompass issues relating to biodiversity and explore synergies between adaptation and mitigation aspects;
- j) building on the momentum created by the International Year of Pulses 2016, further work on and promotion of pulses beyond 2016;
- k) FAO's enhanced role in the provision of statistical data and information, as well as capacity building of countries to support monitoring of the SDGs; and
- l) noted the creation of an informal open-ended working group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for the FAO/WHO programme for scientific food-safety advice which builds on the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

2. The Council endorsed the document "Draft Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)".

3. The Council:

- a) endorsed the draft Resolution "Observance of World Bee Day on 20 May" to be submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for adoption;
- b) endorsed the draft Resolution "International Year of Plant Health 2020" to be submitted to the 40th FAO Conference for adoption; and
- c) recognized the importance of Camelids for food security and supported the principle of establishing an International Year of Camelids, while noting that further information was required and the proposal would be provided to the 156th Session of Council in April 2017 for consideration.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, for your excellent summary. On point 1 (a), when we are talking about strengthening the normative work of FAO in many areas, should we not make reference to the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021? Thank you.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

On point 1(g), on AMR, when you refer to collaboration between FAO, OIE and WHO, can we also insert mention to regional and international financial institutions, just to be in line with the language of the General Assembly's Resolution? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

At this juncture, I welcome only Council Members to make any additions or changes unless observers are raising their flag for just a matter of information, but not for commenting on the conclusions which I have made.

I will come back to Afghanistan and Egypt.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

Thank you very much for your summary. I did not hear that anybody objected to the creation of a subcommittee on livestock, which was clearly mentioned in the COAG Report, but I did not hear anything on that issue in your summary, Mr Chairperson. I would just like to highlight this point.

Mr Majid DEGHAN SHOAR (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran)

It was a very good summary, but just as information as you said. As an observer I would like to point out that, the Assistant Director-General, Mr Ren Wang, was talking about the joint work between FAO, UNIDO and other stakeholders regarding strategic development.

My point was not a strategy. I am talking about the machinery. When we discuss in COAG or FAO about mechanization, there is a great need for small machinery that should be used by a small landholder to increase productivity and have more food.

So, I am talking about the need to design development for small-scale machinery to the benefit of small landholders. Otherwise, there will not be sufficient food for the people to eat.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Let me include what has been mentioned by Afghanistan and Egypt.

Point 1 (a) will read: a) the main priorities identified for FAO's work in food and agriculture in the Medium Term Plan 2018-2021 [...]

The rest will remain the same.

Point 1(g) will read: g) continued active collaboration with WHO and OIE, regional and international financial institutions [...]

And the rest remains unchanged.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We have many resources dedicated to this issue in Sudan where there is a dependence on rainwater to ensure food security. I had stated that the challenge in combatting poverty is that we cannot ensure the sustainability of food production annually because rainfall varies from one year to another. This is why we have not benefitted fully from the resources that are aimed at ensuring food security in my country.

I would like to receive from you a programme, a project or a model for the maximum use of rainwater in harvesting, whether it is through dams or other means, so that we can meet the needs of our farms if there is low rainfall.

But in the summary you have put forward, I heard nothing about this aspect which was of special interest to me. This is not just a concern of Sudan; it is a concern of many important countries and it is also a fundamental aspect if we are to ensure food security.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, your Excellency. This is an important issue but it will be discussed elsewhere, in particular when we will be discussing the Strategic Framework and the MTP, as well as in the Programme of Work and Budget.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Mr Chairperson, could you please give the floor to the Slovak Republic to speak on behalf of the European Union. Thank you.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We would like to seek your clarification on the first conclusion you have made on point 1(a) where you specified the priority areas for the next Medium-Term Plan 2018-21.

I would like to ask for the clarification if the work on IPPC and sustainable management of natural resources was also included in the list, as well as organic farming.

One more issue that we, the EU, have repeatedly highlighted is about the use of the Programme Implementation Reports to report on progress made. We have specifically requested the progress report on implementation of the AMR Action Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

To answer your first question, this was not included. Could you repeat the second question?

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

My understanding is that these areas will be included in point 1(a).

Another point was that we encourage FAO to further use its Programme Implementation Report to report on progress made, including the implementation of the AMR Action Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

If Members have no objection we can include under point 1(a) the three items mentioned by Slovak Republic. Is there any objection?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Can the Chairperson of COAG confirm that these three points are in the report of COAG?

Mr François PYTHOUD (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Paragraph 25 of the Report of the COAG contains a list of areas where the Committee called upon FAO to continue strengthening its normative, science- and evidence-based work. There are no references to organic production, IPPC and sustainable management of natural resources.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that clarification. I think Slovak Republic will agree to that. And on the Programme Implementation Report, as it covers a lot of areas of FAO, I do not think we need to mention it here.

With that, I conclude Agenda item 4.1 Thank you.

Item 4.2 Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems

Point 4.2 Rapport de la soixante et onzième session du Comité des produits

Tema 4.2 Informe del 71.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos

(C 2017/22)

CHAIRPERSON

The next sub-item is sub-item 4.2, *Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems* held in Rome from 4 to 6 October 2016. The relevant document is C 2017/22.

I give the floor to Mr Khaled El Taweel, who was elected Chairperson by the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, to present the report. Mr El Taweel, you have the floor.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

Honourable Delegates, colleagues and friends, it is my honour and pleasure to present to you today the report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP).

I would like to start by expressing my personal appreciation for the previous Chair of the CCP, Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha of Brazil, for her leadership and effective management of the CCP work in which she was supported by a very able bureau.

The 71st Session of the CCP covered several important agenda items that were grouped under four major thematic areas: world agricultural commodity markets; policy and regulatory matters; programme matters; and governance matters.

It is worth mentioning that the session was preceded by a Ministerial Meeting and the Committee received the summary of this Meeting on “Long-term agricultural commodity price trends and sustainable agricultural development”. The summary was delivered by the meeting Chairperson, The Honourable Tofail Ahmad, Minister for Commerce of Bangladesh. The CCP underlined the importance of the issues contained in the Chair’s summary and urged FAO to give them consideration.

I am sure you have gone through the report and I would like to highlight the following points.

Under world agricultural commodity markets, the Committee reviewed and discussed the market situation and short- and medium-term outlooks which indicated that the last two years have seen steeper declines in international food prices than those witnessed in 2012 and 2013. This was reflected in the FAO International Food Price Index which fell by 4 percent in 2014 compared to the previous year, and by a striking 19 percent in 2015, one of the strongest annual drops recorded in 25 years. In the first months of 2016, food prices gave signs of recovery, although the Index still averaged 11 percent lower in January–May 2016 compared to the same period in 2015.

The Committee underlined the importance of FAO’s commodity market monitoring and outlook work for global food security, especially for food market transparency and for informed policy decisions. It also acknowledged the usefulness of the medium-term projections to inform policies and commended FAO and the OECD for the annual publication of the Agricultural Outlook.

Under policy and regulatory matters, the Committee debated the findings of the 2015-16 edition of the flagship report *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) on the theme trade and food security, and underlined the need to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of developing countries to better undertake analysis of the implications and opportunities of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition. The Committee requested that further assistance be provided to developing countries to engage in regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes, to ensure that these processes support countries’ pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process.

In relation to WTO negotiations and trade agreements, the Committee encouraged FAO’s support to the effective participation of countries in trade negotiations and formulation of trade policies, through the provision of the evidence base and capacity development.

Pursuing the deliberations on FAO’s Climate Change Strategy, the CCP considered that further analysis on the interfaces between climate change, trade, commodity markets and food security was needed, and encouraged FAO to continue to collaborate with the UNFCCC, WTO, and other relevant organizations to address the knowledge gaps and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessments of climate change on commodity trade at the country level.

Furthermore, the Committee recognized the importance of investment in agriculture, and the need to examine the linkages between investment flows and trade and commodity prices and took note of the need for systematic collection of quantitative information on trade policies as a work priority under trade and markets.

Additionally, the Committee requested FAO to work jointly with WFP to identify and implement the most efficient and effective way to continue monitoring and reporting on food aid shipments, with a view that the required monitoring and reporting may be assumed by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the implementation report of its Multi-year Programme of work (MYPOW) for 2012-16 and approved the MYPOW for the period 2016-19.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my appreciation for the support of the CCP secretariat headed by Mr Boubaker Ben-Belhassan and to thank them for their support.

With this, I would like to invite the Council to endorse the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentleman, with this we come to the end of this morning's session.

I have been informed by the Secretariat that the FAO Staff Bodies have requested that their Representative address this session of Council.

Should the Council be in agreement, this statement would be made at the end of the morning meeting under item 20, *Any Other Matters* on Wednesday 7 December.

May I take it that the Council is in agreement with this proposal?

Thank you. So it is decided that there will be an address by a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies.

As regards the composition of the Drafting Committee I have been informed that China has been proposed as a Member of the Drafting Committee and Indonesia is not a Member of the Drafting Committee.

Hence, the membership of the Drafting Committee is as follows: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

I take it that the Council is in agreement with this list of Drafting Committee members.

M. Belkacem BELGAID (Algérie)

Je voudrais juste inscrire un autre ajout au point concernant les questions diverses, afin que l'Algérie puisse faire une présentation des conclusions de la deuxième réunion des ministres en charge de la lutte antiacridienne des États membres de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale, qui s'est tenue en Algérie le 25 octobre 2016.

CHAIRPERSON

Please repeat your request when we come to that Agenda item, under *Any Other Matters*.

Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. I wish to remind Members that the Side Event on the Launch of the joint CIHEAM-FAO Publication *Mediterra 2016, Managing and Promoting the Mediterranean Resources: Waste Challenges and Innovation for Natural Resources, Food and Knowledge*, will take place immediately after the closure of this plenary meeting, from 12:30 to 13:30 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon.

Council will resume at 14:30 hours sharp. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 12:33 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.33

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

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

5 December 2016

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- Item 4. Technical Committees – Programme and Budget Matters arising from: (continued)**
Point 4. Comités techniques – Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant des rapport suivants: (suite)
Tema 4. Comités técnicos: asuntos programáticos y presupuestarios planteados en los siguientes informes: (continuación)

Item 4.2 Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (continued)
Point 4.2 Rapport de la soixante et onzième session du Comité des produits (suite)
Tema 4.2 Informe del 71.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (continuación)
 (C 2017/22)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Second Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council open.

Before we continue with item 4.2, *Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems* held in Rome from 4 to 6 October 2016, I wish to announce that I have been advised that Mr Joseph Ngetich of Kenya has been proposed to replace Mr Lesiyampe as Vice-Chairperson of this session of Council. I take it that Council is in agreement with this nomination. Thank you.

Ladies and Gentleman, in order to maintain the schedule of work outlined in the Order of the Day, speakers, including observers, are kindly requested to keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible. Preference should be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made. I expect your cooperation. Thank you.

At the end of our meeting this morning we heard the introduction by Mr Khaled El Taweel, Chairperson of the CCP, to the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

We will now open the list of speakers for sub-item 4.2.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

Mr Chairperson, I would like to ask you to give the floor to the Slovak Republic. Thank you.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Mr Chairperson, please be so kind and pass the floor to the European Union as this Agenda item is under the European Union competence. Thank you.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, as well as the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the report which includes the most relevant issues of the recent CCP session in a comprehensive manner. The EU and its Member States recognise the importance of commodities for sustainable development in the least developed countries, and appreciate the work within the CCP. We welcome the assurance that, in future, Committee documents as relevant as 'FAO's climate change strategy and the role of trade', will be delivered in good time so as to allow thorough analysis of the valuable information provided by the FAO's services.

We take note of the section on Regional Trade Agreements. It is important to recall that the Nairobi Declaration stated that regional trade agreements should remain complementary to, and not a substitute for, the multilateral trade system. To remain neutral, the FAO should not expose itself in ongoing trade negotiations or in trade-related disputes among its Members. As a general principle, FAO support for capacity building should focus on member countries. Compliance with WTO rules should be a core element of FAO's technical assistance. This applies in particular to the trade initiative in Europe and Central Asia.

Food security and trade involve all countries, whether developed or less developed. Trade as an integral part of Agenda 2030 is universal and should not follow a North-South divide.

We welcome the recommendations on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), noting the existing institutional structures and support available for developing countries. We reiterate our availability to participate in the dialogue on policy coherence for agricultural, development and trade policies.

We encourage the FAO to continue to promote the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which has a key role in addressing price volatility, and we would like to commend the AMIS for its excellent side event during the CCP. On the issue of price volatility, we consider that further work is needed on government action that may cause price volatility. The FAO is encouraged to carry out further analysis and to report through the Programme Implementation Report on progress in achieving SDG2, target (c).

Locating the Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) Secretariat in Rome facilitates the coordination between FAO and the WFP, as well as with WTO. Data on food aid transactions, including *ex ante* but also *ex post* information data about its use, will inject real added value into the food aid monitoring process on international food aid.

Data dissemination would likely ensure the maximum accessibility and availability of the information which, as always, is a key factor for rapid response action.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand makes this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Regional Group endorses the report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and would like to highlight four issues:

First, we welcome and support the preparation and dissemination of market information data and market forecasting data, both short-term and medium-term, since reliable market data are very useful tools for policy development and management.

Second, we support evidence-based policy development, with particular regard to policies related to complex and high impact issues such as trade, food security, and climate change. In this regard, we request FAO to play a greater role in capacity building of human and institutional resources in developing countries with regard to evidence-based policy making.

Third, we note that FAO's current work in trade and market contributes to an "inclusive and efficient agriculture and food system". However, considering the global development and trends in commodity markets, FAO's future work in these areas should contribute more to "resilience" in order to limit extreme price volatility and its impact on food security.

Fourth, we encourage FAO to carefully avoid going into discussions under the mandates of other international *fora* such as the WTO, and to focus its work in trade and markets on the areas where FAO has a comparative advantage, including the promotion of the CFS-RAI principles as well as the already mentioned provision of data and statistics and capacity building.

Fifth, we note with concern the low participation rate of Ministers in the Ministerial Meeting, which was organized back-to-back with the CCP meeting. We urge FAO to continue consulting with the CCP Bureau on how to improve the format of the meeting, and how to raise visibility of the meeting in order to increase a high level of participation and maximize the benefits of the meeting.

Bearing these points in mind, we hope that the next CCP session will be a forum where Members engage more actively in and focused discussion and sharing of experiences and recommendations on emerging issues related to the role of trade and markets for food security.

Mr Faisal AL HASAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to ask the floor for the representative of Jordan to deliver a statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

Mr Fiesal Rasheed AL ARGAN (Observer for Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Near East Region.

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee and the Secretariat for the excellent work done and also for the presentation of the Report. We appreciate the work carried out by this Committee in the area of commodity problems. The availability of commodities is important to ensure food security and nutrition.

Regarding the presentation of the Report at the Committee meeting, and at the Ministerial meeting, that is comprised of roundtables on long-term trends of commodity prices and consequences for sustainable agricultural development, we have focused on those commodities that are especially important to ensure livelihoods of smallholder farmers. These priority commodities have a major impact on food security and nutrition and the economy of those countries that depend on them.

In the Near East Region, we support the outcome of the Ministerial meeting, and the conclusions reached based on the experts' contributions. We would emphasize the need to monitor trade flows and their expansion to ensure economic development and improve nutrition.

Regarding the discussions that were held within the Committee, the Near East Region would like to state that we support the outcome document and call for a greater focus on partnerships, including with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and work to be done to ensure that there is no overlap or duplication of the FAO work with that of WTO. There is a need for very careful coordination of the work carried out by CCP and WTO. We would focus on the importance of CCP for food security and nutrition. Moreover, OECD, with a view to drafting the joint annual Reports on market trend forecasts, has produced very important work stressing the importance and the availability of different commodities in the world commodity markets.

Concerning the FAO strategy in the area of climate change and related trade issues, we see the need for greater attention to the cycles of drought that are becoming more and more intensive in certain regions and in particular in Africa. It is very important that FAO be in a position to support Member States in sustainable management of these different drought cycles, pest outbreaks and disease control.

Regarding the subcommittee for the disposal of surpluses, we would underline the conclusions of the Report. There will be a meeting to be held in Rome when required. We think that it is important working together with the World Food Programme to formulate the most effective methods and approaches to monitor food aid shipment and to be able to report on that subject.

Finally, regarding the proposals that were made concerning the name of the Committee on Commodity Problems, we agree with those who thought it was best to keep its name as it is "Committee on Commodity Problems". However, the term "problems" could be replaced with a broader term that may not have the same problematic connotations as "problem" does.

In conclusion, we would also like welcome new Members of the Committee and congratulate them and also thank Mr Khaled El Taweel from the Representation of Egypt who will be Chairing the next session of the Committee. We wish him and all Members every success.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, which fully endorses the Report and wishes to highlight a few points.

First, we commend FAO for the critical work it is doing in the area of commodity market monitoring and outlook work for global food security. In that context, we request FAO to assist developing countries to develop and increase their capacity to monitor and respond to commodity price movements as this has an impact on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, poverty and food security as well as the economies of commodity dependent countries.

Second, we commend FAO for the timely production of the 2015-16 edition of the *State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)*. In that regard, we welcome the CCP's recommendations to FAO to help developing countries as outlined in Paragraphs 16, 17 and 18 of the Committee's Report. We note with concern that the prices of cereals have been on a downward trend while some nutrition rich crops including pulses have been abundant in many countries. Needless to say, diversity of diets is important if we are to fulfil the commitments we made at ICN2 in November 2014.

In order to enhance food security and nutrition especially in sub-Saharan Africa, we urge FAO to encourage countries to revisit traditional and marginalized crops such as millet and sorghum that are drought resistant as a way of adapting to climate change. Awareness programmes by governments and other stakeholders will go a long way in changing citizens' attitudes to small grains.

In my own country, each year smallholder farmers in semi-arid and arid regions continue to grow maize even though experience has shown that this is no longer viable. Every year their crops wilt when they are waist high. The farmers complain that small grains are too difficult to process without appropriate technology.

There is therefore a need for FAO to pay greater attention to the increasing drought situations in different regions particularly Africa and the Near East and to support Members' strategies for sustainable drought management especially through the adoption of drought-pest and disease-resistant cultivars, especially for pulses, as well as appropriate technology to combat post-harvest losses.

As the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran said this morning, there is scope for FAO to collaborate with UNIDO in this area. FAO should therefore encourage affected countries to adopt policies and programmes that make more grains appealing to smallholder farmers.

Third, we commend FAO for launching the International Year of Pulses and Zimbabwe is particularly happy that one of its own, Ms Elizabeth Mpofu, was appointed as FAO Ambassador for the International Year of Pulses in Africa. We encourage FAO to continue its work on pulses beyond 2016.

Finally, we commend FAO for its collaboration with OECD in the annual publication of the OECD FAO Agricultural Outlook and urge the Secretariat to continue to foster partnerships that are beneficial to the Organization and its Members.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

El GRULAC endosa las recomendaciones del 71º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

El GRULAC acoge con agrado al resumen elaborado por la Presidencia de la Cuarta Reunión Ministerial sobre las tendencias a largo plazo de los precios de los productos básicos y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible, donde se debatirán temas importantes como la dependencia y diversificación de los productos básicos, el cambio climático, y las interrelaciones entre el comercio internacional de alimentos, la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Al respecto de las recomendaciones del CCP, deseamos hacer algunos comentarios.

Deseamos reafirmar la importancia del informe sobre la situación de los mercados de productos básicos y de las previsiones a corto y medio plazos producidos por la FAO para orientar las consideraciones en materia de políticas. En ese sentido, alentamos a la Organización a proseguir su labor en la elaboración de esos documentos y en la provisión de datos comprobados acerca de la producción, consumo y comercio de productos básicos.

Con respecto al fortalecimiento de capacidades de los países en desarrollo, apoyamos las recomendaciones para que la FAO y otros organismos relevantes presten la asistencia necesaria para facilitar su participación en procesos comerciales y relacionados con el comercio, y también facilitar el diálogo sobre políticas para mejorar la uniformidad y la coherencia entre las estrategias de desarrollo agrícola y los marcos y políticas relacionados con el comercio.

Acerca del Año Internacional de las Legumbres, el Comité pidió a la FAO, los Miembros y todas las partes interesadas pertinentes que prosiguieran la labor sobre las legumbres, incluida la promoción de las mismas después del año 2016. GRULAC reitera la importancia de que los informes de la FAO sobre la situación de los mercados de productos básicos contengan datos de la producción y comercio de las legumbres.

GRULAC también apoya la recomendación del CCP que alienta a la FAO a continuar colaborando con la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (CMNUCC), la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC) y otras organizaciones pertinentes a fin de abordar, de

manera objetiva y dentro de los límites de su mandato y su ámbito de trabajo, las lagunas en los conocimientos y la necesidad de realizar más evaluaciones cuantitativas y basadas en datos comprobados sobre los efectos del cambio climático en el comercio de productos básicos en el plano nacional, y en particular de analizar y cuantificar los efectos en productos básicos específicos.

Apoyamos también las recomendaciones de la reunión conjunta del Grupo intergubernamental sobre fibras duras en su 38.^a reunión y el Grupo intergubernamental sobre el yute, el kenaf y fibras afines en su 40.^a reunión, realizadas en Colombia en noviembre de 2015. Destacamos en particular las actividades y proyectos previstos en el documento “now, time to act” endosado en la reunión conjunta y alentamos a la FAO a brindar el apoyo posible para la realización de dichas actividades.

El GRULAC endosa las grandes prioridades determinadas para la labor futura de la FAO en materia de comercio y mercados (expuestas en el documento CCP 16/7) que habrían de tomarse en consideración en la revisión del Marco Estratégico y en la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio para 2018-2021.

Apoyamos la decisión del CCP con relación al Subcomité Consultivo de Colocación de Excedentes (SCCE), en particular la de que las reuniones de dicho Subcomité se celebraran en Roma “en función de las necesidades”. También alentamos a la FAO a seguir colaborando con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) para la realización del seguimiento y la presentación de informes sobre los envíos de ayuda alimentaria.

Para concluir, el GRULAC expresa su apoyo a la recomendación del 71.º periodo de sesiones del CCP sobre el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual (PTPA) del Comité conforme consta en el Apéndice D del informe de dicha sesión.

Mr Alexander OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, I would like to thank you for the Report that has been put forward. Russia gives great importance to trade as a way of ensuring consistent economic growth, strengthening global food security, improving nutrition and achieving sustainable development. In this regard, we value FAO activity in the area of commodities, including monitoring and analysis of global markets.

We also value the outcome of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which is a key platform of FAO for discussing the issue of trade.

We welcome the achievements of the Organization for 2014-15, including the Framework for Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the implementation of regional initiatives for market integration and agricultural trade for Europe and Central Asia.

We endorse the priorities for the work of FAO in the area of trade and markets for the future. We agree with the emphasis being placed on the promotion of responsible investment in the development of the agricultural sector, the monitoring and the analysis of current market situations, the provision of expert assistance for those countries that need it in the area of agriculture and trade policy, ensuring food safety, and observing phytosanitary standards.

We welcome the attention that was paid at the last session to issues like climate change, improving infrastructure, developing public/private partnerships, and access to funds for farmers, as well as cross-sectoral coordination.

It is difficult to overstate the significance of the integration processes in the global economy for the development of international trade. It is necessary to ensure that they work according to universal, transparent, and comprehensible principles based on principles and standards of the World Trade Organization. The participation of Russia is intensifying integration in the Eurasian Economic Union which is trying to eliminate gradually, barriers to trade, promote the movement of investment technology and human resources.

As a member of the Eurasian Economic Community – or a Union rather – we are also in favour of promoting integration with other countries on the basis of bringing together groups of countries.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for giving me the floor to make this statement on the Report on the 71st Session of CCP and the importance of investment in agriculture.

Sudan is an agricultural country as I have said this morning during my intervention. So, I think Sudan could be a model for productivity, production, and investment in the agriculture and this is my first point.

Secondly, one of the important objectives of agricultural work in Sudan is that we have to produce according to the norms and standards of the local and international markets. It is one of the main objectives of all agricultural policies. Based on this, we would like to say that we accept the report of the CCP and the study of the international markets, as well as the matters discussed during the meeting and also the programme and governance.

We would like to be able to affect what is happening now to the markets of the commodities and in the near and medium-term future because the prices are going down. In spite of the problems in the commodity markets and the feuds caused by the decisions taken by some countries, this leads to an increase in prices.

We would also like to say if the prices go down in the long term, this will lead to increase of poor people, especially in the rural areas.

If the prices of commodities are very low, the smallholder farmers will have a low income. We support our poor people. They produce the main crops for the country and the neighbouring countries. If there is not enough investment, this will give less incentive for new investments in productivity, infrastructure and services.

We would like to pay tribute to FAO and its monitoring systems, as well as expectations for the future. Given the important role of food security, we ask countries to have monitoring systems in order to analyze what is happening so that they can work on policies that will be in conformity with what will be happening in the markets.

We refer to the medium-term expectations with the outlook that has been fairly active with the increasing demand, and the countries will be divided into exporting and importing countries. The countries in Africa and the Near East Region are highly affected by the climate change and the scarcity of natural resources in addition to the change in their food systems and patterns that are based on proteins.

The increasing demand on pulses for the markets in 2015-2016, trade and food security.

We would ask FAO to increase its support for developing countries in order to improve its institutional and human capacity so that they are able to carry out better analysis of the policies and the trade issues because of its impact on food security. We ask FAO to provide more assistance to developing countries so that they are able to take part in the trade negotiations in order to achieve food security and participate in multilateral operations in the World Trade Organization.

We would like to refer to the low product programmes calling for the export focused introduction in order to provide more for these countries and this will lead to a decrease in conflicts and other negative impacts.

We ask FAO to help countries to diversify their economies so that these countries are able to provide for themselves by producing more or by investing more and also to increase production and productivity by using the latest technologies.

We would like to say that the activities that took place during the International Year of Pulses play an important role in achieving food security, have an impact on international economies and provide nutrition.

So we have to carry out an information campaign for the importance of the pulses and we have to have policies in order to encourage countries. We would like FAO to cooperate with stakeholders in order to help countries to improve their institutional processes in order to have a sustainable development

and integrated approach between different sectors that will help to lessen the impact of the climate change.

Sudan, a country of the region, would like to call for more assistance so that countries can adopt a new plan that allows this. I would like you to adopt the report of the CCP.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

Canada believes that agri-food trade is vital to the achievement of global food security and is a strong supporter of FAO's work in this area. We participated in the CCP and we endorsed the CCP Report.

This report asks FAO to continue to work on pulses. We fully agree and would like to cast light on the excellent pulse-related work undertaken by the Trade and Markets Division on an exceptional basis to mark the International Year of Pulses. It should be continued in future years as part of IYOP's legacy.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer al Señor Khaled El Taweel por la presentación del informe y asimismo nos alineamos con la declaración efectuada por México en nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Dos comentarios puntuales.

En primer lugar, en el resumen elaborado por la Presidencia de la cuarta Reunión Ministerial sobre las Tendencias a Largo Plazo de los Precios de los Productos Básicos y el Desarrollo Agrícola Sostenible, presentado por el excelentísimo Señor Tofael Ahmed, Ministro de Comercio de Bangladesh, se destaca el llamado a los países en desarrollo para que consigan agregar valor a la producción agrícola como medio para reducir su dependencia del comercio de productos básicos.

La Argentina comparte completamente dicho anhelo. Sin embargo, mi país se lamenta de que el entorno internacional no sea el más propicio para incentivar a los países en desarrollo a agregar valor a su producción agrícola. En efecto, es bien sabido que mientras mayor valor se le agrega a un producto, más difícil será su ingreso a los mercados internacionales, en los cuales siguen predominando importantes barreras o distorsiones en el comercio de productos procesados, como son el escalonamiento y picos arancelarios, sin mencionar los subsidios distorsivos que siguen existiendo, particularmente los destinados a la producción.

En este sentido es que la Argentina hace un llamado a continuar con la reforma del sector agrícola en conformidad con lo mandado en el artículo 20 del Acuerdo sobre la Agricultura de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), y en la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible 2.b, e implementar prontamente los resultados de la Décima Conferencia Ministerial de la OMC, particularmente lo referido a la eliminación de los subsidios a las exportaciones. La próxima Conferencia Ministerial de este organismo, que tendrá lugar en Buenos Aires en diciembre de 2017, brindará una nueva oportunidad para continuar avanzando en ese proceso de reformas tan necesario para los países en desarrollo, que dependen en gran medida del sector agrícola para la seguridad alimentaria de una población creciente.

En segundo lugar, recibimos con beneplácito la conclusión de las negociaciones relativas a la nueva modalidad de funcionamiento del Subcomité Consultivo de Colocación de Excedentes, esperando con ansia el poder evaluar su nuevo funcionamiento a los efectos de determinar si satisface la necesidad de monitoreo de la ayuda alimentaria internacional. Con estos comentarios, la Argentina refrenda el informe del 71.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Ms Sagung Mirah Ratna DEWI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the joint statement made by the Asia Regional Group as well as with the Chair's summary of the Ministerial Meeting on Long-term Commodity Price Trends and Sustainable Agricultural Development in paragraphs 7 and 8 as well as in Appendix B. We believe that the four issues arising in the meeting are the main priorities to adapt declining price trends which are occurring right now on all continents.

In line with this, we would like to convey our perspectives during our involvement in both meetings. We perceived there are two different kinds of interest in the meeting. Food production surplus countries urged that member countries be more open, including by diminishing any import barriers.

On the other hand, food production deficit countries sought aid and assistance to help support their efforts in increasing food production capacities. Viewing those two interests, we remind that there is a need of a good motive among countries to support each other in enhancing their food security. In line with this, we urge FAO to provide further assistance to member countries in need, to avoid these circumstances and support their efforts to increase food-production capacities.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We welcome the report of the 71st Session of the CCP, and actively support the development of commodity trade. We also support the strengthening of the role of trade in commodities to fight poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

China agrees that a healthy diet is very important. It is necessary to consume the right kinds of foods in a healthy diet. That is the reason why we fully support the investments that are being made in agriculture and that have been endorsed by the CCP.

We believe that, for the development of agriculture, it is necessary to encourage trade and agricultural products, as well as investment in agriculture.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I would like to lay emphasis on three points. Firstly, there is an agreement both on the importance of the CCP and its work and on the FAO work related to markets and commodities.

Secondly, while recognizing the importance of the Conference, some delegations pointed out that it is necessary to improve its setting and format.

Thirdly, there is a call for more engagement of the CCP that should focus on its mandate and on the Multi-Year Programme of Work, while enhancing its collaboration with other relevant international bodies.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development)

We will duly take into consideration Members' suggestions, proposals and recommendations on the work of CCP.

I also do apologize for the delay in delivering some documents. This is due to the complexity of the issues at stake. We will try in the future to deliver all the documents in due time.

With regard to WTO, I want to assure the Members that we are working in very close collaboration with WTO and are exchanging information on a regular basis. We stayed within our mandates to provide the Members with the evidence, data and information they need for their trade work. In addition, we also provide an independent forum for debating and discussing the important issue of commodities and trade.

Concerning the Ministerial Meeting, this was the first time that we tried to raise some of these issues at a higher level. Our very purpose was to bring together Ministers for Agriculture and Trade, in order to make them work together in close collaboration with the Bureau. It has been a success, and we will see how this meeting could become even more effective in the future.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to conclude on item 4.2 as follows.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), in particular:

- a) underlined the importance of FAO's commodity market monitoring and outlook work for global food security, especially for better market transparency and informed policy decisions;
- b) appreciated the medium-term projections produced jointly with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and acknowledged the relevance and usefulness of the work to inform policy considerations;

- c) underlined the importance of the human and institutional capacities of countries in analysis of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition;
- d) stressed the importance of FAO's assistance to countries in facilitating policy dialogue for alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade-related frameworks and policies;
- e) encouraged FAO's support to countries in their effective participation in trade negotiations, including WTO negotiations on agriculture and on Regional Trade Agreements, and formulation of trade policies through the provision of the evidence-base, capacity development and facilitation of *fora* for dialogue;
- f) supported continued work on pulses beyond the International Year of Pulses 2016;
- g) encouraged FAO to continue collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other relevant organizations to address the knowledge gaps and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessments of climate change on commodity trade at country level, including analyzing and quantifying commodity-specific impacts;
- h) endorsed the main priorities identified for FAO's programme of work in trade and markets under the reviewed Strategic Framework;
- i) recognized the importance of investment into agriculture and the need to examine the linkages between investment flows and trade and commodity prices, and took note of the need for a systematic collection of quantitative information on trade policies as a work priority under trade and markets;
- j) agreed that the meetings of the Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal should be held in Rome on a "when required" basis, and requested FAO to work jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP) to identify and implement the most efficient and effective way to continue monitoring and reporting on food aid shipments, also through FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS);
- k) agreed that the production cycle of the flagship publication *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) be aligned with the CCP cycle; and
- l) encouraged FAO to continue to promote the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which had a key role in addressing price volatility.
- m) encouraged FAO to continue the convening of Ministerial Meetings on commodity issues, while exploring means favouring higher participation.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for this exhaustive list of conclusions. I wanted, on behalf of the EU, to clarify point (e) with regard to the whole of universal rules of WTO. We heard that it was "including the WTO rules". We would prefer that in the Trade Policy and FAO, in giving assistance to member countries, be guided by universal rules of WTO in order to have a universal check of rules that are globally implied.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, for your excellent summary. I have a question to raise on points (d) and (g). The way you read it, it seems to put a lot of burden on FAO to provide what is asked for. I wondered if you can read both points again with a view of whether FAO is in a position and has the resources to deliver what is said there.

CHAIRPERSON

I will first pass to the Secretariat in order to give explanation to the issues raised by the European Union. That is on point (e): "encouraged FAO's support to countries in their effective participation in trade negotiations, including WTO negotiations on agriculture and on Regional Trade Agreements, and formulation of trade policies through the provision of the evidence base, capacity development and facilitation of *fora* for dialogue".

I would also like to get feedback from the Secretariat on the two questions posed by Afghanistan with regard to point (d): “stressed the importance of FAO’s assistance to countries in facilitating policy dialogue for alignment and coherence between agricultural development strategies and trade-related frameworks and policies”; and on point (g): “encouraged FAO to continue collaboration with United Nations framework [...]”. He was asking about the capacity of FAO to do this.

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

First of all thank you for the points made. Let me start from the comments of Dr Ayazi from Afghanistan. The suggestion that assistance be provided to developing countries to facilitate policy dialogue, I think that is what FAO is actually doing and will be doing more in the context of policy coherence on the SDGs, so it is not something new to facilitate the policy dialogue and in our view it could remain as proposed in the Chair's summary.

We would say that the same goes for our collaboration with UNFCCC and WTO and other relevant organizations “to address the knowledge gaps and the need for more evidence-based and quantitative impact assessment of climate change on commodity trade”. FAO is actually revamping some of its impact assessment capacities through the modeling in order to be more precise and inclusive in terms of the effects of climate change. So this is something that we are doing and will continue to do.

With respect to the point made by the European Union, we could accept the word “according” in front of WTO instead of “including”. It is not a dramatic change.

CHAIRPERSON

I see European Union and Afghanistan nodding so I thank you for accepting my conclusion.

Item 4.3 Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries
Point 4.3 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session du Comité des pêches
Tema 4.3 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca
 (C 2017/23; CL 155/INF/8 ; CL 155/LIM/7 ; CL 155/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to sub-item 4.3, *Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries*, which took place in Rome from 11 to 15 July 2016. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/23 before you.

I now invite Mr Fabio Hazin, Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, to present the report. Mr Hazin, you have the floor.

Mr Fabio HAZIN (Chairperson, 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, from 11 to 15 July 2016. As the Chairperson of the Session, I am very pleased to report the outcome of the 32nd Session of COFI on behalf of the Committee.

The session was attended by 113 Members of the Committee and one Associate Member, by observers from nine other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See and Palestine, nine representatives from the United Nations and its specialized agencies and related organizations, 39 intergovernmental and 26 international non-governmental organizations.

On the first day of the Session, the Special Event on the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) was organized by the Director-General of FAO. The high-level representatives, including the President of the Republic of Guinea, celebrated the “world’s first international treaty specifically aimed at tracking Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing”.

Turning to the outcome of the 32nd Session I would like to address the items of the Agenda focusing on programme and budgetary matters which are of particular relevance to the Council.

The first substantial item on the Agenda was Agenda item 4, *State of the world fisheries and aquaculture and progress in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments*. Under this particular agenda item, the Committee:

- commended FAO for the 2016 State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) publication, expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally and highlighted the threat of IUU fishing to the sustainability of marine resources; and
- welcomed the improvement in the 2015 questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (the Code), agreed that the data submitted through the questionnaire could be used by Members for reporting on sustainable development goals (SDGs) indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and recognized the need for capacity development in developing countries in implementing the Code.

Under Agenda items 5 and 6, the Committee endorsed the reports of the 15th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the 8th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The Committee also authorized the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes to resume its session, finalize the Guidelines and submit the Guidelines to the FAO Conference in July 2017 for final adoption.

Under Agenda item 7, *Combating IUU fishing*, the Committee:

- welcomed the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing and encouraged Parties to convene an inception meeting, as well as to establish the *ad hoc* working group under Article 21 by noting the requirement for capacity development;
- voiced strong support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record); and
- endorsed the proposal to declare an International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing. Based on the endorsement by the Committee, the draft resolution on the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing (CL 155/LIM/8) is submitted to this session for review and endorsement to forward it to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017.

Under Agenda item 8, *Role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Follow-up*, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to follow up on ICN2 by highlighting the valuable contribution of fish and fish products to meeting nutrition requirements, diversifying diets and providing important health benefits. The Committee endorsed the key areas of work identified for ICN2 follow-up in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Under Agenda item 9, *Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries*, the Committee:

- reconfirmed the multi-dimensional function of small-scale fisheries (SSF) in poverty reduction and food security and stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the so-called SSF Guidelines;
- welcomed the development of an FAO SSF Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF);
- welcomed the outcome of the 2015 Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and the Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries;
- commended FAO for the global forum on rights-based approaches for fisheries and welcomed the Global Work Programme (GWP); and
- endorsed the proposal for the Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Based on the endorsement by the Committee, the draft resolution on the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (CL 155/LIM/7) is submitted to this session for review and endorsement to forward it to the 40th Session of FAO Conference in July 2017.

Under Agenda item 10, Global and regional processes, the Committee:

- commended the role FAO plays in UN *fora* and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity, and requested FAO to further enhance its participation and contribution in these areas;
- appreciated the role of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN), the establishment of new Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and emphasized the importance of performance reviews of RFBs;
- welcomed the proposed FAO corporate climate change strategy and action plan and the FAO draft Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017-20; and
- welcomed the work of FAO with respect to the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and the recommendations from the Expert Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear.

Under Agenda item 10, the Committee endorsed the priority areas of work for 2016-17 by reiterating its support for the Blue Growth Initiative (BGI) and emphasized the importance of the work to address IUU fishing, implementation of PSMA, fish losses and waste, regional aquaculture network, implementation of SSF Guidelines, development of inland fisheries and the FAO corporate climate change strategy.

Under Agenda item 11, the Committee took note of the statements by the FAO Secretariat and the Republic of Korea on the revised proposal for the establishment of a World Fisheries University and encouraged agreement on a roadmap for a step-by-step approach.

Under Agenda item 12, the Committee approved the progress report of the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee, the so-called MYPOW 2014-17 and the MYPOW 2016-19.

Toward the next session the Committee elected Mr William Gibbons-Fly from the United States of America as the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of COFI, as well as Mr André Loua, Republic of Guinea, as the first Vice-Chairperson. Egypt, Palau, Peru, Republic of Korea and Spain were elected as other Vice-Chairpersons. The new Bureau has already organized two meetings in July and October and the third meeting is scheduled immediately after this session of the Council.

Finally, the Committee agreed that COFI 33 will be held in Rome during the second or third quarter of 2018 at a date subject to the Director-General's determination in consultation with COFI Bureau. You will be informed later this week under Agenda item 17, Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2016-18, of the proposed schedule of COFI 33 among others.

This concludes my presentation. The Council is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 32nd Session of COFI, as I have just introduced, and endorse its Report, in particular on programme and budgetary matters, as well as the draft resolution on the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Sra. Maria de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Realizamos esta intervención en nombre del GRULAC.

Agradecemos la presentación del informe de la 32^o Sesión del Comité de Pesca, que tuvo lugar del 11 al 15 de julio pasado y que figura con la signatura C 2017/23. Sobre el particular, el GRULAC quisiera destacar algunos aspectos de interés, que requieren pronta atención.

En primer lugar, deseamos resaltar la entrada en vigor del “Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada”. Cabe notar que este Acuerdo representa un esfuerzo internacional para prevenir la utilización de puertos para la descarga y comercialización de capturas procedentes de la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada, al impedir su ingreso a los mercados tanto nacionales como internacionales. Confiamos en que la eficaz implementación de este Acuerdo contribuya a disminuir significativamente las capturas procedentes de la pesca ilegal, no reglamentada y no regulada, que alcanzan aproximadamente el 15 % del total de las capturas mundiales.

En ese sentido, el GRULAC apoya la propuesta de declarar un Día Internacional de la Lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Regulada.

En segundo lugar, dados los efectos negativos del cambio climático en los recursos pesqueros, resulta urgente contar con mayores detalles por parte de la Secretaría sobre las medidas de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático para los sectores de la pesca y la acuicultura. Igualmente, solicitamos a la Secretaría realizar sus mayores esfuerzos en fomentar el desarrollo de capacidades de los países en desarrollo para la implementación voluntaria del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, dadas las dificultades que enfrentamos en su aplicación.

De otro lado, deseamos relevar la importancia de cumplir con la pronta convocatoria a una reunión técnica, en el primer trimestre de 2017, a fin de abordar los dos párrafos pendientes (5.1 y 6.3) de las negociaciones sobre los Sistemas de Documentación de las Capturas, teniendo en cuenta que se deben recibir los documentos de trabajo traducidos, en todos los idiomas oficiales de la FAO y con una antelación suficiente, que permita efectuar el análisis y la preparación que el caso amerita.

Otro aspecto que quisiéramos señalar en esta declaración general sobre el último COFI, es la relevancia de la implementación de las “Directrices Voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad de la pesca de pequeña escala, en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza”. Creemos que las guías aprobadas tienen el potencial de contribuir a la sostenibilidad del recurso, al ordenamiento de la cadena productiva y su gestión integral, así como, a la implementación de reformas asociadas a la modernización e innovación de las actividades pesqueras y acuícolas y la generación de mercados formales inclusivos.

Finalmente, como es de conocimiento de los Miembros, el GRULAC ha presentado un proyecto de resolución a este Consejo, a fin de que sea endosado por los Miembros y remitido a la Conferencia en 2017.

Esta resolución se refiere a la declaración del año 2022 como el “Año Internacional para la Pesca Artesanal y la Acuicultura” y se presenta en cumplimiento y seguimiento a lo acordado en el párrafo 126 del Informe del 32º Comité de Pesca de la FAO, que expresa: “su respaldo a la propuesta de declarar el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales”, teniendo en cuenta dos cuestiones: la política vigente de la FAO sobre la proclamación y celebración de años internacionales, que figura en el documento CL 155/INF/8; y el examen por todos los Órganos Rectores de la FAO pertinentes. En relación a éste último es que sometemos a este Consejo el proyecto de resolución.

En cuanto a la política vigente de la FAO para la proclamación de Años Internacionales, estamos trabajando de manera estrecha con la Secretaría, con los Estados Miembros y otros actores relevantes, en dos aspectos: el desarrollo de las actividades específicas a realizar en 2022 y su financiamiento.

Entre las actividades se evalúa incluir la revisión del grado de implementación de las “Directrices Voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad en la pesca de pequeña escala, en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza”. Adicionalmente se espera incluir actividades encaminadas a alcanzar la mejor comprensión de la realidad de la pesca artesanal y la acuicultura, incluyendo la recopilación de data, que es muy escasa y dispersa en la actualidad; destacar y evaluar formas para incrementar la contribución de los productos pesqueros en la mejora de la nutrición y la implementación de dietas saludables, teniendo en cuenta que nos encontramos en el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición hasta el año 2025; además esperamos incluir actividades relativas a la relación entre la pesca artesanal y la sostenibilidad del recurso; así como, el potencial de la acuicultura en reducir la presión en los recursos, entre varias otras actividades, que tienen un gran potencial para contribuir a alcanzar diversos objetivos de desarrollo sostenible en 2030.

En relación al aspecto financiero, y con la colaboración del Departamento de Pesca en Pequeña Escala de la FAO, se han iniciado contactos con potenciales copatrocinadores financieros para el desarrollo de las actividades. Con la información que se obtenga de éstas y otras consultas, tenemos previsto presentar un documento adicional en la Conferencia de julio próximo, complemente el documento conceptual presentado en el COFI 32 que figura con la signatura COFI/2016/INF/25 y la resolución presentada a este Consejo, que figura con la signatura CL 155/LIM/7.

Asimismo, queremos resaltar que no consideramos que los días o años internacionales estén en competencia, sino que creemos que todos y cada uno tiene sus propios objetivos y sus propios méritos, tanto los presentados por miembros desarrollados, como los presentados por países en desarrollo. Resaltamos que enviar a la Conferencia en 2017 más de un día internacional o más de un año

internacional no vulnera las políticas y lineamientos. Como recordarán los Miembros, la Conferencia de 2013, aprobó más de un año internacional: el Año Internacional de los Suelos para 2015 y el Año Internacional de las Legumbres para 2016, esto cuando ya estaban vigentes las nuevas políticas elaboradas por los miembros en 2012.

Finalmente, queremos dejarlos con algunas cifras procedentes del Banco Mundial, que prueban la importancia de la pesca artesanal para todos y cada uno de nosotros. Aproximadamente 120 millones de personas trabajan en el sector pesquero y su sustento depende de esa actividad. 97 % de esos 120 millones viven en países en desarrollo. De ellos, el 90 % se dedica a la pesca artesanal, 47 % son mujeres y 73 % trabajan en Asia. La mitad del total de las capturas en países en desarrollo provienen de la pesca artesanal y entre el 90-95 % de esas capturas se dirigen al consumo humano. Sin embargo, las comunidades dedicadas a labores relacionadas con la pesca artesanal se encuentran entre las más pobres y marginalizadas del mundo, y al menos 6 millones de pescadores ganan menos de un dólar por día.

Mr Yang Soo KIM (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea takes the floor on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. First of all, we want to thank the Chairperson of COFI for his report and welcome the results of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries. To be specific, we would like to briefly touch upon the following issues addressed in the report.

We wish to congratulate and commend the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its excellent work in producing 2016 State of World Fisheries Aquaculture (SOFIA) publications. As we believe that the SOFIA publication serves as an important global reference for fisheries and aquaculture data, we would like to encourage FAO to provide more support to countries on data collection and quality.

We also want to welcome the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) as we believe this is a truly effective tool in combating IUU fishing. Thus, we wish to ask FAO to encourage the non-Parties to join the Agreement.

At the same time, we commend FAO Secretariat's efforts to support developing states for their implementation of the PSMA and its complementary instruments. In this regard, we would like to encourage Council Members to join the Secretariat in supporting this Umbrella Programme.

We also welcome the COFI's endorsement of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing.

We would like to remind distinguished Council Members that the 32nd Session of COFI welcomed the Republic of Korea's revised initiative on the establishment of a World Fisheries University.

As the Asia Regional Group, we also welcome the initiative and hope that, as a step-by-step approach, a WFU pilot programme will be opened as planned by concluding a partnership agreement between FAO and the Republic of Korea at the earliest.

Cognizant of the important contribution of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition as well as eradication of hunger and poverty, the Asia Regional Group takes note of COFI's endorsement of the proposed Declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Asia Regional Group extends its deepest gratitude to the outgoing COFI Chairperson, Mr Fabio Hazin, for his excellent leadership and coordinating work. Thanks to his able work, it was possible for the Committee to make important achievements for the last two years.

We also wish the new Chairperson, Mr William Gibbons-Fly, all the best in his leadership and coordination of the Committee in the next two years.

Finally, with these remarks, the Asia Regional Group fully endorses the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries and requests the Council to take note on step-by-step approach, under which the first step of a WFU pilot programme will be initiated at the earliest.

Sr. Junior ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Mi Delegación agradece la presentación del documento C 2017/23 y se alinea a la declaración realizada por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). En particular, con relación al informe del 32.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, realizado del 11 al 15 de julio de 2016, queremos resaltar el inciso k del resumen de la Secretaría, párrafo 126 del informe, en donde el Comité respaldó la propuesta para declarar el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanal.

La FAO, con el lanzamiento del Año Internacional de la Papa en el 2008, ha inaugurado una nueva e importante fase en la proyección global de su labor, cumpliendo con el digno mandato de fomentar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional para erradicar el hambre en el mundo. El éxito de ese año y de los que procedieron recientemente denotan el papel de nuestra organización como entidad de conocimiento, difusión de buenas prácticas y catalizador de acciones concretas. La 34ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en la Ciudad de México del 29 de febrero al 3 de marzo de 2016, orientó iniciar la consulta y gestiones para el establecimiento de un Año Internacional de la Pesca y Acuicultura Artesanal para el año 2022.

La pesca y la acuicultura artesanal son actividades que día a día proporcionan a la humanidad alimentos, ingresos y medios de vida a más de 50 millones de familias de escasos recursos. Contribuyendo de esta forma a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, la reducción de la pobreza y el desarrollo rural de las poblaciones que se benefician de estas actividades.

Por otra parte, el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible número 14 llama a todos los miembros de la comunidad internacional a facilitar el acceso a los pescadores artesanales en pequeña escala a los recursos marinos y a los mercados. Así como el Objetivo Estratégico de la FAO número 2 hace hincapié en la necesidad de que la pesca sea más productiva y sostenible. Eso está contenido en el documento informativo número 8 que nos ha proporcionado la Secretaría.

Por lo anterior, solicitamos a la FAO iniciar los procedimientos y consultas necesarias para el establecimiento de ese Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanal, el cual representa, además, una oportunidad única en promover los objetivos de los Directrices Voluntarias para la sostenibilidad de la pesca en pequeña escala, en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza. Con estos comentarios mi Delegación apoya el informe presentado.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group. Thailand supports the endorsement of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) since the CDS is considered an effective tool to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. In this regard, FAO should accelerate to follow the outcome of the FAO 32nd COFI meeting which the Committee was tasked to finalize the draft of Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme without delay and submit it to the FAO Conference by 2017 for consideration. In addition, FAO should seek a mechanism to promote understanding as well as technical assistance to limiting states and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMSs) on the development of the national Catch Documentation Scheme consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme.

The Agreement of the Port State Measure to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing entered into force on 5 June 2016. Thailand, as a member of the Agreement, would like to encourage FAO to organize an inception meeting at the regional level. An *ad hoc* working group should be established as soon as possible according to the resolution of the COFI meeting. FAO should also provide technical assistance to Member States in order to promote the ratification/accession of the PSMA and to implement the PSMA effectively and broadly.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Equatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial hace esta intervención en nombre de los países del Grupo Africano, el cual felicita a la Secretaría por la brillante presentación de este informe.

Observamos con satisfacción que el informe refleja con precisión las conclusiones de los debates que tuvieron lugar durante el 32.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca celebrado del 11 al 15 de julio de 2016.

El Grupo Regional Africano elogia a la FAO por la edición del Informe sobre el Estado Mundial de la Pesca y la Acuicultura para el año 2016, que es un documento de referencia y una fuente de datos estadísticos e información global sobre la pesca y la acuicultura en el mundo.

Estamos preocupados por el estado de las poblaciones de peces en el mundo y por eso felicitamos a la FAO por haber conseguido los apoyos necesarios para la entrada en vigor del Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinado a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada. Invitamos a los Estados Miembros adherirse a dicho Acuerdo.

El Grupo Africano aprecia el papel que desempeña la pesca y la acuicultura para la seguridad alimentaria y hace suyas las principales áreas de trabajo identificadas en la respuesta a la CIN2, relacionado con el sector de la Pesca y la Acuicultura.

El Grupo Africano apoya la propuesta de proclamar un Año Internacional de la Pesca Artesanal y la Acuicultura por el importante rol que desempeña en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y la erradicación de la pobreza en los países en desarrollo, especialmente en África.

Agradecemos los esfuerzos que está desplegando el Presidente de la Consulta Técnica de las Directrices sobre la Aplicación Voluntaria de los programas de documentación de capturas. Al propio tiempo que le animamos a proseguir con los trabajos.

El Grupo Africano ha tomado nota de las declaraciones realizadas por la Secretaría de la FAO y la República de Corea sobre la propuesta revisada para el establecimiento de una Universidad Mundial de Pesca y les animamos a desarrollar un plan de trabajo teniendo en cuenta las diferentes etapas del proceso actual.

Con estos comentarios, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial en nombre de los países del Grupo Africano, respalda el informe del 32.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca que se acaba de presentar al Consejo.

Ms Sagung Mirah Ratna DEWI (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the joint statement made by the Asia Regional Group.

We would like to again express our appreciation to the Secretariat that has prepared the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

We would like to point out our idea on: One Data on Fisheries; Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS); the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing; and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (VG-SSF).

Regarding One Data on Fisheries, we strongly welcome and agree to paragraph 7 of this report that FAO Member Nations need to enhance their national data collection systems on fisheries for a sustainable and responsible fisheries and aquaculture management. The data from each country is expected to be one data representing its fisheries and aquaculture data, statistics, and information.

This One Data system is very beneficial and closely related to our effort in the fight against IUU fishing. Combining such data with the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessel and Supply Vessels (Global Record) would be very promising for a better global fisheries management. In line with this, we would like to strongly encourage FAO to produce a literal appreciation for countries implementing obedience in submitting such data.

On the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, we would like to take this opportunity to urge FAO to facilitate CDS not only for catch fisheries, but also for aquaculture. The Documentation Scheme could be a useful guidance for Member Nations to promote their aquaculture products in domestic and international market for a better livelihood of fishermen.

On the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing, Indonesia is strongly supporting this global initiative to be observed every 5 June.

We sincerely appreciate FAO for its commitment to support developing countries including Indonesia in undertaking the implementation of Port State Measures Agreement, as we are aware that this agreement is the first ever international binding regulation that is specifically devoted to the fight against IUU fishing. In this regard, we reiterate our commitment to support the declaration of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing.

Last but not least, on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (VG-SSF), we urge FAO to support member countries in its implementation. We also encourage FAO to further develop the next guideline on managing high economic valued species as well as exotic species living in inland water.

Mr Alexander OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, allow me to express our thanks to the Chairperson of the 32nd Session of the Committee of Fisheries for the excellent report and work.

We greatly value the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing. In this context, we would endorse the proposal to declare an International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing for 5 June.

With regard to the items considered at the Session, we welcome the outcome of the Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and also the Programme Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries. This is a very important issue for us and those with significant reserves of inland fish stocks.

We are also in favour of FAO continuing its work for the introduction of the global record on fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels. We support the establishment of recommendations for catch documentation schemes and consideration of the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear.

In accordance with the conclusions of the Committee, we would emphasize the important role played by the small-scale fisheries in poverty reduction and the importance of applying the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries for the strengthening of global food security. We support the proposal to establish an International Year in this regard.

Further, the success of the 32nd Session was possible thanks to the detailed work of the Bureau and we very much hope that the Committee's Bureau will continue its activities along the same lines.

Sr. Claudio J. ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

La Argentina apoya la declaración del GRULAC realizada por la Delegación de México. Quisiéramos realizar dos o tres comentarios. El informe del 32.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Pesca es significativo para los resultados esperados en la Onceava Conferencia Ministerial de la OMC, eliminación de ciertas formas de subsidios a la pesca en conformidad con el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 14.6, que tendrá lugar en la ciudad de Buenos Aires en el mes de diciembre del año próximo. Hecho así porque, por primera vez, este organismo pone el acento en los párrafos iniciales y a lo largo de todo el documento que nos ocupa, en la preocupación por la situación de peces en el mundo, señalando que la proporción de poblaciones sobre explotadas ha aumentado.

Asimismo en el párrafo 37 y en el mismo sentido expresa que el Comité manifiesta su apoyo a la colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones y acuerdos internacionales como la CITES, el CODEX y la OMC sobre asuntos comerciales en general y sobre las subvenciones al sector pesquero en particular.

La Argentina entiende fundamental la cooperación de todos los estados para lograr disciplinar los subsidios a la pesca, prohibiendo determinadas formas de subvenciones que contribuyen a la sobre capacidad, la sobre explotación y la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada, teniendo en consideración la situación de los países menos adelantados.

Por último, la Argentina, como otras delegaciones, quiere resaltar la importancia fundamental de la pesca en pequeña escala para la lucha contra la malnutrición y por la seguridad alimentaria para asegurar un desarrollo sostenible.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China agrees to endorse the Report of the 32nd Session of the COFI. Our Delegation would like to propose the following on COFI's work.

Firstly, global fisheries being catch fisheries, aquaculture needs a most updated estimate on the quantity and value worldwide so that we can better quantify the role of fisheries in food security and nutrition and better assess the contribution made by fisheries in poverty reduction and eradication.

Secondly, COFI's work should be better aligned with the implementation of the SDGs.

Thirdly, paragraph 126 mentioned the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, China hopes the Secretariat can further define the meaning of the International Artisanal Fisheries. We believe more relevant information needs to be provided for Council's consideration.

Finally, and also it is very important, we request COFI and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO and also regional fishery agencies, in their relevant activities, they should preserve the relevant provisions of the UN Charter, disallow any conduct which challenges national sovereignty, and eligibility of the participatory entity needs to be validated.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, as well as the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes the results of COFI and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken.

A hallmark at COFI was the celebration of the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement, strengthening our joint fight against Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The EU has contributed to this important step and we are very pleased that this has finally happened. However, we call upon further states to ratify the Agreement. We also fully support the organisation of an inception meeting as well as the establishment of *ad hoc* working group under Article 21, noting the requirement for capacity development.

The EU and its Member States commend the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its excellent work in producing the 2016 report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) and encourages FAO to continue reporting, also in the future. However, there is still room for improvement and FAO should also consider developing standard indicators such as the dependence of fleets on stocks that are overexploited compared to the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and/or on stocks that are currently depleted.

The EU also welcomes the additional decisions taken to tackle IUU fishing. These include the strong support for the further development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, the support for a proposal for an International Day against IUU fishing, the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators by the FAO for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing, as well as the FAO to work on transshipment practices and IUU fishing.

However, the EU deplores the fact that no agreement could be struck on the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes. These guidelines are essential to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the market. The EU stresses that the technical consultations should resume again as soon as possible, resolving the two outstanding paragraphs, so that the final guidelines can be submitted for final adoption at the 40th Session of the FAO Conference in July 2017.

The EU considers regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) as the primary vehicles for cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. The EU therefore welcomes the Committee emphasising the importance of performance

reviews of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs). We encourage FAO to resume talks on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the second IOTC performance review, in order to find common ground for the modernisation and strengthening of this organisation, which is currently an Article XIV body.

As has been discussed previously, the EU would appreciate a clearer presentation from the FAO Secretariat on how work on gender equality and empowerment of women has been further integrated and promoted in COFI's work, both at policy and field levels. One important aspect is for the FAO to enhance its presentation and production of gender disaggregated data.

Finally, the EU would like to express once again its satisfaction with the results of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries. The EU welcomes the role the FAO plays in UN *fora* and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity. It is important to further enhance its participation and contribution and therefore technical capacity and skills in the relevant FAO departments, including for fisheries and aquaculture, which are key for FAO's mandate and are to be maintained at FAO headquarters.

To conclude, the EU endorses the report of COFI 32 and the recommendations therein.

Mr Daiji KAWAGUCHI (Japan)

First of all, Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement delivered earlier by the Republic of Korea and endorses the report by COFI.

In the current circumstances where fishery issues are discussed in many international institutions including the United Nations, it is necessary for FAO, as the leading technical organization in fisheries, to proactively contribute to these discussions. In this regard, Japan has a concern about the reduction in the number of high level posts in the Fisheries Department and, therefore, requests FAO to reinforce the institutional capacity of the department.

Mr Yang Soo KIM (Republic of Korea)

Korea takes the floor again to draw the Council's attention to recent development with regard to the World Fisheries University Pilot Programme.

First, the Committee on Fisheries at its 32nd Session welcomed the initiative and encouraged Korea and the FAO Secretariat to cooperate and work together for a step-by-step approach. Under this mandate, the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat had a series of bilateral meetings to conclude a partnership agreement on WFU Pilot Programme. The conclusion of the partnership agreement is just around the corner.

Hereby, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and Mr Antonio Tavares, Legal Counsel, for their support and their commitment.

Now let me take this opportunity to brief you on our plan for your information. We aim to sign the partnership agreement within this year to start the pilot programme the very next year. In the first quarter of 2017, the pilot programme will receive applications from students. Over the course we will make endeavours to maintain geographical distribution in the selection of students. The pilot programme will be an 18-month course for the delivery of a Master's degree in fishery science. In September 2017, the WFU pilot programme will be officially opened. Once we conclude the partnership agreement, we plan to notify FAO Members of further information through the "Members Gateway".

We hope we can count on your ongoing interest and cooperation so that this pilot programme will be operated as planned.

Let me conclude by thanking all FAO Members for their support.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

A very high number of issues have been raised as it is of course natural when you have a document like the COFI Report in front of you to discuss. I will not be able to mention all of them, but there are

certain points that are obviously of great interest to the Members. Basically, there was only one direct question where there was a request for more details about the work concerning climate change. I am very happy to tell you that, since COFI, there has been some considerable progress in this work.

Firstly, the so-called Africa package on ocean and coastal resilience to climate change that is a direct consequence of tasks that FAO, the World Bank and the African Development Bank were involved in at the meeting last summer. The meeting was on Blue Growth, Blue Economy and Climate Change. This cooperation took their ideas to the GCF (Green Climate Fund) structural dialogue in Cape Town in October and then the actual document of the programme was launched and introduced in Marrakesh on the Oceans Day.

Since then, there has been greater interest in similar programmes and we are working with our partners in that direction. Furthermore, at the structural dialogue GCF called in Honduras last week. There were presentations of similar type of projects in Latin America from at least five countries. These were presented at this venue and we believe these initiatives will be followed up on similar meetings both in the Southwest Pacific and the Caribbean where we will be ready to work with our partners. I think this is the kind of work that is moving on quite well.

As regards the issues that were outstanding at COFI: it is primarily the CDS (catch documentation schemes). We are obviously preparing for a meeting early next year to try and solve that issue. Yet, the progress of such a meeting depends of course on whether there are solutions to be found. Those solutions are found amongst the Members. We need to have a pretty clear idea if we can solve those issues before we start calling you all for another meeting. However, it is possible to solve issues using the time we have now and present them at the Conference in 2017.

Besides, we are planning a session for the PSMA (Port State Measures Agreement), and on that occasion the committee will start and the umbrella programme will be launched. Likewise, the small scale fisheries umbrella programme is being designed and resources for both of these programmes are well funded.

As you have heard from the representative of the Republic of Korea, we are very close to finalizing our Memorandum of Understanding on the pilot project for the World Fisheries University. I would hope that the plans that the distinguished representative presented in his speech earlier on will be able to be implemented.

I would like to then conclude by expressing my appreciation and thanks to Fabio Hazin for his excellent work as Chair of COFI in the last period.

Mr Fabio HAZIN (Chairperson, 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries)

I thank all COFI members for working together and having produced this Report from all we have heard. All delegations have pretty much endorsed the Report. Thus, I do not think I have anything to add to what I have just said. I also thank the FAO Secretariat, particularly Árni, for having supported the work of COFI during these two years.

In addition, I am very proud that we held several meetings of the Bureau. So we had the opportunity to give a very transparent and constructive process that culminated with the meeting of COFI. Then, I am not surprised that we have a general endorsement of the product of this effort here.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Hazin, for your leadership in these years and I hope you will always be available when called for. Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to conclude sub-item 4.3 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, in particular:
 - a) welcomed the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and encouraged non-Parties to join the Agreement;
 - b) underlined the importance of FAO's technical capacity in fisheries and aquaculture, in particular with regard to food security and nutrition and related strategies and programmes;

- c) highlighted the importance of reducing food waste and losses, in particular in the post-harvest value chain, and welcomed further work in this area;
- d) requested FAO to continue its collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- e) endorsed the proposed work plan of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies highlighting the need for close collaboration between the WG-AqGR and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA);
- f) stressed the need for improved aquaculture production efficiency and requested FAO's assistance in promoting sustainable aquaculture development, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- g) recognized the importance of FAO's support for capacity development in aquaculture, including youth and women employment, farmer networks, access to markets, biosecurity and in addressing occupation and safety hazards;
- h) called for the finalization of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes;
- i) supported the Global Record of Fishing vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) and its continued development, and recognized its important role as a tool in combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and in supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA);
- j) welcomed the development of an FAO Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Umbrella Assistance Programme as a mechanism to mobilize extra-budgetary resources, and agreed on the need for a complementary mechanism in the form of an SSF Guidelines Global Strategic Framework (SSF-GSF) to be developed, in consultation with small-scale fisheries stakeholders;
- k) endorsed the importance of FAO support in best practice guidance on the management of inland fisheries and recommended the development of an effective methodology to monitor and assess the status of inland fisheries;
- l) welcomed the Global Work Programme (GWP) and recommended the creation of a database for existing rights-based management systems;
- m) welcomed the FAO draft Strategy for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Climate Change for 2017-2020, recognizing the important role of the ocean on climate change and the impacts of climate change on the ocean, fisheries and aquaculture; and
- n) noted the recent developments that took place in respect of the proposed establishment of a World Fisheries University.

2. The Council:

- a) endorsed the draft Resolution "Observance of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing on 5 June" to be submitted to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference for adoption; and
- b) endorsed the draft Resolution "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022" to be submitted to the 40th FAO Conference for adoption.

Thank you.

Item 4.4 Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry
Point 4.4 Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité des forêts
Tema 4.4 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal
(C 2017/24)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with sub-item 4.4, *Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry*, held in Rome from 18 to 22 July 2016.

Under this sub-item the Council is requested to make a decision under 4.4 (a) *Fifteenth World Forestry Congress*, scheduled to be held in 2021. The document before Council is C 2017/24.

I now invite His Excellency Minister Akram Chehayeb, who was elected Chairperson by the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry, to present the report. Excellency, you have the floor.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président de la 23^{ème} session du Comité des forêts) (Langue originale arabe)

Le Comité des forêts, au cours de sa session organisée concomitamment avec la 5^{ème} Semaine forestière mondiale, a mis l'accent sur les évolutions au niveau mondial. Six cents délégués, représentant 126 Membres, étaient présents ainsi que des représentants de 34 organisations des Nations Unies et des observateurs d'organisations internationales. Un ordre du jour ambitieux a été établi sur la base des recommandations des six commissions régionales des forêts et sur la base des conclusions de la coordination avec les Bureaux des Comités techniques de la FAO, à savoir le Comité des pêches et le Comité de l'agriculture. L'ordre du jour contenait les principaux points thématiques que vous voyez à l'écran : Situation des forêts du monde 2016, Rôle des forêts et des arbres dans le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, Forêts et changement climatique après l'Accord de Paris et progrès accomplis après l'adoption de cet accord, le rôle de la FAO, du Cadre stratégique et Programme de travail pluriannuel du Comité.

Le Comité a décidé d'établir un groupe de travail sur les forêts et les systèmes agrosylvopastoraux des terres arides, et a convenu de financer ces activités à partir de ressources extrabudgétaires. Il a instamment invité la FAO à mobiliser des fonds complémentaires à cette fin.

Le Comité a entériné les directives volontaires sur le suivi des forêts à l'échelle nationale et a demandé à l'Organisation de continuer à apporter son soutien aux pays pour appuyer ces efforts.

Le Comité a également demandé à la FAO d'élaborer un nouveau document stratégique sur les forêts qui soit pleinement aligné sur le Cadre stratégique de l'Organisation et sur le Plan stratégique de l'Arrangement international sur les forêts au niveau mondial, pour être présenté à la prochaine session du Comité.

Le Comité a aussi chargé la FAO de travailler sur les forêts boréales et les forêts tempérées, en explorant différentes options à cet égard pour présenter des propositions concrètes à la prochaine session du Comité.

Le Comité a accueilli favorablement les propositions faites pour recevoir le XV^e Congrès forestier mondial en 2021 et le Conseil est d'ailleurs invité, au titre du sous-point 4.4.a), à décider du lieu où se tiendra ce Congrès forestier mondial.

Enfin, le Comité a adopté son Programme de travail pluriannuel pour 2016-2019.

Le Comité a invité les pays à améliorer la coordination dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de l'utilisation des terres, du développement rural. Il a encouragé l'aménagement intégré de l'utilisation des terres et a recommandé de renforcer les droits fonciers et d'utiliser des instruments de politique appropriés ainsi que de stimuler les investissements pour accroître la gestion durable des terres.

Le Comité a également demandé de renforcer le dialogue entretenu avec les secteurs pertinents pour ce qui est de la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), en promouvant la durabilité de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches et en favorisant la cohérence des mesures prises à l'appui de la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Il a demandé à ce que soit renforcée la collecte de données relatives aux forêts tout en appuyant le suivi des progrès accomplis en matière de réalisation des ODD à tous les niveaux. Il a pris note du projet de Stratégie de la FAO en matière de changement climatique et a souligné qu'il était nécessaire de mettre plus l'accent sur les forêts. Le Comité a invité les pays à renforcer les cadres et processus institutionnels en tirant parti d'approches solides de la foresterie et d'approches intégrées et transversales en matière de changement climatique, y compris des examens visant à intégrer les forêts dans leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national et dans leurs plans nationaux d'adaptation.

Le Comité a également invité les pays à tirer parti des instruments financiers existants et des opportunités résultant de l'adoption de l'Accord de Paris et du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Il s'agit de renforcer les investissements, de faire passer à l'échelle supérieure les initiatives réussies dans le domaine des forêts et du changement climatique, de renforcer les partenariats public-privé et privé-privé, et d'apporter des ressources financières complémentaires pour la gestion durable des forêts.

Pour ce qui est des suites données aux conclusions de la CIN2, notamment en ce qui concerne les forêts et les arbres hors forêts, et afin de jouer un rôle plus pertinent dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, le Comité a recommandé de rationaliser les politiques et les programmes dans les quatre dimensions de la sécurité alimentaire et de promouvoir la production durable et l'utilisation efficace des produits des forêts.

Le Comité a proposé les mesures suivantes: simplifier les procédures et garantir l'accès aux ressources financières. Le Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF) devrait examiner les points suivants: d'une part les principaux produits analytiques de la FAO et le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts en tant que contribution majeure pour ses sessions d'examen, et par ailleurs, les commissions régionales des forêts de la FAO pour renforcer la participation aux niveaux régional et sous-régional.

Les Comités techniques de la FAO doivent continuer à collaborer afin d'intégrer ultérieurement la foresterie et les zones connexes, et le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts doit également renforcer l'intégration des forêts dans d'autres aspects du développement durable conformément aux ODD.

Le Comité a recommandé à la FAO de continuer d'apporter son appui aux pays afin de développer une planification intégrée de l'utilisation des terres; d'intégrer la gestion durable des forêts dans les programmes de développement et les plans d'action nationaux; de renforcer la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion des données relatives aux forêts, notamment aux fins des rapports à établir pour les ODD; de permettre au secteur forestier de contribuer aux objectifs de l'Accord de Paris; de développer des stratégies de financement des forêts au niveau national, ainsi que des instruments efficaces pour renforcer le financement de la gestion durable des suivis; de donner suite aux conclusions de la CIN2; de moderniser et de renforcer l'éducation dans le secteur des forêts.

Le Comité a demandé à l'Organisation de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour renforcer la collaboration en matière de mise en œuvre du Programme à l'horizon 2030 dans le cadre de ses activités et dans tous les Comités techniques de l'Organisation et de donner sa contribution dans les forums politiques de haut niveau sur le développement durable; d'aligner l'évaluation des ressources forestières au niveau mondial selon qu'il convient, en tenant compte des besoins de suivi des ODD; de travailler avec les Membres dans le cadre du Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts ainsi que d'autres processus internationaux; de continuer d'améliorer les différents axes d'élaboration de rapports au niveau mondial sur les forêts en réduisant la charge que cela représente pour les pays; de continuer à développer la stratégie de la FAO dans le domaine du changement climatique; de faciliter un dialogue, des échanges d'informations entre les secteurs de l'environnement, des forêts, des pêches, de l'agriculture; de développer et mettre à jour les orientations techniques en matière de changement climatique et de collaborer avec le Secrétariat de la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB) pour la préparation de la treizième session de la Conférence des Parties (COP13); de renforcer les mécanismes et programmes existants de la FAO pour faire passer à l'échelle supérieure les investissements consacrés à l'adaptation et à l'atténuation des effets des changements climatiques et d'aider l'accès des pays aux financements internationaux pour le climat, y compris en provenance de la Banque mondiale, du Fond vert pour le climat, du Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM), ainsi que d'ONG et entités du secteur privé; de poursuivre les efforts et renforcer l'intégration de la parité homme-femme dans toutes ses dimensions; d'appuyer le rôle des forêts dans le secteur de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition et d'utiliser durablement les ressources naturelles et autres produits dans tous les domaines recensés dans la Déclaration de Durban – Vision à l'horizon 2050 pour les forêts et la foresterie, en tirant parti de tout l'éventail des bénéfices économiques et environnementaux de l'intégration des forêts et de l'agriculture; d'appuyer la mise en œuvre des décisions du FNUF, de poursuivre son leadership au sein du Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts (PCF) et d'inclure ses activités dans le Plan à moyen terme et le Programme de travail et budget (PTB)

en y affectant les ressources appropriées. Le Comité a fourni une liste des principales priorités dont il faut tenir compte dans le PTB et le Plan à moyen terme qui sont présentées en détail dans le rapport.

Le Comité a beaucoup bénéficié des différentes contributions des commissions régionales des forêts dans l'élaboration de son ordre du jour et des priorités de programme pour les forêts. Il a contribué au dialogue à haut niveau pour lancer des discussions sur de grandes questions telles que les ODD, le changement climatique. La Semaine mondiale des forêts a permis de mettre en place de nouveaux modes d'interaction entre les différents acteurs de la communauté des forêts. Un nouveau site web a été mis au point qui fournit des informations très approfondies. Enfin, il y a eu une bonne couverture médiatique de ces événements, ainsi qu'un concours photographique qui a attiré de nombreux participants avec plus de 630 photos.

Mr Joseph NGETICH (Kenya)

I take the floor to make this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, which welcomes the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry. We recognize that sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, effectively continue to contribute to the achievements of the SDGs for the future we all want.

We recognize the contribution of forests to an inclusive growth and sustainable development. Forestry alleviates and ends poverty; industrial forestry, community managed forests and woodlands assist in addressing inequalities of income and offer jobs. This is particularly so when governments, citizens, civil society and the private sector work together in forestry value addition, as well as in raising productivity and competitiveness.

Forests occupy a central place in the cultural, political, economic and social organization of many countries; they may directly or indirectly address food security and nutrition needs. They provide multiple benefits including ecosystems services and the ability to provide adaptive mechanisms and mitigation measures for addressing the uncertainty of climate change.

We encourage FAO to give guidance to countries to improve financing for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); support countries in strengthening the collection, analysis and dissemination of forest data with a view to supporting the national SDG indicator frameworks and country reports to regional and global review processes.

The Africa Regional Group fully supports activities related to forests and forestry, including Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring, with particular regard to support Member Nations to strengthen their capacities on national forest monitoring.

We support accomplishments of the Regional Forestry Commissions; following up on the Second International Conference on Nutrition; FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement of Forests, both as Chair and Member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forest, as well as through its support to the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The Africa Group once again wishes to express its deep appreciation to the Government of South Africa for hosting the XIV World Forestry Congress in September 2015, and further thank FAO and partners for their contribution to the success of the Congress.

I wish to conclude by expressing our wish that the FAO's work should reflect the main priorities for forests and forestry, including in the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan 2018-21.

The Africa Group supports the endorsement of the report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry and the recommendations therein, with emphasis on the establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

Mr Won Sop SHIN (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea delivers this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group, which endorses the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry. We believe that every discussion on each Agenda item implies appropriate policy direction; however, we want to highlight discussions on four areas.

Firstly, we welcome the *State of World's Forests 2016*, having a message of balancing agriculture and forests, and appreciate the efforts of the FAO Forestry Department for producing SOFO 2016.

We believe it will serve as a common ground for member countries and civil society to understand the trend of forestry.

Secondly, we believe the discussion of recognizing the role of forest to achieve SDGs, not only limited to Goal 15, but also SDGs on Poverty, Food Security, and Health, encourages member countries to work with agriculture and fishery sectors.

We also encourage FAO to support member countries in strengthening data collection to work with other international organizations on indicators of relevant SDGs.

We will look forward to hearing good examples of cooperation and support from governments and FAO with the related international organizations at the 24th Session of COFO.

Thirdly, we welcome recognition of and discussion on the importance of forests, one of the key sectors under the Paris Agreement.

We also welcome the Corporate Climate Change Strategy of FAO. We believe that member countries will benefit further from its recognition with the assistance of continuous and appropriate forest monitoring system.

In this regard, we appreciate efforts setting up Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring. We also hope member countries benefit from the guidelines, and encourage FAO to support member countries to use them.

Lastly, the Asia Regional Group appreciates the work of South Africa and FAO to report the results of the XIV World Forestry Congress, held in Durban 2015, to the 23rd Session of COFO. The Durban Declaration surely envisions the way forward in the forestry sector for our next generation. We also appreciate candidate countries, which made excellent presentations during this COFO for the candidacy of the XV World Forestry Congress, for their efforts to deliver their willingness and preparedness.

We would like to commend member countries working closely to reach an agreement on setting up a Working Group on Dryland Forests. The Asia Regional Group looks forward to discussing the result of the work of the Working Group in the near future. We also appreciate efforts of the FAO Secretariat recognizing the importance of coordinating and working with other governing bodies and technical committees. Further coordination will positively affect member countries to manage their cooperation with FAO.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Realizamos esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, GRULAC.

El GRULAC acoge con satisfacción el informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal, realizado en julio de este año 2016. Dicho informe recoge las principales preocupaciones y recomendaciones de los Estados Miembros en relación a la actividad forestal a nivel mundial.

En particular, reconocemos la importancia de la gestión sostenible de los bosques y la agricultura, así como su integración con los planes y ordenamiento territorial, elementos clave para el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Garantizando así la seguridad alimentaria y ayudando a enfrentar los desafíos que impone el cambio climático, como bien lo recoge la publicación de FAO, "El Estado de los Bosques del Mundo 2016".

En ese sentido, recordamos que la estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático deberá prestar mayor atención a los bosques, prestando asistencia en la elaboración de métodos e instrumentos adecuados para lograr una gestión forestal. En particular, destacamos la relevancia de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, sus 17 ODS, así como los acuerdos alcanzados en la COP22 de Marruecos. Compromisos que reiteran la importancia de los bosques y que significarán una mayor integración en el uso de suelos y de la tierra, abriendo camino para mejorar políticas y prácticas destinadas a abordar las causas de la deforestación y la resolución de conflictos por el uso de la tierra.

Además de maximizar los beneficios económicos, sociales y medioambientales de la actividad forestal.

Sabemos que la agricultura es la causa directa del 80 % de la deforestación mundial. Sin embargo, el incremento de la producción agrícola y la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria no tienen que producirse a expensas de los bosques. Crucial serán los cinco principios interrelacionados, factores clave de una visión común sobre agricultura, actividad forestal y pesca sostenible, elaborados con el fin de adoptar un enfoque coordinado más acertado y coherente entre los tres sectores. Y que deberán ser tratados en los Comités Técnicos competentes: el Comité de Agricultura, el Comité de Pesca, el Comité Forestal y, por último, en el Comité de Problemas de los Productos Básicos.

Por otra parte, reiteramos el llamado a FAO de tener en consideración en mayor medida la realidad de los bosques templados, reforzando su estudio para lograr asegurar su protección, como también redoblar sus esfuerzos para colaborar con los Gobiernos en la elaboración y aplicación de políticas y medidas tendientes a combatir el fenómeno de la deforestación y degradación de los suelos, favoreciendo las colaboraciones entre países con intereses similares. Recordamos además el compromiso de conformar un grupo de trabajo sobre los bosques y sistemas agro-pastoriles de tierras secas en todas las regiones, recomendación formulada en el anterior período de sesiones, COFO 22 de 2014.

Con esta declaración, los países miembros del GRULAC hacen suyo el informe del 23.º período de sesiones del COFO.

Mr Lorenzo DE SANTIS (United Kingdom)

Mr Chairperson, I would kindly ask you to give the floor to the Slovak Republic to deliver the statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÀ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the *State of the World's Forest 2016*, with its focus on an integrated approach for the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans.

The EU and its Member States highlight the importance of forests which through their sustainable management can contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To this end, we have to improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use and rural development. We have to promote integrated land-use planning as a strategic framework for balancing land uses at national, subnational and landscape scales. We also stress the need for gender equality and women's empowerment in the forestry sector.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States welcome the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring and would like to underline the need to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

We underline the need to strive for adequate policy instruments, including training and capacity building and to boost investments, including through existing international financial mechanisms to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management.

We draw attention to the current policy fragmentation in forest-related issues, and stress the need to provide a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests. This can be done through the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-30, which is currently being developed, and we can demonstrate our shared commitment to delivering forest-based solutions. Such a strategic plan should serve as a reference framework for transformational action by all actors at all levels. We welcome the contribution by the FAO as chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to the International Arrangement on Forests and stress the need to continue working on substantially contributing to the development of Strategic Plans for Forests, including through the

development of global forest indicators.

In the light of the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the EU and its Member States stress the key role of forests in combating climate change and underline the need to give priority to halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and enhancing removals through sustainable forest management. We stress the need for a strong FAO Climate Strategy with a view to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In this respect, forests should be included in the National Determined Contributions of Member States.

We would like to restate our view that priority areas of work should include monitoring and assessment, forest ecosystem services, rural development, urban and community forestry, governance, wood energy, forest biodiversity, innovation in forest products, and education. We also encourage further promotion of cross-sectoral collaboration in the UN system and throughout the CPF membership as well as between FAO and the statutory bodies within the FAO's Strategic Framework and its objectives.

We welcome the progress report on the implementation of the MYPOW for the period 2012 to 2015. We believe that FAO's activities should focus on actual results in the regions. We welcome the work and contributions of the Regional Forestry Commissions to COFO as well as the suggestion that further opportunities be explored to strengthen the interaction in this regard. We look forward to the 70th anniversary celebration between FAO and UNECE forest work in 2017. We also recognize the valuable role of the Regional Forestry Commissions to helping set priorities for the FAO programme in forestry.

Finally, we hope that the following 16th World Forestry Congress will be held in Europe.

To conclude, the EU and its Member States endorse the report of COFO 23 and the recommendations therein.

Sra. Margarita VIGNEAUX (Chile)

La delegación de Chile se alinea a la intervención del GRULAC y desea adicionalmente destacar el interés para el fortalecimiento de capacidades en torno a la gestión forestal sostenible, lo cual debe incluir el intercambio de experiencias en torno al monitoreo y seguimiento de la variable sustentabilidad de los bosques. Solicitamos a FAO reforzar la Cooperación Sur-Sur, específicamente para la promoción y cooperación para el manejo forestal sustentable, estableciendo la necesidad de que países de renta media, como es el caso de Chile, refuerce su compromiso de apoyo a los países menos desarrollados.

Recomendar al *Forest Resources Assessment* la revisión de indicadores. Promover y fortalecer los sistemas nacionales de estadísticas forestales a objeto de atender de mejor forma la necesidad de información que evidencia la contribución de los bosques a la implementación, los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenibles y el efecto del cambio climático sobre los bosques. Además, solicitamos hacer extensivas iniciativas como el mecanismo de restauración de bosques y paisajes de la FAO, dado que iniciativas como estas debiesen ser ampliadas significativamente, considerando los compromisos internacionales de conservación y el nivel de degradación que se está registrando en los bosques sometidos a perturbaciones antrópicas más recientes y de diferentes escalas desde incendios forestales locales, a consecuencia sobre los bosques por el cambio climático.

Chile sugiere incorporar la figura de las áreas protegidas como una herramienta eficaz y eficiente para la conservación del recurso forestal. Las áreas protegidas, además de su rol de preservar y proteger muestras representativas de nuestros bosques, constituyen territorios en los que se puede realizar diversas experiencias o ensayos más controlados.

Adicionalmente, solicitamos a FAO que preste apoyo a los Estados Miembros mediante el fortalecimiento de la capacidad y la provisión de apoyo técnico con miras a la integración de la perspectiva de género y de los jóvenes en las políticas forestales y en la aplicación de estas políticas, mediante el apoyo al empoderamiento económico de las mujeres en la cadena de valor forestal a través del fenómeno empresarial y a través del trabajo con el panel asesor sobre conocimiento forestal, con vistas a proporcionar orientaciones para la modernización de la educación forestal.

Finalmente, solicitamos que FAO intensifique su labor en el ámbito de los bosques boreales y de zonas templadas. Con estos comentarios, Chile agradece y acoge el informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal.

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

First of all, we would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Forestry for the detailed presentation and the outcomes of its last session. We approve the core outcomes of the event of the session. We support something that was mentioned during the last session, which was the importance of a cross-sectoral approach in forestry. This would take into account issues of ecological sustainability, the optimal use of economic capacity and the social dimension.

We agree with the priority areas of FAO work outlined by COFO, including achieving relevant SDG targets, adaptation to climate change and to mitigation of its consequences including: the fight against forest fires, the evaluation and monitoring of forest resources.

We would like to underline that the importance of boreal and temperate forests in working towards sustainable development. FAO estimates that boreal and temperate forests account for 48 percent of the planet's forests. Trees, soil and peat lands are amongst the largest natural storage areas in the world. In Russia alone, these forests absorb around 600 million of CO₂ a year. At the same time, there are still gaps in forest research in these areas nowadays. This relates to the contribution to the fact of addressing the global issues of climate change, biodiversity conservation, the prevention of land degradation, safeguarding water resources, strengthening food security and nutrition.

In this respect, Russia welcomes the Committee's decision on the need to expand FAO's activities in this area and to examine the possibility of establishing a relevant working group under the aegis of the Organization. We call on the global forestry community to engage in open and intense dialogue on the role of temperate and boreal forests to stabilise climate and food security. We look forward to receiving the decision of the Committee, together with the fact that the Secretariat will provide a detailed document with concrete proposals on this issue to the next session of COFO in 2018 under a separate agenda item.

Mr Daiji KAVAGUCHI (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Regional Group statement delivered by the Republic of Korea.

We welcome the request of COFO to strengthen a cross-sectoral approach between forestry and agriculture, in response to the *State of World Forestry 2016* that highlights the fact that 80 percent of world deforestation has been caused by the conversion of forests into agricultural land.

Combating deforestation is one of the critical agenda items. We expect FAO to take more proactive leadership to make forestry issue discussed appropriately at the international *fora* on food security.

With these comments, we endorse the report of COFO.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Perhaps the best way of entering this debate is what we say in our country in Sudan; Sudan attaches the greatest importance to forest cover with emphasis on human resources, various forms of forestry, proper use of forests and maximizing the use to improve productivity while also protecting the environment in an appropriate manner. Forests are one of the elements where the necessary political and executive world will allow us to attain Sustainable Development Goals. We need to attach greater importance and interest to them.

The reforms in our country have also covered forestry. One of the most important elements of this reform is increasing forest cover, especially in order to produce rubber. We developed a number of systems which conserve the quality of forests in-country. Therefore, I would like to stress here the importance of issues which were discussed at the last session of COFO in order to coordinate policies on food, agriculture, rural development and soil use and also the 2030 Agenda which above all has the key issue related to links between the forests, poverty, hunger and food security.

We need to step up our efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals. We would call on the Organization to provide the necessary assistance for implementation of national and regional plans and

help to find funding opportunities for sustainable development so that we can take a comprehensive approach to the forestry, agriculture and livestock sectors and establish a strategy for assessing forestry resources in conjunction with other stakeholders with a view to preparing and disseminating information of a physical and economic nature on the status of the forests. We need to collect this data and continue working with relevant organizations in the field of climate change to ensure that our countries can benefit from that assistance when combatting climate change.

We endorse FAO's strategy for climate change and the role of forestry in combatting climate change. We would ask for the Organization to provide the necessary support to countries so that they have appropriate instruments for exchange of information among the various forestry sectors.

Lastly, we would endorse the Report of the Committee on Forestry and we attach the highest importance to this issue so that it can play the role it should play in the development of our countries, particularly on issues directly related to the environment and climate change.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président de la 23^{ème} session du Comité des forêts) (Langue originale arabe)

Je vous remercie de votre soutien et de vos commentaires, et j'espère que M. René Castro, Sous-Directeur général du Département des forêts, pourra répondre à vos questions.

Mr René CASTRO SALAZAR (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

This is probably climate change in part. First of all we are glad that the combination of food production and forests and the more than 20 cases of countries able to grow in both forest coverage and food and nutrition production has been well received. This is a myth that we were able to tackle.

Secondly, we know now that without food security there is no peace and sustainable development and without addressing climate change there is no food solution. We will need to work at the same time on food security and addressing climate change. You heard the Director-General presenting the longer-term view for climate change. I am glad to hear there is a lot of support for that.

All the regional groups have suggested some interesting priorities. For example, it was interesting to listen to Kenya and African groups talking about guidelines for national forest monitoring and supporting forest monitoring at the national level. As you know, FAO mainly focuses in regional and global reports but, when we are asked by the countries, we go to the national level. Now we have been doing so already in 40 countries using the new Google and FAO agreement that will be presented to the world in every detail with the first findings probably in March 2017. Those countries interested in receiving more support for the national level report using this new technology, please let us know your interest. We will report. We have the technical people. We have the resources already in the house but we have only two country demands.

Then we heard a lot of requests for better South-South cooperation. We will be growing in that and have been doing more recently with the projects we presented for the green climate fund, 20 countries in Africa, four regional programmes, six already presented for Latin America but more than 20 in the pipeline and two regional projects. Those will allow us to increase South-South cooperation and exchanges. For example, coming from Costa Rica which is a water-rich country we ask Morocco to help us understand how you manage the water better and how you can deal with water scarcity. We will see more of those.

I can report to you that, in the first project presented to the green climate fund, more than 80 percent are forest-related including all the lists that we received here including location, wood energy, land restoration, sustainable forest management, food production and poverty alleviation and water preservation. Those projects are part of the portfolio we presented to the green climate fund. And then, finally from my side, I will ask the Secretary if there is something else.

I will only highlight again that FAO has reorganized under the FAO department of course at the forefront to make sure that Sustainable Development Goals and FAO's Strategic Objectives are totally aligned. We will be working on them. In our case, we are producing the first models and reports showing that it will be possible to have global deforestation by 2030 but notice that I use the word global. It will be essentially a net gain in the temperate and boreal forests and it is still a net loss in the

tropical part of the world. So at the global level we are moving toward halting deforestation, but not in every region and not in every country. For that we will need to work harder, especially on finance, land tenure and gender issues. When you solve this, you are better prepared to combine agriculture and forests as I mentioned in the example of more than 20 countries around the world.

Mr Peter CSOKA (Secretary, Committee on Forestry)

I would like to inform you that major progress was made on the global monitoring related to forests and the 14 Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, with generous support from the governments of Germany and Norway, last week held an organizational initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests to discuss a core set of global forest indicators. A good agreement was reached to identify 20 indicators, of which nine ready for use, and 11 more requiring a little bit of further work, together with the roadmap to conclude on this work by June 2017, and bring this to the attention of COFO and other conventions and governing bodies for consideration in future reporting of the SDGs, the International Arrangement of Forests, and other internationally agreed forest-related targets.

Mr René Castro Salazar (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Finally we are working on a new financial story to make sure that the small landholders of the world are not left out of the climate economy. It had happened in previous efforts, like the Kyoto Protocol and others. It is very difficult due to the number, problems of land tenure, the high transaction costs, the difficulties for the development banks to deal with the smallest scale landholders, and we are making a story.

We do not know yet if FAO can be the one hosting it, or should only develop a vehicle, or should be an investor. But we know for sure that unless we work, that sector will be likely left behind in the new climate economy.

So we are working and visiting the Members of the CPF (Collaborative Partnership on Forests), World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, and others, and also regional organizations like the regional banks and the European Commission. So very likely, next March we will have that story to show how feasible it is this time to include small, especially forest, landholders in the new economy.

(a) Fifteenth World Forestry Congress (2021)

a) Quinzième Congrès forestier mondial (2021)

a) Decimoquinto Congreso Forestal Mundial (2021)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now turn to point (a) of sub-item 4.4, on the *Fifteenth World Forestry Congress*.

The Committee on Forestry made a recommendation that the Council make a decision on the venue of the World Forestry Congress to be held in 2021.

As we have seen when considering the Report of COFO, two countries, Italy and the Republic of Korea, had offered to host the Congress in 2021.

However, I have been informed that Italy wishes to withdraw its candidature to host the World Forestry Congress in 2021.

As this leaves the Republic of Korea as the sole candidate to host the World Forestry Congress in 2021, can I take it that the Council wishes to endorse the Republic of Korea as the host country for the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress in 2021?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is so decided.

May I be the first to congratulate the Republic of Korea on having been elected as host country for this important global event, and wish it every success with the logistic and organizational challenges that lay ahead. I wish to pass the floor to the Republic of Korea.

Mr Won Sop SHIN (Republic of Korea)

Dear distinguished delegates and colleagues, I would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to all the member countries that supported Korea in its bid to host the XV World Forestry Congress.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize and thank our colleagues from Italy.

They have been a great competitor throughout the bidding process, and we are truly humbled by their support.

Also, Korea will support Italy if they wish to host the XVI WFC in Milan.

Hosting the XVI Congress in Italy will be meaningful as it makes 100 years from the first WFC which took place in Italy.

Our journey to today started two years ago and it has been filled with many valuable lessons.

We had a chance to reflect upon Korea's past and to learn from dialogues held with other countries.

It was an opportunity to remind ourselves of the true value of forests, and the role they play in addressing urgent challenges, like climate change, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

As we once received aid that helped us to recover our forests, we wanted to share our experience and know-how with the international community.

That was why we have been passionate about hosting the World Forestry Congress to share our experience and to provide a global platform for discussions on the future vision of forests.

I promise you that we will do everything we can to make the XV World Forestry Congress a success.

We will provide diverse opportunities to study forestry policies and civic activities of different countries.

And hopefully, such discussions and exchanges will produce tangible results, to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy the benefits of forests.

Today, Korea is standing at another starting line.

We will work hard with you altogether to preserve and carry on the WFC legacy.

We ask for your continued support and welcome any recommendations and suggestions you may have.

Before closing, I would also like to express my appreciation to the FAO Secretariat and staff for their excellent work.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now wish to pass the floor to Italy, thanking it for its support for the work of the Organization in forestry, as was evident in its well fought campaign to host the World Forestry Congress.

Mr Pierfrancesco SACCO (Observer for Italy)

I would like to confirm the withdrawal of the Italian candidature to host the XV edition of the World Forestry Congress in 2021, notwithstanding the quality of the offer made by Italy and specifically by the city of Milan.

Italy warmly thanks each and every one of the numerous Member States of the FAO Council which had expressed their support to our candidature.

The Italian decision has been made in the spirit of common efforts and constant endeavours to reach consensus, which lies at the basis of the Italian role as the pro-active host country of the Rome-based Agencies.

We would moreover like to thank the Authorities of the Republic of Korea for the constructive dialogue on this issue

The Italian Government expresses its appreciation for the excellent hospitality that the city of Seoul will certainly assure for the success of the WFC in 2021.

Finally, I would like to mention that Italy is interested in proposing the candidature of the city of Milan to host the following edition of the World Forestry Congress, in the recurrence of the centenary of the first Congress, held in 1926 in Italy.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président de la 23^{ème} session du Comité des forêts) (Langue originale arabe)

Je souhaiterais à mon tour saluer la Corée pour tous les efforts qu'elle a déployés, et féliciter l'Italie pour la compétition honorable et pour avoir permis à la Corée d'organiser le prochain Congrès.

En attendant l'organisation du XV^e Congrès des forêts, nous espérons que tous les problèmes auxquels nous sommes confrontés aujourd'hui auront été résolus, pour une durabilité des forêts du monde, pour augmenter le nombre des zones protégées sur la base des règlements et des lois des pays concernés, et ce en vue de sauvegarder un climat sain pour un meilleur avenir de l'humanité entière.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now make my conclusion on item 4.4.

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) (18-22 July 2016), in particular:

- a) welcomed the publication of *State of the World's Forests 2016* and its key messages and recognized that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture, and their integration in land-use plans, contributed strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- b) supported the use of the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as a framework for policy dialogue on sustainability;
- c) requested FAO to align the Global Forest Resources Assessment strategy in line with the requirements for monitoring of SDGs, as well as with other global forests processes and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to improve and streamline global reporting on forests and enhanced support to countries on the National Forest Monitoring;
- d) highlighted the importance of forests in the draft Strategy for FAO's work on climate change and the continued dialogue and information exchange among the different sectors, such as environment, forestry, fisheries and agriculture, including livestock at national, regional and international levels, with a view to strengthening synergies and avoiding duplications;
- e) welcomed the establishment of a Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and agreed that its work would be financed through extra-budgetary resources;
- f) underlined the importance of FAO's work on boreal and temperate forests;
- g) welcomed the main outcome document of the XIV World Forestry Congress;
- h) reiterated the importance of FAO's contribution to the International Arrangement of Forests (IAF) and encouraged FAO to continue its leadership role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

- i) encouraged FAO to review the Global Forest Assessment strategy, including its financing strategy, in consultation with FAO Members, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant international organizations; and
 - j) welcomed the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring.
2. The Council endorsed the offer of the Republic of Korea to host the XV World Forestry Congress in 2021, and noted with appreciation the gesture of Italy of withdrawing its bid.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Thank you very much, we are fully in line with your summary, particularly with point 1(f) on the importance of FAO work on boreal forests.

However, may I stress that the discussion during the COFO Session was around strengthening or enhancing the work on boreal and temperate forests and that is clearly reflected in paragraph 14(c) which says: “the Committee requested FAO to strengthen its work in the area of boreal and temperate forests, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” et cetera.

So if you could kindly add to your excellent summary under point 1(f) the element of “strengthening” or “enhancing” the FAO on boreal and temperate forests, it would fully reflect the discussion during the Committee and also the points made by three speakers during this Session of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

So point (f) will read: “underlined the importance of FAO enhancing its work on boreal and temperate forests”.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson. Your summary is excellent. In one of the points, you mention a Working Group on Dryland Forests. I presume this means low forest countries. If this is so, a very large number of developing countries are facing this problem.

And then it ends up find extrabudgetary resources. I think one has to be a bit careful that, apart from voluntary contributions, also net appropriation should be considered for this work.

CHAIRPERSON

I think maybe we can leave it as it is at the moment. We wait for when we come to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget.

With that, I think we have come to the end of this Agenda item 4.4 and I want to thank you, Minister, and the Secretariat, and thank all of the Members for your contributions.

Ladies and Gentleman, that brings us to the end of this afternoon’s meeting. Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind Members that the Side Event on the World Soil Day Celebration 2016: “Soils and pulses, symbiosis for life” and the International Year of Pulses 2016: End of Year Celebrations, will take place immediately after the closure of this plenary meeting, from 18:00 to 19:30, in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

Following this side event, there will be a reception in the Atrium hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand in tribute to the late King Bhumibol Aduljadej. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon.

Ladies and Gentleman, we will resume our work tomorrow morning at 09.30 hours sharp. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 18:20 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.20

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

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

6 December 2016

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.39 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 39
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.39
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 8. Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security**Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-troisième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale****Tema 8. Informe del 43.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial***(C 2017/20)***CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Third Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We start our work today with item 8 of the agenda, *Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security*, which was held in Rome from 17 to 21 October 2016. The document before Council is C 2017/20.

I give the floor to Her Excellency Ambassador Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, to present the report. Excellency, you have the floor.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

It is a great honour for me to join you today to present the report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security, adopted by the Committee on 21 October 2016 at the end of its last plenary held here in Rome.

CFS43 was a successful and very well attended session with almost 1200 delegates from 124 countries, 123 civil society organizations and 86 private sector and philanthropic foundations participating, along with UN agencies and bodies, international agricultural research and financial institutions. Around 56 side events were held during the week on a wide range of topics relevant to food security and nutrition, and I hope you enjoyed the CFS 40th anniversary exhibit shown in the FAO atrium throughout the week.

The Opening Session was addressed by the UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon, myself, the Director-General of FAO, the President of IFAD, the Assistant of the Executive Director of WFP and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts.

These statements, and others from Ministers and members of delegations, highlighted the importance of working together to promote sustainable food systems, improve nutrition and address the challenges of climate change.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed the key role CFS can play in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. He encouraged the Committee to continue its work to end hunger and to promote sustainable agriculture, so everyone on earth can enjoy peace, prosperity and better opportunities.

As the foremost inclusive intergovernmental platform for global coordination and policy convergence on food security and nutrition, the Committee on World Food Security once again ensured that the voices of all food security and nutrition stakeholders were heard throughout the session.

CFS43 was an important occasion to endorse the Committee's work on key topics for policy convergence, such as the policy recommendations on promoting "Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?", which were informed by an independent evidence based report from the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts.

I thank the rapporteur of this policy convergence process, Mr Yaya Olaniran, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, for his dedication and hard work.

The recommendations recognize that sustainable agricultural development is essential for poverty reduction and for the achievement of food security and nutrition, and include specific recommendations for pastoral, grazing and intensive livestock systems.

Another achievement at CFS43 was the endorsement of a comprehensive set of policy recommendations on "Connecting Smallholders to Markets", which aim to recognize and, through policy enablers, maximize the role of smallholder farmers in contributing to global food and nutrition security. These recommendations conclude a process within CFS that began in late 2014 with the preparation of a High-Level Forum on Smallholders and a background report, developed with the expertise of the three Rome-based Agencies,

as well as private sector and civil society representatives. The work was ably chaired by Ms Anna Gebremedhin, representative of Finland.

These recommendations are now presented before you, the FAO Council, and will also be transmitted to the UN General Assembly. The Committee asks that all stakeholders – that means each of you – disseminate the recommendations, make use of them and support their application.

At its 43rd Session, the Committee agreed on how CFS will engage in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on how CFS will support country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national efforts for achieving the SDGs. I thank Mr Willem Olthof, the OEWG Chair, who facilitated this work.

Through the discussion on the SDGs, CFS Plenary has given guidance for the contribution that the Committee will submit to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum. The next HLPF will be particularly relevant for CFS as it will focus on poverty eradication and shared prosperity and, among others, it will specifically review the targets related to food security and sustainable agriculture.

The Rome-based Agencies presented to the Committee their thinking and the challenges involved in future endeavours to monitor food security and nutrition in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The discussion recognized the need for a more holistic approach to monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDG2 targets and other related targets and welcomed the anticipated future collaboration with WHO, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF and the World Bank. The Food Insecurity Experience Scale was welcomed as a new and improved index to measure all forms of malnutrition.

With the strong commitment of all its constituencies, the CFS endorsed a framework for stepping up its contribution to the global fight against malnutrition in all its forms. My thanks goes to the Chair of this process, Mr Khaled El-Taweel from Egypt. The new framework will guide CFS work on nutrition in the future as it supports the implementation of the ICN2 Framework for Action and of the Programme of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. We are looking forward to receiving in October 2017 a report from the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Nutrition and Food Systems which will help us frame future policy convergence on this topic.

Within the framework of the discussion on the Multi-Year Programme of Work, chaired by Mr Mafizur Rahman from Bangladesh, the Committee decided to request a report from the HLPE on “Multistakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition”. A report on this subject will be presented in 2018.

The Committee took note that the HLPE had been requested to prepare a note on Critical and Emerging Issues for Food Security and Nutrition by the end of 2017 to inform future work of CFS, beyond 2019. The Committee also considered the possibility of adopting in the future a longer term MYPoW than the present two-year programme.

As part of the discussion on MYPoW and in light of the unpredictable resources for CFS, the Committee encouraged all CFS members to contribute un-earmarked funding for CFS, according to their capacity, and to explore long-term solutions to address the issue of sustainability of CFS funding.

As in the past, and thanks to the efforts of Ms Fernanda Tansini from Brazil, Chair of the Global Strategic Framework OEWG, CFS endorsed the fifth version of its Global Strategic Framework, which has incorporated the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises and the policy recommendations on Water for Food Security and Nutrition.

A Forum on Urbanization and Rural Transformation debated the major trends and drivers of the changes observed in rural and urban settings and their implications for global food security and nutrition. As a result, during this intersessional period an Open-Ended Working Group on Urbanization and Rural Transformation will compile experiences and policy approaches that have proved effective for addressing food security and nutrition in this context of urbanization and rural transformation.

CFS is the space for all stakeholders to share experiences and good practices concerning the implementation of CFS decisions and recommendations at national, regional and global levels. In this respect, CFS43 endorsed Terms of Reference that provide guidance to food security and nutrition stakeholders on how to

share their experiences and good practices in the use and application of CFS products. I thank the Chair who facilitated this work, Mr Robert Sabiiti from Uganda.

Guided by these Terms of Reference, CFS held a global thematic event to share experiences and take stock of the use and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (the VGGTs). This event recognized that many countries have used and applied the guidelines since they were endorsed in 2012 and their application directly affected around two million individuals worldwide. The voluntary contributions received before the event and the presentations shared during the plenary highlighted many good practices but also some of the challenges in the application of the guidelines. In their comments, many stakeholders stressed the importance of establishing inclusive multistakeholder platforms, empowering all parties and ensuring strong political engagement as essential elements for the successful application of the guidelines.

Before closing the session, stakeholders received a progress report on the independent evaluation of CFS which is underway. This comprehensive review of CFS work and model will assess the extent to which CFS is performing its roles, its efficiency, its effectiveness and the relevance of its work. One of its objectives is to generate learning on multi-stakeholder collaboration, to which the CFS represents a possible model to be replicated. I will be happy to share more information on the outcomes of this exercise next year.

On behalf of the Committee and all its stakeholders, let me conclude by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to present the progress made by CFS, and share with you our common goal to ensure sustainable development and eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Dun NIU (China)

China is delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group, which welcomes the Report and thanks Madame Chairperson for the presentation.

We would like to highlight three points which matter more to our region. First, we welcome the forum on urbanization and the rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition. The Asia region is expected to lead the world urban population of 2.6 billion in 2030. In this regard, the impact of urbanization in the Asia region will be doubling especially if we relate it with the food security and nutrition which more than 68 percent of world undernourished comes from Asia. We believe that this forum will be the starting point for further policy guidance.

Second, smallholders' contribution to the total value of agriculture output is significant. Meanwhile they are facing unprecedented challenges. We support the policy recommendations on this subject and we encourage the CFS future work activities to continue including this perspective.

Third, resilience to climate change and natural disasters. Asia has been the region with the highest frequency of natural disasters in the world combating the challenges of climate change the traditional farming practices and knowledge plays a vital role. In this regard, we believe the FAO GIEWS Programme which aims to value traditional agriculture practices of significant resilience and the biodiversity would contribute to building resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

The Asia Regional Group emphasizes key areas such as innovation and technology. South-South and triangular cooperation could be leveraged addressing the challenges mentioned above. With these comments, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Continues in Chinese

I have two comments on behalf of the Chinese delegation.

First of all, as at 21 November the Chinese version of the document of the 43rd Session of the CFS was not available, so we really hope that FAO and CFS pay attention to this matter.

Secondly, China just as the Asia Regional Group agrees to attract attention to smallholders and family farmers.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

We welcome the report of the CFS 43 and we express our appreciation for the intensive work achieved by the CFS in the last year under the leadership of Her Excellency Ambassador Amira Gornass.

As a member of the Bureau, we are also in a position to thank the CFS secretariat and Ms Deborah Fulton for the excellent and high level of support to the CFS work and its multiple work streams.

In particular, we welcome the adoption of different policy recommendations that are very relevant to the implementation of Agenda 2030 including sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, connecting smallholders to markets, CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as CFS engagement in advancing nutrition.

We call upon all stakeholders to consider these policy recommendations within their national plans to achieve the SDGs.

We also encourage FAO to actively disseminate information about relevant CFS products and their uses.

We call upon all stakeholders and in particular donors and the Rome-based Agencies to provide unearmarked funding to permit the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work in an integral way.

We support the active engagement of the CFS in the High-Level Political Forum in New York which again confirms the added value of CFS as a multi-stakeholder platform.

Finally, we look forward for the report of the external evaluation which will present recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the CFS.

Mr Hinrich Tholken (Germany)

I would like to pass the floor to Slovakia who will speak on behalf of the European Union

Ms Marieta Okenková (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, also align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States commend the inclusive intersessional work done to prepare for the 43rd CFS Session. It has allowed for a positive outcome on the substantive issues, especially the recommendations on the role of livestock in sustainable agricultural development and on connecting smallholders to markets.

We welcome the active involvement of the CFS in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and look forward to its contribution to the High-level Political Forum.

We welcome the progress in the workstreams “CFS Engagement in Advancing Nutrition”, as well as urbanisation and rural transformation in the context of food security, both of which will be followed up in the Committee’s future sessions.

We also welcome the general consensus on sharing experiences and good practices in implementing CFS decisions and recommendations. We are pleased with the successful monitoring exercise conducted at CFS43 on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security (VGGT). We underline the need to regularly monitor the uptake and implementation of CFS products and recommendations, including HLPE decision boxes. The EU and its Member States will fulfil their responsibilities in this matter, including by promoting regular monitoring of the implementation of CFS products.

We see an urgent need to address the workload of CFS and need to take into account available resources as well as capacity of delegations to participate in all CFS activities and OEWGs. We insist on the importance of having an attractive and selective Multi-Year programme of Work (MYPOW) in order to focus time and resources devoted to CFS, with a particular attention to produce deliverables for policy convergence on critical or emerging issues while fostering active and wide participation in CFS work through effective mechanisms and multilingualism.

We would like to reiterate the importance we attach to the ongoing CFS evaluation. We expect that this evaluation will allow us to take stock of progress on the 2009 reforms, to assess strengths and weaknesses, and to map expectations on CFS' future direction. It should trigger discussions among the CFS stakeholders on the strategic directions to take and on operational improvements, and stimulate these stakeholders to take action accordingly.

Finally, we noted with appreciation the record participation in CFS43 and have noted that the CFS Plenary week has become the world's largest event on food security. We are of the opinion that the Plenary meeting should reflect this position by offering a more attractive programme and by further enhancing the efficiency of the meeting. The respect of the procedures should ensure that all stakeholders concerned by food security and nutrition have opportunity to comment on the issues on the CFS Plenary agenda. We believe that participation of academic institutions and international financial organisations to the CFS should be increased. It would be also important to have a key note speaker to ensure focused messaging of the key theme of the year. We stand ready to offer further constructive suggestions in this direction.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point 8 relatif au rapport de la 43^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), tenue à Rome du 17 au 21 octobre 2016.

Je voudrais féliciter la FAO pour la bonne organisation de cette session et le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents de travail.

Le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement les conclusions du CSA et reconnaît le rôle de premier plan qu'il joue pour l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable (ODD). Ce rapport contient un important document de politique préparé par le Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE), discuté de façon inclusive, avec le précieux concours de l'Ambassadeur Yaya Olaitan Olaniran, Rapporteur du processus relatif à la convergence des politiques.

En effet, il y est réaffirmé que le développement durable de l'agriculture, y compris l'élevage, est essentiel pour réduire la pauvreté et parvenir à la sécurité alimentaire et à une bonne nutrition. Douze recommandations majeures ont été retenues.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des décisions du CSA (point IV.B), le Groupe Afrique voudrait insister sur les paragraphes 27 c) et g) qui portent sur l'utilisation et l'application des Directives du CSA. La présentation des Directives volontaires sur le foncier et les récentes rencontres sur le Cadre d'action du CSA pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition lors des crises prolongées (CSA-CDA) ont montré que la connaissance et la compréhension des Directives étaient limitées pour certaines parties prenantes aux niveaux régional et national. L'incorporation des Directives dans les politiques, les législations et les systèmes nationaux devraient donc être encouragées et soutenues, paragraphe 27 g) alinéa 4, et 34 b) pour le Cadre stratégique mondial, notamment dans les pays en voie de développement.

Le Groupe Afrique soutient le rapport de la 43^{ème} session du CSA et son adoption par le présent Conseil.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

México realiza esta intervención en nombre de los países del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

Agradecemos a la Embajadora Amira Gornass, Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, por la presentación del informe.

Consideramos que el 43.º período de sesiones del CSA fue de particular importancia, ya que se tomaron decisiones que marcarán la dirección del Comité en los próximos años, como son la contribución del CSA en la promoción de la Agenda 2030 del Desarrollo Sostenible, así como su participación en la promoción de la nutrición. Estos son temas en los que el Comité podría, en el marco de su mandato y ventajas comparativas, aportar de manera significativa.

Igualmente, se adoptaron importantes recomendaciones de políticas en temas que son fundamentales para alcanzar el objetivo del CSA, como son el desarrollo agricultura sostenible, incluido la ganadería, y la vinculación de los pequeños agricultores con los mercados. Consideramos que el trabajo del

Comité debe mantener su visión centrada en las personas y grupos más vulnerables a la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición, reconociendo al propio tiempo el rol clave de los pequeños agricultores.

Por otro lado, queremos señalar que la determinación de las actividades del CSA y, particularmente, de los temas para los informes del GANESAN deben ser resultado de un amplio debate y discusión de las diferentes propuestas, y que la decisión sea tomada por consenso. Por esta razón, el GRULAC considera que no debe repetirse el proceso de votación y el establecimiento del ranking empleado para la selección del tema del Informe de 2018.

Con relación a las actividades del actual Programa de Trabajo 2016-2017 y con miras a las definición del programa 2018-2019, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe desea reiterar su profunda preocupación por la falta de servicios de interpretación y traducción de los documentos en las actividades del Comité y, particularmente, durante las reuniones de las Grupos de Trabajo de Composición Abierta en las cuales se negocian recomendaciones de políticas y cuadros de decisión.

La interpretación y la traducción son factores fundamentales que contribuyen a garantizar la inclusión, la participación y la transparencia, que son las características esenciales que deben guiar los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

El GRULAC es consciente de las limitaciones presupuestarias que tiene el CSA y, considerando esa situación, es de la opinión que el Comité no debe iniciar actividades en las cuales no esté asegurada la interpretación. Además, como el GRULAC lo ha señalado en los últimos años, no se debe sobrecargar el trabajo del CSA, por varias razones a las que nos hemos referido en otras oportunidades, entre ellas las propias limitaciones presupuestarias o la dificultad de las delegaciones pequeñas de participar en múltiples reuniones y actividades al mismo tiempo.

La falta de participación en las actividades del Comité no solo repercute en la calidad de sus productos sino también en la falta de legitimidad y de apropiación de los mismos.

El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria tiene grandes retos por delante, a fin de abordar debidamente la rica agenda de temas como los antes mencionados y otros emergentes muy importantes como la urbanización y la transformación rural. Entre los retos está el no perder el nivel de involucramiento y participación de los Estados, y en encontrar vías para garantizar la predictibilidad de su presupuesto.

Finalmente, el GRULAC considera que la Evaluación Independiente que está en marcha sobre la eficacia de Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria será una herramienta clave para reflexionar sobre el CSA y, de ser el caso, tomar las medidas que sean necesarias para que esté mejor preparado para enfrentar sus retos y cumplir con sus objetivos.

Ms Misako TAKAHASHI (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group comments delivered by China, particularly on the contributions of the GIAHS programme to building resilience to climate change and natural disasters.

Japan would like to make two further comments.

Firstly, Japan welcomes the endorsement of the frameworks for the CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in advancing nutrition. These frameworks are based on the strengths of the CFS as a global, multi-stakeholder platform for policy coordination, sharing experiences and good practices, and reviewing progress for the relevant international goals.

Secondly, Japan appreciates the holding of the stock-taking event for the implementation of the VGGT at the CFS this year, which shared field-based experiences, highlighting the role of the VGGT in various occasions including recovery from conflict situations. We hope that there will be similar stock-taking opportunities for the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI) in future sessions of the CFS.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Sudanese delegation and this meeting, I would like to express my thanks to Sister Amira Gornass, the Ambassador of Sudan to Italy, and we would also like to thank the Committee on World Food Security for the work that it has done.

We welcome the efforts that have been made to achieve the outcomes reflected in the report of the CFS. Allow me to express the feeling of honour that we all have in seeing Ambassador Gornass guide the work of this very important Committee.

If you would also allow me to express a personal feeling, I am extremely happy to see my Sister from Sudan take the Chair of the work of the Committee on World Food Security. We have seen her complete her work with high-level skills and professionalism.

As you all know, the main objective of all organizations working in the area of agriculture wherever they may be in the world is the achievement of food security and judicious management of resources. This should be done by respecting existing standards while helping farmers keep up with technological and scientific development, which will enable them to use their resources and the agricultural inputs. In doing so, they contribute to strengthening food security.

That principle is the best foundation for food security and it is the thread that runs through the whole CFS report of the 43rd Session.

I am taking the floor to respond to this report which does raise a number of significant points. If you would allow me, I would like to reaffirm the importance of the CFS that since 2009 has become an international, intergovernmental and globally inclusive platform. It is a symbol for cooperation between the various stakeholders involved in promoting food security.

It has been essential in the difficult context of the world today, more than half of its population suffer from nutrition issues.

The CFS has worked toward policy conversion, building consensus in the area of policies such as establishing a link between smallholder farmers and the markets. As the policy is known, connecting smallholders to markets that enables them to better carry out their work. We also welcome the Committee's contribution to the efforts to respond to malnutrition, combatting it within the context of a Decade of Action for nutrition.

The documents that were submitted for this Session of the Committee were very important for our country, especially the one relating to the contribution of livestock to food security and nutrition. Besides, another important issue for us is urbanization and rural transformation.

Sudan is very happy to make a contribution to the work of the Committee and that is reflected by the candidature of our Ambassador to the Chair of the Committee. This is something that we supported very strongly and it really reflects how much importance we do give to the Committee on World Food Security in Sudan.

Once again, we would like to thank Member Nations for their contribution and support to our Ambassador and we will assure that the good results will continue to come up.

The document related to "Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?" is very important. We sincerely hope that the government will provide its support for countries whose economies depend on agriculture and livestock sectors.

The study prepared by the group of experts here is particularly relevant in developing the general strategy and country programmes. We support the decisions and the general policies in the area of connecting smallholders with markets.

This was something that was the outcome of the Open Ended Working Group, addressing the question of smallholder farmers and family farmers. Sudan has really taken inspiration from the voluntary guidelines on land tenure.

We believe that the CFS should continually commit to promoting nutrition. We welcome the Open Ended Working Group's work on nutrition, particularly on the participation of the CFS in combatting global malnutrition in all of its forms.

Now the work of this Committee at its most recent session has been very important. Specifically, the session relating to urbanization and rural transformation and the impact on food security and nutrition. This has enabled these issues to be better understood and allowed us to define more clearly those areas where the Committee can play its role.

We recognize the impact on rural areas and the effect on food security and nutrition as well. This helps us identify those policies that are necessary to pursue in this field. We call on the Organization to continue providing the necessary expertise and practical experience so we can build towards an integrated method of general policies, which covers both urban and rural areas.

We would request the necessary decisions be taken in this domain. Particularly focusing on urbanization and rural transformation and its repercussions on food security and nutrition.

There is also the question relating to information and data. How do we collect data? How do we analyze it? These are essential issues. I think we need to review the criteria that are observed in this area.

In conclusion, we would encourage the adoption of the 43rd Session of the CFS.

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

Generally, we welcome the outcomes of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We welcome the discussion of the Committee on the matter of interrelation of agricultural and food nutrition and agricultural systems, nutrition and climate change.

We note the report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on the issue of sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, what roles for livestock. We acknowledge the set of recommendations approved by Members of the Committee on these issues.

We welcome the results of the activities of the CFS Working Group on Nutrition that identified the Committee's priorities in this area in the immediate future. The CFS can make a valuable contribution to the United Nations System to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with its mandate and comparative advantages.

In this context, we appreciate the fact that the document on the activities of the CFS in this area has been adopted. At the same time, we are deeply concerned by the fact that the preparation of this document in the intersessional period did not observe the principle of consensus. We are convinced that this practice undermines the basis of the Committee's activities and the inclusive character of the adoption of decisions.

It poses a threat of negative consequences for the perception of the CFS: the global and use of its outputs by Member States.

We would also like to emphasize that in preparing the Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-19, it is absolutely essential to assess the time, financial and human resources available to the Members of the Committee and its Secretariat.

In this regard, we agree with what has been said by the EU and GRULAC delegations. Like the delegation of GRULAC, we believe that there should be a reasonable limit on the number of CFS work streams in the intersessional period to ensure the maximum level of participation of interested stakeholders, including countries. This suggested approach would improve the quality of those work streams.

Like the delegation of the European Union, China and GRULAC, we think it is important to observe the principles of multilingualism. We consider that this is important and also we should ensure the involvement of academia in the work of the Committee.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan supports the outcome of the 43rd Session of the CFS on the following five topics that were covered.

1. Sustainable Agriculture Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Role for Livestock?, especially its 14 valuable recommendations.
2. The outcome of the Open Ended Working Group on connecting smallholders to markets.

3. Support to the recommendations of the Open Ended Working Group on CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including CFS contribution to the 2017 HLPF team of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing environment.
4. The outcome of the Open Ended Working Group on Nutrition.
5. The outcome of the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation, and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition, leading to the creation of an Open Ended Working Group on this subject.

We would also like to make a few additional remarks about CFS 43. Afghanistan concludes that CFS 43 was a success. We attribute the success to the following four factors:

1. The Bureau and the Advisory Group worked hard to prepare the Agenda of the CFS 43.
2. Under good leadership, the various Open Ended Working Groups delivered good products for deliberation of the Plenary.
3. The task teams produced good products that facilitated the tasks of the Open Ended Working Group.
4. The dedication and altruism of the staff of the CFS Secretariat led by Deborah Fulton were true and sincere. And Amira was an excellent Chairperson with grace and an open mind.

Finally, we appeal for more funds for the CFS work stream, including additional contribution from the Rome-based Agencies to the core budget.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the statement of the Asia Regional Group. Thailand welcomes the comprehensive and informative Report and thanks Madame Chairperson for the presentation.

We would like to emphasize that FAO should play an increasing role in assisting Member Nations to linking technology and innovation for smallholder farmers in order to promote sustainable agriculture and equal access to markets for world food security.

Mr Royhan Nevy WAHAB (Indonesia)

Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by China on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

At the outset, we would like to thank the Chairperson of CFS, Ambassador Gornass for her report and welcome the results of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

We would like to briefly emphasize three issues of considerable importance addressed in the report.

Firstly, we wish to commend the FAO, CFS Secretariat and all members of the CFS for their work and contributions that have made the organization of the Global Thematic Event on the VGGT a success. We would like to express our appreciation to FAO for acknowledging the significant positive progress made in terms of efforts to strengthening governance of tenure in Indonesia.

The Indonesian Government has committed 12.7 million hectares of land to be managed under social forestry programme from 2015 to 2019. As of September 2016, local communities have benefitted from secure land rights in almost 1.7 million hectares of land. We truly believe that implementing the VGGT principles can bring about meaningful change to local communities, especially poor people, in improving their livelihoods and reducing poverty.

We also welcome the recommendations on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?”. We would like to underline the need to promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our firm support to Global Action to Stop Food Losses and Food Waste, as well as to FAO’s Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction established since 2011. We must be always reminded of the challenges: one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year.

These baffling figures clearly show that food loss and waste is a global issue in need of an urgent global solution. Therefore, we wish to state that the FAO should further encourage all stakeholders

at national, regional and global levels to work closely together to strengthen efforts to reducing food loss and waste. To sustain our ambitions, we would also propose that the FAO could establish voluntary guidelines on this particular issue.

All these efforts in mitigating food loss and waste are crucial as it can make an enormous contribution to food security.

With these remarks, Indonesia proposes that the Council endorse the Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GOMASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I just want to talk about two issues. The first one is the work load. The work load of the CFS is decided by its members. If they want to reduce it, they have to agree on it, and we will implement their decision.

Concerning the translation and interpretation, we need adequate financial resources to cover the costs, in particular during the intersessional period. I would personally benefit from that as I often have to speak in English while my mother tongue is Arabic.

I would like to thank the Rome-based Agencies – FAO, IFAD and WFP – for the great support, technical and financial, to the Committee on World Food Security. I would like also to thank the Members of the Committee for their useful inputs through the intersessional period together with the Chairpersons of the Open Ended Working Group who exert great efforts during the negotiations to reach consensus. And my thanks go also to the members of the Secretariat who worked hard and well to organize the 43rd Session of CFS.

Ms Deborah FULTON (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

Thank you very much for these comments. We have taken good note of them and they will help us to prepare the next intersessional period and the next CFS. I would encourage you to participate in the Multi-Year Programme of Work planning for CFS. This is an important year for determining the next MYPoW. We have taken on-board all the comments and I think it will help us with the planning and we look forward to working with you in the intersessional period.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I would like to make conclusions on item 8 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in particular:
 - a) welcomed the policy recommendations on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?”, and on “Connecting Smallholders to Markets”, and encouraged their wide dissemination;
 - b) acknowledged the report of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts on “Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?” and noted the CFS request for a study on “Multi-stakeholder Partnerships to Finance and Improve Food Security and Nutrition in the Framework of the 2030 Agenda” to be presented to the CFS Plenary in 2018;
 - c) noted the engagement of the CFS in advancing both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and nutrition, including through contributing to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF);
 - d) welcomed the global thematic event on the use of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, in line with the terms of reference providing guidance on sharing experiences and good practices in implementing CFS decisions and recommendations through organizing events at national, regional and global levels;
 - e) noted an Open Ended Working Group had been requested to agree on a process to compile experiences and effective policy approaches in the context of changing rural urban dynamics;

- f) recommended that the CFS present a feasible and realistic MYPOW taking into account available resources and the need for a manageable workload;
- g) encouraged CFS Members to contribute un earmarked extrabudgetary contributions to the CFS budget and to explore long term solutions to address CFS budget predictability; and
- h) took note of the revision to the composition of the CFS Bureau and its Alternate Members for the remainder of their mandate, until the 44th Session of CFS in 2017.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos su resumen y solamente quisiéramos solicitar que se agregue un tema por el que varias Delegaciones han mostrado su preocupación, que es el la falta de interpretación en las reuniones donde se negocian documentos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Quisiéramos que una mención a esta preocupación se refleje en su resumen.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Acknowledging that your summaries are rather comprehensive, we would nonetheless ask you to please reflect in your summary our points about the need for achieving consensus in the Committee. I would suggest a text: “The Council stressed the importance for the CFS to strive for achieving consensus in its work.”

CHAIRPERSON

That is an addition which has been presented by Russian Federation if there are agreements for that.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I would like to ask you to add one point that we mentioned and that is importance of CFS evaluation that should be used to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the CFS in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

That is another addition. We re-formulate the paragraphs and read them again. If they are accepted then they will be added.

M. Seydou CISSÉ (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Côte d'Ivoire appuie l'Équateur en ce qui concerne l'interprétation des travaux du Bureau et du Groupe de travail.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I do not think that the suggestion by the Russian Federation is reflected in the Report of the CFS. Furthermore, I do not think by putting that statement in your Report gives the impression the CFS is not working on consensus, which is the contrary. We always welcome consensus in the Open Ended Working Groups so I do not think it is fair to put that in the Report.

With respect to the European Union suggestions, what do you want us to do? We do not even know the results and the findings of the evaluation. We cannot make recommendations on something that we do not know.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je voudrais aussi intervenir sur la question de la traduction et de l'interprétation, qui est bien sûr un sujet absolument central pour mon pays, et je soutiens totalement la proposition de l'Équateur de faire référence à cette question dans nos conclusions. Je ferais deux commentaires sur ce sujet.

Le premier: nous avons quelque difficulté avec le discours qui consiste à dire que c'est faute de crédits qu'il n'y a pas d'interprétation. Le CSA est un Comité auprès de la FAO. Les dépenses d'interprétation aux Nations Unies sont financées par le budget ordinaire des Organisations, et c'est pour nous une dépense obligatoire. Il y a des contributions obligatoires des États, mais il y a aussi des dépenses obligatoires des organisations des Nations Unies. Donc, cette question devrait trouver une solution dans le cadre de la contribution des budgets ordinaires des trois organisations ayant leur siège à Rome.

Quant à la deuxième question que je voudrais soulever, nous avons été très frappés par le fait qu'à deux reprises dans des réunions du Comité, des délégués voulant s'exprimer en français ont été empêchés de le faire, notamment lors de réunions où nous négocions les conclusions du Comité. Et cela me paraît contraire aux règles des Nations Unies.

Aux Nations Unies, il y a six langues de travail. Chacun peut utiliser l'une d'elles et on ne peut pas refuser la parole à qui s'exprime dans une de ces langues de travail. Certes, s'il n'y a pas d'interprétation, tout le monde ne pourra comprendre la déclaration, mais il appartient au délégué d'en décider. Dès lors qu'il s'exprime dans une langue de travail, surtout lors d'une négociation, il faut le laisser parler dans cette langue de travail.

Nous souhaiterions donc vraiment qu'à l'avenir, chaque fois qu'une délégation souhaite s'exprimer en français, qui est non seulement une langue officielle, mais une langue de travail des Nations Unies, cette possibilité soit respectée.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I do not have a lot to say concerning reaching consensus, as we have been observing that in all our meetings.

As regards interpretation and translation, of course, it would be good to always be able to work in the six official languages of the United Nations, I think this is the Members' right. I agree with this point but I think this is a matter for consideration of the three Rome-based Agencies that have to arrange this for all their meetings, and not only of CFS.

CHAIRPERSON

I note the concern regarding interpretation and I think it can be added to my conclusions.

Concerning the issue on consensus in CFS, I note the danger to include it in the conclusions whereby it looks like there is never consensus in the CFS work although we read it in the Report.

On the CFS evaluation, I note that in the Report there is no such recommendation and after all, as Afghanistan said, the evaluations are not yet out so we cannot make any recommendations on that.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We wanted to support the point that was made by the European Union about the importance of the evaluation. We believe that, given that it is a forthcoming product, it is still warranted to highlight the importance or the fact that we look forward to this evaluation without judging its outcomes.

So we support the language that was proposed by the European Union to say that the evaluation will help the CFS inform us on the strength and weaknesses of its work.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I regret to say that although I received clarification from you and from Afghanistan, I still do not agree with what was said. I would like to address several points.

Firstly, that this issue is not addressed in the CFS Report. With all due respect to the esteemed Professor Ayazi, this is not quite the case because actually on page 10, paragraph 23(b), footnote 12, there is a clear reference to Appendix D which in summary says all that the Russian Federation feels about this issue. So it is in the Report.

Also, may I recall that many of those sitting here, including the esteemed Dr Ayazi were present during the intersessional meetings that are in question, and I think they would recall that there was lack of consensus there.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that we are not only just blessing the Report here. We are discussing the outcomes of the 43rd Session of the CFS, including its Report and I see that the issue that we have raised has everything to do with the 43rd Session and its Report.

Finally, may I observe that the text that I suggested did not, at least to me, seem very contentious. We, and I am sure you know, have much stronger feelings about this subject. We tried to make a text that would be agreeable to everybody.

So with your indulgence and with the indulgence of Dr Ayazi, I would still insist on putting this into the Report of the current session.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I thank the Russian Federation for explaining. I was there when that issue was raised. The issue was human rights and the majority, all people who are in the Open Ended Working Group, clearly said that human rights are not negotiable, they have to be taken full. One member said no, that in that context it should not be included. That is not acceptable and that was not acceptable to the Open Ended Working Group. So please do not bring this issue now. There is no compromise. Human rights are human rights. Finish.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I did not think this would turn into a debate.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I did not think it would turn into a debate either. Again, with all due respect to Dr Ayazi, I do not think that the session of the Council is the right place to re-discuss the substance of what was discussed during the intersessional period of the Committee. In addition, I observe that the interpretation of our position made by Mr Ayazi does not reflect our views and is not consistent with the view of the region.

I also did not think that a suggestion to work by consensus could really be a basis for such vigorous opposition.

Lastly, I would like to recall that our delegation disassociated from part of the CFS Report in such a way that we did not reach consensus on this issue. As a consequence, it may be difficult for our Delegation to go on with the current summary since it does not reflect our concern and reservation regarding some parts of the Report.

I do insist to include a paragraph expressing our reservation.

CHAIRPERSON

Since in the Council we work with consensus, this is why I am not yet accepting it to be included until there is consensus.

Ms Amira Daoud HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I am obliged to say this. Russian Federation had made a reservation concerning this and we talked about it. You have mentioned that you do not want to block the consensus. Mentioning this, that means you agreed. You said that you just want your reservation to be included in the report, and that is what we have done.

CHAIRPERSON

I hope with that explanation from the Chairperson of CFS you will agree that you do not need to insist on this.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I do note the explanation of the Chairperson and we did have a discussion on that. I do recall it very well.

However, I observe again that we are not discussing the same issue here. We are asking for the insertion of a paragraph that invites the Committee to note the importance of striving to achieve consensus. We are not discussing the issue that was discussed during the CFS Plenary, and I will repeat, on which we did make a reservation. We disassociated.

I really do not understand what is the problem of inviting a Committee to work by consensus. Are we very shy about consensus? Could anybody give a reasoning for that because, with all due respect to the Chair, I did not get the explanation from the explanation. I am sorry.

CHAIRPERSON

I think you quoted what is contained in Appendix D of the report of CFS, where this issue is mentioned. I could add to the conclusions that we noted the statement by the Russian Federation contained in Appendix D of the CFS Report.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson, for your efforts to reconcile the positions of the Council Members. May I ask you two questions? The first question concerns the substance of your proposal. If I understood correctly, you proposed to make reference to our declaration made during CFS. In this regard, may I ask you if you, as a Chairperson, consider it right to make reference to a statement made elsewhere while we are discussing not the substance of the statement but the issue of consensus that was raised during this very session today by our delegation?

I understand that your summary reflects the discussion during the Council.

The second question that I would like to ask, is if we do not include this very obvious, in my point of view, paragraph, do I understand correctly that the Council does not want CFS to work by consensus or invite CFS to strive to achieve consensus?

CHAIRPERSON

What I hear is that CFS works by consensus.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We would like to join the discussion on the Russian Federation proposal. We believe that CFS always strives for consensus and that there is no need to question this approach here in the Council, so we would like to support the Chair's summary.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

First of all, I would like to support the statement made by my colleague from Slovakia and also the statement made by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security.

I would like to remind delegations that we are not here to discuss the rules of procedure of the Committee on World Food Security, which are laid down in the Basic Texts and this is not a matter of debate today. I would suggest that we leave the summary as it was before.

CHAIRPERSON

I am trying to see a compromise. Let us strive for a consensus here. I will go through the additions I have made.

Point (f): "recommended that the CFS present a feasible and realistic MYPOW, taking into account available resources, notably for translation and interpretation services, and the need for a manageable workload";

Point (j): "looked forward to the upcoming evaluation on CFS effectiveness";

Point (c): "noted the engagement of the CFS in advancing both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Nutrition, including through contributing to the High-Level Political Forum". I will add a footnote there that will read: "Noting the declaration by the Russian Federation in Appendix D of document C 2017/20"

I hope this meets the consensus of everybody. I note that there is consensus. May I take it that there is consensus on this?

Russia is requesting two minutes. I hope they will come with a consensus.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Thank you very much for your efforts to reach consensus, which we all want in words seemingly. Firstly, I would like to note that we did not ask you to include a footnote referring to our declaration because the issue that was at stake and which we raised did not concern the substance of our declaration, but it concerns the principle of consensus.

Secondly, if we include a reference, it will only exhibit very clearly that consensus is not the basis of the work of the CFS, which is not what we wanted. We wanted to promote consensus.

I fully agree with the Distinguished Ambassador of Germany that we are not here to discuss changes in the Basic Texts of FAO or to renegotiate the Reform documents of the CFS. However, we are only asking you to put a very innocent phrase which reflects the discussion in this session.

Also I would like to note what was said by Slovakia on behalf of the EU, that in the understanding of that delegation, we work always under the principle of consensus. But the Report of the 43rd Session of the CFS clearly shows that there was a lack of consensus there. That is a fact. Consensus is when everybody agrees, not when the majority agrees. So seemingly the position voiced by this delegation and the objection of inviting the CFS to strive to achieve consensus is not really in agreement in our humble point of view.

If the Council is not in agreement to put a reference to consensus, we will not block the discussion but that is unfortunate.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your consideration, that you agree with the Council decision on what was proposed now but which is considered to have other implications in the future work of CFS.

I take it that I will not include the footnote and, as per your agreement, I will not include the paragraph you have proposed in my conclusion.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

Just for avoidance of doubt, I do not think it is worthwhile to include the footnote because in the sense of the discussion that we had, it is not really useful.

CHAIRPERSON

I will not include the footnote and, as per your consideration, forging for consensus, I will not include the paragraph you proposed.

So we conclude on this Agenda item.

Item 3. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21**Point 3. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021****Tema 3. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2018-2021**

(CL 155/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 3, *Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21*. Please ensure that you have document CL 155/3 in front of you.

I will now give the floor to Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to present the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. Mr Haight, you have the floor.

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

FAO is carrying out the quadrennial review of its Strategic Framework and preparing a new Medium Term Plan for the period 2018-21 as part of the established programme planning process. The document before you provides the Council with a draft of the reviewed Strategic Framework, summarizing the Strategic Objectives and cross-cutting themes updated in light of the global developments, trends and challenges; and, an Outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, including

the draft Strategic Objective results framework and programmes with Outcomes, Indicators and Outputs.

There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO Governing Bodies during 2015 and 2016 for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Strategic Framework. At the same time, several important global developments occurred in 2015 and 2016, in particular the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change. These developments provide the broad context in which FAO has to adapt for enhanced delivery and impact.

The reviewed Strategic Framework provides the overall strategic direction for the Organization, starting from FAO's Vision and Global Goals, which have not been altered as part of the current review, that is: *“A world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner”*.

Over the past year, a consultative strategic thinking process has identified the main global developments affecting the environment in which FAO operates; the global trends envisaged to frame agricultural development over the medium term, informed by the sectoral and regional trends arising from the FAO Regional Conferences and Technical Committees; the main challenges derived from these developments and trends; and the implications of these challenges for FAO's Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs.

Ten challenges are identified and described, which represent the main development problems that countries and the international community will face in the near future. They formed the basis for the review of the conceptual framework and the theory of change of the five current Strategic Objectives (SOs), which remain in place:

SO1 – Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

SO2 – Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

SO3 – Reduce rural poverty

SO4 – Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

SO5 – Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

FAO must ensure that it has the technical capacity and integrity to achieve the expected results. Therefore the Strategic Framework continues to include a sixth objective on technical quality, knowledge and services to ensure technical leadership and the integration of statistics and the priority cross-cutting themes of climate change, gender, governance, and nutrition in the design and delivery of the Strategic Objectives.

The Medium Term Plan 2018-21 is currently being developed in line with the corporate planning process. It will be presented, along with the Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-19, to the Programme and Finance Committees, Council and Conference for review and approval during the period from March to July 2017.

The Outline of the MTP 2018-21 before the Council presents the main components for the FAO results framework – that is, the Strategic Objectives, the sixth Objective, Core Functions, and Functional Objectives – which have not changed compared with 2014-17 period; and the proposed Strategic Objective results frameworks and programmes for 2018-21, which have changed taking account of the challenges identified in the reviewed Strategic Framework, as a basis for preparing the full MTP and PWB which will include the Regional Initiatives.

The preparation of the results framework and programmes for 2018-21 aims to sharpen the focus of the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes, including through their contributions to relevant SDG targets and indicators, and to improve the quality of the results chain, so as to address the main challenges expected to be faced by countries and the international community.

This will help to improve FAO's results planning and monitoring system in three ways: first, it will facilitate a direct relationship between the FAO country programming frameworks and the nationally-owned SDG monitoring frameworks; second, the Outcomes will be measured by progress against indicators rather than against targets, since countries will be setting their own targets at national level; and third, it will better integrate and address the priority cross-cutting issues of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change.

At the level of the Strategic Objectives, the main innovation has been to identify and use exclusively the SDG targets and indicators that relate to each Strategic Objective. This has resulted in a new set of 36 SO-level indicators – all of which are SDG indicators – that will be monitored annually to report trends and progress toward targets.

At the level of Outcomes, indicators have been simplified by replacing specific dimensions of measurement, or in some cases entire indicators, with SDG indicators. Outcome indicators will continue to measure the biennial level of change achieved and the extent to which countries have made progress in those areas where FAO more directly contributed through its work.

At the level of Outputs, they follow a more standardized formulation around FAO's core functions – that is, norms and standards, data and information, policy dialogue, capacity development, knowledge and technology, partnerships, advocacy and communication – which contribute directly to the achievement of the Outcomes.

Overall, as mentioned by the Director-General yesterday, FAO's work will contribute to 40 SDG targets measured through 53 unique SDG indicators as part of the proposed Strategic Objective results framework.

The incorporation of SDG targets and indicators has sharpened the focus of the Strategic Objective programmes and improved the quality of the Outcome and Output results chain, comprising now 20 Outcomes – that is four per Strategic Objective – and 40 Outputs, which is reduced from 50 in the current Medium Term Plan.

Let me highlight the main changes in emphasis for each of the five Strategic Objectives.

For Strategic Objective 1, FAO's contribution to the sustainable eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition will address all forms of malnutrition, including undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies and the problems of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases. It will give increased attention to nutrition-sensitive food systems, evidence-based decision making, and country capacity for implementation of policies, strategies and investment programmes.

Relating to Strategic Objective 2, FAO will focus on sustainably increasing productivity in all agricultural sectors including through innovation, tackling climate change impact by building resilience through adaptation and mitigation, and restoring and preventing environmental degradation, including ecosystems and biodiversity loss. The change in emphasis is reflected in the SO-level SDG indicators, as well as in the updated Outcome and Output statements.

For Strategic Objective 3, FAO's contribution to reducing rural poverty will focus on support to broad, multi-sectoral pro-poor policies and strategies at country and regional level that target the diverse spectrum of livelihoods. This requires broadening FAO's engagement beyond traditional partners in Ministries of Agriculture, as well as efforts to embed FAO's technical work within poverty reduction policies at country level, as reflected in a new Outcome.

Strategic Objective 4 brings increased coherence to FAO's contribution to more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems through four reformulated outcomes. These will support formulation and adoption of international standards and agreements and voluntary guidelines, promote cross-sectoral alignment of supportive national policies and strategies, strengthen managerial and technical capacities for value chain development including small-scale producers, and provide the basis for evidence-based decision making.

To reflect the recent global developments and the evaluation of Strategic Objective 5, FAO's contribution to increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods and responding to threats and crises gives focus to climate change and induced extreme weather events, risks to ecosystem health, food

chain threats and One Health, and damage and losses, conflict prevention, peace and stability and displacements. Increased attention will be given to the development of gender-sensitive programmes that secure and build assets in ways that empower the most vulnerable, especially those affected by protracted crises and conflicts.

The sixth Objective is designed to ensure the quality and integrity of FAO's technical knowledge and services. The consolidated programme management arrangements will already help to strengthen FAO's technical leadership and quality, statistical standards and methods especially for the SDGs, and support to climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Strategic Objectives. Objective 6 also provides the basis for supporting and measuring performance of the Strategic Objective programmes to address gender equality and women's empowerment, governance and nutrition in their work.

The Council is invited to review and endorse the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes in the reviewed Strategic Framework presented in Part I.D of the document; and to provide any comments and guidance on the Strategic Objective programmes and results framework in the outline of the MTP 2018-21 in Part II.B and Annex 1, which will provide the basis for preparing the full Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the governing bodies in the first half of 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

As you will recall, Council had agreed to my suggestion that the Programme Committee's input on the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21 be considered under this item.

Therefore, I now pass the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to report on the Programme Committee's discussions on the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Le Comité du Programme s'est donc réuni au Siège de notre Organisation à Rome du 7 au 11 novembre pour tenir sa 120^{ème} session. Le rapport du Comité est présenté dans le document CL 155/5. Je vais bien sûr centrer mon propos ici sur la partie du document relative au Cadre stratégique révisé et au Plan à moyen terme (PMT) de 2018-2021. Je précise que lors de cette session, le Comité du Programme a centré ses discussions sur l'examen des objectifs stratégiques et des résultantes, les «outcomes», du PMT sur lesquels le Comité est invité à se prononcer à cette session. Les produits indicateurs et cibles reliés seront examinés en détail à la prochaine session du Comité du Programme.

Pour l'essentiel, le Comité a exprimé son accord sur le maintien des cinq objectifs stratégiques et la formulation des résultantes proposées par le Secrétariat, qui serviront donc de base à la préparation du Plan à moyen terme pour la période 2018-2021 et du Programme de travail et budget pour 2018-2019.

Le Comité s'est félicité de l'intégration des cibles et indicateurs des objectifs de développement durable dans le cadre de résultats de la FAO et de l'effort d'alignement sur le «Programme à l'horizon 2030». Le Comité a cependant souhaité que le projet de Plan à moyen terme et les programmes stratégiques présentés pour les différents objectifs stratégiques rendent mieux compte de certaines questions qui avaient été mises en lumière par les Conférences régionales, par les Comités techniques, notamment l'agroécologie, l'agriculture familiale, les biotechnologies, les petits exploitants, s'agissant en particulier de l'accès aux marchés, des migrations, et aussi des questions transversales telles que la parité homme-femme, la gouvernance, la nutrition et le changement climatique.

Le Comité a en outre proposé de revoir l'intitulé de l'Objectif 6 pour souligner l'importance des thèmes transversaux. Il propose donc que cet intitulé soit désormais formulé comme suit : «Qualité technique, statistiques et thèmes transversaux (parité hommes-femmes, gouvernance, nutrition et changement climatique)».

Le Comité a enfin demandé à ce que le projet de Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021, qui sera présenté à sa prochaine session en mars 2017, contienne une annexe présentant une comparaison entre le cadre de résultats utilisé pour le précédent Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017 et celui proposé pour 2018-2021, cela afin de mettre en lumière les changements introduits, notamment en matière de résultantes, de produits et d'indicateurs.

Mr Antonio Otavio SA RICARTE (Brazil)

I would like to ask you to call upon Bangladesh who will deliver a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of G-77 and China Member States. G-77 and China thanks FAO for preparing the document CL 155/3 and for the efforts in reviewing the Strategic Framework in order to align it to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as to other identified global developments, trends and challenges.

The G-77 and China appreciates the incorporation of SDG targets and indicators in RSF and planned MTP recognizing that FAO's work will contribute to 40 SDG targets measured through 53 SDG indicators as part of the Strategic Objectives Result Framework comprising of 20 outcomes (four per each SO) and 40 outputs. Therefore, the Group of 77 and China endorses the continuation of the five Strategic Objectives as the basis for preparing the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19.

The Group also appreciates the monitoring mechanism planned in achieving the SDG targets and indicators which are very clearly mentioned in almost all SOs result framework. We appreciate the reference to financing and investment, loans or credits, tariff lines applied to imports from developing countries, responses to threats and crisis with a focus onto climate change effects, and the implementation of international instruments regarding the fight against IUU fishing among others.

G-77 and China fully supports the recommendations of FAO's Technical Committees to the document, as well as the requests of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee regarding this agenda item. In this regard, we would like to highlight the request to the Secretariat, as mentioned in paragraph 1(d) of the Programme Committee Report: "to more adequately address agroecology, biotechnology, family farming and smallholders (including access to markets), South-South cooperation, migration and the cross-cutting issues of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change in the full the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19".

The Group also agrees with the Programme Committee suggestion to retitle Objective 6 "Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (gender, nutrition and climate change)" to better reflect its scope.

For G-77 and China is fundamental that, while implementing the Reviewed Strategic Framework, FAO takes fully into consideration the special needs and priorities of developing countries. Among those, we highlight the capacity development needs not only to adopt national plans and programmes to implement the SDGs related to food and agriculture, but also to develop and use indicators for monitoring this implementation.

Moreover, the Group considers besides the centrality of the the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, the regional priorities as defined by different FAO Regional Conferences must be considered in the preparation of full MTP 2018-21 and PWB for the next biennium. As examples, we highlight the following main points.

- The consideration of the effects of increasing droughts in different regions, particularly Africa and the Near East, and the need of the Member Nations to count on FAO technical support for sustainable drought management in the adoption of drought, pest and disease-resistant cultivars and pasture species (Reports of NERC and ARC);
- The need expressed by some developing countries to develop a strong and inclusive agro- industry and agro-processing sectors using appropriate technologies and mechanization, in particular to attract youth to the food and agricultural sector (Reports of NERC and ARC);
- The need of some countries to sustainably development of the livestock sector to increase local production and animal source food systems, particularly those that are focused on the rural poor, and their better integration into national value chains (Report of NERC);

- The call for FAO to highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity and in facilitating trade with consumers (Report of LARC);
- The call for strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to develop healthy and sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the most vulnerable countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (Report of LARC);
- The request for FAO to reinforce work on social protection linked with sustainable development (Report of LARC);
- The need for FAO technical assistance in the fields of agricultural production increase and reduction of food lost and waste, which is considered key to achieve zero hunger;
- The call for FAO continuous support to initiatives such as the GIAHS, Blue Growth: Sustainable Inland and Marine fish production (Reports of NERC, ARC and APRC);

The G-77 and China remains confident of the contribution that FAO can provide to countries for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and supports the fully alignment of its Strategic Framework to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, the Group strongly advocates for the allocation of 14 percent of the budget in Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in the upcoming the PWB 2018-19, as it was decided in FAO Conference 2009.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

Thank you Mr Chairperson, with your kind permission I would like to pass the floor to Slovakia who will deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino, as well as the candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States welcome the reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21, which recognizes important global developments that occurred in 2015 and 2016, including the adoption of Agenda 2030 and the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. We encourage FAO to collaborate with other multilateral *fora*, to meet the challenges of food security and contribute to the fulfilment of Agenda 2030.

We recall the need to better integrate within the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and the next Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19 the important topics pointed in the paragraph 3(d) of the report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee, in particular agroecology, biotechnology, family farming and smallholders, including their access to local, regional, national and international markets, the root causes of migration and the cross-cutting issues of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change.

We look forward to further discussing the MTP and the PWB in 2017 and we support the request made by the Programme Committee that the MTP 2018-21 to include an annex that clearly compares the results framework used in 2014-17 with the proposed results framework for 2018-21. We also support the suggestion made by the Programme Committee to complete the title of Objective 6 in order to better reflect its scope: “Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (gender, governance, nutrition and climate change)”.

We believe that FAO has an important role to play in supporting countries to implement the SDGs, and as a custodian of 21 SDG indicators. This will require close coordination between different departments. In particular, we would like to see the integration of Outcomes and Outputs for cross-cutting issues in the design of all Strategic Objectives and its results framework.

We also expect that the FAO climate strategy, when finalized, will be fully incorporated within the strategic framework and ambitious Output targets set that reflect the increase in capacity proposed for FAO’s climate change work.

We thank the Secretariat for the reference to the challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which FAO will address together with OIE and WHO in the framework of the One Health approach. We

would appreciate seeing which Output targets for FAO's work on AMR are to be included in the results framework.

We welcome the proposed alignment of 28 out of 51 Outcome indicators with SDG indicators in the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. However, there is scope to increase the ambition of FAO in its results framework. We want to see Outcome indicators and Output targets that will enable Member Nations to realistically assess the impact of the Organization, especially at country level.

Finally, we propose that transparency is monitored in the result framework and an Output target set under Outcome 6.3 on governance. This could track progress with FAO's commitment to meet International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. We would like to request FAO to explicitly make clear the relation between input, activities and results and to use unique identifiers and their activity numbers for each donor. This will enhance traceability and transparency in the chain and contribute to the usefulness of the IATI system.

Ms Misako TAKAHASHI (Japan)

Japan appreciates the greater alignment of the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan with the SDGs towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while maintaining the overall direction of the FAO's work and its five Strategic Objectives.

The challenges faced by food security, nutrition and agriculture in recent years are indeed diverse and wide-ranging, and thus need to be addressed through collaboration among all stakeholders. In order for FAO to contribute effectively and efficiently to addressing these challenges, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is important that FAO prioritizes its work on areas where it has a comparative advantage within its mandate, and seeks to enhance synergies with the work of other stakeholders through close collaboration.

In this regard, Japan would like to emphasise the following two points in particular.

Firstly, with regards to the emerging issues, such as conflicts, crises, refugees and migrants, the FAO should work on areas which are closely related to food security, through collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies, as explained by the Secretariat to the Programme Committee.

Secondly, in terms of trade-related issues, the Programme Committee was informed by the Secretariat that FAO will avoid duplication with other international organisations such as WTO, and does not intend to create trade rules but will focus on analysing the impacts of trade on food security, capacity building and facilitating dialogue among stakeholders. In this light, Japan questions the appropriateness of the use of some specific Outcome indicators for Strategic Objective 4, particularly the indicator 4.1.D (on agricultural export subsidies) and indicator 4.1.E (on proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff). From our standpoint, it is not sufficiently clear how these indicators are related to FAO's work, and let us request additional explanation from the Secretariat.

Having said that, the areas of the FAO's work which we prioritize and where the FAO has a comparative advantage are, firstly, normative work through consultation among diverse stakeholders, data and statistics, and cross-cutting issues of nutrition and gender placed under Objective 6; and the promotion of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems under Strategic Objective 2; food value chain development and responsible agricultural investment under Strategic Objective 4; and strengthening resilience through the One Health approach and building the monitoring system of transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases under Strategic Objective 5.

Lastly, Japan would like to share briefly with the Members of the Council the progress made by the G7 in food security, nutrition and agriculture this year under the Japanese Presidency.

At the G7 Ise-Shima Summit endorsed the "G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition", which set out concrete and collaborative actions of the G7 under the three priority areas, namely, empowering women within agriculture and food systems; improving nutrition through a people-centred approach; and ensuring sustainability and resilience within agriculture and food systems.

As a follow-up to this, Japan hosted the G7 International Symposium on Food Security and Nutrition in October in Tokyo, which was attended by diverse stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, the civil society organisations and the private sector. They discussed and shared each other's knowledge and experiences in the aforementioned priority areas of the G7 Vision for Action, as well as the need for better data for enhancing implementation, resource mobilisation and strengthening accountability.

Also, next week on Monday 12 December in Tokyo, Japan will be hosting the G7 International Forum for Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture and Food Systems as a follow-up to the G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting.

Japan would like to take this opportunity to extend its gratitude to FAO for sending its high officials to both of these G7 follow-up events, and hopes that the FAO continues to contribute as a knowledge partner.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada would also like to welcome FAO's work on the draft Reviewed Strategic Framework and the outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and we applaud the decision to align SO-level outcomes and indicators to the SDGs targets and indicators.

We have also a few comments on the Strategic Programmes. We would like to welcome FAO's recognition of the important role that agriculture biotechnologies can play in addressing the challenges identified in the proposed FAO results framework. In particular, we encourage FAO officials to continue having open dialogues on this topic, particularly under SP1 (in relation to the use of biofortification through the use of agricultural biotechnologies) and SP2 (to help smallscale farmers to be more resilient and better adapt to climate change).

We would like to express our strong appreciation to FAO's increased attention and profile in SP4 to normative work and activities related to standards, guidelines, and practices, which is critical to meeting the global demand for food and for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the private sector.

This specific strategic programme is very robust and includes a sound theory of change with explicit connections to other SPs.

We would like also to invite a FAO under SP4 to identify trends and raise awareness about the significant role that agriculture and fisheries trade can play to enhance food security, particularly in the face of climate change.

We would like to make a comment on SO 6. As Boyd outlined, the Objective 6 provides the basis for strengthening and monitoring FAO's work on these themes across the SOs. In this regard, we strongly support the discussions and the suggestion of the Programme Committee to better reflect the scope of the Objective 6 by renaming its title.

At the same time, we think that there is room for improvement in terms of strengthening the monitoring of the quality of FAO's work on the cross-cutting themes and we feel that the Action Plan that was developed for the climate change strategy, that was also discussed at the Programme Committee, provides a very good model.

It is going to be updated with clear financial and human resources requirements and we feel that, similarly, an action plan should be developed for gender and nutrition to ensure that each SO contributes effectively to the outcomes of these three cross-cutting themes.

Finally, we wish to emphasize the importance of partnerships and collaboration under all areas of FAO's work, continuing to focus on FAO's comparative advantage.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Hago esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

El GRULAC agradece la elaboración del documento CL 155/3 relativo al "Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a Plazo Medio para 2018 –2021" y se alinea con la intervención realizada por Bangladesh en nombre del G77 más China.

Al respecto, tomamos nota de las novedades, las tendencias y los desafíos mundiales determinados como base para revisar los objetivos estratégicos, incluida la incorporación de estadísticas y de los temas transversales de género, gobernanza, nutrición y cambio climático.

En particular, respaldamos el mantenimiento de los cinco Objetivos Estratégicos y la nueva formulación de sus logros como base para preparar el Plan a Plazo Medio (PPM) para 2018-2021 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto (PTP) para 2018-19 en sus versiones finales;

El GRULAC desea resaltar la relevancia central de la labor de la FAO para la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) relacionados con su mandato. En este sentido, damos la bienvenida a la incorporación de las metas y los indicadores de los ODS en el marco de resultados y resaltamos el rol de la FAO en dar apoyo a los países para la implementación de la Agenda 2030, tomando como base los marcos de programación por países.

El GRULAC apoya las recomendaciones de los Comités Técnicos sobre el documento CL 155/3 y del 120.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa, en particular respecto del pedido a la Secretaría de que abordara de forma más adecuada en el PPM y PPT en sus versiones finales temas como la agroecología, la biotecnología, la agricultura familiar y los pequeños agricultores (incluido el acceso a mercados) y la migración, así como las cuestiones transversales de género, gobernanza, nutrición y cambio climático.

Asimismo, apoyamos la recomendación del Comité del Programa de modificar el título del Objetivo 6 en los términos siguientes, de modo que reflejase mejor su alcance: “Calidad técnica, estadísticas y temas transversales (género, gobernanza, nutrición y cambio climático)”

Adicionalmente, destacamos la importancia del contexto mundial y su pertinencia para la labor de la FAO, ya que en los últimos años se han generado importantes iniciativas y acuerdos a fin de establecer nuevos programas mundiales para el desarrollo. Entre dichas novedades se destacan la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, el Acuerdo de París sobre el Cambio Climático, la Agenda de Acción de Addis Abeba y la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, entre otros.

Sin embargo, no consideramos apropiado incluir menciones a los compromisos realizados por la FAO en la Cumbre Mundial Humanitaria, a la Cumbre misma, o al Informe del Secretario General, dado que constituyen documentos que carecieron del proceso consultivo intergubernamental indispensable y que van más allá de lo acordado en el Segmento Humanitario del ECOSOC, en su resolución 9/2016.

Asimismo, no consideramos adecuado que la FAO utilice como referencia fuentes no oficiales del sistema de Naciones Unidas, ni de los Estados Miembros y con esto nos referimos al párrafo 56 del documento, donde se cita el llamado: “Informe sobre Índice Mundial de Paz”, elaborado por el Instituto de Economía y Paz para definir las situaciones de crisis o conflicto en el mundo.

Para finalizar, reafirmamos una vez más la importancia de incorporar las prioridades regionales en la elaboración del PPM para 2018-2021 y el PTP para 2018-19. En este sentido, la 34.ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe destacó, entre otras cuestiones:

- la importancia de la FAO en la creación de capacidades para la elaboración de indicadores y sistemas de información asociados a los ODS;
- el respaldo a las estrategias de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular para apoyar el desarrollo de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles y saludables y la reducción de la pobreza rural en la región;
- la necesidad de profundizar el apoyo a políticas diferenciadas para la pesca y acuicultura, con especial énfasis en la pesca artesanal, y para el sector forestal y las poblaciones más vulnerables que dependen de los bosques;
- la necesidad de apoyar en la prevención, mitigación y respuesta ante eventos climáticos y humanos extremos, incluyendo el desarrollo de resiliencia, poniendo el acento en poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad.

Con estos comentarios, y las modificaciones correspondientes, el GRULAC podría apoyar el “Marco Estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a Plazo Medio para 2018 –2021” contenido en el documento CL 155/3.

Sra. Alba Beatriz SOTO PIMENTEL (Cuba)

Por ser la primera vez que tomamos la palabra, queremos agradecer a todos por el homenaje realizado al Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro, líder de la Revolución Cubana, quien demostró que se puede dar educación, salud, justicia social y solidaridad a todas y todos. En 1996, aquí en la FAO, Fidel preguntaba, "Por qué se invierten setecientos mil millones de dólares cada año en gastos militares y no se invierten estos recursos en combatir el hambre?" También decía, "Reine la verdad y no la hipocresía y la mentira."

Señor Presidente, apoyamos la declaración del GRULAC sobre el Marco Estratégico Revisado, opinamos que, éste debe basarse en decisiones intergubernamentales de los Estados Miembros. Por ejemplo, la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial no fue un fuero intergubernamental, por tanto no podemos acoger los llamados compromisos de esa cumbre. El segmento humanitario del ECOSOC en su Resolución 2016/9 se limitó a señalar que dicha cumbre tuvo lugar. Solicitamos eliminar del Marco Estratégico todas las menciones a los resultados de la cumbre y al informe del Secretario General. No deben incluirse en un documento de Naciones Unidas conceptos que no han sido aprobados ni consensuados por los Estados Miembros.

Por ejemplo, el término de 'países o instituciones frágiles' utilizado en los párrafos 49, 105, 269 y 293. Preguntamos, ¿Qué es un país frágil? ¿Quién está en condiciones de juzgar la fragilidad de un país, de un estado soberano? ¿Serán acaso las Naciones Unidas? No sería prudente referirnos a un concepto que bajo criterios subjetivos divide en lista a estados soberanos para poder acceder a los recursos de la cooperación. El Marco Estratégico Revisado no debe tomar como fuente el informe sobre el Índice Mundial de Paz. Tal índice no ha sido aprobado por los Estados Miembros. Este informe es tendencioso, discriminatorio y lesivo a la soberanía de los estados y el auto determinación de los pueblos.

Sobre la asociación global recogida en la Agenda 2030, solicitamos a la FAO que refleje en sus documentos el texto acordado en dicha agenda. Solicitamos destacar en los párrafos 192 al 196 el papel rector de los gobiernos. Tocante al párrafo 167, debe eliminarse. Este párrafo es ambiguo, presenta elementos de juicio y acciones no propias con el mandato de la FAO, catalogando el buen gobierno y las reestructuraciones de los ámbitos políticos, entre otros aspectos.

Sobre los diez desafíos del Marco Estratégico, debería añadirse la escasez de recursos financieros para la Agenda 2030 y también reiterar el incumplimiento de la Meta 0.7 para la ayuda oficial al desarrollo. Agradeceremos estas modificaciones para tener un Marco más contextualizado y apoyar a los países y a las poblaciones que más los necesitan. De lo contrario, recordando las palabras del Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro, "¿Para qué sirve la conciencia del hombre? ¿Para qué sirve el mundo? ¿Para qué sirven las Naciones Unidas?"

M. Dominique AWONO ESSAMA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe régional Afrique, en apportant d'emblée son soutien à la déclaration du Groupe des 77.

Nous accueillons favorablement la production de ce document, y compris les annexes Web qui s'y rattachent. C'est un document qui nous met de plain-pied dans un nouveau cycle de planification du travail de la FAO, caractérisé par un environnement international qui connaît d'importantes initiatives, notamment le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et des objectifs de développement durable (ODD), les engagements et les objectifs politiques du Programme d'action d'Addis-Abeba et l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine, l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique, le Sommet humanitaire mondial et le Programme d'action pour l'humanité du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, le Sommet de l'ONU pour les réfugiés et les migrants, la conférence Habitat III, qui met l'accent sur l'urbanisation, le quatorzième Congrès forestier mondial et la déclaration ministérielle du Forum des Nations Unies

sur les forêts, ainsi que l'Accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port dans la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée.

Nous félicitons le Comité du Programme qui, au cours de l'examen de ce document lors de sa 120^{ème} session, a donné au Conseil des orientations importantes pouvant servir à la prise de décision. Nous prenons acte, par conséquent, de ces commentaires.

Vous conviendrez certainement avec le Groupe Afrique que l'intérêt du continent africain est la mise en œuvre des principales recommandations de la troisième Conférence internationale sur le financement du développement assortie du Plan d'action d'Addis Abéba.

S'agissant du Cadre stratégique révisé, le Groupe Afrique exprime, d'une manière générale, son soutien au maintien des cinq objectifs stratégiques et de leurs résultantes reformulées en vue de l'élaboration du Plan à moyen terme (2018-2021 dans sa version complète et du Programme de travail et budget 2018-2019. L'arrimage de ce Cadre révisé aux objectifs de développement durable du «Programme à l'horizon 2030» va dans la bonne direction, d'autant plus que la prochaine génération de Cadres de programmation pays (CPP), qui s'appuieront sur cet arrimage, renforcera la cohérence des objectifs nationaux de développement.

Rappelant alors les principales recommandations de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, qui s'est tenue à Abidjan cette année, nous réitérons notre volonté de voir se poursuivre toutes les initiatives régionales en cours, afin de mieux cibler les actions de la FAO sur les priorités de la région, que sont: l'élimination de la faim à l'horizon 2025, l'intensification durable de la production et le développement des chaînes de valeur, ainsi que le renforcement de la résilience dans les zones arides.

Au regard des tendances actuelles (volatilité des prix, demande croissante de nourriture, crises prolongées, variabilité des systèmes alimentaires, emplois décents des jeunes, etc.) et au regard de la vulnérabilité de notre région aux aléas climatiques, nous ne saurions insister davantage sur la nécessité d'une croissance inclusive et partagée. C'est en cela que nous appuyons le travail de la FAO en matière de genre (parité hommes-femmes et l'autonomisation des femmes), de nutrition, de statistiques, de renforcement des marchés et de développement de chaînes de valeur ouvertes et équitables, de renforcement de la résilience, et évidemment de changement climatique.

Nous faisons nôtre la proposition du Comité du Programme d'intituler l'Objectif numéro 6: «Qualité technique, statistiques et thèmes transversaux (parité hommes-femmes, gouvernance, nutrition et changement climatique)». Cela reflète mieux son contenu.

Nous savons pertinemment qu'il existe des domaines dans lesquels la FAO a l'obligation de travailler avec les autres. Nous encourageons par conséquent la concrétisation de partenariats stratégiques.

Pour ce qui est de l'Ébauche du Plan à moyen terme (PMT) 2018-2021, qui est la base de programmation et contient les principales composantes du cadre de résultats, le Groupe Afrique reste convaincu que nous disposons d'informations suffisantes pour l'élaboration des versions complètes du PMT 2018-2021 et du Programme de travail et budget (PTB) 2018-2019.

Nous prenons bonne note du maintien de certains indicateurs de résultantes non liées aux objectifs de développement durable et de l'incorporation de certaines cibles des ODD et de leurs indicateurs dans le cadre de résultats, ce qui inspirerait les Cadres de programmation par pays (CPP) et leurs rapports avec les cadres de suivi des ODD propres à chaque pays, et faciliterait la mesure des progrès réalisés, y compris des indicateurs spécifiques à la contribution de la FAO à la réalisation des ODD.

Nous apprécions la description fort détaillée des programmes stratégiques concernant l'Objectif 6 et les thèmes transversaux incluant les statistiques, la parité hommes-femmes, le changement climatique, la nutrition et la gouvernance.

Enfin, nous attendons donc l'examen des versions complètes du PMT 2018-2021 et du PTB 2018-2019 à la session de printemps 2017 du Conseil de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

That brings us to the end of this morning's meeting. Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are reminded of the need to register for Council if they wish to be included in the list of participants of this session. The Provisional List of Participants will be available tomorrow morning at the Documents Desk and delegates are invited to check that their names and titles are accurate. Any corrections or amendments should be submitted to the Documents Desk for inclusion in the final list.

I also wish to remind delegates of a side event on “FAO’s role in supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Reform for the realization of peace in Colombia”, which will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 12.30 to 14.00.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. We will resume at 14.30 hours sharp.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

6 December 2016

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.44 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 44
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.44
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 3. Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (continued)
Point 3. Cadre stratégique révisé et ébauche du Plan à moyen terme 2018-2021 (suite)
Tema 3. Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2018-2021 (continuación)

(CL 155/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fourth Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before we continue with item 3, I wish to inform Council that as we are running behind schedule, we will continue with this plenary meeting until 20.30 this evening. The side event scheduled to take place at 19.00 this evening is being rescheduled and we will be able to provide further details in the course of the afternoon.

Now we will continue with item 3, *Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21* with the list of speakers as it stood at the end of our morning meeting.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We can endorse the reviewed Strategic Framework as laid out in Part I.D in the document, with the following comments.

We concur with the analyses of important international developments and challenges made in the document. This exercise is essential for FAO to be relevant, deliver on its mandate and demonstrate its importance to the global community.

We welcome the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives to the SDGs. Linking FAO's work to the SDGs demonstrates its contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Measuring FAO's performance in relation to these goals is therefore valuable.

We take note of the outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 with the following comments:

We are pleased to see that AMR is recognized among the key areas for FAO's vision and mandate. It is in line with what Members have been calling for and the outcomes of the 2016 United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance.

We look forward to see it even further concretized in the MTP and the PWB, by better recognizing, in line with the FAO action plan on AMR, how complex and challenging AMR is for the food and agriculture sector. We think that both the broad concept and specific threat of AMR should be incorporated.

We are pleased with the developments we see on gender issues dealt with in the document. In this regard we would like to highlight paragraph 164 recognizing that the agricultural sector is underperforming in many developing countries because half of its farmers – women - are not adequately supported. This gives hope that FAO will further establish in its Programme of Work to support countries in closing existing gender gaps. This is clearly needed if the Organization is to meet its Strategic Objectives and contribute substantially to the SDGs.

Regarding areas that need to be more adequately addressed in the final MTP and PWB, we concur with the recommendations from the Programme Committee that FAO should strengthen its work on agroecology and biotechnology as well as on the root causes of migration.

On gender as a cross-cutting issues, we are of the view that further work is needed and look forward to seeing an action plan developed in similar manner as now being developed as a part of the strategy for FAO's work on climate change, with clear financial and human resources requirements necessary for implementation.

Finally we support that Strategic Objective 6 should be retitled to better reflect its scope, as: Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (gender, governance, nutrition and climate change).

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

We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the updated strategic documents of FAO on its programme activities. We consider on the whole that the work done on the draft reviewed Strategic Framework and the Outline of the FAO Medium Term Plan for 2018-21 is going in the right direction. We also welcome the systematic approach which is adopted in the preparation and also the structured nature of this document.

We also welcome the harmonization of the proposed results framework of FAO with relevant targets and indicators of the SDGs which will facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and also monitoring progress. On a positive note we also note the presence of several indicators that are not part of the SDGs which underlines the specialized nature of FAO.

We invite the Secretariat to look into the basis for including some indicators from the point of view of their alignment with the mandate, the targets and the real capacities of FAO. In particular, this would regard indicator SDG 16.1.2, conflict related deaths per 100 000 population by sex, age and cause of death. We are satisfied with the way in which the documents are presented reflect the cross-cutting themes of FAO: climate change, nutrition governance and gender. In particular, we welcome the inclusion of the Agenda as an issue and the focus in this sphere on the economic empowerment of women farmers increasing their skills, relevant areas of policy in the area of healthy diets, social protection in rural areas.

We call on the Secretariat to maintain a balanced approach on this issue. Central to FAO's mandate are issues of food security, nutrition and development of the agricultural sector. That is why FAO should consider related inter-sectoral issues through the prism of its area of competence, prioritizing directly related targets. We esteem that the cross-cutting theme of governance is not yet clear enough. This is due also to the inclusion in it of the hazy concept of the so-called global governance and this in particular in paragraphs 151 and 167. We recommend that the Secretariat continue to work on this area aiming at less ambitious concrete mirrors such as promoting inter-sectoral coordination and relevant international cooperation.

We welcome the level of reflection of certain themes in the draft strategic documents including issues such as reducing rural poverty, social protection with a food component, control of plant and animal diseases, and also agricultural pests, issues relating to malnutrition including hunger, micronutrient deficits, obesity and noncommunicable diseases, the issue of food safety, relevant statistics and market trend forecasts. We suggest that the Secretariat give greater attention in the document to the issues of the sustainable use of soil resource, sustainable mechanization and intensification of agriculture, development of agriculture infrastructure.

We welcome FAO's focus on resilience building in crisis and crisis preparedness, disaster risk reduction, the linkages of emergency relief and development activities in the framework of Strategic Objective 5. However, just as our colleagues from Mexico and Cuba has said, we are obliged to point out that the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit repeatedly mentioned in the presented documents were not agreed on nor adopted in an inter-governmental format. They cannot be considered as a global agreement on the level with the outcomes of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Summit for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate, the Second International Conference on Nutrition, and so on. In this connection, we urge the Secretariat to correct points 12, 103 and 300 of the document to bring them in alignment with the real status of the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit.

We also call for the removal of points 25, 148, 294 and 300 removing the references to the so-called obligations of FAO in relation to the outcome of this event because they were undertaken by the Secretariat without the agreement of FAO Member Nations.

We are obliged again to express our concerns regarding the reference in this document to the contribution to peace building and supporting peace and stability as one of FAO's workstreams, in particular on page 3 and also in the points 196, 294, 297, 299, 303 and 305. This approach threatens leading FAO to stray beyond the scope of its mandate duplicating the work of other United Nations structures, increasing the already high risks that FAO's humanitarian staff face in conflict situations.

We request that the Secretariat correct the presented documents the concept of FAO's participation in so-called conflict prevention bringing it back more closely to FAO's mandate in food security, agriculture and promoting sustainable management of natural resources.

We also would like to clarify with the Secretariat under which recommendations of the FAO Governing Body was the preparation of the corporate strategy in supporting peace and stability actually carried out. We consider that it is important to make use of FAO's strategic documents and use the agreed terminology. In this context, we would like to replace the term international governance in climate change and this is in points 150.1c, 160, 204 and the term nutrition security in point 278. These should be replaced with agreed upon wording. Regarding the first term this was already done in the climate strategy document. We thank the Secretariat for that.

We also note the need in describing the global context to be guided by assessments of competent United Nations bodies. In this connection as our GRULAC colleagues, we are surprised to see the reference in point 56 of the Report of the global peace index. Concrete conclusions and ratings of this Report are to put it softly not uncontroversial. We would ask for removal from the text of references to this publication and the web link to it.

We expect the Secretariat to take our comments into consideration in the preparation of a corrected draft strategic document which will subsequently be presented for final endorsement by the relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos la presentación del documento y ante todo queremos expresar que nos sumamos a la declaración hecha por México en nombre del GRULAC y la declaración de Bangladesh en nombre del G77 más China.

Reiteramos el apoyo a la orientación estratégica de la Organización, reflejada en el actual Marco Estratégico de la FAO, así como reconocemos la alineación existente entre dicho Marco y sus Objetivos Estratégicos con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, como así lo han manifestado las Conferencias Regionales. No obstante, creemos hay margen para un mayor ajuste en el Plan a Plazo Medio, más aún cuando la FAO es el custodio de 21 indicadores y contribuyente a otros cuatro.

Apoyamos la incorporación de las novedades mundiales mencionadas en el documento, aunque nos unimos a las preocupaciones expresadas por el GRULAC en cuanto a la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial y el uso de fuentes no oficiales de Naciones Unidas. Por otro lado, nos complace la inclusión de la Cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre Refugiados y Migrantes, así como la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Vivienda y el Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible (Habitat III), que tuvo lugar en Ecuador en octubre pasado, ya que la implementación de la Nueva Agenda Urbana tendrá implicaciones en la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición urbana, la transformación rural, la agricultura y la migración. Además, la FAO en el tema migratorio puede jugar un rol muy importante al momento de abordar las causas profundas de la migración involuntaria y promover el empleo en las zonas rurales, en el contexto de las políticas nacionales de desarrollo agrícola y rural.

Creemos que la alineación de los Objetivos Estratégicos con las metas e indicadores de los ODS, como se propone en el documento, permitirá un mejor seguimiento y contribución a la Agenda 2030 y, particularmente, hará que sea más relevante a las necesidades y metas planteadas por los países, de manera que los Marcos de Programación por Países serán el vehículo fundamental entre la labor de la FAO y los ODS.

La propuesta de Plan a Plazo Medio 2018-2021 es el segundo en el contexto del Marco Estratégico Revisado, el cual por lo tanto, además de lo antes mencionado, se beneficiará de las lecciones aprendidas en la implementación del anterior y ayudará a tener un mejor marco de resultados.

Apoyamos también la necesidad de que se aborde más sustancialmente y se articule de mejor manera dentro de los logros y las realizaciones el enfoque en los pequeños productores y la agricultura familiar; al igual que es necesario un trabajo más sistemático de la FAO en cuanto a la agroecología, tema que ha sido enfatizado en las Conferencias Regionales y en el Comité de Agricultura, por las implicaciones que tiene en los Cinco Objetivos Estratégicos y en los temas transversales.

Con estos comentarios, respaldamos las recomendaciones del Comité del Programa sobre este tema de la agenda y esperamos con interés el Plan a Plazo Medio finalizado que incluye los comentarios del Comité de Programa y los emitidos en este Consejo, junto con el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2018-2019 para la próxima reunión del Consejo.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela hace suya la declaración del GRULAC y la respalda plenamente.

Consideramos que es necesario revisar exhaustivamente el punto: B.2 *Tendencias mundiales y regionales*, en particular el número 8) *El aumento de la incidencia de los conflictos y las crisis prolongadas y sus repercusiones para el hambre, la seguridad alimentaria, el desarrollo agrícola y los desplazamientos humanos, puesto que el documento adopta el concepto de “crisis prologadas” a partir del informe “Índice Mundial de Paz” elaborado por el Instituto para la Economía y la Paz, fuente no oficial de las Naciones Unidas y en el cual se expresan una serie de opiniones sesgadas sobre varios países de América Latina, entre otros.*

Siguiendo lo anterior, deseamos manifestar nuestra preocupación sobre la utilización del Índice empleado en el precitado informe para describir la creciente desigualdad mundial de la paz, debido a que se evidencia un gran desequilibrio en cuanto a las fuentes y opiniones utilizadas para su elaboración.

En tal sentido, debo hacer un conjunto de aclaratorias en cuanto a las acusaciones que en dicho informe se hacen sobre mi país, acusaciones que además adolecen de fundamentos, tales como el aumento de “manifestaciones violentas, delitos violentos e inestabilidad política” y “aumento del sentimiento anti-gobierno”.

Por el contrario, quisiéramos aprovechar este foro para reiterar que desde que el pueblo venezolano eligiera al Presidente Nicolás Maduro Moros ha habido una política en torno a la paz, con la creación de espacios de diálogo permanente y encuentro entre todos los actores involucrados en garantizar el bienestar del país, así como un conjunto de iniciativas para que Venezuela y América Latina se conviertan en zonas de paz. Las “manifestaciones violentas” a las que hace referencia el informe han sido promovidas en el pasado por algunos sectores de oposición que permanentemente han buscado derrocar al gobierno democráticamente electo por los y las venezolanos, por vías no constitucionales.

En este sentido, consideramos que la FAO no puede elaborar sus Objetivos Estratégicos, específicamente el Número 5: “Incrementar la resiliencia de los medios de vida ante las amenazas y crisis” utilizando como insumo el referido Índice.

Asimismo, en el párrafo 58 del Marco Estratégico Revisado se citan algunas razones por las cuales surgen las migraciones, tales como conflictos, guerras o desórdenes civiles, sin mencionar las permanentes invasiones que potencias imperialistas realizan a otros países.

Por las razones antes expuestas, esperamos que la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación desestime absolutamente el uso del citado Índice.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Regional Group.

First, the Near East Regional Group supports the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China, as well as the statement made by Cameroon on behalf of Africa Group. The statement of the Near East Regional Group is complementary to what was said by Bangladesh and Cameroon.

In comparison to the version presented to the 38th FAO Conference in June 2013, in document C 2013/7, the current Reviewed Strategic Framework has a better structure and is more sensitive to the global challenges facing the sector of food and agriculture. In particular, the Near East Group notes the following improvements in the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

It is well aligned with the SDGs. The section on the eight global events influencing the Strategic Framework is a relevant and useful addition.

The four new global challenges with which FAO has to deal with have been added, bringing the total number of challenges to ten and there has been considerable improvement in the articulation of the ten challenges. Briefly, the four new challenges are (i) addressing climate; (ii) addressing the root causes of migration; (iii) building resilience; and (iv) preventing threats to food systems. The Near East Regional Group welcomes the four new challenges.

The Near East Regional Group notes that the FAO Vision, the three Global Goals of Member Nations, the six FAO Basic Organizational Attributes and the seven Core Functions of FAO remain unchanged. The Near East Regional Group supports this decision taken by the Director-General.

While the five Strategic Objectives remain the same, the number of Outcomes has increased from 17 to 20, adding one Outcome each to SO 1, SO 3 and SO 4. All the three new Outcomes are with the intention of building capacities of Member Nations and in improving the implementation process of the Strategic Objectives. Most noteworthy is the improvement in the articulation of the 20 Outcomes based on the experience gained so far from the implementation of the result-based Strategic Framework.

The Near East Regional Group also notes a sharp increase in the number of Outcome Indicators, from 34 to 51. The majority of the new 17 Outcome Indicators relates to the four Outcomes of SO 3 and the four Outcomes of SO 4. We support the increase in the number of indicators, though their statistical requirement at the country level is demanding.

The Near East Regional Group also notes that despite the three additional Outcomes, the number of Outputs have been reduced from 48 to 40 and half of the eight reduced outputs relate to the four Outcomes of SO 2. We attribute this reduction in the number of outputs to the stress on consolidation and which is considered to be a good gesture.

In short, the Near East Regional Group is of the opinion that the Reviewed Strategic Framework reflects a considerable degree of consolidation of FAO's programming work, notable improvements in focus and better articulation of the issues and challenges presented in document CL 155/3. As mentioned earlier, most impressive are the revisions made in the formulation of the 20 Outcomes.

The Near East Group notes that Table 1 on page 44 and also Annex 1 (pages 79 to 89) give the number of SDG Targets and Indicators that are relevant to the work of FAO as reflected in the Strategic Framework. These amount to 40 SDG Targets and 53 SDG Indicators. Thirty-five percent of the 40 SDG targets and 45 percent of the 53 SDG indicators relate to SO 2 and SO 1. The Near East Regional Group supports this arrangement made by Management.

The Near East Regional Group also appreciates Annex 2 (Regional Trends) which is primarily based on the reports of the five Regional Conferences, as well as Web Annex 3 (Statistical trends, challenges and priorities) which is based on the reports of COFI, COFO, COAG and CCP. The large number of the recommendations emerging from the Regional Conferences and the 83 priorities underscored by the four Technical Committees provide ample material for the preparation of the MTP 2018-21 and the PWB 2018-19, and particularly with respect to prioritization.

The Near East Regional Group hesitates to express preference for priorities until the Director-General has submitted his Programme of Work for 2018-19. We are reluctant to prejudge.

The report of the Programme Committee, document CL 155/5, makes suggestions on the topic under discussion, which are three suggestions:

1. to adequately address agroecology, biotechnology, family farming and smallholders, migration and the four cross-cutting issues of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change in the next MTP/PWB;
2. to change the title of Objective 6 to read "Technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (gender, governance, nutrition and climate change)";
3. the mapping of the outcomes and outputs with that of the previous biennium.

All the three suggestions are sensible and the Near East Regional Group can support them.

With these comments, the Near East Regional Group endorses the Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Mi delegación se adhiere a las declaraciones de los Presidentes del G77 más China y del GRULAC sobre este tema. Deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento CL 155/3. Indudablemente la actual coyuntura, tanto el Marco Estratégico como el Plan a Plazo Medio, marcan un nuevo punto de partida para esta Organización, especialmente contextualizándonos en la implementación de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y en las metas que pretendemos alcanzar a nivel nacional, regional y mundial.

El Marco Estratégico Revisado y el esquema de Plan a Plazo Medio presentados reúnen y se alinean ampliamente con las tendencias y desafíos globales, en particular con las dos principales cuestiones de desarrollo mundial actuales, ODS y cambio climático. En ese sentido, valoramos la incorporación de la meta e indicadores de los ODS en el marco de resultado de la FAO. Acogemos con particular satisfacción la inclusión de las prioridades identificadas en las Conferencias Regionales y en los Comités Técnicos precedentes, que oportunamente toman en cuenta los principales retos y expectativas de cada uno de nuestros países.

Si bien acogemos con beneplácito que la revisión del Marco Estratégico sea ya encuadrado en el actual panorama global, incluyendo además temas transversales que cada vez son más vigentes, como género, gobernanza, nutrición y cambio climático, nos alineamos a lo expresado por el GRULAC y luego enfatizado por las delegaciones de Ecuador, Cuba y Venezuela en el sentido de que no podemos reconocer que se haga mención en el documento a los compromisos contraídos por FAO en la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial, la cual, desde nuestra perspectiva, presenta deficiencias que impiden resolver las causas desencadenantes de las crisis, al no haber incluido mayores discusiones intergubernamentales sobre la agenda humanitaria y al no haber tomado en consideración la responsabilidad que es propia de los Estados en la protección de la población, en detrimento de los principios de soberanía y auto determinación de los pueblos.

Por otra parte, alentamos a la FAO, reconociendo el trabajo y los avances realizados en su estrategia del Plan de Acción sobre el cambio climático, a tomar en debida consideración los planteamientos expresados por cada uno de nuestros países en las Cumbres sobre el Clima. Especialmente aquellas que apelan a los principios de inclusión y de no condicionamientos, tanto en los financiamientos como en el acceso a medios de implementación, herramientas que permiten a los países en desarrollo cumplir con los compromisos de adaptación y mitigación que nos hemos asumido. En particular, Nicaragua mantiene firmemente su posición al respecto.

Por fin, apreciamos los avances y esfuerzos de la FAO con respecto a la cuestión del género. Siendo un tema transversal, tanto en sus estrategias y programas, así como en cada uno de los seis Objetivos Estratégicos, que apoyamos plenamente, queda reflejados, reconociendo que dicho tema sigue siendo el trabajo de su trabajo, situándose como elemento clave en la lucha para la eliminación del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Con estas consideraciones mi delegación agradece y apoya el Marco Estratégico Revisado y el esquema de Plan a Plazo Medio presentado, esperando su versión finalizada junto con el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2018-19 en la próxima reunión del Consejo.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

In general, we align ourselves with the statements delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the G77 and China, by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East, and by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group.

In addition to the important points highlighted in these three statements, we would like to state that we share the same concern expressed by many Members today, including GRULAC, the Russian Federation, Ecuador, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and others regarding the reference in the document to the World Humanitarian Summit and the Global Development Context.

We believe that it is important to take into account that the World Humanitarian Summit was not an intergovernmental negotiation and Member States cannot support the linkage of FAO work with the Summit's needs and the commitment made by some organizations.

We believe that FAO should continue to reflect the collective views of Member States. We recommend editing the document to reflect these concerns and we expect the Secretariat to explain the timeframe for receiving the updated document.

Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)

Agradezco la presentación del documento "Marco Estratégico Revisado" y el esquema del Plan a plazo medio 2018-2021. La Argentina respalda la declaración del GRULAC realizada por México, así como la declaración del G77 más China. En relación a este documento y brevemente, deseamos sostener la inclusión de los cinco Objetivos Estratégicos y el Objetivo sexto, más los objetivos transversales sobre gobernanza, género, nutrición y cambio climático. Asimismo sostenemos y vemos con agrado la alineación de este marco con los ODS y la Agenda 2030.

Desde otro punto de vista acogemos también la incorporación de las metas e indicadores de los ODS en el marco de resultados de la FAO. También, como dijo el GRULAC, entendemos muy promisorio y tenemos muchas expectativas en cuanto al apoyo de la FAO a los Países Miembros para el logro de la Agenda 2030 dentro de sus políticas nacionales.

Por último, queremos reiterar nuestro desacuerdo con la utilización del concepto de países frágiles.

Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairuddin MOHD (Malaysia)

Malaysia wishes to align itself with the intervention delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the G77 and China. We wish to thank Mr Haight and his team for document CL 155/3. This document outlined each of FAO's Strategic Objectives, taking into account all main global developments and trends to frame a comprehensive food and agriculture development over the medium term and aligning it to the 2030 Agenda.

Malaysia commends the matrix done by the Secretariat especially in correlating FAO's Strategic Objectives with the SDGs. The addition of the sixth Strategic Objective which is on technical quality, knowledge and services is indeed timely. It will facilitate FAO and member countries in building up its own Country Programme Framework (CPF) taking into consideration all global developments and trends.

Hence, we wish to make three suggestions:

First, this document would be complete if an element of estimated budgetary information could be incorporated or annexed to the existing document to assist member countries to view the overall framework more comprehensively. The budgetary information is important because the funding requirement needs to be put in place to assist implementation. Therefore we look forward for such information to be presented in the PWB 2018-19 during the next Programme Committee and Finance Committee, Council and Conference in 2017.

Second, we wish to flag the importance of enhancing partnership by encouraging more collaboration with the multi-stakeholders, especially at the country level. For example, the approach by CFS has been useful in bringing multi-stakeholders involvement, which will assist us in achieving the SDGs. The drive to transform must come from all stakeholders and therefore we must work together towards an integrated effort to achieve more sustainable outcomes.

Third, it would be more helpful if the Secretariat could conduct informal consultation with Member Nations on the report just like what was practiced prior to the last Council on the item of Programme Implementation Report (PIR). On that note, Malaysia endorses this document.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Sudanese Delegation, I would like to thank the panel for the presentation and we commend the great efforts put that led to a set of recommendations.

I would like to express our appreciation for being allowed to talk about the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) and the Medium Term Plan (MTP). First of all, we support the decisions stated by Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East region, those taken by Cameroon on behalf of Africa and the ones declared by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China.

In Sudan, our priorities are focused on the agricultural sector. We aim to achieve the Strategic Objectives of the Organization. Certainly, if we use our resources in a sustainable way to increase productivity and ensure sustainable food security.

We hope these priorities will be incorporated into the plan, particularly the MTP, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure the food security across our country. We hope to be able to fill the gaps that may occur across our neighbouring countries as well.

We would like to contribute to food security and nutrition across the world. I would like to deal with the following points.

Yesterday, I mentioned that Sudan cultivates large areas of crops, including many olives and crop of pulses, particularly in summer and winter times. However, these large areas depend on an average of 90 percent on rainfall.

In your conclusions, you said that this point is crucial and there is no doubt it is. This is a very important issue for all parties and you said this should be tackled when we are discussing the PWB and the MTP. The season has witnessed a lot of rainfalls and we have many yields and crops so, we are fortunate.

Yet, if the rainfall is slight, the production of crops will be very low too and this will be a threat to ensuring food security. We know that there are many efforts made in order to collect rainwater across wells, dams and reservoirs as well as trying to leverage some cultivation techniques in order to keep water within the soil and put an end to erosion and other factors.

Sustainable development and the sustainability of production require that the Organization support successful projects in order to leverage the rainfall so that we can exploit the capacities of the private sector and the stakeholders. Therefore, we can contribute to the sustainable production we aspire to at high levels.

Another issue that is of significant importance is related to rain-fed agriculture or cultivation; we need to prepare the soil as well as the different cultivation processes in a timely manner and in the right time in order to be able to leverage the rainfall across the rainy seasons.

It is imperative to use the automation processes across our agricultural sector and this was mentioned by a participant yesterday. Indeed this is important for our cultivation objectives.

We need to increase the performance levels. That is why we propose the following: the Organization should adopt a full automation process in order to develop the industry, particularly the traditional sector represented by smallholders and small scale producers because they are still using traditional and artisanal items and inputs.

Developing the traditional sector is important because it allows us to leverage the expertise of the FAO and improve our performance. We need to put an end to low productivity. We have to improve the agricultural inputs and seeds because this is a very significant reason for the low productivity.

The seeds we are using are not of good quality, particularly across smallholders, and they do not have the genetic capacity to increase productivity. Even if we have fertile soil and we have the enabling environment for that, even if we add the number of inputs we have also to make sure that fertilizers are of good quality.

We also require that FAO adopt a programme to provide factories or facilities to process seeds and to provide laboratories in order to examine the samples and set a list of the requirements for the soil. Besides, we request FAO to provide equipment and devices that are needed in this process.

I believe we have to increase the capacities of engineers and farmers by training and by applied techniques so that they can handle their tasks in a way that is really optimal. This is one of the strategies that we should examine, so we should raise their capacity level. Protecting crops is very important because we need to prevent them from the threats and risks and this is of crucial importance as well.

We need to incorporate this into the programmes of the Organization. We require this service among other countries that are in need of this service too. We have noticed many pests and diseases like the locusts and we have to face this threat. FAO should be ready to face any emerging threats.

The Strategic Framework should include projects to increase production across all crops in order to develop the techniques and provide extension services as well as research services. We have to tackle

the sustainability of the production to ensure food security and this entails many protection programmes against threats and diseases. Moreover, it is necessary to act diligently and very fast to face all challenges that might occur everywhere.

We have to use collection of water and irrigation strategies and techniques. We should provide data and analyze every information given to leverage them. That data exercise would allow us to define our needs in food security.

There should be some programmes aimed at providing support for climate change issues. We must increase the capacities of the workers in the agricultural sector in order to use the agricultural inputs in a sustainable and efficient way.

When it comes to transformational industries and automation, we have to use the whole process efficiently so that we can protect soils from degradation and from environmental effects. Post-harvest crops is also an important issue. We experience this problem particularly when it comes to storing crops because we are using traditional ways and processes.

Finally, we need to focus on this issue when it comes to homegrown crops.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China supports the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China and we also support the statements delivered by other delegates on behalf of their regional groups. We also thank the Secretariat for the document and the presentation made by the Secretariat.

In general, we think that both the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan (MTP) are very broad and they look long-term. In China we often say it is ambitious and it is grand. Maybe it is not that concrete. As regards the targets and the responsibility, we think there is some kind of weakness of linking all these different factors. For example, after the five Strategic Objectives we have a sixth Strategic Objectives. Then, at least for us, for the Chinese delegation, it is hard to understand to have an additional Strategic Objective, because the Chinese document says that FAO will achieve four outcomes and the idea to achieve all these outcomes within the countries. So the question is: what is the FAO going to do? What will FAO do to achieve all these outcomes?

It is of course good that we are linking the Strategic Objectives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but again in the document as regards the outcomes they are always within the responsibility of the countries. We have different objectives to improve food security and nutrition. So again my question is: what will FAO do? What is FAO's responsibility? I think at least in the Chinese version the language should be improved or changed or at least every time it should be mentioned FAO will, FAO should or the Organization will.

So what I mean is that there should always be FAO. FAO should be the responsible entity to help or to facilitate countries to achieve the outcomes or objectives, because here we talk a lot about the grand objectives, but concretely who will do what? What does FAO do? What does every country do? What do the regional bodies do? I think there should be very specific explanation, because we have here a very systematic work that we are undertaking and everyone should be part of it.

We need a lot of collaboration and cooperation, so I really hope that there should be more improvement in the text. For example, in paragraphs 127, 133, 139, 144 and 150 in the Strategic Framework I think there should be some improvement.

Malaysia said that we should consider more about the budget. Do we have the budget? Do we have the resources? Now we see that there is a huge funding gap in the Medium Term Plan. It is about USD 120 billion, so what are we going to do about the funding gap? At the same time, what are our advantages when we talk about all these objectives. I think there should be very specific targets and under every target there should be a responsible body: a very clear person who is responsible for it, an office or a department. What is the relationship among them? I think there should be a very specific text or statement about all these aspects. This is it.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group 77 and China. However, we would like to emphasize a few points.

We support the continuation of the existing five Strategic Objectives plus the sixth objective on technical knowledge and the four cross-cutting themes of governance, gender, nutrition and climate change. We welcome the alignment of the Strategic Framework with the two main global development issues, SDGs and climate change as well as the incorporation of the SDG targets and indicators in the results framework.

Finally, we look forward to the finalized Medium Term Plan along with the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-2019 at the next session of the Council.

Ms Catherine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia welcomes the reviewed strategic framework and outline for the Medium Term Plan, and thanks the Director-General and the Secretariat for their efforts in drafting this paper. We believe the paper provides a generally sound basis for the FAO's strategic direction.

We appreciate the work of the FAO in refining the Strategic Objectives to align them with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We also welcome the detailed information found under each Strategic Objective and thank the Director-General for having integrated into them the discussions at the Regional Conferences and the cross-cutting issues.

Australia believes that FAO must prioritize its work where it maintains a comparative advantage by supporting Members through policy advice, technical information and standard setting.

This includes the protection of plant resources from pests and diseases through appropriate development and implementation of phytosanitary measures; agriculture policy advice; increasing agricultural productivity through knowledge sharing; and supporting the work of the IPPC and Codex to develop standards.

Focusing on what FAO does best is especially important in an environment of diminishing financial resources in real terms to UN Agencies and quite a few colleagues have raised the need to prioritize about the FAO's comparative advantage rather to potentially spread our mandate too thin.

Australia believes some of the global trends identified, such as those on Strategic Objective 5 are also worthy of continued support. This includes work on antimicrobial resistance and transboundary plant and animal diseases and pests that pose threats to animal and human health.

However, there are some issues in the paper that although matched against Strategic Objectives could be interpreted as not falling directly within the mandate of the FAO. We refer to such matters as conflict, displacement and migration. We do not question the importance of these issues, but we would like to seek clarification as to how these fall directly within the FAO's mandate and not those of other organizations.

Australia, as co-chair of the Southwest Pacific Subregion, was pleased that FAO organized a field visit to the region recently, which we will talk about more later this week.

The field visit highlighted the many challenges the region faces and the importance of FAO's work there. We are pleased to see that work proposed in the paper will assist Southwest Pacific Members in meeting their many challenges. These include the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, the need for better data and statistics, and work to build capacity to implement some of FAO's important work, such as the Port State Measures Agreement.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom)

First of all I would like to align myself with the statement made by the Slovak Republic on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

I would also like to reiterate our thanks to the Secretariat for the revised Strategic Framework and I would like to note that the introduction of a Strategic Results Framework was an important factor in the recent assessment of FAO progress in the United Kingdom multilateral development review that was published last week. Members can find it on our website, www.gov.uk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to underline the importance of including output targets in the MTP to be presented next year. These will enable Member Nations to assess the impact of FAO's work to support Member Nations. We very much welcome the inclusion of nutrition outputs in the MTP and we would like to highlight the importance of including output targets on climate change, antimicrobial resistance, transparency and for FAO's work on humanitarian assistance.

Finally, we encourage FAO to disaggregate the data it collects by gender and by disability wherever possible.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Merci à tous pour vos nombreux commentaires très riches et pertinents. J'ai pris beaucoup de notes et je pense que le Secrétariat en a fait autant. Bien entendu, nous les intégrerons dans la version qui sera présentée à notre prochaine session. Je me limiterai à faire des commentaires sur quatre points qui me paraissent importants et qui sont revenus à plusieurs reprises.

Le premier, pour vous remercier d'avoir validé cette proposition du Comité du Programme de reformuler l'Objectif stratégique 6, qui est effectivement dans sa version initiale ciblait essentiellement les capacités techniques et les statistiques. Or, cet Objectif 6 rassemble à la fois des outils, mais aussi des priorités thématiques comme la nutrition, les questions de genre et le changement climatique. Je crois qu'il est important de mettre en lumière ces priorités thématiques.

Maintenant, nous avons bien conscience, comme plusieurs d'entre vous l'ont souligné, de la nécessité de travailler sur la question de la définition des produits et des indicateurs à utiliser dans le suivi de la mise en œuvre de ces priorités thématiques. C'est une des raisons pour laquelle nous avons souhaité revoir au mois de mars la Stratégie sur le climat, pour travailler sur les résultantes, les produits et les indicateurs qui devront être mis en annexe de cette stratégie et inclus dans le cadre de résultats du PMT.

Ma deuxième remarque porte sur la question de voir comment établir des priorités. Il est très impressionnant de voir l'ampleur des attentes à l'égard de notre Organisation sur tous les thèmes qui ont été évoqués dans les différentes interventions des délégations. Je crois qu'il faut que l'on fasse un travail pour différencier, car l'étendue des activités de notre Organisation est effectivement très large; nous devons établir des priorités pour les deux prochaines années du Programme de travail et budget et pour les quatre prochaines années du Plan à moyen-terme.

Nous avons encore un effort à faire pour bien hiérarchiser ces priorités, souligner, comme cela a été fait pour les derniers Programmes de travail et budget, les domaines dans lesquels l'Organisation doit renforcer son activité et peut-être aussi faire des différenciations selon les régions. En lisant les conclusions des différentes Conférences régionales, j'ai effectivement été très frappé par le fait qu'il y avait un cœur de sujets de préoccupations commun à toutes les régions, mais qu'il y avait ensuite, selon les régions, des priorités ou des préoccupations particulières.

Ma troisième remarque fait écho à ce qu'a notamment souligné notre collègue de la Chine. Je crois que le Secrétariat à travers ce projet a vraiment fait un effort pour aligner le cadre de résultats sur le «Programme à l'horizon 2030» et sur les objectifs de développement durable, les ODD, notamment, en utilisant je crois 36 indicateurs tirés des ODD. Et du coup, je crois que pour la prochaine réunion, il faudra vraiment faire un travail assez fin sur les produits parce que c'est à travers eux qu'on pourra vraiment mesurer la contribution de notre Organisation à ces objectifs communs, qui doivent être mis en œuvre au niveau des pays. Il ne faut quand-même pas perdre de vue ce cadre de résultats, qui a aussi pour objet de mesurer l'efficacité de notre Organisation et de comment elle produit les résultats attendus; cela devra se faire à travers un travail sur les produits.

Ma dernière remarque sera pour souligner ce qui a été mis en lumière de façon très précise par notre collègue de l'Afghanistan. Il a bien noté qu'on passait de 17 à 20 résultantes et surtout de 34 à 51 indicateurs. Cela représente une augmentation de 50 pour cent des indicateurs, ce qui est beaucoup. A mon avis, c'est un maximum parce que le cadre de résultats est un tableau de pilotage de

l'Organisation et pour que ce pilotage soit effectif, il ne faut pas multiplier les indicateurs; je crois qu'il faut vraiment rester dans cette zone d'une cinquantaine d'indicateurs permettant de mesurer la mise en œuvre des objectifs de l'Organisation.

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

I would echo the Chair of the Programme Committee in thanking all of the delegates who spoke for your very careful reading of the document and the comments provided.

We will take these into account in preparing the next draft of the reviewed Strategic Framework as well as the full Medium Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget which you will receive before the end of February of next year for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees at the end of March and the Council at the end of April next year.

We will also continue to fine-tune and prepare the elements of measures of the outcomes. Concerning the comment of the Programme Committee Chair on the number of indicators, we have made every effort to align our indicators with the SDGs. Do not forget there are 230 indicators of the SDGs. We only have a small portion recognizing that food and agriculture are very important to achieving the SDGs and we will continue to refine the measures of these indicators. More particularly we will focus on the outputs and the indicators of the outputs which you have not yet seen as well as the targets.

The targets for the outputs are being developed from the bottom up, from the country level up, because in the end the outputs are about what FAO delivers, mainly at country level. We will present in the full Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget a set of targets for the outputs that we would intend to further refine during the course of next year, since we will only start implementing the next Programme of Work and Budget in January 2018. I am sure many of you are aware that when we did this exercise four years ago, we did not have a good estimate of our targets, so we want to make sure that when we start our work to implement the Programme of Work and Budget in January of 2018 that we have the best set of targets that we can estimate.

Concerning the cross-cutting themes and the comments that have been made both by the Chair of the Programme Committee in summing up but also from the floor concerning gender, nutrition, governance and climate change, I would like to recall that for gender and nutrition in Objective 6 we have specific indicators. We already have in place the FAO gender policy which I believe has about 15 indicators, as well as the United Nations System Wide Action Plan on gender that FAO is required to implement, which also has over 10 indicators. And that is the basis for our measurement of performance on gender as well as its integration into each of the Strategic Objectives, as several of you have noted gender equality, women's empowerment is critical for achieving our five Strategic Objectives. Gender is not an objective in and of itself but it is a means to help us achieve eradication of hunger, poverty reduction and so forth.

The same goes for nutrition where we base our work on the outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, in particular its framework for action. You had in fact last week an event that was looking at examples of how we have delivered under that framework.

The FAO climate change strategy and action plan will provide a similar opportunity to set indicators for how we deliver on climate change adaptation and mitigation through our Strategic Objective programmes. So Objective 6 is not intended to be an objective that is around what Members achieve in terms of outcomes but rather how FAO integrates both these four thematic priorities as well as statistics and technical quality tools into our Strategic Objectives.

We have also heard many priorities expressed and we will be taking these into account and preparing the more detailed Programme of Work and Budget including the regional priorities that will come through the expression of the regional initiatives, which you will see in the next version of the document.

Now coming to some of the more specific comments that were made, I will start and then I would like to turn over to my colleague. First on the comments that have been made about the World Humanitarian Summit by GRULAC and many others. Yes, we recognize that the World Humanitarian Summit was not an inter-governmental process. We will update the document to more accurately reflect the role of the World Humanitarian Summit not at the same level as the commitments and

agreements that were made in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.

On the specific question that Japan raised on the indicators on trade that are under Strategic Objective 4, first of all these are SDG related indicators and FAO contributes to the formulation of trade agreements through our collation of data and the analysis and function of markets. You receive for example reports from AMIS. We also help to build capacity of countries to participate in the formulation of trade agreements and the use of our data and analysis. That is what these indicators are actually trying to measure but we will try to clarify this in the next version of the document.

Mr Chair, if I may suggest that Kostas Stamoulis address the questions about FAO's role in peacebuilding.

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

I would like to make two points that were raised, providing some clarifications: one on the governance issue and the other one on the peacebuilding.

Starting from the governance issue, I just want to say upfront that the Strategic Framework and the governance work away from the notion of the nebulous concept of food governance that sets universal standards towards a concept. This is based on realities of each particular country towards an approach that is to solve specific problems, which is demand-driven and integrated into all the Strategic Objectives.

We have now a more precise understanding of governance that focuses on decision-making processes and the underlying dynamics, the relationships between stakeholders including power asymmetries. Therefore, FAO's approach to governance is targeted governance analysis which enables Governments and other key stakeholders to identify political, economic, environmental constraints on actions. FAO helps countries to formulate strategies to overcome design and implementation bottlenecks. So, the idea is who are the stakeholders including within the Government. Somebody talked about coherence of policy and cross-cutting policies. This is some of the issues addressed by the governance work.

On the global governance work at the global level, we seek to strengthen FAO's capacity for strategic engagement in leadership offering support to inter-governmental, inter-agency and multi-stakeholder processes, which generate international norms and standards. So, this work has a very specific objective.

In recent years, the governance work has included providing strategic advice to units across the Organization on Strategic Objectives. For instance, it has engaged the process to define post-2015 development in architecture. Then, now the governance unit plays a key role in facilitating the management review and development of FAO strategy for the implementation of 2030 Agenda. Those are some of the examples regarding governance.

With regard to the peacebuilding issue, first of all the founding fathers of FAO decided that, and I quote "FAO should make the maximum contribution to healthier and more abundant life into a peace built on day-by-day practical cooperation among the peoples of the world". The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize conflicts as a key break to development. In that respect, the United Nations Secretary-General demands for raising contributions to conflict prevention across the United Nations system. Thus, there is a renewed commitment in FAO to increase its contributions to sustainable peace in mandate areas of expertise, competence and comparative advantage.

We are not talking about the peace-building policy, but rather the corporate policy to support sustainable peace in the context of the Agenda 2030. Then, the title of the policy will accordingly read FAO's corporate policy to support sustainable peace in the context of the Agenda 2030. Besides, it clearly states that we seek achievement of SDG 1 and SDG 2 as critical elements in reaching the further goal of SDG 16 to ensure peaceful and inclusive societies.

Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I think it would be helpful to use very briefly the intervention of Sudan and the Minister's very comprehensive description of the challenges that we face.

I believe it is really a very interesting example of the discussion that we have had on how things are interconnected. As I hope a lot of you know, if you follow the FAO Reports on crop prospects and the season as it goes along, Sudan has had a remarkably good year this year with excellent rains, the highest rainfall I think since 1950 or so with really an outstanding production of sorghum and cotton. That is the result. Going back to China's point, the result of an enormous amount of work for a long time, mainly by farmers of course, but also by governments, research systems and infrastructure and training and so on as well as policy development in order to get to the point where we have productivity levels like we saw this year.

The attribution of FAO's role in that over the years is of course quite difficult as it is for any of us. Indeed, a lot of this year was due in fact to good rains. Yet, there is a long history of variety development in Sudan that came to fruition and that we have used also and we continue to use, for example in Somalia. We have taken on a number of varieties, high yielding varieties of sorghum from Sudan and that are good both for grain production and also for biomass, the stalks for animal feed and so on.

However, also because of this success, it leads to a number of other problems on storage, on processing, on marketing, on the impact of prices, and other things that are equally important, even with the increase in productivity and production.

We have quite a large programme in Sudan and a number of the areas that were mentioned in the comments, including the work on resilience and how in addition to the productive and capacity development side. All in all, I think it was really a very interesting example to kind of put a lot of what we have been discussing in a global or in a general sense, into a concrete experience that we have seen over this past season.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am not sure that the question raised by our colleague from China was answered. What is the role of FAO in the achievement of outcomes? I think that should be clarified.

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

In the results chain, FAO is responsible and accountable for the outputs. The outputs contribute to the achievement of outcomes at country and international level which FAO contributes to but cannot be held accountable. The objectives are very high level, reduction of poverty, elimination of hunger and so forth is a collective responsibility of all. So it is at the output level that FAO is responsible.

Now, you can say there is only forty outputs and they are very broad, so when we set our targets, the targets are measured by the indicators and those indicators are more specific about what FAO can actually deliver. And you will see those in the Programme of Work and Budget, which is the foreseen way of presenting our work along with the proposed resource allocations.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

With respect to what Boyd has said, I understand that FAO has already done some important work. However, there may be differences in the translation between the Chinese and the English versions. As a result, some of the paragraphs are not clear at all. We do not know who is in charge of the various actions for example. And at least in the Chinese version, there needs to be a clear indication of whether it is the countries in charge or somebody else. Some of the wording needs to be changed and improved according to the original language and the related translations.

The issue of the method of work is of utmost importance. It should be improved. To set out clearly the SDG's and the five Strategic Objectives of the FAO as well as align the work of the FAO with the Country Strategies are key priorities.

For example in China, we have suggested one build one road for the new Silk Road and there are other projects in other countries as well. FAO's work needs to be aligned with national strategies to fully take into consideration local and national contexts and realities.

CHAIRPERSON

I think the Secretariat has heard your concern and they will go through the Chinese document and try to explore if it is not indicated what are the responsibilities. If there are no outputs in the Chinese document, then this should be fixed.

We have exhausted this important Agenda item which is central to our work and I would like to conclude as follows.

The Council:

- a) took note of the global developments, trends and challenges identified as a basis for reviewing the Strategic Objectives, including the incorporation of statistics, and the cross-cutting themes of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change;
- b) endorsed the continuation of the five Strategic Objectives and their reformulated Outcomes as a basis for preparing the full Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (MTP) and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 for consideration at its next session, taking account of the comments provided by the Programme Committee;
- c) requested that the MTP 2018-21 include an annex that clearly compares the results framework used in 2014-17 with the proposed results framework for 2018-21;
- d) looked forward to adequate reflection in the MTP 2018-21 and the next PWB 2018-19 of FAO's planned activities relating to agroecology, biotechnology, family farming and smallholders, including their access to local, national and international markets, migration and the cross-cutting issues of climate change, gender, governance and nutrition;
- e) appreciated the incorporation of the SDG targets and indicators in the results framework and underlined the importance of FAO's action to help countries achieve the relevant SDGs, based on the country programming frameworks;
- f) noted that Objective 6 provided the basis for strengthening and monitoring the technical quality of FAO's work, as well as the cross-cutting themes across the Strategic Objectives, and recommended that Objective 6 be retitled to better reflect its scope, as: technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes which include: climate change, gender, governance and nutrition;
- g) requested the Secretariat to more accurately reflect references to the World Humanitarian Summit and the Organization's contribution to peacebuilding in line with its mandate.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

We raised a question to the Secretariat about how some work, including that on migration, fits within the FAO's core mandate, I note that point (d) includes a reference to that.

Also, given that quite a few delegations spoke about the importance of FAO's core work, particularly the normative work, if this summary is to include reference to adequate reflection in the Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget to a range of things, Australia would also like to make reference to the continuing importance of FAO's normative work.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I would like to ask you for clarification on point (d), about adequate reflection in the MTP and the PWB of several areas. Do I understand correctly that those areas were underlined by the Programme Committee? Because if that is not the case, probably the list could be enlarged. For instance, our delegation spoke on the importance of soil resources, so probably sustainable management of natural resources could also be taken on board in this list.

Then, concerning point (g), I would like to thank Mr Stamoulis for his explanation. However, I have to admit that this explanation did not address all of our concerns because we checked the Basic Texts of FAO and we found nothing mentioned there about peacebuilding. Therefore, this concern does stand and we would not be very comfortable with mentioning peacebuilding in your summary.

You also mentioned that the comments provided by the Programme Committee will be taken on board when the Secretariat will work on further improvements of those documents.

I understand that we as Council had very detailed discussions on those documents and not all the Members of the Council are also Members of the Programme Committee. Therefore, it would be good if the Council also requested the Secretariat to take on board concerns expressed also by the Members of the Council. We actually fully expect that that will be done. That is why we enumerated all the paragraphs in the document we had concerns about. It would be very good if that could be done.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We would hereby request to have the output target for transparency set under outcome 6.4 on governance in order to reflect the commitment made by FAO to meet international aid transparency initiative standards.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We look forward to have more explanation and clarification on some of the trade-related indicators in the next session of the Council.

In this regard, we would like to express concerns regarding the use of some of the SDG indicators to measure FAO's work. We are hereby requesting the Chairperson to take note of this comment in the summary.

We also support our Australian colleague's comment pointing out that FAO is exceeding its mandate, overlapping with the mandate of other organizations. From this point of view, we would like to express our concern on FAO's involvement in the trade related issues. It is the mandate of the WTO. This should be reflected as well in the summary.

We also mentioned our priority regarding the standard setting of bodies such as the IPCC and Codex. We would be grateful to see this priority adequately reflected in the summary.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not think that we can take everything on board. So I will try to reflect your suggestions in the report, and read them again, but please agree with me that we cannot have everything in the report. Mr Ayazi said that there are 83 priorities, but if I add some more priorities we will reach 150. We have to be careful when we task FAO because we task ourselves.

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

Several options can be envisaged. The first option is the FAO letter in 1945 to governments transmitting the Report of the First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which is available on the web.

Option two is to use the First Session of the Conference of FAO which clearly stated that the Food and Agriculture Organization is born out of the need for peace as well as the need for freedom from want. They are interdependent: progress towards freedom from want is essential to lasting peace.

Lastly, I would like to make a clarification. We are no longer dealing with a peacebuilding policy. Rather, we are facing a corporate policy to support sustainable peace in the context of Agenda 2030. The achievement of the SDG's, especially SDGs 1 and 2, should contribute to creating conditions for lasting peace. On the contrary, conflicts and the breakdown of peace contribute to food insecurity and extreme poverty.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We thank Mr Haight for his acknowledgement of some of the comments that were made from the floor on the cross-cutting issues, in particular gender, and wanted to make a broad comment.

It was not easy for us to see if we would raise this here or under the item on the Programme Committee and we will come back for the Programme Committee. But since Mr Haight is here, we wanted to make the broader comment that in the discussions in the Joint Meeting about this item, as

well as in the Programme Committee which led to the recommendation to have a title that reflected better the scope, there was a question of how to better address these cross-cutting themes that are very important on the Global Policy Agenda.

But within FAO that do not have a SPL attached to it which is not as specific, so how can we make sure that we also can track the monitoring of the progress and work of the FAO. In this discussion of the Programme Committee, the climate change strategy that came out with the Action Plan was a really strong way to close the loop and see how each of the SOs can contribute to the strategy.

On gender, there is a very strong policy and we hope that it can be used systematically as a baseline tool to track the progress, but we fail still to see how the SOs are using this tool to see how they can contribute to all of the standards and institutional mechanisms.

I think the next step in the Action Plan always helps to operationalize in the Organization, how this is done. We think that nutrition could benefit from that too, so that was our proposal and I think it was also supported by other delegations, but we will bring this back under another item.

Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHM (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Señor Presidente, entiendo que Usted no puede poner tantas cosas en su informe, por supuesto pero cuando hablamos de la paz, no estoy diciendo que no podamos utilizar el término. Yo hice un planteamiento muy concreto en relación a lo que no puede hacer la FAO, o sea analizar los conflictos, analizar las crisis prolongadas, basándose en un indicador como ese Índice de la Paz, que yo creo debe ser totalmente desestimado dentro de las conclusiones que se saquen. No sé si en este momento o posteriormente pero para nosotros es inaceptable utilizar un índice totalmente sesgado, y si Usted tiene la posibilidad de meterse en esa página del Índice de la Paz, podrá analizarlo.

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

There was a question on the issue of migration. FAO has circulated two documents on migration during the United Nations Summit on Migrants and Refugees this past fall.

Migration is not a concern as such. It can result from the smooth transformation from basically agrarian societies to industrial or service-based societies. As long as there is a balanced growth migration is not a concern.

Migration becomes however a concern when it results from conditions of food insecurity, rural decline, and lack of potential of the agricultural sector to absorb increasing armies of young people who are looking for work. In such a case, we are dealing with forced migration, that is to say migration under distress. This is where FAO should intervene.

Improvement of conditions regarding food security, the creation of rural employment, more dynamic agriculture, are obviously parts of the instruments which prevent forced migration.

In some regions of the world we are reaching the highest number ever of youth ages (ten to twenty-four). As a consequence, some societies, in particular developing societies, are extremely young. Unfortunately, the non-agricultural rural sectors do not have the potential to absorb this labour force.

Work interventions in favour of absorbing this potential and actual labour force is thus a very important challenge. From this point of view, since most of these peoples are in rural areas of developing countries, this issue should be incorporated into the FAO's Agenda.

It is all the more important as similar considerations and possibly more complex situations apply in cases of protracted crisis and conflict, where people are forced to migrate both for economic reasons but also for security reasons.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We would like to see reflected in your extensive summary that we asked that the current challenge of AMR be included in one of the Results Framework in output targets.

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

You cannot have a target unless you have an indicator, perhaps you mean to include an output indicator, because an indicator measures a target, so it can be addressed in that way.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I strongly believe that it is not desirable to make a shopping list of priorities. This would generate huge difficulties for the Director-General. It is up to the regional conferences and the technical committees to express the views of the Members Nations.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Pour faciliter une conclusion positive de cette session, je voudrais juste rappeler qu'à cette session le Conseil est appelé à se prononcer uniquement sur deux points: est-il d'accord avec la formulation des cinq objectifs stratégiques plus l'Objectif 6 et avec les résultantes qui sont proposées? Nous sommes bien conscients que la question des produits et des indicateurs doit encore être affinée et elle sera débattue à la prochaine session du Comité du Programme et à la session d'avril du Conseil.

J'ai bien pris note de toute la liste des thèmes qui ont été évoqués, et comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, ils sont très nombreux. Si le Président essaye d'être exhaustif et de capturer dans sa décision tous les thèmes qui ont été évoqués, je crois que nous allons avoir une longue nuit pour nous mettre d'accord. Il s'est effectivement limité aux thèmes qui étaient inclus dans les conclusions du Comité du Programme, mais nous avons bien pris note que toute une série d'autres thèmes ont été soulevés lors de cette session.

Sur la question des migrations et la question de la paix — la paix, c'est un mot que j'aime beaucoup, c'est un beau mot et je crois qu'il ne faut pas hésiter à le répéter, surtout en cette période un peu difficile. Mais je pense qu'effectivement, c'est la référence au Sommet humanitaire mondial qui a surtout suscité des questionnements. Nous avons eu le même débat au Conseil exécutif du PAM, sur cet indicateur de paix que, personnellement, je ne connaissais pas. Je pense donc que dans la nouvelle rédaction, ces références peut-être pourront être gommées, tout en maintenant toutefois l'idée qu'effectivement, la promotion de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale permet d'aider à limiter les migrations forcées et à la stabilisation des pays et la prévention des conflits. Je crois que sur cette idée, il n'y a pas eu d'opposition, car c'était spécifiquement sur la référence à ces deux documents qu'il y avait eu des questions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador Tomasi, for reminding us that the Council was asked to deliberate on only two issues. Do you agree with the five Strategic Objectives plus Objective six? Do you see the outcomes and the indicators? As I have said, I will try to reflect the important issues which have been raised and repeated several times in our debate, but I cannot continue adding.

M. Mongui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Après avoir suivi le Président du Comité du Programme, je suis conforté dans ce que je voulais dire parce que je redoute l'enlisement dans lequel nous sommes en train de glisser. À force de discuter, nous mettons une camisole de force que nous risquons nous-mêmes de ne pas pouvoir supporter.

Je voudrais dire que le Conseil est un organe qui délibère sur la base des indications que lui apportent les organes techniques que sont le Comité financier, le Comité du Programme, le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Nous avons eu l'avantage d'avoir dans le cadre de cette discussion le rapport du Comité du Programme, qui a tablé sur un certain nombre de choses. Dans cette salle, nous ne sommes pas tous ici, de notre point de vue, des planificateurs. Nous donnons des orientations générales. L'arbitrage, en principe, devrait être fait par le Secrétariat et le Comité du Programme après, pour décision finale au Conseil et à la Conférence.

Maintenant, nous n'avons pas encore eu tous les éléments que nous donnent les Comités techniques. Nous pensons donc, Monsieur le Président, que vraiment sauf question difficile et insoluble, le résumé que j'ai entendu de votre bouche tout à l'heure retrace à peu près ou bien résume globalement ce qui est attendu de ce Conseil. C'est cela de notre point de vue.

Les commentaires de détail, avec tout le respect que j'ai pour tous ceux qui ont demandé des détails complémentaires, je pense que nous allons en avoir davantage, notamment en ce qui concerne les résultantes et les indicateurs. À ce stade de la planification, nous en sommes à ce que l'on appelait avant le document sommaire, qui donne juste des indications sur la direction dans laquelle nous voulons aller. Si le Conseil veut rester maître du jeu et donner des orientations stratégiques, je pense que la lecture de ce que vous avez dit reste dans cette perspective, une orientation stratégique.

Je souhaite que l'on avance en sachant que nous avons encore une séance du Conseil pour discuter ouvertement du Plan à moyen terme et du Programme de travail et budget.

Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom)

I noted that the paper that we have been discussing this afternoon asks the Council to provide comments and guidance on the Results Framework. The statement that the Slovak Republic made reflects the agreement between 28 European Union Member States, so 28 Member States believe that it is important to include output indicators and targets for antimicrobial resistance, climate change and transparency. These were the three requests that we made in our statement.

It is not just the Slovak Republic. It is all 28 European Union Member States that would like to see the above in the summary.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

I must confess I am feeling a little bit confused because yesterday we had a long discussion about the COAG Report and the meeting summary was very long and very extensive and there was quite a bit of discussion on it where Members requested modifications to reflect issues they had raised and they were adopted. So I am a little confused as to why now with quite a shorter summary, which is great to see, a couple of requests are not able to be accommodated.

Having said that and going back to your point that what we were asked to do was to look at the Strategic Objectives, perhaps another way to approach this is to remove subpoint D all together which basically has a bit of a shopping list of issues. I think we all know that shopping list of issues will be used in PWB negotiations which is why people want particular things referenced there, let us be honest about that. So if we cannot accommodate comments that have come from a variety of different delegations and issues that have been raised by more than one delegation, perhaps we just remove it all together.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I wanted to intervene before and then I hesitated and now I am feeling compelled to come back because it seems that what the Chairman of the Programme Committee has said has not echoed properly in the room. I understand that what we need to do, what is expected from this session of the Committee to do was very well framed by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee. I understand also there is some anxiety to add some ornaments to the Christmas tree. However, perhaps it would be wiser as my colleague has said just now from Australia to wait until we negotiate the PWB in order to bring these references into the game.

I cannot oversee the fact however that the Programme Committee has made some recommendation in the sense of including the language that you have read to us. However, I do take the practicality of the approach that was proposed by Australia and perhaps we might consider that.

CHAIRPERSON

In consideration of your expression and in particular avoiding the "shopping list" let me go back to my conclusions again.

The Council:

a) took note of the global developments, trends and challenges identified as a basis for reviewing the Strategic Objectives, including the incorporation of statistics, and the cross-cutting themes of gender, governance, nutrition and climate change;

- b) endorsed the continuation of the five Strategic Objectives and their reformulated Outcomes as a basis for preparing the full Medium Term Plan 2018-21 (MTP) and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 for consideration at its next session, taking account of the comments provided by the Programme Committee and the Members of the Council;
- c) requested that the MTP 2018-21 include an annex that clearly compares the results framework used in 2014-17 with the proposed results framework for 2018-21;
- d) appreciated the incorporation of the SDG targets and indicators in the results framework and underlined the importance of FAO's action to help countries achieve the relevant SDGs, based on the country programming frameworks;
- e) noted that Objective 6 provided the basis for strengthening and monitoring the technical quality of FAO's work, as well as the cross-cutting themes across the Strategic Objectives, and recommended that Objective 6 be retitled to better reflect its scope, as: *technical quality, statistics and cross-cutting themes (climate change, gender, governance and nutrition)*; and
- f) cautioned against inclusion of areas which are not centrally consistent with the mandate and comparative advantages of FAO, as well as references to the World Humanitarian Summit.

Item 3 is now concluded.

Before we continue with item 5, I will pass the floor to Mr Gagnon for a brief announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to inform Members that the Side Event entitled *The Role of Agriculture in National Adaptation Planning after COP22*, which should have taken place this evening after the end of the plenary meeting, will take place tomorrow from 12.30 to 13.30 in the Iran Room.

Item 5. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and 164th Session of the Finance Committee (7 November 2016)

Point 5. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme (cent vingtième session) et du Comité financier (cent soixante-quatrième session) (7 novembre 2016)

Tema 5. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 120.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 164.º período de sesiones (7 de noviembre de 2016)

(CL 155/7 ; CL 155/7-Inf.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 5, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and the 164th Session of the Finance Committee*, which was held on 7 November 2016, and is contained in document CL 155/7. Additional Information on Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements in 2016-17 is provided in document CL 155/7-Inf.1.

As agreed yesterday morning, we will withhold comments on Article XIV bodies under this item, and return to the matter under item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the CCLM* which is scheduled for this afternoon.

The Council will recall that we also agreed to discuss the "Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization" under item 6, the *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee*, which is the next item on the Order of the Day.

Likewise, we have agreed to withhold comment on "Rome-based Agencies collaboration" until we reach item 11, which is dedicated solely to this issue, and is scheduled for this afternoon.

I trust in your cooperation in maintaining this disciplined approach to focussing on specific issues under one specific agenda item in the interest of good time management.

Before passing the floor to Ambassador Serge Tomasi to introduce the Report of the Joint Meeting he chaired in November 2016, I should like to ask Mr Haight to introduce the additional information regarding the headquarters' organizational structure provided by the Secretariat in document CL 155/7-Inf.1.

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

Last month, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees welcomed the proposed changes to the headquarters' organizational structure to strengthen programme management and delivery on a budget-neutral basis in the current biennium, that is: a new Department of Climate, Land and Water, a new Deputy Director-General for Programmes, and a new Office of Chief Statistician. In his statement to the Council on Monday morning, the Director-General provided the rationale for this proposal and underlined the urgency to act now.

In submitting these structural changes to the Council for approval, the Joint Meeting appreciated that additional information would be provided by the Secretariat before this session of the Council. The additional information was published on 18 November in document CL 155/7 Inf.1. It elaborates on the timing and budget neutrality of the structural changes, the coordination arrangements among departments, the role of the Chief Statistician, and the conversion of administrative positions to technical positions.

Concerning the timing and budget neutrality of the structural changes, the structural changes proposed by the Director-General are a consolidation of internal management arrangements put in place to advance the Organization in its agreed strategic and programmatic direction. Approval by the Council of these proposals this month is necessary to ensure that FAO can progress effectively, and in a timely manner, within the context of major global developments, particularly the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and commitments to address climate change. The expectations for FAO to take action are now significant and urgent, as reiterated yesterday by the Director-General.

From a budgetary perspective, these changes require the creation of three new senior technical management positions: Deputy Director-General (Programmes), Assistant Director-General (Climate, Land and Water) and a position of Chief Statistician. The biennial cost of USD 1.86 million will be covered within biennial savings of USD 4.5 million arising from streamlining of administrative services in the current biennium. In this way the structural changes are budget neutral, that is, they are accommodated within the approved 2016-17 budgetary appropriation and do not require additional resources now or in the future, and therefore are within the authority of Council to approve.

Concerning the coordination arrangements among departments, the transformational change during 2012-13 biennium and beyond brought about new ways of working at FAO: the reviewed Strategic Framework focusing our work on five transversal Strategic Objectives, a results-based planning and monitoring framework, and a matrix management approach to deliver time-bound results.

From the onset of the implementation of the reviewed Strategic Framework, the Secretariat was aware that it would require not only significant changes in the way the Organization works, but also the capacity to adapt and adjust management arrangements so as to improve and accelerate the delivery of concrete results.

The *Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17* approved by the Council one year ago put in place measures to strengthen programme delivery through enhanced internal management arrangements and a rationalized headquarters capacity.

With the consolidated programme arrangements now proposed, the Secretariat is confident that, following the principle that "form should follow function", the Organization will have a structure that will allow to maximize synergies across its four main functional pillars – Programmes, Climate and Natural Resources, Economic and Social Development, and Operations.

The DDG for Programmes will sit between the DDG for Operations that consolidates the operational capacity and network of decentralized offices of the Organization, and the technical arms of the DDG (Climate and Natural Resources) which includes agriculture, fisheries, forestry, climate, land and water, and the Economic and Social Development Department. The DDG (Programmes) will provide strategic direction and oversight of the Strategic Programmes in support of their implementation by the technical and operational arms, and will champion the mobilization of resources and partnerships to support their implementation.

Under this organizational arrangement the roles and relationships of the Strategic Programme Leaders, departments and decentralized offices will not change: the Strategic Programme Leaders will continue

to be responsible for the design, programme planning, strategic management and monitoring of the Strategic Programmes delivered by teams comprising staff from decentralized offices and the technical departments. The technical departments remain responsible for ensuring the technical excellence of the work delivered, as well as the Corporate Technical Activities and provision of global public goods.

Concerning the role of the Chief Statistician, FAO currently operates within the context of a decentralized statistical system. Technical departments carry out statistical programmes of work within their domains and maintain ownership of data. The Chief Statistician provides the strategic vision for FAO's work on statistics and carries out functions related to statistical governance, policies, standards, methodology, quality assurance and capacity development, as well as the growing work on statistical indicators and corporate monitoring.

Currently, the Chief Statistician and the Director of the Statistics Division are one and the same person with two sets of distinct functions. To meet the increasing demands for custodianship of 21 SDG indicators and for coordination in an efficient and effective manner, there is a need to separate the coordination, policy and technical assurance functions of the Chief Statistician from the operational functions of the Director of the Statistics Division.

To better fulfil these functions, the new Office of Chief Statistician is expected to operate in a similar manner as the current Strategic Programme Leaders, putting in place Service Level Agreements to guarantee the delivery of statistical products and services by the technical divisions and to users. Therefore, it is logical to place the Office of the Chief Statistician under DDP rather under the ES Department.

The Statistics Division in the ES Department, as well as the statistics units within the technical departments, such as fisheries and forestry, will focus on data acquisition, data processing, data validation, imputation and data dissemination for the statistical domains currently covered, including regular updates of the FAOSTAT database.

Finally, concerning the conversion of administrative positions to technical positions, as set out in the *Adjustments to the PWB 2016-17* in December of last year, the Director-General has pursued further efficiencies and savings in administrative services in the current biennium relating to: translation, printing and document distribution through external contracts; and transaction processing in the Shared Services Centre.

The measures taken have resulted in a net reduction of 46 administrative positions as follows: 23 positions in the Shared Services Centre in Budapest; 18 positions in the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division in Rome; and 5 positions in the Corporate Services Department in Rome. All of these positions are vacant, and the net savings are USD 4.5 million on a recurrent biennial basis.

As mentioned, part of the administrative savings will be used to establish the positions of DDG Programmes, ADG Climate, Land and Water, and the Chief Statistician. The bulk of the savings will be used to strengthen capacity in technical areas during the course of the year 2017, taking account of the needs of the Strategic Programmes and technical departments to deliver planned results in the PWB, and also building on the independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization.

The conversion of the administrative positions to technical positions, as well other measures to strengthen technical capacity and further efficiency savings, will be reflected in the PWB 2018-19.

This concludes the brief overview of the additional information provided on the proposed consolidation of programme management arrangements that are before the Council for approval.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Haight. I now invite Ambassador Serge Tomasi to introduce the Report of the November 2016 Joint Meeting on the specific issues of Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements in 2016-17; and Progress Report on FAO Strategies for Partnerships with the Private Sector and with Civil Society Organizations.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier s'est tenue au Siège de l'Organisation à Rome, le lundi 7, ainsi que le vendredi 11 novembre 2016 pour l'adoption de son rapport. Le rapport de cette session est présenté dans le document CL 155/7.

Je voudrais tout d'abord souligner que tous les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de cette Réunion conjointe ont fait l'objet de conclusions par consensus, à l'exception notable de la question de la procédure de sélection des secrétaires des organes «Article XIV», qui a révélé des divergences entre les Membres, tant sur le fond que sur les propositions visant à mettre en place une procédure de consultation pour élaborer un compromis en vue de ce Conseil.

Le Directeur général de la FAO, José Graziano da Silva, a ouvert la Réunion en présentant sa vision des principales questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour de cette session, notamment s'agissant du dossier relatif à l'amélioration des capacités techniques et la consolidation des arrangements relatifs à la gestion du Programme, à la procédure de sélection des secrétaires des organes dits «Article XIV» et la coopération entre les organismes ayant leur siège à Rome.

Ces deux derniers sujets étant abordés aux points 9 et 11 de notre ordre du jour, mon intervention à ce stade portera uniquement, comme l'a souhaité le Président indépendant du Conseil, sur les débats de la Réunion conjointe relatifs, d'une part, à l'amélioration des capacités techniques et la consolidation des arrangements relatifs au pilotage du Programme, et, d'autre part, au rapport intérimaire sur la mise en œuvre des stratégies de partenariat avec le secteur privé et les organisations de la société civile, donc les points b) et d) du résumé dans le document CL 155/7.

Sur la première question, à savoir du renforcement des capacités techniques et de la consolidation des dispositions relatives à la gestion du Programme, la plupart des Membres ont salué les efforts de la Direction générale pour dégager de nouveaux gains d'efficacité sur les services généraux et les redéployer dans le renforcement des divisions techniques. Ils ont cependant demandé des informations complémentaires sur les postes supprimés et les postes créés dans les divisions techniques, ainsi que sur le calendrier de mise en œuvre.

Sur la consolidation des dispositions relatives à de la gestion du Programme, les débats n'ont pas fait apparaître d'opposition de fond aux propositions du Secrétariat. Certains Membres ont exprimé un clair soutien aux propositions présentées, notamment la création d'un nouveau Département du climat, des terres et des eaux, piloté par un Sous-Directeur général, la création d'un troisième poste de Directeur général adjoint et la création d'un nouveau Bureau du Statisticien en chef.

Mais d'autres Membres ont cependant souhaité obtenir des éclaircissements avant de prendre position sur le fond, notamment sur le calendrier de mise en œuvre de cette réforme ou sa neutralité budgétaire. Enfin, de nombreuses questions ont été soulevées sur le poste de Statisticien en chef, et en particulier sur la division du travail avec la Division des statistiques.

Finalement, les Membres se sont accordés à accueillir favorablement l'ensemble des propositions présentées par le Secrétariat, tout en invitant celui-ci à fournir avant cette session du Conseil des informations complémentaires sur les points évoqués ci-dessus.

Sur la seconde question, à savoir la mise en œuvre des stratégies de partenariat avec le secteur privé et les ONG, la Réunion conjointe, faute de temps, n'a pas été en mesure de débattre dans le détail de ces rapports, dont elle s'est contentée de prendre note.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now open the list of speakers. Please keep your interventions brief, focused on the two specific items introduced by Ambassador Tomasi. Your interventions should be on technical capacity and the consultation of programme management arrangements 2016-17 and the Progress Report on FAO's Strategies for Partnerships with the Private Sector and with the Civil Society Organizations.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

I would like to pass the floor to my colleague from the Slovak Republic who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and the 164th Session of the Finance Committee. Since our views on some elements of this report are presented under different agenda items we would like to confine our comments to the Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements in 2016-2017 and the Progress Report on FAO Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector.

In relation to the proposed reorganisation, we particularly welcome the consultation process launched by the Director-General in October at an informal seminar. In general, we support these proposals and particularly appreciate the announced efforts to strengthen the FAO's technical capacities in its critical and new areas of work on climate change, AMR, fisheries and statistics on a budget neutral basis. In particular we welcome the establishment of a new Climate, Land and Water Department and can support the new title including Biodiversity. We encourage FAO to start the process of strengthening the technical departments already under the current PWB to the extent that funds will become available through the conversion of administrative positions. Moreover, we encourage the FAO to continue to regularly enhance its technical capacities. We look forward to reporting on how the proposed reorganization can improve the strategic direction of FAO and its leadership capacities, as well as regular reporting through PIR-specific deliverables achieved by the proposed organisational changes.

We commend the FAO for the progress achieved in building partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations. We appreciate the due diligence process followed by the Secretariat to avoid conflicts of interests and to ensure neutrality in approaching partners. We call on the FAO to encourage its partners to commit to using all CFS products and to monitor the extent to which they apply them, particularly the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI).

On these points, we support the approval of the report of the Joint Meeting.

Ms Alaa Mazher BOKHARI (Pakistan)

We agree with the comments of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee regarding the proposed changes to the organizational structure. The objective of the restructuring is to strengthen programme management and delivery by increasing capacity in priority technical areas of work.

An important aspect of the proposal is that it is budget neutral. Hence, Pakistan supports the structural changes at headquarters, namely the creation of a new Deputy Director-General for Programmes, a new Department of Climate Change, a new Office of Chief Statistician under DDP.

We believe that these changes are necessary for FAO to meet the challenges from important recent global developments that is, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, COP 22, Agenda 2030, and the SDGs.

We note that the new Office of the Chief Statistician will be established to coordinate FAO's work in supporting member countries in implementing the SDGs. Our understanding is that the work of this office would not be simple statistics but would be quite complex as Director Haight has earlier explained, especially the coordination work within the whole UN System.

On the question of timing of implementation, we would support immediate implementation because the proposals are budget neutral and they address the priorities of climate change and SDGs.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group and we will abide by your letter to limit our interventions to points (b) and (d) of the Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Meeting.

On the question of Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements, the Near East Regional Group appreciates the additional information provided by the Secretariat in document CL 155/7-Inf.1 and gives its support to paragraph 6 of the Report of the Joint Meeting. The proposal by the Director-General is appropriate, cost-neutral and is within his authority as specified in the Basic Texts, Rule XXXVIII, paragraph 2(a). The Near East Regional Group is open to the creation of a third DDG for Programming.

The Near East Regional Group wishes to make two observations on the Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements.

First observation: Taking the Paris Agreement into consideration and its further endorsement by COP 22 in Marrakech, the establishment of a new Department of Climate, Land and Water (CL) under the DDN would be an appropriate and timely response by FAO. The Near East Regional Group supports this initiative because all the countries of the Near East region are affected by climate change and are facing severe water shortages and threats from desertification. It has been estimated that in MENA, 22 percent of the water shortage is attributed to climate change and the remaining 78 percent to socio-economic factors.

The Near East Regional Group would be very pleased to see the strengthening of staff of the two divisions of CL, both at headquarters and the regional offices. Building institutional and human capacity in water management for irrigation and other uses is of the highest priority to the countries of the Near East region.

In addition, the synergy between the work of the Climate and Environment Division and environmental support-type activities handled by the AG, ES, FI and FO Departments, as well as the regional offices, has to remain active. In this respect, the Near East Regional Group appreciates the thoughts expressed in paragraph 19 of document CL 155/7-Inf.1.

In this connection, the Director-General may wish to consider the possibility of appointing in CL Department a Strategic Programme Leader for Climate Change (SPL6), who will coordinate the work on climate change adaptation and mitigation across all FAO programmes and field operations.

Second observation: The Near East Regional Group notes that the new DDP will be in charge of the Technical Department, the six Liaison Offices, OPC, the five SPLs and their teams, and the Chief Statisticians. It would be appreciated if two points can be further clarified.

Point one: As shown in the new organigramme, the DDP is expected to oversee the work of divisions primarily involved in field programme development, investment support to countries and in resource mobilization (TC, TCS, TCI, TCE and OPC), the Chief Statistician and the FAO Liaison offices; and to coordinate the work of the five SPLs.

The Near East Regional Group wishes to be assured that DDP will not be involved in the planning of the normative work of FAO which is overseen by DDN and the ES Department. This assurance is in some way provided in paragraph 21 of document CL 155/7-Inf.1 which says and I quote “DDP would provide strategic direction and oversight of the Strategic Programmes in support of their implementation by the technical and operational arms” unquote. Since, DDP is also overseeing the work of the Chief Statistician, he or she could also be made responsible for FAO’s contribution to HLPF for SDGs and the annual themes of HLPF.

Point two: To make sure that by placing the SPLs under DDP will not weaken the daily contact of the SPL teams with the eight technical divisions under DDN and the five technical divisions under ES Department.

The Near East Regional Group is pleased to see the positive observation of the Joint Meeting on the progress of FAO partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations as stated in paragraph 8 of the report of the Joint Meeting. The Near East Regional Group attaches importance to

the contribution of CSOs, NGOs and the private sector in the development of the food and agriculture sector at the national level and encourages the FAO to further enhance its enabling role in this important area.

With these comments the Near East Regional Group endorses the report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and the 164th Session of the Finance Committee.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We concur with the views expressed by the Programme Committee on the item, *Enhanced Technical Capacity and Consolidation of Programme Management Arrangements*, and we can endorse the suggested changes therein, submitted for Council for approval.

We welcome the responsiveness of Management to be relevant and to follow international developments, in order to better assist countries in meeting their commitments, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

We appreciated the prior outreach by the Secretariat on the changes to be made and to be further updated before next Council, at the same time, noting our view that it is for Members to give strategic guidance not to micromanage the Organization.

Finally on the report from the Joint Meeting, we understand that it did not have time to discuss the progress reports on FAO strategies for partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations. We welcome these reports as well, however, we would like to stress one point regarding these progress reports, to be taken into account in future reporting of these strategies.

For Members to better follow and understand the implementation of these strategies, we would like to see more analytical reporting, in another words what have been the main challenges and opportunities in their implementation. We appreciate to be informed about where positive progress is made, but we also like to know where has it gone worse and what are the prospects for the future.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Nous remercions l'Ambassadeur Serge Tomasi, Président du Comité du Programme, pour avoir conduit de main de maître les travaux de la réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Nos remerciements vont également à M. Boyd Haight pour son résumé des améliorations apportées depuis 2012 à ce jour, notamment celles dont nous sommes saisis. Nous remercions enfin le Secrétariat de la FAO pour avoir rédigé un rapport très synthétique et précis des différents points débattus lors de cette réunion.

Le monde change de jour en jour. Les défis d'hier se sont multipliés aujourd'hui à une vitesse exponentielle et nuisent de plus en plus à notre existence. Les exigences et les menaces auxquelles nous faisons face aujourd'hui et que nous devrions affronter demain et dans l'avenir sont nombreuses et ne font que s'amplifier: la faim, la pauvreté, le changement climatique, la migration et le chômage sont parmi tant d'autres les défis majeurs qui nous appellent à mettre en place des stratégies pertinentes, forgées sur des bases solides afin de répondre «présent» au rendez-vous de 2030.

Face à ces défis, nous estimons que la FAO doit s'armer davantage pour mener à bien son travail. Nous accueillons favorablement la proposition relative à l'amélioration des capacités techniques et le renforcement des dispositions relatives à la gestion des programmes. Le Groupe Afrique est très préoccupé par les défis auxquels l'Organisation fait face, car ils sont immenses et la réponse consensuelle donnée par la communauté internationale aux questions d'alimentation et d'agriculture oblige la FAO à prendre un engagement fort et à s'impliquer pleinement dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique.

C'est pour cette raison que le Groupe Afrique approuve la proposition concernant les changements structurels au Siège, détaillée au paragraphe 6 b), alinéas i, ii et iii. Nous remercions le Secrétariat

pour le document d'information CL 155/7 Inf.1, car les éclaircissements qui nous y sont fournis nous ont permis de prendre une décision consensuelle.

Nous sommes autant rassurés et satisfaits que les nouveaux postes qui seront créés, n'auront aucune incidence financière sur le budget. Nous notons que les 1,9 millions de dollars nécessaires proviendront des économies déjà réalisées lors de l'exercice biennal en cours, principalement au niveau administratif, et que les fonds supplémentaires de l'exercice 2016-17 et du prochain exercice biennal ne seront pas nécessaires. Ainsi, pour permettre aux pays de bénéficier de l'assistance de la FAO dans le suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD et que l'Organisation puisse s'engager pleinement à l'échelle mondiale dans l'application des accords des COP 21 et 22, nous souhaitons que ces changements structurels au Siège soient mis en place au plus vite.

Le Groupe Afrique est persuadé de la nécessité de ces changements afin que la capacité de l'Organisation puisse faire face aux défis liés aux deux principales questions de développement global récentes: l'Accord de Paris sur le climat (suivi de la COP 22 à Marrakech) et le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et les ODD.

Nous accueillons favorablement la création du nouveau Bureau du Statisticien en chef et sommes convaincus de sa nécessité afin de coordonner les travaux de la FAO en matière de soutien aux pays pour la mise en œuvre des ODD. Nous pensons que c'est une tâche complexe que d'assurer la coordination avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies, et donc une charge de travail très conséquente. Nous sommes persuadés que ces fonctions seront bien différenciées de celles de la Division des statistiques qui existe déjà au sein du Département du développement économique et social.

Pour le nouveau Département du climat, des terres et des eaux, nous sommes également conscients qu'il s'agit d'un département phare, car la sécheresse et la désertification occasionnées par les changements climatiques sont des menaces. Ceux qui ont étudié l'agronomie savent bien que pour produire un kilo de matière sèche il faut 300 litres d'eau; sans eau nous ne pourrions pas nous nourrir et même les animaux sont obligés de consommer des végétaux. Voilà pourquoi c'est nécessaire pour le continent africain et nous approuvons cette proposition.

Concernant le nouveau poste de Directeur général adjoint, nous pensons qu'il permettra une gestion rationnelle et efficace du Programme pour mieux servir les pays. C'est pourquoi le Groupe Afrique soutient également cette proposition.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe Afrique appuie le rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et approuve les changements structurels au niveau du Siège.

Ms Yuri Kumagai (Japan)

Japan welcomes the Secretariat's prompt distribution of additional information on the proposed changes to the FAO's organizational structure, following the discussion at the Joint Meeting.

Our view on this subject is that it is still too early to introduce new changes to the organizational structure, given that it was changed only recently in January this year and the independent assessment of the impact of such changes on the FAO's technical capacity is yet to be completed. Japan is strongly concerned that the recent changes to the organizational structure may have undermined FAO's technical capacity, and that introducing further organizational changes at this stage may affect the impartiality of the independent assessment and could even prejudice its results.

On the other hand, Japan does share the view that FAO needs to increase its presence in the relevant international *fora*, to strengthen its statistical capacity to monitor the SDGs and to consolidate its programme management to achieve FAO's Strategic Objectives.

Japan respects the spirit of consensus-building in FAO and we do the same on this issue too, even though we have certain concerns as already expressed. On this note, Japan joins the other Members to approve the current proposal, but expects the Secretariat to ensure the following three points in doing so.

The FAO should respond to the results of the independent assessment of technical capacity, including through further amending its organizational structure where appropriate, on a budget-neutral basis, to enhance the technical capacity of the Organisation;

FAO should demonstrate the visible positive outcomes of creating the three new senior-level posts in the current and next budgetary periods;

The FAO should continue to make cost-saving efforts in running of the Organization.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

Hago esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC).

El GRULAC agradece la elaboración del documento CL 155/7 relativo al Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 120.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 164.º período de sesiones.

Dado que los temas relativos a la colaboración de los Organismos con sede en Roma, a la hoja de ruta para la evaluación independiente de la capacidad técnica de la Organización y el relacionado con los Procedimientos de selección y nombramiento de los secretarios de los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO que serán abordados bajo otros puntos, me referiré solamente a los dos temas restantes.

El GRULAC acoge favorablemente el documento sobre la mejora de la capacidad técnica y consolidación de gestión del programa en 2016-2017. En primer lugar, valoramos las medidas adoptadas por el Director General para mejorar la capacidad técnica, en particular la revisión de los puestos administrativos de la División de la Conferencia, del Consejo y del Protocolo, el Departamento de Servicios Internos y el Centro de Servicios Compartidos, con el objetivo de aumentar capacidades en los campos prioritarios como el cambio climático, la pesca, la resistencia a antimicrobianos y la Cooperación Sur-Sur. Al respecto, y en este punto, deseamos resaltar la importancia de mantener y mejorar la capacidad técnica no solamente en la sede central sino también en las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

Asimismo, el GRULAC apoya los cambios propuestos en la estructura orgánica de la FAO a fin de fortalecer la gestión y ejecución del programa, y adecuarse a los nuevos retos que plantea la Agenda 2030 y los ODS, y los Acuerdos de París, entre otros.

En este sentido, creemos que estos objetivos se reflejan claramente en la creación de un nuevo Departamento de Clima, Tierras y Aguas, dirigido por un Subdirector General y que reportará a la Directora General Adjunta sobre Clima y Recursos Naturales, así como en la creación de un nuevo Director General Adjunto sobre Programas, que permitirá alinear los programas estratégicos de la Organización y la movilización de recursos para cumplir los mismos.

Aunque la biodiversidad no esté contemplada en el título del nuevo Departamento, consideramos importante que el mismo también abarque dicha temática y se ocupe de llevar a cabo la coordinación necesaria con las demás unidades de la Secretaría de la FAO que trabajan con este tema, teniendo en cuenta su importancia para la agricultura sostenible en general y para el Objetivo Estratégico 2 de la FAO en particular. En este respecto, el GRULAC reitera la importancia de que los trabajos de la FAO en relación con el pilar ambiental del desarrollo sostenible consideren de manera balanceada las convenciones sobre clima, desertificación y biodiversidad.

Además, acogemos con agrado la importancia que se le asigna a la cooperación en este nuevo organigrama. En cuanto a la nueva Oficina del Estadístico Jefe, entendemos que la misma coadyuvará a realizar un trabajo de planeamiento y supervisión que excede a la actual Oficina de Estadísticas, y que otorgará a la FAO un mayor prestigio en esta materia.

Con relación a los informes sobre progresos realizados en relación con la Estrategia de la FAO para la colaboración con el Sector Privado y para las asociaciones con la Sociedad Civil, el GRULAC hace suyas las conclusiones de la reunión conjunta en lo relativo al trabajo que está llevando a cabo la Oficina de Asociaciones, Promoción Institucional y Desarrollo de la Capacidad, y a los esfuerzos dirigidos a una mayor interacción entre la FAO y los actores mencionados.

Con estos comentarios, el GRULAC hace suyas las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la reunión conjunta, en lo relativo a los dos temas mencionados.

Ahora, si me permite, haré una breve intervención en nombre de México.

En relación a la mejora de la capacidad técnica y consolidación de las disposiciones de gestión del programa, agradecemos la información adicional contenida en el documento CL 155/7 Inf.1, el párrafo 28 de este documento indica claramente que un nuevo departamento que se creará apoyará a las tres convenciones de Río, incluyendo el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y facilitará el trabajo entre departamentos en cuestiones relacionadas con el medio ambiente y la sostenibilidad, incluida la diversidad biológica y los servicios ecosistémicos.

A la luz de las muestras de apoyo para integrar la diversidad biológica en los trabajos de la FAO, ponemos a la consideración de el Consejo, incluir el concepto de biodiversidad en el título del nuevo departamento, el cual se podría llamar, Departamento de clima, biodiversidad, tierras y aguas, para que de esta manera refleje lo que ese departamento en realidad va a realizar. Esta propuesta es con el espíritu de integrar la biodiversidad en la FAO y darle mayor visibilidad, lo que es consistente con la declaración ministerial adoptada el sábado pasado en la 13.^a Conferencia de las partes del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

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

Our delegation welcomes the outcomes of the latest Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. We believe that this format is very beneficial because it provides an opportunity to discuss programme activities with the inclusion of administrative, budgetary and staff aspects and also promotes direct dialogue between member countries and FAO Management.

We welcome the documents on FAO's technical capacity and proposed changes to the structure of the Secretariat. We note the efficient preparation of the outcome document from the Joint Meeting along with additional explanations on these changes. On a positive note, we welcome the budget savings of USD 4.5 million made possible thanks to efficiency gains in 2016 and efforts on the part of FAO Management to reduce the vacancy rate within the Organization.

On the whole we support proposals to change the structure of the Secretariat. We welcome the fact that these changes will be carried out using money saved in 2016 including streamlining of administrative staff and will not incur additional expenditure from FAO's regular budget. These measures should not lead to cuts in interpretation and translation services which guarantee the effective work of the whole Organization nor should they lead to a lack of balance between the various language sections. This issue is very important for us.

We agree with the introduction of the position of Deputy Director-General for Programmes and also the creation of a Department for Climate, Forests and Water. We hope that these innovations will guarantee a better coordination within the Secretariat also fitting with FAO's work in relation to global challenges in the area of sustainable development and meeting the needs of member countries. We also welcome the FAO strategy for cooperation between FAO, private sector and civil society.

We welcome the reporting format with group partners according to their contribution to the attainment of FAO's Strategic Objectives. The unique experience in the field and resources of relevant NGOs should make an important contribution to the Organization's work just like in business. At the same time, we need to maintain independence and the inter-governmental nature of FAO avoiding potential conflicts of interest. In selecting partners, the Secretariat must be guided by how the activities of these organizations fit in with the Organization's fundamental mandate which is agricultural development, guaranteeing food security and nutrition, sustainable management and use of natural resources.

We are pleased with the collaboration established between FAO and the Moscow State University in particular with its agriculture centre in the framework of the Eurasian sub-regional soil partnership. We see FAO as a knowledge organization so we believe that academia has a large role to play among partners. In this context, it appears to us that the Secretariat's current system with NGOs and businesses classed according to their source of funding does not take into full consideration the specific nature of this independent and important partnership category.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Mi delegación se suma a la declaración realizada por el GRULAC sobre este punto y agradece la presentación de este documento conjunto. En particular, queremos hacer mención a la propuesta de cambios estructurales en la sede. Es decir, el nuevo Director General Adjunto de Programas, nuevo

Departamento para el Clima, Tierras y Aguas y la nueva Oficina de Estadístico Jefe. Al respecto tomamos nota de que la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités de Programa y de Finanzas acogió con satisfacción esta propuesta y a que consolida las disposiciones de gestión para una mejor ejecución de los programas.

Agradecemos asimismo a la administración por el documento CL 157/7-Inf.1, que proporciona las aclaraciones y la información adicional que pidió la Reunión Conjunta. Estamos convencidos de que estos cambios son necesarios para que la FAO pueda hacer frente a los desafíos derivados de los dos acontecimientos mundiales recientes más importantes. Es decir, el Acuerdo de París sobre el Cambio Climático, la Agenda 2030 y los ODS.

Consideramos que la nueva Oficina del Jefe de Estadístico sea necesaria para coordinar el trabajo de la FAO en apoyo de los Países Miembros que implementan los ODS. Este trabajo es muy complejo, especialmente coordinado con todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Entendemos que esta función difiere de la actual División de Estadística, cuya función es producir estadísticas sobre el hambre y la malnutrición, utilizada en todo el mundo por los Gobiernos y otros.

Acogemos con satisfacción el hecho de que estos nuevos puestos no afectarán desde el punto de vista presupuestario. Observamos que los 1.9 millones de dólares que se necesitarán provendrán de los ahorros que ya se han encontrado en este bienio de 2016-2017, principalmente de las áreas administrativas. Esto significa que no habrá necesidad de fondos adicionales de este Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2016-2017, ni siquiera del próximo relativo al periodo 2018-19. En este sentido, estamos convencidos de que estos cambios deberían aplicarse desde ahora. Los países necesitan ahora del apoyo de la FAO para supervisar su aplicación de los ODS y la FAO es la única agencia que vincula el cambio climático y la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria.

En cuanto al calendario, no estimamos necesario esperar el próximo Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto porque como se ha señalado, las propuestas son neutras desde el punto de vista presupuestario y la evaluación de la capacidad técnica en curso, siendo que abordan las prioridades del cambio climático y ODS. Por lo tanto, aprobamos los cambios propuestos ya que responden a nuestras necesidades, las necesidades de los Países Miembros, y no podemos aplazar una gestión de la FAO que requerimos para alcanzar los objetivos y prioridades que le hemos encomendado.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la presentación del informe de la Reunión Conjunta y queremos realizar los siguientes comentarios.

Ante todo nos sumamos a la declaración hecha por México en nombre del GRULAC, razón por la cual nos limitamos solo a reiterar el apoyo a las propuestas para el mejoramiento de la capacidad técnica de la FAO y enfatizar que a nuestro criterio los cambios propuestos en la estructura no son radicales pero sí muy necesarios para mejorar la implementación del programa, y para apoyar a los países en los retos que enfrentan de manera que al tiempo de apoyarlos alentamos a su inmediata ejecución. Igualmente, vemos muy positivamente la propuesta que ha hecho México para la inclusión del concepto de biodiversidad en el nombre del Departamento de clima, tierras y aguas.

Por otra parte, en cuanto a los informes de las Estrategias de Asociación de la FAO con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado, lamentamos que por falta de tiempo la Reunión Conjunta no haya podido analizarlos debidamente. No obstante, nosotros queremos agradecer al Secretariado por la preparación de los dos informes que los consideramos muy comprensivos y útiles, y subrayamos la importancia de la presentación periódica de los mismos, ya que sirven tanto para evaluar la contribución y la pertinencia de dichas asociaciones en la labor de la FAO cuanto para garantizar la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas.

Asimismo, tomamos nota de que ambas asociaciones básicamente se han centrado en la implementación de los acuerdos ya existentes y alentamos en ese sentido a que antes de emprender nuevos acuerdos se continúen profundizando los actualmente vigentes, luego de lo cual será necesario evaluar y priorizar las áreas en que se requieran todavía nuevas asociaciones.

Con estos comentarios, respaldamos las recomendaciones de la reunión Conjunta sobre estos temas.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

En primer lugar, la Delegación de Argentina desea agradecer al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la presentación del informe y por la forma efectiva y eficiente en que condujo la Reunión Conjunta.

Mi país se alinea con la declaración de México en nombre del GRULAC. Endosamos las recomendaciones de la Reunión Conjunta en relación con la mejora de la capacidad técnica y consolidación de las disposiciones de gestión del programa en 2016 y 2017. La Argentina considera que estas propuestas de mejora muestran la capacidad de la FAO para adaptarse a los nuevos retos, a los retos urgentes, como son la ayuda a los países, para cumplir sus compromisos internacionales, incluidos el Acuerdo de París y la Agenda 2030.

Asimismo, valoramos la forma en que se ha presentado esta reforma, en particular los ahorros por eficiencia que conllevan a que no sea necesario incrementar el presupuesto para poder efectuar estas transformaciones.

Asimismo, confiamos que la calidad de los servicios de interpretación y traducción no se verá afectado, tal como señalaba la Federación de Rusia, cuando se realice la revisión de los perfiles administrativos en los diferentes departamentos y divisiones.

Por último, la Argentina valora los informes presentados por la Secretaría sobre los progresos realizados en relación con las estrategias de la FAO con el Sector Privado y las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil dado que los consideramos sólidos y completos. Asimismo, acogemos con agrado a la interpretación de ambas estrategias mencionadas, y su examen continuo como parte integral de la labor de la Organización.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

We align ourselves with the statement made by the Slovak Republic on behalf of the EU. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the information provided and we note the growing consensus on the proposed changes of the Secretariat.

I would just like to stress that we encourage FAO to act swiftly to enhance technical capacities as outlined by the Director-General and as also requested by other delegations.

The Information Note says the bulk of the savings will be used to strengthen capacity in technical areas during the course of 2017. In fact, we do not see any reason why wait for another year until these posts are being filled. As you mentioned, the 46 posts that are abolished are already free so we would like to see rapid progress in increasing technical capacities by filling such posts in the fields of climate change and antimicrobial resistance at headquarters.

Ms Catherine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia thanks the Secretariat on the proposal for an enhanced technical capacity and the associated reorganization. We recognize the Director-General's role to manage the Organization to best deliver its outcomes.

Australia also had some questions about the timing along the lines of Japan, but as others have said, we are not standing in the way of the proposal. We would like to add our voice to the three points that the Japanese delegation raised for follow-up by the Secretariat.

Ms Abl MALIK OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Secretariat and His Excellency, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for the documents before us. We align ourselves with the statement from Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. I do have, however, two points to make on the topic in question.

First of all, we approve the proposals to enhance the technical capacity of FAO and that these activities or these proposals be cost neutral, and we agree with the changes made by the Director-General over the last few years. However, in document CL 155/7 INF 1 regarding transforming administrative posts to technical posts, it mentions that this was in view of the measures taken in CPA, through the outsourcing of documents, their printing and translation.

I would like to echo the concerns made by the Russian Federation on the issue of translation and interpretation. We hope that this will be carried out without impact on the quality of the services and the availability of interpretation in the meetings of the Organization.

This issue was raised on more than one occasion in the Joint Meeting and we have recently noticed that some international activities are conducted or carried out in three official languages only. For example, the International Symposium which was organized by two United Nations organizations, was held in three languages only, and not six. We do not wish to see this in FAO. We would like that Arabic, Russian and Chinese be equally treated.

We do not have a problem with the idea of savings but we do not want the savings to be at the expense of the interpretation and the performance of FAO. When the languages are not represented equally, the participation will not be as effective. We also discussed this issue under the CFS item.

Second, regarding the strategies for partnership with the civil society organizations and the private sector, the Joint Meeting took note of these documents but they were not discussed. We have said in the meeting that these documents should be submitted to the Joint Meeting again in the future since we do have observations and comments to make, and while we have agreed on this during the meeting, I unfortunately found out in the report that this is a routine practice.

We expressed our desire to have these topics and these documents presented again for discussion because we do have important points to make on the work of FAO with the private sector and the civil society organizations. We do not believe that these two actors, are not considered as counterparts in all of the regions.

Some regions have good collaboration with these actors but it is not the case in other regions, so we wanted to raise this issue but we did not have a chance to discuss that topic in the meeting, and therefore I will say it again that we need to have this discussed in order to ensure full collaboration and partnership between FAO and the civil society organizations and the private sector and all of the regions representing all countries in this Organization.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank the Programme Committee and the Financial Committee for their collaboration because they successfully held a Joint Meeting. We would like to thank the Chair of the Programme Committee for his explanations. China appreciates particularly the inclusion of South-South cooperation and the enhanced technical capacity together with the consolidation of programme arrangements in 2016-17. We hope this point will be reflected in the Report of the Council.

Regarding the adjustments in our Organization, I have two comments. Firstly, we support the Russian Federation and Sudan for their comments about interpretation and the translation services during the adjustments in our Organization. We should not do it at the expense of the interpretation and translation, because our target is to consolidate and enhance our technical capacity. Languages are a very good basis to enhance technical capacity because without language, we cannot read or understand what is written in the documents.

Therefore, this is consistent when we do any adjustment. We should not do it at the expense of interpretation or translation. On the contrary, they should be enhanced and reinforced.

Secondly, concerning South-South cooperation, we believe that we are now giving resources to South-South cooperation in the same departments and other services. This is because when we mobilize resources, we know that we should mobilize resources, whereas South-South cooperation represents more the practical side of the implementation. They have different objectives so it is impossible to separate them.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

We align ourselves with the statement of Afghanistan delivered on behalf of the Near East Regional Group.

We welcome the proposed changes in the structure of the Organization. We believe that the proposed changes are both vital and urgently needed to permit the Organization to expedite its support for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and supporting developing countries in general.

While we welcome the budget-neutral approach to this process, we would like to stress that these changes will not result in any way in decreasing the technical capacities at the decentralized offices especially in regions where the technical capacities are inadequate to the challenges facing these offices.

We call on the Organization to consolidate these important changes by working also on strengthening of the regional and other decentralized offices to respond to their demands and challenges as requested by the 154th Session of the Council.

As for the partnership with the private sector and the civil society, we stress that this cooperation should be pursued while ensuring geographical balance and no conflict of interest.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA DA COSTA (Brazil)

Brazil aligns itself with the statement made by GRULAC. We requested the floor just to add our voice to the ones of Mexico, Ecuador, the Slovak Republic on behalf of the EU, and others in requesting the insertion of biodiversity and the title of the new Department of Climate, Land, and Water.

In our view, it is extremely important that this new Department include the important work FAO has been developing over the years and the field of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

Je ne vais pas répondre sur le fond parce que je crois que tout a été dit. Il y a un consensus sur le fond, mais je vais peut-être partager avec vous une réflexion sur le fonctionnement de la Réunion conjointe. Certains collègues se sont félicités de son fonctionnement, je les en remercie, mais je ne suis pas tout à fait satisfait.

Depuis un an nous avons travaillé avec mon collègue, le Président du Comité financier, et je crois que nous avons apporté deux améliorations sensibles à cette Réunion conjointe.

La première, pour éviter les redondances, nous avons bien séparé, dans les ordres du jour, les thèmes qui devaient être traités par le Comité du Programme de ceux qui devaient l'être par le Comité financier et ceux qui devaient être examinés à la Réunion conjointe.

La deuxième, nette amélioration selon moi, est que la Réunion conjointe ouvre la semaine des Comités avec un dialogue avec le Directeur général, qui est très utile pour l'ensemble des membres des deux Comités.

Mais nous restons confrontés à un problème: l'ordre du jour est très chargé, la Réunion ne dure qu'une journée et nous ne pouvons pas faire un travail aussi technique et en profondeur que celui que nous faisons dans les Comités, du Programme et financier.

Nous n'avons pas le temps de créer des dynamiques de groupe qui permettent de faire converger les conclusions des Membres. Et cela a conduit au problème qu'a souligné la délégation du Soudan, car à cette Réunion, un de nos thèmes, celui des Rapports intérimaires sur la stratégie de la FAO à l'égard des ONG et du secteur privé, n'a pas pu faire l'objet de débat et nous en avons simplement pris note puisque nous avons préféré concentrer les débats sur les questions qui devaient faire l'objet de décisions par ce Conseil.

Mais je crois qu'il faut quand même que nous réfléchissions à la maîtrise de notre ordre du jour, soit en réduisant le nombre de thèmes qui doivent être traités par la Réunion conjointe, soit en allongeant éventuellement la durée de la Réunion.

S'agissant de la question du rapport d'étape sur les stratégies à l'égard du secteur privé et des ONG, comme je l'avais dit, si des membres souhaitent avoir une discussion de fond sur ces rapports, nous pouvons tout à fait l'inscrire à notre prochaine session au mois d'avril, qui sera présidée par mon collègue et ami, M. Mehboob.

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

I will try to respond to some comments. First of all, thank you for the support regarding the establishment of the new Department on Climate Change, Land, and Water. I do not think we need to discuss the importance and how timely the establishment of this new department is. I believe it resulted highly relevant from the recommendations made by the Regional Conferences, the four Technical Committees. Then, we are responding to the growing demand from the countries regarding the support on the Climate Change and the implementation of these in relation to the Climate Change Agreement approved in Paris last year.

If you see the content of the department, I think it is clear that on top of climate change, land and water, biodiversity, and ecosystems services is one of the main issues to be dealt by the department that includes the three conventions: the Rio Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Climate Change Convention.

At the same time, we will have a Convention on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I think it is more than clear that biodiversity is in the heart of the department.

Moreover, coming back from Mexico where we had a discussion on how to mainstream biodiversity on agricultural sectors and food security, FAO offered to create a platform to follow up on the decisions taken to the Declaration on Mainstreaming Biodiversity. I believe it is clear how important and how this department will encompass issues relating to biodiversity.

We consider not to include biodiversity in the title, not to create confusion as we have the Convention on Biodiversity. We have UNEP dealing with the convention and it can create some misunderstanding of what FAO's role really is on biodiversity and how we can be mainstreaming. As we did not include energy in the title, the department will also be dealing with energy.

Yet, if the Council so considers that biodiversity should be in the title, we do not foresee any problem on our side. It is a decision to be taken by the Council.

Regarding the technical capacity, we believe it is obvious that we will enforce the new Department with additional technical staff capacity, considering also the capacity on fisheries and on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). If we are to implement the Climate Change Strategy where it is evident that FAO should start by supporting Member Nations by implementing the Climate Change Strategy. The technical capacity should be reinforced at headquarters and decentralized offices. This is how we foresee that we will be implementing and we will be using this additional capacity.

I believe those are the questions related to the Department.

Mr Daniel J. GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

A few questions particularly with regard to partnerships are noted. Firstly, I will reply on Afghanistan and Near East Regional Group questions. The proposed DDP (Deputy Director General for Programme) will not cover the normative work. I respond yes, the suggestion of having a look at or interact with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), I think that, on the daily contact with technical divisions, there is no problem there.

With regard to the comment in question from Iceland on behalf of the Nordics of more analytical reporting on not only what worked well, but the challenges are what did not work well. That is a very good suggestion and we will incorporate that.

On Russia's comments on university, we certainly value very much the role of universities as knowledge organizations. They clearly make a contribution in their own right that is different than the private sector or civil society.

Nevertheless, what we have agreed, formally approved strategies for the private sector and civil society and that is what we have to report on. Plus, given the importance of universities, we want to continue reporting on that work. Yet what looks to be our best solution is in fact to continue doing it according to the source of funding even though this is of course not ideal. However, we do want to report on or interaction with universities and keep you up-to-date on our progress in that regard.

As for Sudan's questions and comments, we are very happy to continue reporting periodically on partnerships and to discuss with you or any of the Members anytime between the reports on progress on all of these. We certainly take note of the other comments. Particularly, Japan followed by Australia along with the hope that this will not reduce our services, our language services, which is in fact our complete expectation as well.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your interventions and for the clarification which made by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee as well as from the Secretariat.

Ladies and gentlemen, my conclusions for item 5 are as follows:

The Council:

- a) welcomed the actions being undertaken by the Director-General aimed at enhancing the technical capacity of the Organization, in particular to increase capacity in priority technical areas of work, including climate change, fisheries, antimicrobial resistance and South South cooperation, while maintaining adequate capacity at decentralized offices;
- b) appreciated the additional information provided by the Secretariat in document CL 155/7-Inf.1 in relation to the proposed consolidation of management arrangements;
- c) endorsed the proposed changes to the organizational structure to strengthen programme management and delivery, on a budget neutral basis, illustrated in Annex 1 of document CL 155/7, and agreed on the title of the department approved for creation as "Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water;"
- d) looked forward to details on the conversion of administrative positions to technical positions in the PWB 2018-19, with due attention to maintaining the integrity of language services within the Organization; and
- e) welcomed the sustained progress of FAO's work in partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations, looked forward to more analytic reporting thereon in the future to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.
- f) Noted possible review by the Joint Meeting for improvement of its methods of work.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan would like to reiterate the point we made, that the Secretariat should ensure, after implementing this proposal, that FAO should respond to the results of the independent assessment of technical capacity. This response may include further amending its organizational structure where appropriate on a budget-neutral basis in order to enhance the technical capacity of the organization. We think this is a very important point and if possible we would like to see the elements reflected in the conclusions of this session.

CHAIRPERSON

Do you think this could wait until the assessment is completed? Because the assessment is in progress and it is for the Conference to endorse it.

Cannot we wait until that time without making any reference to what you have mentioned in the report?

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We just would like to see the Council taking note of the importance of doing this independent assessment and although we are approving the current proposal it is very important that the Council ask the Secretariat to respond in the future to the results of this assessment. We have made our point and it is up to the Council to include this in the conclusions.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

Mr Chairperson, the last point in your very well drafted conclusions refers to the Joint Meeting and its working methods. Given that the Joint Meeting is not an institutional body in itself, perhaps you may wish to rephrase that to consider that the Joint Meeting is actually the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee working together. I would not like to leave the impression that we are creating a third body, a new subsidiary body of this Council.

As to the intervention made by Japan, I would not be able to go along with it at this stage because it would be like signing a blank check. The outcome of the independent assessment will have to be scrutinized by the Members at the Conference before any endorsement is made to the proposals. It would be premature to ask the Secretariat to respond in any way to the outcome of that assessment. I would say it would be jumping the gun. At this stage I believe that you are totally correct in your words of caution that we should not include this statement in the conclusions.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

En relación con la propuesta hecha por la distinguida delegación de Japón, queremos apoyar lo expresado por Brasil. Nos parece que debemos ser muy cautelosos y no debemos prejuzgar o adelantarnos a los resultados de una evaluación que va a estar disponible más adelante. Muchos resultados van a ser analizados por la Conferencia y nos parece que puede ser peligroso tomar una decisión en el sentido señalado por Japón, y prejuzgar los resultados de dicha evaluación y el análisis que se haga de la misma.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Under the first point (a), among the areas of work that will be supported statistics is missing.

In relation to point (d) where you mentioned details of administrative and technical positions for the next biennium, for us we ask in our statement on the process of strengthening the technical departments already under the current Programme of Work and Budget and to the extent that the funds will be available through the conversion of administrative positions.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We appreciate the comments from other delegates. What we are trying to say is that we are not asking the Secretariat to respond to the results of the independent assessment in any particular way. We just would like the Secretariat to take note of any results. We do not know at this moment what the results will be but we think it is important that the independent assessment of technical capacity is taken into consideration in the future. We would like FAO to continue to enhance its technical capacity at Headquarters as well as in the Decentralized Offices on a budget neutral basis so this is really the point we wanted to make.

CHAIRPERSON

I note the issue raised by Slovakia regarding statistics, which was not mentioned in the Report of the Joint Meeting.

I want again to repeat what I said regarding Japan's need that consideration has to be given in regard to the independent assessment at this time. I said this is premature, as it has been said also by other Members.

So the change I will be making is on point (f): "Noted possible review by the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committee for improvement of its method of work".

With that we conclude on this Agenda item.

Item 6. Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee (7-11 November 2016)
Point 6. Rapport de la cent vingtième session du Comité du Programme (7-11 novembre 2016)
Tema 6. Informe del 120.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (7-11 de noviembre de 2016)
(CL 155/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with Item 6, *Report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee*. The document before Council is CL 155/5.

We will discuss the Report, with the exception of the “Reviewed Strategic Framework and outline of Medium Term Plan 2018-21”, which we have just concluded.

I should also like to remind you that discussion on the “Strategy for FAO’s work on climate change” under this item will take into account pertinent comments found in the Reports of the Technical Committees.

Likewise, discussion on the “Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization” will also take into consideration pertinent input from the Report of the Joint Meeting.

I now invite Ambassador Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report. Ambassador Tomasi, you have the floor.

M. Serge TOMASI (President du Comité du Programme)

Le Comité du Programme s’est réuni au Siège de notre Organisation, à Rome, du 7 au 11 novembre 2016, pour tenir sa 120^{ème} Session. Les travaux se sont déroulés dans une atmosphère très constructive, permettant l’adoption des conclusions du Comité par consensus sur l’ensemble des points de notre ordre du jour. Je voudrais donc commencer par remercier l’ensemble des collègues qui ont participé à cette session, ainsi que l’équipe du Secrétariat qui nous a accompagnés tout au long de cette semaine, et les interprètes.

Le rapport du Comité est présenté dans le document CL 155/5.

L’agenda de cette session était une fois de plus chargé, avec, outre le Plan à moyen terme (PMT), dont nous avons parlé précédemment, quatre dossiers d’importance sur lesquels je centrerai mon résumé.

Le premier point, c’est bien sûr le projet de stratégie de la FAO en ce qui concerne le changement climatique.

Le Comité a réservé un accueil favorable au projet de stratégie de la FAO, en se félicitant du fait que de nombreuses recommandations de l’évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de changement climatique, qui avait été présentée au Comité du Programme en novembre 2015, avaient été prises en compte dans ce document, en particulier, le besoin de donner une priorité à l’action sur le terrain; deuxièmement, la nécessité d’une action au Siège plus coordonnée et cohérente, ce que devrait permettre la création d’un nouveau Département; enfin, le besoin de changer d’échelle dans les projets, ce que pourrait permettre l’accréditation de notre Organisation au financement du fonds vert.

Le Comité a cependant souligné la nécessité de renforcer le document sur plusieurs points, notamment, les partenariats avec les organismes ayant leur siège à Rome, et l’articulation avec le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; deuxièmement, le ciblage prioritaire de la FAO sur les populations et les pays les plus vulnérables au changement climatique; troisième axe, les actions visant à renforcer l’expertise des personnels et les capacités des bureaux décentralisés; et enfin, la nécessité de mieux intégrer de nombreux thèmes mis en lumière par les membres du Comité lors du débat. Ont été cités, entre autres, «Climate-smart agriculture», l’agro-écologie, la question de la désertification, la question de la gestion de l’eau, la question de la préservation de la biodiversité, la question de la gestion des sols.

Le Comité a enfin souhaité qu’une nouvelle version lui soit soumise à sa session d’avril prochain, intégrant ses remarques, accompagnée d’un plan d’action précisant les ressources humaines et financières à mobiliser, et proposant des résultantes et des produits à intégrer dans le cadre de résultats du Plan à moyen terme.

Le deuxième sujet abordé par le Comité concernait l'Évaluation indépendante de la fonction d'évaluation.

Le Conseil avait en effet demandé qu'une évaluation indépendante de la fonction d'évaluation soit présentée en 2016.

Le rapport et la réponse du Secrétariat aux diverses recommandations des consultants ont été présentés au Comité du Programme.

Le Comité s'est félicité de la grande qualité du rapport produit par l'équipe de consultants. Il a noté les améliorations de la fonction d'évaluation sur les dernières années.

Il a notamment souligné son accord pour maintenir un double objectif à cette fonction d'évaluation, à savoir, d'une part, une fonction d'apprentissage visant à l'amélioration des procédures internes et de la gestion des programmes, et, d'autre part, une fonction de redevabilité à l'égard du Conseil. Dans la suite logique de cette analyse, il a confirmé son accord pour le maintien d'une double dépendance hiérarchique du Directeur de l'évaluation, qui rend compte à la fois au Directeur général et aux membres du Conseil à travers le Comité du Programme.

Il a toutefois souligné qu'une plus grande souplesse devait être accordée au Directeur de l'évaluation dans la gestion de ses ressources humaines, y compris des processus de recrutement et de ses ressources financières.

Il a aussi souligné la nécessité d'une meilleure prise en compte, dans les rapports d'évaluation, de la question de la parité hommes-femmes, trop négligée aujourd'hui selon les consultants.

Le Comité a enfin souhaité qu'un plan d'action pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations, assorti d'un calendrier, soit présenté à sa prochaine session et qu'un rapport sur la suite donnée aux recommandations («Progress report») lui soit présenté dans un délai de deux ans.

Le troisième sujet à l'ordre du jour portait sur l'Évaluation de la contribution de la FAO à l'Objectif stratégique 5, qui concerne l'amélioration de la résilience en situation de crise.

Le plan de travail sur les évaluations prévoit en effet le lancement d'une série d'évaluations sur chacun des cinq objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation. Ce rapport était donc le premier de cette série, le Comité du Programme étant conduit à examiner lors de ses quatre prochaines séances les rapports correspondant aux quatre autres objectifs stratégiques.

Le Comité s'est félicité des efforts de l'Organisation pour renforcer son action en matière de résilience et a confirmé son accord sur l'ensemble des recommandations et sur les réponses de la Direction.

S'agissant cependant des prochains rapports, le Comité a souligné la nécessité de mieux présenter les modalités de la collaboration entre les agences, notamment celles basées à Rome, et de mieux prendre en compte la question de la parité hommes-femmes.

Il a rappelé sa demande qu'une annexe spécifique soit dédiée à la question de parité hommes-femmes et que les normes de la politique des Nations Unies en matière de parité servent de référence à ces évaluations.

Il a enfin souhaité que les conclusions et recommandations de ce rapport d'évaluation sur la résilience soient pleinement prises en compte dans la préparation du prochain PMT.

Quatrième sujet à l'ordre du jour du Comité du Programme: l'évaluation indépendante des capacités techniques de l'Organisation.

Le Conseil, lors de sa réunion de décembre 2015, avait demandé au Secrétariat de lancer une évaluation indépendante des capacités techniques de la FAO, le rapport d'évaluation devant être présenté au Conseil d'avril 2017 et à la Conférence en juillet 2017. Le Conseil, lors de sa 154^{ème} Session en juin dernier, s'était félicité – je cite – de l'annonce du Directeur général selon laquelle un plan de travail, comportant un projet de méthode et le type d'indicateurs à utiliser, serait présenté au Comité du Programme de novembre 2016.

Le Secrétariat a donc présenté au Comité du Programme le document JM 2016.2/3, présentant la feuille de route de cette évaluation, ainsi que les CV des consultants indépendants recrutés pour

réaliser celle-ci. Enfin, suite aux demandes répétées et constantes du Président du Comité du Programme, les membres du Comité ont pu débattre de ces documents en présence des consultants, reliés depuis Washington par visio-conférence.

Le Comité a consacré une longue séance à ce dossier. Les Membres ont pu rappeler le contexte qui a présidé à la demande du Conseil, préciser les objectifs de l'évaluation et les attentes du Conseil, enfin débattre de la méthodologie et des critères proposés.

Les principales remarques du Comité ont mis en lumière, entre autres, le caractère succinct des termes de référence, la nécessité d'appréhender la totalité des effectifs et pas simplement les postes de professionnels, le besoin d'analyser les capacités du Siège comme celles des bureaux décentralisés, enfin la nécessité de croiser des indicateurs quantitatifs et des analyses qualitatives.

Dans ses conclusions, le Comité a donc pris note de ce document et s'est réjoui qu'il ait été confirmé que le projet de rapport des consultants serait présenté lors d'une réunion informelle du Conseil en janvier ou février prochain, en présence des consultants, avant la présentation du rapport final au Conseil d'avril et à la Conférence de juillet.

D'autres points étaient à l'ordre du jour de cette réunion.

Le Comité a notamment approuvé le projet de programmation des évaluations proposé pour la période 2017-2019. Il a confirmé son souhait d'obtenir en 2019 un rapport d'évaluation complet sur la mise en œuvre de la stratégie relative à la parité hommes-femmes et a recommandé que le principe soit acté d'une évaluation périodique des principales stratégies de l'Organisation, selon une périodicité à déterminer.

Le Comité a par ailleurs pris note des rapports de suivi de plusieurs évaluations passées.

Sur la question de la parité hommes-femmes, il a souligné son attente d'une confirmation de la date d'un séminaire informel programmé pour 2016 sur cette question, en souhaitant qu'un document détaillant les activités de la FAO en la matière, et les résultats obtenus, puisse être présenté à cette occasion.

Sur l'organisation de son travail enfin, le Comité a rappelé qu'il était gravement préoccupé, je répète, gravement préoccupé par la publication tardive des documents dans certaines langues nationales; le document relatif au Plan à moyen terme ayant, par exemple, été publié dans les langues nationales autres que l'anglais seulement deux jours avant la réunion du Comité.

Compte tenu par ailleurs de l'agenda trop chargé de ses réunions, notamment celle de novembre, le Comité envisage de tenir annuellement une troisième réunion qui serait entièrement consacrée aux dossiers d'évaluation. Cette solution permettrait de concentrer les deux réunions statutaires d'avril et de novembre exclusivement sur les dossiers relatifs aux questions devant être présentées ensuite au Conseil pour décision.

M. Patrick MVONDO NNA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Après avoir pris note de l'examen par le Comité du Programme de la grande question relative à la planification des programmes et à l'évaluation, nous félicitons le Comité pour les conclusions et les recommandations pertinentes auxquelles il est parvenu. En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement la question du changement climatique, nous apprécions particulièrement les recommandations visant à mettre l'accent sur le renforcement des capacités des bureaux décentralisés. Nous constatons par ailleurs avec satisfaction que le Secrétariat a fait des progrès importants en matière de mise en œuvre des recommandations et demandons au Conseil d'approuver les conclusions du Comité du Programme.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We should like to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his clear presentation. I just have some brief comments on some of the items. Firstly, we support the FAO Strategy on Climate Change, noting that it reflects the guidance provided by Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees.

We believe FAO has an important role in supporting member countries to meet their own commitments for climate change as well as to ensure sustainable agriculture and food security. However, given the recent outcomes of COP22 and the proposal for the creation of a new Climate, Land, and Water Department in FAO, we support the Programme Committee's request for a revised version of the strategy to be provided to the Committee in March 2017.

On the question of the Independent Evaluation of the evaluation function, we welcome this and support the need to maintain the dual reporting line of the Office of Evaluation to both the Director-General and to the Council. This setup ensures the right balance between oversight and learning.

On the question of the gender issue, we would like to thank Management for responding to the request of the Programme Committee in organizing an informal briefing on FAO's work and achievements on gender issues.

We understand that this event with a dedicated document will take place in mid-December 2016 which is one day before the high-level event on gender. We note the comments of the Programme Committee on gender issues. We consider the comments and opinions expressed by the Programme Committee and similarly comments by the Finance Committee as being of assistance to Management in introducing improvements to the subject matter and the review.

At the same time, however, we need to also acknowledge the progress made by the Organization and the attention paid to gender issues. For example, FAO has a dedicated policy on gender and that gender is a crosscutting theme in Strategic Framework streamlined across all of the five Strategic Objectives.

We recall that the Programme Implementation Report of 2014-15 highlighted the positive results of FAO on gender. We also understand that every evaluation of the Strategic Objectives contains a section on gender and that there will be a global evaluation dedicated to gender in 2019.

We are informed that the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) puts out a rating on progress on gender issues for the UN System every year. We would like to see some information from the Secretariat as to how FAO fairs in such a rating system.

It is also useful to recall that the FAO mandate relates to food security and nutrition which contributes to the Organization's global goals and Strategic Objectives.

In this context, gender is an important enabling theme which supports FAO in pursuing goals and objectives.

Finally, on the question of the Roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization, we welcome this assessment. In this respect, we note the fact that the external experts will share their draft report with both Management and FAO member countries before they finalize their assessment. We believe this would be a good way to ensure the independence dimension of the assessment.

We also support the timeline of the roadmap and look forward to the informal briefing to Permanent Representatives in the beginning of February 2017 in this regard.

We look forward to giving our views to the external experts at that stage.

We note that the final report will be reviewed by the Council in April 2017 before being submitted to the Conference in July.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Chairperson, I will comment on three issues. First the roadmap, second on the evaluation of the evaluation function, and three, make some comments on gender issues.

On the roadmap, I do not want to write anything to what the Chairman of the Programme Committee said as well as what Mr Mehboob said. So I agree with both of them. No more remarks on my part.

On the Independent Evaluation Function, we appreciate the points A to G of the Programme Committee. In particular, we fully agree to continue with a charter for FAO Office of Evaluation which is part of the Basic Texts.

We do not share the conclusion of the Independent Evaluation that the charter has been outdated. This is paragraph 171 of the Independent Evaluation Report.

The Report of the Programme Committee also provides good reason not to jump into a decentralized evaluation structure and to keep it centralized as it is. We agree with this conclusion. Moreover, the decentralized evaluation structure would require appointing at least one senior evaluation officer in each Regional Office. This is costly and not the right time to do it and we do not know what the advantage will be.

The Report of the Programme Committee has not responded on two conclusions of the Independent Evaluation:

1. that the independence of OED is limited, particularly its behavioral independence;
2. that OED is not empowered to contribute to evaluation capacity development.

Chairperson, FAO and WFP have opted for a model of evaluation where the Office of Evaluation reports both to Management as well as the Governing Bodies. We do not favour any change in this arrangement for FAO and we also supported it in WFP.

Yes, the spread of the evaluation culture within FAO may be a problem, but that could be corrected in many other ways.

On capacity development, we think the OED should focus on evaluation, synthesize the lessons of evaluation and contribute to programme development where appropriate. OED should not be burdened with the work of capacity development. That should be the job of some other department.

Another few remarks on gender. Like Pakistan, we also welcome Management's decision to organize an informal briefing on FAO's work and achievement on gender on the 15th of this month as Pakistan said, one day before the high-level event takes place.

Member Nations have agreed to treat gender as a cross-cutting issue that permeates all of the five Strategic Objectives as specified in the Strategic Framework. The Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 reported on FAO's progress regarding gender. This is outcome 63 paragraph 200 to 209.

And on gender balance of FAO staff, Annex 2, paragraph 382-385: In its 120th Session, the Programme Committee, when reviewing the evaluation of SO 5, welcomed that FAO was committed to gender mainstreaming in these areas, that greater attention had been granted in programme design to this issue.

Nevertheless, the Programme Committee reiterated its request that an Annex be dedicated to gender in future Strategic Objective Evaluations. In addition, the Council in its 154th Session had endorsed the proposal of the PC for the evaluation of FAO's work on gender for submission to the Conference in 2019. The OED has included this important evaluation in its work plan for 2017-19.

The 2014 rating of FAO gives a rating of adequate or above to gender equality in FAO. It states that in 2014-15, FAO budgeted USD 21.8 million to gender in its regular budget and then introduced a gender marker whereby it is mandatory to call all products and services in order to track progress on gender equality, including budgetary allocation.

Progress on gender is moving ahead on its own momentum and according to the expectation of SDG target 5-1, 5-5, 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C. That said, Membership must acknowledge that FAO is not a gender organization. It's a knowledge-based organization dedicated to its core objective of achieving food security and better nutrition for all and improving livelihoods.

In this connection, the Near East Regional Group wishes to refer to web annex 3 which lists technical priorities of Member Nations as they emerge from the recent four technical committees, COAG, COFI, COFO and CCP. It lists 83 priorities for the four Committees. And it is surprising that only three of the 83 priorities, one finds reference to gender, one for COAG, one for COFI, and one for COFO. Among the 18 priorities listed for CCP, there is no reference for gender.

Mainstreaming gender in FAO's normative and field operation is working. Maybe not so fast enough for some Members but it is working, and Membership should support this dynamic process of progressive advancement in the empowerment of women.

Mr Heiner THOFERN (Germany)

I would like to pass the floor to Slovakia to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. It would also be appreciated if you could pass the floor to the Netherlands, please.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino, as well as the candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We fully endorse the conclusions of the Programme Committee and would like to highlight a few issues which need due consideration in the follow-up to these deliberations.

We would like to express our appreciation of the large consultation process leading to the development of the new Strategy for FAO's work on climate change in response to the evaluation of the FAO's contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This Strategy will substantially change the Organization, since all FAO projects will need to be climate-sensitive in the near future. We congratulate the Secretariat for preparing a high-quality document within one year. The comparative advantage of FAO is its role as a knowledge aggregator in the area of climate change, with the potential to become a global leader. We encourage FAO to strengthen coordination and collaboration with other UN agencies, including RBAs in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In the field of contribution to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, collaboration of RBA with agencies complementing each other and using their comparative advantages can be mentioned as an excellent example. We welcome the strong engagement of all technical committees in the Strategy and we look forward to the inclusion of their comments and inputs in the finalized document. We look forward to the inclusion of a stronger language on gender equality and women's equality. Further details on capacities to implement the Strategy and strengthening the link to the Strategic Framework of FAO would be welcomed. We look forward to further discussions on the updated Strategy and a Plan of Action as well as a complete resource framework to assess progress and indicators. At the same time we would like to congratulate FAO on its accreditation to the Green Climate Fund.

We welcome the discussion on the roadmap for the independent assessment of FAO's technical capacities during the Programme Committee. We express our highest expectations regarding the transparency and independence of this assessment, including on the methodological aspects. We look forward to our constructive involvement in the discussions with the external consultants, especially on the consultants' report we expect to be presented during the informal briefing in late January/early February next year, as well as with the Secretariat throughout the exercise, the outcome of which should provide us all with a common and better understanding of where we stand on the technical capacities of the FAO.

We would like to express our support for the conclusions on the first evaluation of the FAO's contribution to Strategic Objective 5, while stressing the need to better reflect through dedicated annexes aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment in the future evaluations of the SOs. We would also welcome participation of a gender specialist in the evaluation teams.

We welcome the reference to the Director General's decision at the previous Council session to hold an informal seminar dedicated to gender this year. Informal seminars have proved to be very useful in enhancing cooperation between FAO management and its Member States. We look forward to the seminar, and would like to ask for an update on the timing and topics for the seminar.

We would also like to support the conclusions of the Programme Committee on the independent evaluation of FAO's evaluation function, for the implementation of the recommendations, with a special attention to a greater flexibility in the use of Office of Evaluation's (OED) human and financial resources within the context of the Office's reporting line.

In relation to the indicative rolling work plan of evaluations for 2017-19, we are pleased that the evaluation on gender is also to be presented for consideration by the conference in 2019 and we fully

support the Programme Committee's recommendation that this evaluation should be comprehensive, with a focus on the FAO's excellent gender policy.

In conclusion, we wish to express our appreciation of the focused discussions and guidance provided by the Programme Committee.

Mr Hans HOOGEVEEN (Observer for Netherlands)

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but now I have the honour to also speak on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for highlighting the importance of climate change issues. Climate change is indeed high on the political agenda, but are we not forgetting drought?

The impacts of drought are overwhelming. The number of people affected is daunting. Livelihoods of farmers all over the world are threatened by drought, causing them to stop their production, sell their assets, and migrate from their farms in search of food.

The effects of drought trickle-down societies and destabilized regions at large. We have seen this migration because of drought.

For example, after two monsoons, the livelihoods of over 30 million farmers in India are impacted by drought. In Madagascar, after three years of severe drought, close to one million people depend on food aid from the World Food Programme.

But even more developed countries, for example the southwest part of the United States, are struggling to deal with droughts that harm the agricultural production and harm lives also in that region.

Even though drought is among the oldest issues farmers face, we are still struggling to prevent the loss of crops, economic development, and especially human lives. Drought management involves not only agriculture but also other sectors such as water management and environmental policies.

In the face of unprecedented population growth, we are reaching the planetary boundaries of water availability. Now is the time to act. In this year's meetings of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Commodity Problems, as well as the Programme Committee, the issue of drought was raised.

As it was already stated today by Afghanistan and the Near East Regional Group, we have to do more for drought management both in the context of climate change and as an underlying cause of this extra migration. Not only special attention is needed but, moreover, action on the ground.

Drought is one of the ways climate change destabilizes. Of the most vulnerable groups left in drought prone areas, there is a strong linkage between humanitarian and development work on this topic. During droughts humanitarian aid is needed to provide food assistance while afterwards development aid is needed to rebuild farmers' assets and livelihoods. So sustainable drought management would be an area with substantial potential for collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies.

We know that there are several approaches to drought. Focus on water and drought-tolerant crops and pest species also in emergencies. Now it is time to develop comprehensive strategies to work on drought resilience and drought management.

We must focus on the maximization of our collective efforts and understand what to do differently compared to what we have already done before in recent years.

We, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Netherlands, aim to organize a seminar on this topic early next year. We would try to provide you with the necessary information as soon as possible, but moreover, we hope to get support, any involvement of any Member States, as well as FAO and IFAD.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

China has two remarks to make. First, the Chinese version of the document has been provided behind time. We have noted that the Council meeting started on 5 December but, as of 21 November, China did not get any documents in the Chinese language. We request FAO to pay attention to this issue. We checked on the website and we found that on 21 November the English, French and Arabic versions were already available but not the Chinese and the Spanish versions. We would like to

emphasize once again that we hope that FAO will take effective measures to ensure availability of the documents four weeks prior to the meeting.

Secondly, as has been said by the Chairperson which in our discussions referred to the Strategic Framework but due to the cultural differences we take the floor on the proposed agenda. Therefore, our statements were prepared in response to the proposed agenda items. I would like to state that in paragraph 3(d), together with agroecology, we requested to add GIAHS and South-South cooperation. We think this should be fully elaborated in the Strategic Framework and fully reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget and Medium Term Plan.

Mr Daiji KAWAGUCHI (Japan)

First of all, Japan would like to appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat for drafting the FAO Climate Change Strategy and also for coordinating the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization. We have several comments on both topics.

On the FAO Climate Change Strategy, first, we value that the Strategy for including both mitigation and adaptation in a well-balanced manner. For example, its introduction discusses the contribution of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the mitigation of the climate change, and the CCAM, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, is widely referred in the actions under Outcomes 1 and 2.

Second, in light of the fact that the conversion of forests into agricultural land is a major driver of deforestation, we underline the cross-sectoral approach between forestry and agriculture. In this regard, Japan is pleased to observe the cross-cutting viewpoints, in particular, under Outcomes 1 and 2.

Third, we appreciate the outcome of the project called “Analysis and Mapping of Impacts under Climate Change for Adaptation and Food Security or AMICAF.” This project has been implemented in the Philippines and Peru by FAO with Japan’s financial support since 2011. We are looking forward to its further progress.

Fourth, let me introduce you that Japan organized a side event in the margins of the COP 22 of the UNFCCC, entitled “International Agricultural Research Cooperation for Climate Change - Follow-up side event of G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting,” in collaboration with G7 countries, FAO, CGIAR and four initiatives, namely the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, or GRA, Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, or GACSA, 4/1000 (four per mil) initiative, and Global Soil Partnership, or GSP. We would like to appreciate that all the participants in this event became aware of the importance of continued reporting of results and information exchanges among these initiatives. Japan also welcomes that these initiatives expressed their willingness to further foster the synergies among them.

With regard to the independent assessment of technical capacity, Japan welcomes that the discussions in the Programme Committee were shared with the consultant in charge of the assessment in a timely manner through the TV conference.

In the meantime, if the result of the assessment demonstrates the decrease in FAO’s technical capacity, Japan believes that its restoration is necessary. Noting comments from other delegations, Japan still considers that the restoration might include further amendments of FAO structure as we mentioned in the previous agenda item. In this regard, Japan expects the Secretariat to present its Management response including proposal of the necessary measures for restoration where necessary once the result of the assessment is drawn.

Japan would like to reiterate our stance that was shared in the Programme Committee mentioning that the presence of senior officials from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Forestry Department, and Economic and Social Development Department in the international *fora* is considered as the important technical capacity. The extent to which FAO’s view is reflected to such *fora* through the presence of those senior officials is also important as the technical capacity. Japan has a concern about the decrease in such capacities in fisheries and forestry in particular.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

According to the Chairperson’s suggestion to incorporate interventions on climate change matters into this agenda item, Thailand has the following points to raise.

We welcome the preparation of the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change, aiming to strengthen the capacity of developing countries in implementing agricultural adaptation and mitigation to climate change. The preparation of the Strategy is in a timely manner since the Paris Agreement had entered into force.

We particularly support Strategic Objective 5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises that the focus will be on climate change, and induced extreme weather events using the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as a basis to supporting countries and communities. We would suggest that FAO should also focus on the work of Outcome 5.3: Countries reduced risks and vulnerability at household and community level, since it has multiple benefits. It can also contribute to food security and stability of farmers' income in Strategic Objective 1 and 3.

We support the establishment of an *ad hoc* sub-committee on climate change as mention in paragraph 14 of the Report of the 25th session of COAG. We recommend that the establishment of the *ad hoc* working group should not affect the Regular Programme budget. Its function and responsibility should be within the mandate of FAO, and the *ad hoc* working group should be operated on the basis of the needs of member countries.

Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairuddin MOHD (Malaysia)

Malaysia welcomes the document prepared by the Secretariat. Our intervention will only focus on the 'Strategy for FAO's work on climate change'.

Climate change has affected the sustainable development gains of many countries including Malaysia.

Malaysia experienced one of its worst floods in 2014 which had destroyed settlements in eleven states and affected almost two million people. We lost USD 87 million in terms of our agriculture production which had affected the livelihood of nearly 15 400 farmers. In March 2016, we were again tested by the impact of El Niño which affected almost 600 farmers with an estimated loss of USD 1.96 million in rice and aquaculture production. Therefore, adapting and mitigating climate change is becoming a greater challenge with ongoing events of droughts, floods and other natural disasters around the world. To achieve sustainable agricultural production, we must build and strengthen farmers' resilience in facing climate change.

We therefore welcome the timely development of this Strategy on Climate Change. We wish to emphasize that the Strategy should focus on vulnerable groups and countries. We also acknowledge FAO's accreditation to the Green Climate Fund and hope this financial mechanism will benefit especially the developing countries, which are more vulnerable to climate change and adverse weather effects. We look forward to the positive progress of this report.

With this intervention, Malaysia endorses the report of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee.

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

We welcome the consideration by the Programme Committee of the updated draft strategy of the FAO in the area of climate change and the accompanying Plan of Action. In the current version of the document a number of comments which we made during the sessions of the technical committee are reflected. We note that the goals and technical priorities of this document generally correspond to the tasks of the FAO Strategic Framework Programme and can serve as a benchmark for the work of the Organization at the global and national levels.

We support FAO's course towards ensuring the resilience of agribusiness and mitigating the negative consequences of climate change including in the area of disaster risk and reduction. An area of high relevance for the work of FAO is combating desertification and encouraging sustainable management of soil resources. At the same time we consider that the activities of the FAO in this area should take into account the diversity of country situations, their forms of farming and specific requirements. In this regard, FAO could harness the positive effects of climate change for the agricultural sector. This is something that is expected in a number of countries in the medium term. Further, this is something which is mentioned under point 46 of the reviewed Strategic Framework programme.

With regard to gender issues, we have also addressed this under item 3 and we welcome the fact that gender issues as a cross-cutting matter are reflected both in the draft review of the Strategic Framework programme and in the draft Medium Term Plan. This is something that has been done better than in the previous Programme Implementation Report.

We would call on the Secretariat to maintain a balanced approach to this question considering it through the prism of its skills and core competencies. Furthermore, we believe that the proposal from the Netherlands and Iran is highly relevant since it deals with the combat of drought. This is an issue that countries throughout the world, including in the Eurasian region, are suffering from.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

I would like to kindly ask you to give the floor to the Islamic Republic of Iran to deliver a statement on behalf of the Near East region.

Mr Majid Dehgan SHOAR (Observer for Islamic Republic of Iran)

I will start to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chair of the Programme Committee, the Secretariat and all of you in this room, thinking and planning for the future of our planet to make a smile on the lips of poor farmers. Iran is making this statement on behalf of the Near East.

While supporting the Programme Committee Report, the Near East Regional Group wishes to present the following recommendations and observations on the strategy for FAO's work on climate change, paragraph 4.

Referring to the COAG Report, in particular the part dealing with paragraph 9 of the Report on the strategy for including the issue relating to biodiversity, and in the line with paragraph 4(a) of the Programme Committee Report, the Near East is strongly suggesting the following:

(1) While appreciating the technical assistance of FAO in the past for collection and preservation of plant genetic material, the Near East Regional Group requests FAO to take the necessary measures and action for further collection and preservation of valuable plant materials. Actually, the risk of elimination is high as a consequence of the current severe drought not only in the Near East but in Africa. Protecting these valuable genotypes is of utmost importance. They are dying in silence.

(4) Eliminating hunger in particular through the prevention of migration in drought-affected countries. We are living in a globe so we are affected by migration and food problems. As addressed in the Near East Regional Conference 2016 and CCP Report paragraph 29, the Near East Regional Group requests again to provide technical support to member countries for sustainable drought management, in particular production and adaptation of crop cultivation and pasture species.

Every year we are exchanging 700 000 or more germ plasm. The question which arises is how much of the germ plasm is used for releasing drought and soil cultures? The Programme Committee should deal with this issue and have it in the programme to check whether they are changed to cultivate yielding cultivation not only in drought but also in flooding situations.

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Programme Committee Report, the Near East Regional Group requests FAO to strengthen its technical capacity in the centralized office in support of the Plan of Action related to climate change, including the drought adaptation. While focusing on severe drought we should not forget that it is killing people. Mitigation strategies should be incorporated into this Report in the renewed Strategic Framework.

The Near East strongly supports the establishment of an *ad hoc* sub-committee on climate change with a special focus on the ever-increasing drought.

Ten years ago in the eastern part of Iran, we dug a 16-metre line to reach the water. Today this line is 260 meters long.

We also call for enhanced collaboration between the relevant international organizations, academia, and other stakeholders' leaders with respect to knowledge sharing, capacity building, and cross-sectoral initiatives to reduce the negative effects of climate change and drought.

(4) Climate change and drought have devastating effects on livestock in the Near East, North Africa and Africa, especially in the rural poor areas. Therefore FAO should assist the countries to integrate livestock into the international value chain.

Preserving and improving the genetic values of the local breeds is critical. To this end, it is necessary to build national capacity and improve the productivity of range lands. Without field, without development of range land, we have no livestock to develop.

(5) In line with the recommendation of COAG Report Item 45, point C, the Near East Regional Group requests FAO to intensify its technical support for production of safe food in the region. Assisting smallholders with regard to the safe use of fertilizer and pesticides and, of course, sustainable soil management is fundamental since we are poisoning them with the chemicals contained in our phosphates.

Likewise, we should assist the application of good agriculture practices and the assessment of measures aimed at producing food without micro toxins and other hazardous contamination. It is high time to consider the introduction of ecosystems.

The Near East Group is approving the Programme Committee Report with one additional request to the Chair. Iran proposed to invite a small landholder lady from Africa or the Near East to come in front of the Council to tell us the most difficult challenges she is facing. Women and small landholders are used to saying that they have no voice.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

México realiza esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité del Programa por la presentación del informe de la reunión de dicho comité, respecto del cual quisiéramos realizar los siguientes comentarios.

Nos complace el progreso de la Secretaría en la preparación de la estrategia de la FAO sobre cambio climático, tema que es prioritario para los países y respecto del cual la FAO, en su ámbito de competencia, tiene ventajas comparativas muy importantes. Respaldamos la visión presentada en la estrategia, mediante la cual se reconoce que el trabajo de la FAO en cambio climático estará dirigido por los países, y la FAO les dará el apoyo que sea requerido por ellos, para lo cual considera que los marcos de programación por países son un instrumento fundamental.

En ese contexto, será clave para la implementación de la estrategia y el fortalecimiento de las capacidades técnicas de las oficinas descentralizadas. Consideramos que la estrategia tiene que abordar la adaptación al cambio climático, como fue señalado en la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Nos preocupa la atención que el documento concede a la mitigación, ya que no se menciona el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas y las capacidades respectivas. Hay que recordar que el Comité Forestal y el Comité de Agricultura se refieren a que se exploren sinergias entre la adaptación y la mitigación. La estrategia hace especial énfasis en la agricultura climáticamente inteligente. No obstante, no existe una definición internacionalmente acordada sobre la misma, y no todos los países son parte de la Alianza Mundial de la Agricultura Climáticamente Inteligente.

La estrategia debería abordar explícitamente también otros enfoques importantes, como la agroecología, tema cuya importancia ha sido subrayada en varias Conferencias Regionales, incluida la de América Latina y el Caribe, así como por el Comité de Agricultura. En nuestro criterio, en la propuesta de estrategia presentada no se han incorporado adecuadamente las recomendaciones de los Comités Técnicos y por tanto instamos a que estas se reflejen más específicamente en el documento. El GRULAC respalda la recomendación del Comité del Programa en cuanto a que se presente una versión actualizada de la estrategia, que incluya las observaciones presentadas, así como que se prepare un Plan de acción.

En cuanto a la evaluación sobre el Objetivo Estratégico 5, creemos que dicha evaluación subraya la pertinencia del Marco Estratégico Revisado y la importante labor que ha desarrollado la FAO en el Objetivo Estratégico 5, y al mismo tiempo determina varias medidas para mejorar el trabajo de la Organización. Queremos resaltar el reconocimiento que hace el informe de evaluación del compromiso de la FAO con la integración del género en la resiliencia y que se haya incorporado dicho

enfoque en el diseño de los programas. Este es un tema con el que la región de América Latina y el Caribe está muy comprometida.

Igualmente queremos felicitar por los avances constatados en los informes de seguimiento de la evaluación sobre la contribución de la FAO en fases de transición relacionadas con crisis, y de la evaluación conjunta FAO/PMA de la coordinación del módulo de acción agrupada de seguridad alimentaria, los cuales demuestran la positiva colaboración de ambas organizaciones en esas actividades. No obstante, el GRULAC, como lo señala también la propia evaluación, considera que dicha colaboración entre ambos organismos debería fortalecerse más en el terreno.

Con relación a la hoja de ruta sobre la evaluación independiente de las capacidades técnicas de la FAO, y a fin de garantizar la propia independencia de la misma, solo tomamos nota de la presentación de dicho documento al Comité del Programa, y esperamos con interés el informe final de la evaluación, para posteriormente expresar nuestro criterio sobre las conclusiones de la misma.

Finalmente, queremos expresar nuestra profunda preocupación por lo señalado en el informe de la reunión del comité respecto a la presentación tardía de los documentos en todos los idiomas oficiales. El GRULAC considera que dichos documentos deben ser presentados en todos los idiomas oficiales al menos 15 días antes de la reunión, a fin de que puedan ser analizados apropiadamente y que permita una adecuada coordinación entre los Grupos Regionales y con nuestras capitales.

Con estos comentarios, respaldamos las recomendaciones contenidas en el informe de la reunión del Comité del Programa.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada sits as a Member of the Programme Committee and we endorse as such the findings and recommendations contained in its report. We will thus focus our comments mainly on one point which are the recommendations on gender included under six of the nine Agenda items of the Programme Committee. We would like to thank the Committee for exercising due vigilance on this issue as it was called for in 2013 when gender was moved from being specific Strategic Objective to become a cross-cutting theme.

Cross-cutting means that gender issues with respect to food security and nutrition must be given due attention by FAO in every aspect of its work. The same reasoning applies to climate change and nutrition and to the other cross-cutting themes.

So for us, this is not about FAO being a gender organization or not. This is about gender being a cross-cutting theme, which means that gender issues with respect to food security and nutrition must be given due attention by FAO in every aspect of its work. So must climate change and nutrition as the other cross-cutting themes.

One key aspect that emerged from the discussions of the Programme Committee, especially in the evaluation of the evaluation function as well as the evaluation of the fifth Strategic Objective – SO5, is that the very strong FAO equality policy is not systematically used as a baseline to monitor progress in the evaluations or for effective mainstreaming throughout the Strategic Objectives.

For example, there is a standard in the policy for each and every Strategic Objective undertaking a gender analysis and having a gender action plan. Maybe this is done – maybe not. There is just no reference to these kinds of standards that are provided in the policy.

Canada is really in favour of any effective tools that can ensure that cross-cutting themes are well mainstreamed across the Strategic Objectives.

In this regard, we very much support the Climate Change Strategy as well as the Action Plan that was developed to ensure effective implementation. We look forward to this updated Action Plan with clearer financial and human resources requirements that are necessary for the implementation.

Similarly, we hereby request that a plan of action be developed for the FAO Gender Equality Policy to facilitate effective mainstreaming of this cross-cutting issue in all of FAO's works, including across its five Strategic Objectives.

We also look forward to the informal seminar that has been actually planned for next week in response to the Council's request made last May and reiterated by the Programme Committee in November. We would also welcome information about the topic of this informal seminar and we hope that we can have the document on FAO's work and achievements on gender as soon as possible.

We believe that all of these will also contribute to elevate the visibility and appreciation of FAO's works on gender issues, which are critical to food security. This will contribute to the global policy agendas and will provide for adequate solutions. It is high time to move into the Medium Term Plan and the next PWB to ensure that FAO is well positioned.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We take note of the conclusion of the Programme Committee on the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change and look forward to the reviewed and updated strategy, taking into account the comments given by the Members, among them better balance between adaptation and mitigation, where focus on mitigation need to be stronger.

The Nordic countries have a long record of advocating higher attention to climate change in FAO's work, and this has been followed up with some substantial amounts of extra-budgetary resources. To mention here: the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture programme, known under the abbreviation MICCA and to the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, known as UN-REDD.

On the subject, Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to SO 5, we agree with the Programme Committee's conclusion concerning gender (para. 5 point d and e).

Further on that subject, we appreciate the plans for a Gender Evaluation in 2019 and wish to stress that this should not only be a synthesis of the findings on gender from the five SOs evaluations, but should also cover how the gender strategy is implemented broadly. We also recommend that the gender evaluation use FAO's minimum standards for gender equality and women's empowerment as a baseline.

Allow us also to use this opportunity to say that we look forward to the High-level Event on Rural Women as well as FAO's informal seminar on gender equality and women's empowerment, together with a progress report on gender equality. We anticipate that the report will update Members on progress achieved on the implementation of FAO's Policy on Gender Equality in its entirety, including its accountability framework and further information on its minimum standards, in line with the decisions of the 2013 Conference and with the FAO Policy on Gender Equality. The report would make a good basis for the next report on the implementation of the Gender Policy to be presented at the next Conference.

Finally on the subject, evaluation of FAO's evaluation function, we just want to say, in addition to supporting the conclusions of the Programme Committee, that we are concerned about the shortcomings in the evaluation methodology when considering gender and human rights aspects.

Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Mi Delegación acoge con beneplácito la hoja de ruta para la evaluación independiente de la capacidad técnica de la Organización. Tomamos nota de que los expertos externos compartieran su proyecto de informe con la Administración y los Miembros de la FAO antes de finalizar su evaluación. Creemos que esta es una buena manera de asegurar la dimensión de independencia de la evaluación misma. También apoyamos los hitos y el calendario de la hoja de ruta y esperamos con interés la Reunión Informativa Informal a los Representantes Permanentes a principio de febrero de 2017 a este respecto. Esperamos dar nuestra opinión a los expertos externos en esta etapa. Tomamos nota de que el informe final será revisado por el Consejo en abril de 2017 antes de ser presentado a la Conferencia en julio.

Apoyamos la estrategia de la FAO sobre el cambio climático, observando que refleja la orientación proporcionada por las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos. Creemos que la FAO tiene un

papel único en el apoyo a los Países Miembros para cumplir con sus propios compromisos de cambio climático, pero también para asegurar una agricultura y seguridad alimentaria sostenibles.

Sin embargo, dado los recientes resultados de la COP22 y la creación de un nuevo Departamento de Clima, Tierra y Agua de la FAO, apoyamos la solicitud del Comité del Programa para una versión revisada de la estrategia que se proporcionará al comité en marzo de 2017.

Acogemos con satisfacción la evaluación independiente de la función de evaluación de la FAO y apoyamos la necesidad de mantener la doble línea de información de la Oficina de Evaluación, tanto con el Director General como con el Consejo. Esta configuración garantiza el equilibrio adecuado entre supervisión y aprendizaje, y es ideal para una agencia especializada como la FAO.

Finalmente, quisiera referirme al tema de la igualdad de género. Al respecto queremos subrayar que el género es un tema transversal de la FAO, lo es a la par de la gobernanza, nutrición y cambio climático, y que eso mismo queda reflejado en cada uno de los Objetivos Estratégicos y en las realizaciones, así como ha sido objeto de notas informativas en repetidas ocasiones y en seminarios. Asimismo lo hará la FAO en el seminario programado para el 15 y 16 de diciembre. La FAO no es, ni puede ser, una organización dedicada exclusivamente al tema de género. Justamente no es ONU Mujeres. FAO ya cuenta con una política al respecto, y como mayor referencia, el Plan de acción de Naciones Unidas sobre Géneros.

Con estas consideraciones mi Delegación estima que podemos sentirnos conformes con el actual trabajo realizado por FAO, tanto en la sede como en el terreno, estando la igualdad de género al centro de cada programa y estrategia de la Organización.

M. Serge TOMASI (President du Comité du Programme)

Je vais essayer de répondre d'abord sur trois sujets importants pour moi: l'évaluation des capacités techniques, la parité hommes-femmes («gender») et le climat. D'abord lorsque j'ai pris mes fonctions de Président du Comité du Programme, je m'étais posé la question: comment peut-on être utile, et quels résultats pourrait-on attendre à la fin de mon mandat? Trois sujets me paraissaient vraiment problématiques à la FAO, dont la question des capacités techniques puisque, de façon récurrente, des États Membres faisaient part de leurs craintes et qu'ensuite cette question venait impacter le débat sur les compétences du Siège vis-à-vis de la décentralisation; certains considéraient qu'il n'y avait pas assez de capacités au Siège, d'autres qu'il n'y en avait pas assez dans les bureaux décentralisés. Or, nous n'avions pas de matériaux pour vraiment évaluer où nous en sommes en termes de capacités techniques dans cette Organisation. Donc, je crois que cette évaluation est vraiment très importante.

J'ai une satisfaction et une petite frustration. La satisfaction, c'est que le Directeur Général, et je l'en remercie, m'avait associé, ainsi que le Vice-Président du Comité, l'Ambassadeur d'Argentine, à la sélection des consultants — et je pense que nous avons recruté d'excellents consultants. La petite frustration, c'est que j'aurais aimé que le Conseil aille un peu plus loin dans la responsabilité qu'il confie à ce Comité. En effet, j'y faisais référence tout à l'heure, le Conseil en juin a juste demandé que la feuille de route soit présentée au Comité; cela ne veut pas dire approuvée et modifiée. Donc, la feuille de route nous a été présentée et nous avons fait part de nos commentaires. Nous espérons qu'ils seront pleinement pris en compte et que nous aurons en janvier prochain un bon rapport, qui permettra vraiment d'avoir une vue d'ensemble et un diagnostic partagé sur l'état des capacités techniques de l'Organisation.

Sur la parité hommes-femmes («gender»), je voudrais remercier la délégation du Canada pour ce qu'elle a dit. Je rappelle que la composition de ce Comité du Programme est constituée d'hommes seulement. Vous savez que lorsque nous avons été élus, certains l'avaient remarqué et avaient émis des critiques qui m'avaient beaucoup énervé. En effet, critiquer a priori un comité parce qu'il est composé uniquement d'hommes relève, pour moi, du sexisme. Cela revient à critiquer ce comité sur la base du sexe de ses membres et je crois que le pire n'est jamais sûr, il faut toujours parier sur l'intelligence des personnes, qu'elles soient de sexe masculin ou de sexe féminin. En fin de compte, une de mes fiertés en tant que Président du Comité du Programme, est d'avoir vu ce comité prendre à bras le corps cette question de parité hommes-femmes pour faire avancer ce sujet. Je crois qu'avec le séminaire de la semaine prochaine, avec les annexes que nous aurons dans le rapport d'évaluation de chaque objectif stratégique sur la question de parité hommes-femmes et le rapport d'évaluation qui sera fait en 2019,

nous aurons pavé le chemin pour qu'effectivement cette question soit pleinement prise en compte par notre Organisation et que l'Organisation elle-même rende compte à son tour sur cette question comme sur les autres. Et je vous signale une proposition importante du Comité, que nous finaliserons au mois d'avril; l'idée serait que chaque fois que l'Organisation se donne une stratégie thématique ou géographique, elle devra prévoir une évaluation cinq, six ans ou sept ans après de façon un peu systématique. Il me paraît vraiment important que chaque stratégie de notre Organisation fasse l'objet d'une évaluation, ainsi pour la stratégie parité hommes-femmes comme les autres stratégies.

Maintenant, sur le climat, je voudrais là aussi juste souligner le chemin qui a été parcouru par notre Organisation en deux ans et demi, car lorsque j'ai pris mes fonctions, j'ai demandé à rencontrer le chef du Département du climat. On m'a alors répondu qu'il n'y en avait pas et que le poste de Directeur de la Division du climat était vacant depuis huit mois. Aujourd'hui, nous avons un excellent Directeur de la Division du climat et de l'environnement et nous allons doter cette Organisation d'un puissant Département du climat, de la biodiversité, des terres et des eaux. J'avais aussi demandé depuis quand la FAO était accréditée auprès du Fonds Vert, mais elle ne l'était pas tandis qu'elle l'est aujourd'hui.

De même, j'avais demandé à voir la stratégie climat, mais nous n'en avons pas et je dois dire que là, les bras m'en tombaient. Mais, si tout va bien et si le Secrétariat intègre pleinement vos commentaires et les commentaires du Comité du Programme, cette Organisation aura en avril prochain une puissante Stratégie climat. Ainsi, l'Organisation avance et fait des progrès sur des sujets qui sont bien sûr difficiles.

À présent, un point sur l'évaluation de la fonction évaluation, très important selon moi, car les rapports d'évaluation constituent une compétence propre au Comité du Programme. Je vous invite à les lire parce que c'est le meilleur moyen de rentrer vraiment dans une connaissance fine du fonctionnement d'une institution. Je partage beaucoup de choses soulignées par notre collègue de l'Afghanistan. Nous avons, nous aussi, considéré que la charte de l'évaluation n'était pas dépassée et qu'il était peut-être prématuré de se lancer immédiatement, comme le préconisaient les consultants, dans la rédaction d'une politique d'évaluation, mais nous avons proposé de revenir sur ce sujet dans quelques années, dans quatre ans.

Deuxièmement, nous aussi avons considéré qu'il n'était pas opportun d'aller vers des structures décentralisées et de décentraliser la fonction d'évaluation. Le coût-bénéfice serait extrêmement faible étant donné que les programmes de terrain ont un volume de financement assez faible et qu'il nous paraissait plus opportun de conserver une centralisation de la fonction d'évaluation.

Troisièmement, sur l'indépendance limitée du Bureau de l'évaluation. Nous l'avons bien prise en compte parce que nous avons insisté sur le fait que, tout en restant dans le schéma actuel, il nous paraissait important que le Directeur de l'évaluation bénéficie de plus de liberté dans la gestion de ses ressources humaines et financières, y compris dans ses déplacements. Par contre, nous n'avons pas voulu apporter ni proposer de changements structurels dans le rattachement du Bureau de l'évaluation, qui fait rapport aujourd'hui à la fois au Directeur général et au Conseil parce que c'est une organisation largement répandue dans toutes les agences des Nations Unies.

Il existe un autre modèle dans les institutions financières internationales, où le bureau de l'évaluation rend compte uniquement au Conseil, mais ce modèle a pour inconvénient de ne pas favoriser cette fonction d'apprentissage à travers les évaluations. Aussi avons-nous pensé que le modèle actuel de la FAO demeurerait pertinent, sous réserve toutefois que le Directeur de l'évaluation bénéficie d'une plus grande latitude dans ses choix en matière de ressources humaines et financières.

Dernier point, sur la question des traductions très tardives des documents des comités, qui se pose aussi au Comité financier. Ce point est soulevé à chaque réunion. Je pense que la proposition que nous avons faite de séparer les rapports d'évaluation et de les inclure dans une troisième réunion du Comité du Programme permettra au Secrétariat d'alléger la fonction traduction pour les différentes réunions du Comité du Programme. Mais à un moment, il va falloir se poser la question de savoir si nous ne serons pas amenés à refuser d'examiner un rapport qui n'aura pas été traduit dans les délais impartis parce que c'est très pénalisant. À la dernière réunion, nous sommes passés tout près de cette situation parce que certaines délégations avaient vraiment des difficultés pour analyser le Plan à moyen terme en anglais et pas dans les langues de travail du Comité. Donc j'insiste vraiment auprès du Secrétariat pour qu'il

soit très vigilant sur cette question de la traduction des documents qui doivent effectivement, en principe, être publiés 15 jours avant la réunion des comités dans toutes les langues de travail des comités.

Ms Maria Helena M.Q. SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I would like to thank all the Ambassadors and the member countries for their insight and their comments to the Climate Change Strategy. We have already the comments coming from the Programme Committee. They will be joined by the comments we received today during this debate. But maybe one or two comments from my side.

First of all, the preparation of the document has been one of the most consultative process in FAO. In addition, it has been inclusive since it has been discussed in the four technical committees of the Organization and throughout the whole FAO.

We discussed with the technical Departments, with the Strategic Programme teams, with the decentralized offices in such a way that the document you have in front of you is the result of this process where we all agree on the outputs and outcomes.

This strategy should be country-driven. I also want to bring out that we took into consideration the comments and the recommendations coming from the evaluation teams, in particular the evaluation done by the climate change function of the Organization.

We should start by the countries, and by the different demands coming from the countries. It could be mitigation. It could be adaptation. As the Programme Committee pointed it out, we should focus on the vulnerable groups and countries. For them the need is more on adaptation than on mitigation. The agricultural sector is rather a sector where mitigation is of utmost importance. It is thus difficult to have a clear line between mitigation or adaptation.

We took note of all comments. We will see how they can be integrated. We commend the proposal coming from the Ambassador of the Netherlands and from the Ambassador of Iran on organizing this event on droughts and climate change. I fully agree that one of the big effects of climate change is drought, affecting the dry land areas with all the negative consequences we know. We look forward to working with you in the preparation of this event.

With regard to the technical capacity we are waiting for the report from the consultants which will be presented to the governing bodies at the end of January, at the latest the beginning of February. We will be soon discussing the Report of the consultants in such a way that the Secretariat can present its report in March for the next Programme Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to conclude on item 6 as follows:

1. The Council welcomed the Strategy for FAO's work on climate change and endorsed the Committee's suggestions for further refinements, noting that an updated Strategy would be submitted to the Programme Committee at its March 2017 session.
2. The Council took note of the recommendations contained in the reports of the technical committees regarding the draft Strategy and in particular:
 - a) FAO's global role at the nexus of food and agriculture and the challenges posed by climate change;
 - b) the impacts of climate change on the ocean, fisheries and aquaculture;
 - c) the contribution of forests in combatting climate change and its impacts;
 - d) the interfaces between climate change, trade, commodity markets and food security;
 - e) the importance of combatting drought and desertification; and
 - f) incorporation of the Plan of Action within the reviewed Strategic Framework.

3. The Council:

- a) welcomed the Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to Strategic Objective 5 and congratulated the Secretariat for the work undertaken on resilience; supported the Committee's comments on common areas of focus in evaluations of Strategic Objectives, including collaboration in the field with RBAs and other UN agencies, and gender mainstreaming;
- b) requested that an annex be dedicated to gender in future Strategic Objective evaluations and that FAO's gender policy standards be used as a baseline;
- c) welcomed the Independent Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function and the progress in improving the evaluation function in FAO in the past biennium; concurred with the Committee's recommendation on enhancing learning and accountability, emphasising in this regard, the value of the dual reporting line of the Director of Evaluation to Members and to the Director-General; endorsed continuation with the existing Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation;
- d) commended the Secretariat on progress achieved in implementing approved recommendations of the evaluations of *FAO's contribution in crisis-related transition* and *Joint FAO/WFP Evaluation of the Food Security Cluster Coordination*;
- e) endorsed the work plan of evaluations 2017-19, as well as the Committee's recommendation for evaluation of FAO's major thematic strategies on a cyclical basis;
- f) welcomed the roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization and its Addendum; noted the fact that sharing of the draft report of the external experts with Management and Members for their views prior to finalization of the report ensured the independence dimension of the assessment; welcomed the informal briefing to Permanent Representatives in February 2017 in this regard; and looked forward to reviewing the final report of the independent assessment of the technical capacity of the Organization at headquarters and decentralized offices at its 156th Session in April 2017;
- g) welcoming the high level of attention given to gender by the Organization, its status as a cross-cutting theme within the Strategic Framework, the excellent results outlined in the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15, the inclusion of gender dimensions in evaluations of all Strategic Objectives and a global evaluation on gender planned for 2019, as well as the dedicated informal seminar to Permanent Representatives on FAO's work on gender to be held on 15 December 2016; and
- h) noted the concern relating to delay in publication of documents for the Programme Committee in some languages, and welcomed the Committee's ongoing review of improvements of its methods of work, including possible meetings dedicated to evaluation matters.

That is very exhaustive.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, for your excellent summary. There is one point. The Programme Committee said that the Charter should remain as it is. They also said not to encourage independent field evaluations and keep evaluations centralized. That point I do not think was expressed in your summary.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Your summary was comprehensive because you brought on board almost all of the elements that we want to see included.

However, I would like to remind us of one of the recommendations of COAG which is contained in its paragraph 12 of the Report and reads: "to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock to promote its contribution to ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation."

I felt that there was a missing element in your enumeration under the first paragraph which is biodiversity in itself, so perhaps you might borrow from that language to include this element.

Mme Ségolène HALLEY DES FONTAINES (France)

Vous avez énuméré les recommandations issues des rapports des Comités techniques. L'ensemble des conclusions nous allaient bien, mais je ne suis pas sûre d'avoir pris parfaitement note de ces différentes recommandations. Je crois que c'était au point deux, peut-être, au tout début de vos conclusions. Est-ce que vous pourriez juste relire pour m'assurer d'avoir bien saisi, s'il vous plaît?

CHAIRPERSON

We are going to respond to those issues which have been raised.

I will read from paragraph 2: The Council took note of the recommendations contained in the reports of the technical committees regarding the draft Strategy and in particular:

- a) FAO's global role in the nexus of food and agriculture and the challenges posed by the climate change;
- b) the impacts of climate change on the ocean, fisheries, and aquaculture;
- c) the contribution of forests in combatting climate change and its impacts;
- d) the interfaces between climate change, trade, commodity markets, and food security;
- e) the importance of combatting drought and desertification;
- f) incorporation of the Plan of Action within the reviewed Strategic Framework;

I will add point:

- g) requested FAO and countries to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock, to promote contribution to ecosystem services in its climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Now I move on to the issue raised by Afghanistan on point 3(c): "welcomed the Independent Evaluation of FAO's evaluation function and the progress in improving the evaluation function in FAO in the past biennium; concurred with the Committee's recommendation on enhancing learning and accountability, emphasizing in this regard the value of the dual reporting line of the Director of Evaluation to the Members and to the Director-General; endorsed the continuation with the existing Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation."

So we have concluded that Agenda item. Thank you again, Ambassador Tomasi. Thank you, Secretariat. Thank you, Members.

We have come to the end of this afternoon session. We will resume tomorrow morning at 9:30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 20:44 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.44

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 December 2016

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

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

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

- Item 7. Report of the 162nd (23-25 May), 163rd (2-3 November) and 164th (7-11 November 2016) Sessions of the Finance Committee**
- Point 7. Rapports des cent soixante-deuxième, cent soixante-troisième et cent soixante-quatrième sessions du Comité financier (23-25 mai, 2-3 novembre et 7-11 novembre 2016 respectivement)**
- Tema 7. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 162.º (23-25 de mayo), 163.º (2 y 3 de noviembre) y 164.º (7-11 de noviembre de 2016) del Comité de Finanzas**
(CL 155/4; CL 155/6; CL 155/11; CL 155/13 Rev.1; CL 155/LIM/2; C 2017/6 A and B)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We start our work today with item 7, *Report of the 162nd Session (23-25 May 2016), 163rd Session (2-3 November 2016) and 164th Session (7-11 November 2016) of the Finance Committee*. The documents before Council are CL 155/4; CL 155/6, CL 155/11, CL 155/13 Rev.1; C 2017/6 A and B and CL 155/LIM/2.

I would like to draw your attention to document CL 155/LIM/2, regarding the Status of Assessments and Arrears.

This document sets out the status of assessments and arrears as at 29 November 2016.

Member Nations currently owe to FAO over USD 132 million for 2016 and prior years, which clearly complicates FAO's liquidity management.

As of 29 November 2016, 20 percent of 2016 assessed contributions were still to be settled.

Forty-seven Member Nations still had arrears outstanding from 2015 and previous years, and 19 owed arrears in such amounts as would prejudice their right to vote at the next Session of the Conference in accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution.

There is no decision to be made on this point, but the Council may wish to include a statement regarding arrears in its report on this item.

I now invite Mr Khalid Mehboob, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, to introduce this item.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present the Reports of the 162nd, 163rd and 164th Sessions of the Finance Committee. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 155/4, CL 155/6 and CL 155/11. In addition, document CL 155/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the status of contributions and arrears as at 29 November 2016.

The Chair has also referred to this document in his opening remarks.

While the 164th session dealt with FAO issues, the 162nd and 163rd sessions were special sessions convened to deal with WFP matters. Our reports on WFP matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration.

As agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you salient highlights of the report of the 164th Meeting of the Finance Committee.

First is *Monitoring Financial Position*. In reviewing the Financial Position of the Organization and recognizing that the Organization's ongoing cash flow health was dependent on the timely payment of assessed contributions, the Committee urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions and requested the Secretariat to continue exploring how to encourage this. Underlining the importance of the TCP to member countries, the Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to maintain the TCP expenditure rate at a level that ensures full implementation of the TCP appropriation as approved by the Conference.

The Committee examined the FAO Audited Accounts for 2015, the second set of Accounts for FAO prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Committee welcomed the issuance of the External Auditor's unmodified opinion and expressed

appreciation for the quality of the Long Form Report. The Committee noted that the Long Form Report contained a significant number of observations and recommendations relating to internal control issues, in particular those relating to monitoring controls, processing controls, the segregation of duties and the Shared Services Centre. The Committee emphasized the importance of strengthening the internal control framework at headquarters and decentralized offices and monitoring its effective implementation and compliance. Noting the comments and clarifications provided by the External Auditor and the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that the Council submit the Audited Accounts for 2015 to the Conference for adoption. The Committee accordingly agreed to submit to the Council the draft resolution presented in paragraph 11 of CL 155/6 for forwarding to the Conference.

The Committee considered an update on the latest UN system discussions on the funding of After Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) liabilities and on efforts being made by the Secretariat to contain the costs of the scheme. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to further review the options to address the funding gap in the context of the considerations on this matter by the United Nations General Assembly, emphasizing the importance of adopting a common approach amongst the members of the United Nations Common System. The Committee urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to contain costs of the current medical insurance plan.

Coming to the *Budgetary Matters*, the Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Support Costs Expenditures and Recoveries covering the period from 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2016 and noted that all trust fund projects opened during the period under review had been charged at rates which fell within the approved legacy policy on support costs. The Committee further noted that, during 2016, the Secretariat was applying the new FAO policy on cost recovery to selected projects during their formulation in close collaboration with the resource partners involved and aimed for full implementation of the new policy in 2017.

Human Resources: the Committee commended the Secretariat on the achievements made in human resources management in the Organization since 2012, including in the areas of recruitment and development of employees, improved gender representation and increased efficiency in HR processes and procedures. It encouraged the Secretariat in its efforts to address the challenges ahead identified in the report, including *inter alia* on recruitment procedures, equitable geographical representation and the efficient use of non-staff human resources.

The Committee welcomed the significant improvement reported on the status of professional vacancies and the resulting vacancy rate. The Committee requested the Secretariat to adopt a standardized format when presenting information and to streamline the process for responding to requests by Members for the provision of non-sensitive information on staffing.

The Committee reviewed Recommendations and Decisions of the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to the General Assembly (including Changes in the Salary Scales and Allowances). The Committee took note of the progress on implementation of the changes to the compensation package for the professional and higher categories and the main decisions by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board.

Oversight issues: the Committee reviewed and endorsed the Director-General's recommendation to appoint Ms Daniela Graziani as a member of the FAO Audit Committee for an initial period of three years, and that this be renewable thereafter up to a maximum of six years in total.

The Committee reviewed an updated Progress Report on Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations. The Committee commended the Secretariat on the significant progress made in closing recommendations of the External Auditor and urged the Secretariat to continue efforts to close the remaining outstanding recommendations.

Overall, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization. On behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us this opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our reports.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

The delegation of Egypt is talking on behalf of the Near East group and would like to focus on the following items.

First, the group confirms the necessity to pay the contributions upon deadlines and that should allow the Organization to implement its Programme of Work. It requests the Secretariat to explore new and innovative ways in order to encourage Member Nations to pay their contributions on time.

Second, the group is concerned about the rise of deficit that might reach 955 million dollars by next month and this is related to the high burdens of the past medical services. It requests the Secretariat to follow the United Nations system scheme in order to reach a solution for this issue.

Third, the group confirms the linkages between implementation of the SDGs and the technical cooperation programmes. It is imperative to make sure that the expenditure rates in the technical programmes are capable of providing the required amounts for these programmes according to the indications of the conference. We remind you that it is very important to give due attention to this request.

Fourth, in light of the importance of the technical programmes, and leading up to the Conference next year, we call upon starting unofficial and informal negotiations in order to agree upon the recovery costs, in order to reach at least a level of 14 percent and we have to comply with the decision number 9 of 98.

Fifth, regarding the management of human resources, we commend the achievements in this area; however, we are concerned about the rise of vacancies in the Regional Office in Cairo as it has registered the highest level across regional offices. This is deterring us from achieving the required missions. We require to increase the capacities of these offices in order to achieve the goals. We need to have better justice in the representation across the offices and regional bureaux.

In the end, the Near East Regional Group appreciates the efforts of Mr Khalid Mehboob, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, and thanks the Secretariat as well as the Member Nations.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We highly commend the leadership of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and we also highly appreciate the work done. We endorse the Reports.

We have the following comments to make. First, Members should pay their contributions in a timely manner. China thinks that delaying payment is irresponsible and it also has a negative impact on countries who pay on time. Therefore China has the following two suggestions to make.

First, FAO should take necessary measures, for example, disclose on the website the names of countries who do not pay their contribution on time and make appropriate sanctions such as disqualifying them from participating in governing body meetings. Second, FAO delegations or other representative bodies should communicate in an effective manner with their countries. If they cannot pay their contribution on time, they should provide a written explanation and this should be published online.

Second, as regards the FAO Commissary, we think that it should increase its supply and sell goods which are from different regions. It should also increase the circulation of goods. In this regard, we suggest that it should increase the goods coming from developing countries, especially the white alcohol from China. Second, the goods should not be locked up otherwise customers have to ask the salesmen to unlock the products; this should be avoided as it is a hassle and it is a waste of time. Third, the Commissary should clear out the goods which have not been sold for a long time.

We also think FAO should find different sources to mobilize funds; especially it should enhance its cooperation with governments and the private sector. One suggestion would be that it should build a link with countries' national strategies such as China's: a one road initiative. Moreover, it should strengthen the link with companies to promote the trade of agricultural commodities and agricultural investments so as to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Sr. Benito Santiago JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Tomo la palabra a nombre del GRULAC.

Agradecemos al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas su presentación, así como su conducción en los trabajos del Comité.

Permítame unos comentarios sobre el 164.º período de sesiones del Comité.

Notamos con atención que si bien la liquidez de la Organización en el corto plazo está cubierta, la cuestión del déficit creciente del Fondo General requiere una mayor atención. Como se menciona en el documento, esto se debe al déficit de financiación para sufragar las obligaciones relativas al Plan de Seguro Médico después del cese en el servicio y al Plan de prestaciones por rescisión del nombramiento.

Si bien este tema va más allá de la FAO y abarca a una parte importante del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, creemos que se debe abordar con seriedad y prontitud para evitar un mayor déficit en el futuro, por lo que respaldamos las propuestas mencionadas en el informe alentando a la Secretaría a examinar opciones viables para resolver este problema.

En cuanto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, apoyamos plenamente el llamado del Comité de Finanzas para que la Secretaría siga manteniendo una tasa de gasto del PCT a un nivel adecuado a fin de garantizar la ejecución plena de lo consignado en el Programa de Trabajo aprobado por la Conferencia.

Tomamos nota con agrado que desde hace un año ha habido progresos importantes para cubrir las vacantes en puestos de la FAO. Esta cuestión es importante para poder mantener en buen nivel la capacidad técnica de la Organización. Alentamos a la Secretaría a mantener este ritmo para cubrir vacantes, siguiendo todos los procesos debidos de contratación y selección de personal en un marco de transparencia. También alentamos a la Secretaría a conseguir una representación geográfica más equitativa, tanto del personal contratado como de los consultores, acorde con el espíritu de universalidad de las Naciones Unidas.

Con estos comentarios, apoyamos las recomendaciones contenidas en los informes.

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Indonesia)

Indonesia is delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

We thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive and informative document. We welcome the Report of the 164th Session of the Finance Committee and other related reports such as the Audited Accounts together with its notes as at 31 December 2015 and the External Auditor's Report. The Audited report tells us that FAO is in a stable financial position.

From the reports however, we wish to draw five important points:

The Audited Report of FAO tells us that the financial position of FAO is strong while maintaining a stable reserve. We, however, note that there is a decrease of USD 129.1 million in the Cash Flow Statement which was due to a reduced Assessment of Member Nations under Regular Programme and also from a reduced amount of Voluntary Contributions. Therefore, we underscore the Finance Committee's recommendation urging the Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure programmes are being implemented accordingly as planned.

The External Audit Report of FAO 2015 has suggested 21 recommendations for improvement of financial management and governance of FAO with priorities and timelines. We also note that the management has partially implemented recommendations by the auditors for financial year 2012-13 and 2014. This means that there is still more work to be done. Therefore, we reiterate the importance of implementing all the recommendations identified especially when it concerns strengthening the internal control framework at headquarters and decentralized offices. Internal controls are the procedures put in place to help the Organization to achieve its objectives. Establishing effective internal controls for FAO means that it would be able to assist departments to operate more efficiently and effectively. We look forward to see the Progress Report on Implementation of the External

Auditor's Recommendation next year. We encourage the Finance Committee to stress the specific timeline for all the recommendations to be implemented.

We concur with the Finance Committee's underlining the importance of the TCP to Member Nations, including towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and with the Committee's request for the Secretariat to maintain the TCP expenditure rate at a level that ensures full implementation of the TCP appropriation as approved by the Conference.

We support the Finance Committee's encouraging the Secretariat in its efforts to address the challenges in Human Resources management, notably by improving recruitment procedures and ensuring equitable geographical representation.

We take note and endorse the appointment of Ms Daniela Graziani as a new member of the FAO Audit Committee. As for other matters related to Budgetary, Human Resource Management and the Audit Progress Report, we hereby take note and request Management to take further necessary action.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Guinea Ecuatorial, al igual que los otros oradores precedentes, quiere felicitar al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por su brillante exposición y presentación del informe, así como la forma que ha orientado los debates durante la celebración de la reunión del Comité de Finanzas.

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial interviene de nuevo en nombre de los Países del Grupo Regional Africano, los cuales manifiestan su satisfacción por los informes del 162.º, 163.º y 164.º períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas de la FAO, celebrados en mayo y noviembre de este año.

El Grupo Africano Regional valora en alto estos informes porque, recogen con objetividad las cuestiones que fueron abordadas durante dichos Comités, en tanto que son temas importantes que redundan para el buen funcionamiento de la FAO y el PMA, con el objetivo de conseguir la eficacia y la eficiencia a la hora de ejecutar sus programas y planes de acciones.

Exhortamos a los Países en cumplir con sus obligaciones financieras para el presupuesto ordinario de la FAO, pagando a tiempo sus contribuciones, a fin de que podamos tener una Organización fuerte con cuentas saludables, con el propósito de afrontar los desafíos que van surgiendo cada vez más en el contexto internacional.

Solicitamos el aumento, o en su defecto la conservación de los montos asignados a la partida presupuestaria que corresponde al fomento de las actividades de la Cooperación Técnica (PCT).

Felicitamos a la FAO por la aplicación de la política de ahorro de los gastos, consistente en la realización de actividades con el empleo de menos fondos a fin de conseguir más ahorros.

Solicitamos el cumplimiento a tiempo de las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo, para conseguir la máxima transparencia en la gestión de los recursos y evitar la opacidad en las actividades de la FAO.

Manifestamos nuestra satisfacción en el sentido de que, la creación de los tres nuevos puestos de Dirección de la FAO que se propone, no van a suponer una carga adicional al presupuesto ordinario; por lo que, tampoco ello conllevará un aumento de las cuotas por parte de los Miembros.

Queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para felicitar al Director General de la FAO por los esfuerzos que está realizando desde el año 2012 para mejorar los aspectos administrativos y financieros de la Organización, sobre todo en lo que concierne a los recursos humanos, creando más puestos técnicos en detrimento de los puestos burocráticos; al propio tiempo que ha conseguido reducir los plazos en la contratación del personal cualificado, de igual forma ha velado por la equidad de género y la descentralización de las oficinas en los países.

Con estos comentarios, los países del Grupo Africano Regional aprueban los informes del 162.º, 163.º y 164.º períodos de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, así como las medidas que se proponen.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Mi Delegación se suma a la declaración del GRULAC sobre este punto de la agenda. En particular, Nicaragua acoge con satisfacción la multitud de logros en la esfera de la gestión de recursos humanos

en la Organización desde el año 2012. Destacamos los progresos realizados que han colocado a la FAO como innovadora en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Felicitamos a la Secretaría por los resultados en materia de recursos humanos, especialmente en el ámbito de la contratación y la distribución geográfica, donde la FAO es ahora más rápida en la contratación de candidatos de buena calidad. El proceso de selección es más equilibrado y transparente.

Con esa consideración, Señor Presidente, mi delegación endosa el informe del Comité de Finanzas.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States endorses this report and applauds FAO for managing within its means and taking a prudent, responsible approach to ensuring the proper financial and governance oversight. We welcome the increased focus on vacancy announcements in 2016 and the strides made in gender representation since the launch of reforms in 2012.

As noted at the Finance Committee, despite increased efforts to improve geographical distribution, the latest statistics reflect a decrease in representation for some regions that were already under-represented. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its focus on addressing geographic representation and balances and look forward to timely provision of updated information.

The United States thanks the Secretariat for its leadership in the UN in the After Service Health Insurance Working Group of the Finance and Budget Network. We look forward to updates on this and other potential cost implications to the Organization, as well as to the eventual implementation of the new mandatory age of separation.

We support the Finance Committee recommendation for the Secretariat to undertake another review of the Terms of Reference of the FAO Audit Committee to align them with best practices of other UN Organizations and we ask the Secretariat to present the revised draft version for future Finance Committee review.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

I would like to pass the floor to the Slovak Republic before coming back for a short national statement.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. San Marino and the candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We commend the work of the Finance Committee at its 164th Session and welcome the conclusion and advice to the Council as contained in the report on this session. We would like to limit our comments to certain points in this report.

Looking at FAO's Financial Position, we note with satisfaction that the Organization's liquidity is expected to be sufficient to cover operational needs through the end of 2016. However, we are slightly less satisfied with the fact that the pace of timely payment of contributions has slowed down a bit. Therefore, we endorse the Committee's appeal to Members to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions, and encourage the Secretariat to continue exploring measures to encourage such payments.

We endorse the Committee's recommendation that the Council should submit the FAO Audited Accounts 2015 to the Conference for adoption.

We appreciate the Committee's conclusions on funding After Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) liabilities. In particular, we acknowledge again the need for the United Nations System to adopt a common approach to this issue, and therefore encourage the FAO to continue its active participation in the UN After Service Health Insurance Working Group. In the meantime the FAO should continue its efforts to contain the costs of the current medical insurance plan. As a contribution to containing ASMC costs, the FAO should consider the expeditious implementation of the new mandatory age of separation for staff recruited prior to 1 January 2014.

Regarding human resources management, we welcome the significant improvement reported in the status of professional vacancies and the resulting vacancy rate. We encourage the Secretariat to persist in its efforts to make sure that vacant posts are being filled promptly. In this context, we would like to stress the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency, fair competition, transparency and technical competence in the selection of staff. In this context, it is also crucial to ensure that the technical divisions have a full say in the selection process.

While acknowledging that some progress was achieved in the provision of timely information on human resources management, we still see a lot of room for further improvement. To this effect, we support the Committee's request to adopt a standardised format when presenting information which comprehensively covers both staff and non-staff human resources.

In the same vein, we strongly support the Committee's request to streamline the process for responding to requests by Members for the provision of non-sensitive information on staffing.

Moreover, we support the Committee's endorsement of the Director-General's recommendation to appoint Ms Daniela Graziani as a new member of the Audit Committee.

Finally, we commend the Secretariat on the significant progress made in closing the recommendations of the External Auditor and urge the Secretariat to continue efforts to close the remaining outstanding recommendations.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

We fully align ourselves with the statement made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union and I would like to come back to one issue that relates to the process of responding to requests by Members for the provisions of non-sensitive information on staffing.

We, as many other Member States, have to inform our capitals regularly on these issues. In concrete terms, this year we asked the three Rome-based Agencies for certain non-sensitive information on staffing on 26 October. WFP responded by 8 November. IFAD responded by 10 November. FAO has not responded up until today, 7 December. This is very unsatisfactory. We urge the Secretariat to remedy the situation speedily.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group comments delivered by Indonesia earlier, particularly on urging the Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions.

Japan would also like to highlight the following two points.

Firstly, on the issue of funding of the staff-related liabilities, especially the After Service Medical Coverage liability, Japan encourages the FAO Secretariat to continue to be actively engaged in the discussions under the United Nations Common System and to consider the options to contain the costs of those liabilities.

Secondly, Japan welcomes the Secretariat's report on the recent achievements made in human resources management, and hopes that the FAO, being a specialized agency, continues to place high value on ensuring technical competency of the staff in its recruitment process, while also taking account of geographical representation.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

There are not many questions for me, but there are two items on which I can provide further information to Members of the Council. One of the issues that many Members have raised, which is a concern even in the Finance Committee, it is the timely payment of contributions. This is not a new phenomenon. Probably, it is as old as the Organization.

In the past, there have been attempts to address this. In fact, there are some sanctions already foreseen in the Basic Texts. I think they were referred to by the Chair in his opening remarks. If countries are in arrears for two years, they lose their voting rights. They also lose their seat on the Council. In addition, Member governments had approved an incentive scheme in the past that was a certain discount that

would be recommended by the Finance Committee would be given to Members who paid before 31 March.

That practice was carried on for some years, but it did not have any impact. The discount went to those countries who paid before 31 March anyway. So, the Finance Committee recommended that this incentive scheme did not serve any purpose and should be abolished and the Council had agreed.

At one point, the Finance Committee had also advised some additional sanctions in addition to the two which already exist. Yet, those recommendations did not find any support in the Council, so no action was taken.

This is an issue in which the Secretariat is involved very actively: in the follow-ups with member countries. In the past, once there was a proposal by some countries: it was that wherever there is an FAO office and FAO has to convert dollars to send local currency there, perhaps the country can give local currency and the equivalent in dollars is credited to the contributions and any exchange. In that case, the loss would be covered by the country.

Perhaps later, I would ask the Director of Finance to comment on that item, whether it is used for some countries or is there some negative aspects why it cannot be extended to others or why it cannot be used widely.

However, at the moment we are involved in exploring other ways to see how Member governments could pay early.

The second item on which I could give some information in addition to what is already in the Finance Committee is this After Service Medical Coverage. There is a UN Working Group and FAO does participate very actively. At each session, the Finance Committee gets an update on how the proceedings of this Group have been.

I believe that the whole UN System is a Member of this group. Recently, there has been a report published by the Secretary-General on this issue, which is going to be considered by the Fifth Committee in January 2017. The Finance Committee at its March 2017 session will be given more information and an update on the discussions in the Fifth Committee on the Secretary-General's Report.

There was one other question posed by Egypt, which raised the question of the vacancy rates in the Regional Office in Cairo. I have been provided with some information: this issue is being addressed and, as of today, the vacancy rate is below 15 percent in the Cairo Office.

As for the mandatory age of separation, again, the Finance Committee is expecting an update in March 2017 on this matter. I believe the Organization is working on this. Any further information the Secretariat may give is welcome.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Coordinator for Technical Cooperation and Programme Management)

There was a number of comments we have noted. Particularly, those voiced by the Asia Regional Group, GRULAC and the Near East Regional Group regarding the progress on the TCP expenditure. Specifically, remarks were made on the recommendation of the Finance Committee requesting the Secretariat to continue to maintain the TCP expenditure rate at a level that ensures full implementation of the TCP appropriation as approved by the Conference.

I would like to reassure the Members of the Council that the Secretariat is indeed continuing to proceed with the TCP commitment and delivery in order to follow this recommendation.

Basically, regarding the appropriation 2016-17, this appropriation that has to be spent by 2019. I am pleased to inform that as of 30 November 2016, 50 percent of the appropriation has been committed. So, it is a good progress if compared to the previous biennium. Then, it means that we are comfortable to commit all the appropriation by the end of the biennium, that is to say by the end of 2017.

Regarding the biennium 2014-15, it means that corresponding appropriation has to be committed by the end of 2017. I am pleased to report that the level of expenditure is 76 percent. Therefore, we are well in time in terms of expenditure on related appropriation. We will continue to make sure that we

pay the necessary attention in terms of management to commit and spend the funds as requested by the Council.

Finally, I want to inform you that we continue to improve with regard to the percentage of projects approved within three months of the receipt of request from the government.

In fact, we are now at 76 percent of the projects activated after three months' government approval, as opposed to 72 percent of the previous biennium.

Mr Aiman Ibrahim HIJA (Director, Finance Division)

I will briefly speak first on the point raised by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee on the currency. In very few cases, I confirm that we are authorized to receive the appropriate contribution in local currency. As for the local currency contributions only, there is the case where we can use these funds within no more than a three-month period for the purpose of carrying out operations in the country office. Otherwise, this will expose the Organization to risk of fund exchange loss.

This year, we have some countries that have some difficulties in transferring foreign currency outside the country. This is due either to a shortage of foreign currency or to the need to give the foreign currency. We talked to those countries and they requested to pay in foreign currency, in dollars and euros, at FAO bank accounts in that country. So, at least the foreign currency remains in the country as part of the overall reserve of the country and we try to convert it to local currency as we need.

We are not authorized as per our Financial Regulations established by the Members to receive the arrears in foreign local currency. Any change to that regulation would require a change of the BasicTexts which would have to go through the process of the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the Council and the Conference.

With regard to the actual cost, I confirm that we are an active Member of the After Service Medical Insurance Task Force of the UN. This task force is basically led primarily by our Human Resources (HR) colleagues and we attend it regularly. I would like to say here one message: regardless of the final outcome of any change for the coverage, the issues between staff and the Organization, a significant amount has still to be paid by the Members in the future. This is because there is a cumulative deficit results over many years. As you can see, it is expected to reach USD 950 million by the end of this year.

In general, the regular operations run by the Organization are not affected directly by this deficit, because we finance our regular operations from the regular assessments. That is why we encourage Members again to pay their dues on a timely manner to avoid this inconvenience for other organizations.

I would like to assure the Indonesia Representative that working on the Audit Recommendations is going well and we are determined to continue the work on this issue. More information will be provided soon on this matter.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Mehboob, and thank you, the Secretariat, for responding to the issues which have been raised by the Members. We can now conclude on item 7 as follows.

The Council approved the Reports of the 162nd, 163rd and 164th Sessions of the Finance Committee and in particular:

On the Financial Position:

- a) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions;
- b) welcomed the External Auditor's issuance of an unmodified opinion on the Organization's Accounts for 2015, the second set of Accounts for FAO prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
- c) stressed the importance, as emphasized by the Finance Committee, of strengthening the internal control framework at headquarters and decentralized offices and monitoring its effective implementation and compliance;

- d) requested the Secretariat to continue to maintain the TCP expenditure rate at a level that ensures full implementation of the TCP appropriation as approved by the Conference; and
- e) recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference of the FAO Audited Accounts 2015 presented in paragraph 11 of document CL 155/6.

On Human Resource matters:

- f) expressed its appreciation for the many achievements made in human resource management by FAO since 2012, notably the significant improvement reported on the status of professional vacancies and the resulting vacancy rate and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to pursue equitable geographical representation;
- g) requested the Secretariat to streamline the process for responding to requests by Members for the provision of non-sensitive information on staffing;

On Oversight matters:

- h) endorsed the appointment of Ms Daniela Graziani as a member of the FAO Audit Committee for an initial period of three years.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

On point (f), on expressing appreciation for the decrease in the vacancy rate, we agree with that but we want to add something to also encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts to decrease the vacancy rate, especially in the decentralized offices where there are high vacancy rates at the moment.

We take note of the very good feedback from the Secretariat that the vacancy rate has decreased in the Near East Regional Office, but we want this to be continued.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for your excellent summary. We would also like to add under letter (f) on human resources, that we stress the importance of securing efficiency, fair competition, transparency, technical competence, and full say of the technical divisions in the selection process.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, for your excellent summary. Japan fully supports the statement just made by the European Union.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Let us work on these two issues. I read the new points.

(f) Expressed its appreciation for the many achievements made in human resources management by FAO since 2012, notably the significant improvement reported on the status of professional vacancies and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue its efforts particularly in respect of Regional Offices.

(g) Encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to pursue equitable geographical representation while recalling the importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency, fair competition, transparency and technical competence in the selection of staff.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

We would kindly ask you to add at the end of point (f), where it says “to pursue its efforts especially in regional offices”, to add “with high level of vacancy rates”. The current language does not indicate what we want to point out here.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read the sentence again: “(f) Expressed its appreciation for the many achievements made in the human resources management by FAO since 2012, notably the significant improvement reported on the status of professional vacancies and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue its efforts particularly in respect of Regional Offices with high vacancy rate levels.”

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Regarding this criteria of selection of staff, professional and non-professional staff, on the points raised by our colleague from the European Union and seconded by Japan, we would like to hear the Secretariat. In our knowledge, this criteria is already there so there is no need to repeat it.

CHAIRPERSON

Maybe it is just a reminder. That is all. I do not need the Secretariat to respond to that.

Ms Zora WEBEROVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Thank you for including our request as we really insist on these principles, even as only a reminder, if you want.

But I would like to add one criterion and that is “full say of technical divisions” as I requested in my previous intervention. So to read: “efficiency, fair competition, transparency, technical competence and full say of technical divisions in the selection process”.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we can leave that out, it does not make any harm.

Thank you. We have concluded that agenda item.

Item 9. Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (24-26 October 2016)**Point 9. Rapport de la cent troisième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (24-26 octobre 2016)****Tema 9. Informe del 103.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (24-26 de octubre de 2016)**

(CL 155/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*. The document before Council is CL 155/2.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I remind you that we have agreed to consider input from the last Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on Article XIV Bodies under this item.

I invite Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, to introduce the Report. Ambassador Ivanov, you have the floor.

Mr Lubomir IVANOV (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I have the pleasure to present the Report of the 103th Session of the Committee on the Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) which took place in October this year.

The agenda of the 103th Session of the CCLM included two items:

One item concerned the issue of the procedure for the appointment of secretaries of bodies established under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and other entities hosted in FAO; and the second item concerned issues related to decision-making procedures in bodies under Article XIV of the Constitution and other statutory bodies.

The first item on the agenda was also reviewed by the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and 164th Session of the Finance Committee. Ambassador Serge Tomasi will report on the deliberations of the Joint Meeting on this issue.

As you know, this first item on the agenda raised much discussion. The CCLM took note of the views of the Secretariat on this matter, which are reflected in the report. The CCLM acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV Bodies with legal and administrative responsibilities borne by the Organization for such bodies and stressed that this matter involved policy, governance and legal issues.

With regard to the second item, the CCLM noted that this was already under review a few years ago.

The CCLM confirmed that formal meetings of statutory bodies should be held in public and that the Director-General or a representative of the Director-General shall participate without the right to vote in all formal meetings of statutory bodies and their subsidiary bodies, pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 5 of the FAO Constitution.

The CCLM further underlined that this did not apply to informal meetings of members of the statutory bodies.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador Ivanov. I would now like to invite Ambassador Tomasi, who chaired the November Joint Meeting, to present the section of the report of that meeting that deals with Article XIV bodies. Ambassador Tomasi, you have the floor.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier a donc abordé la question de la procédure de sélection et de nomination des secrétaires exécutifs des organes relevant de l'Article XIV des statuts de notre Organisation à sa session du mois dernier. Elle a examiné la proposition du Secrétariat décrite dans le document JM 2016.2/6, ainsi que le rapport de la 103^{ème} session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques consacré à ce sujet.

La délibération a fait apparaître des positions divergentes entre les Membres ne permettant pas de parvenir à un consensus sur le fond de la procédure de nomination.

Le Président de séance a donc proposé de mettre en place une procédure de consultation sous l'autorité de notre Président indépendant du Conseil, en application de l'Article 1.a de la résolution 9/2009 de la 36^{ème} Conférence de la FAO. Cet article donne en effet mandat au Président indépendant du Conseil, en cas de désaccord entre les États Membres, de procéder à toute consultation permettant de rapprocher les points de vue et de construire un consensus.

Malheureusement, cette proposition a été rejetée par trois membres de la Réunion conjointe. En conséquence, dans ses conclusions la Réunion conjointe s'est limitée, d'une part, à rappeler la nécessité de parvenir à une solution équilibrée entre l'autonomie fonctionnelle des organes «Article XIV» et le respect des responsabilités du Secrétariat de la FAO, et d'autre part, la Réunion a souligné l'urgence de pourvoir les positions de secrétaire exécutif des deux organes relevant de l'Article XIV actuellement vacants.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ambassador Tomasi. Before I proceed, I would like to invite Mr Antonio Tavares, Legal Counsel, to take the floor.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Chairpersons of the CCLM and of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees have made reference to the fact that there was no consensus on the treatment of this matter.

The Council will recall that when the Director-General delivered his statement to the Council he made a compromise proposal designed to allow the Council to find a way out of this situation in which we find ourselves.

I also note that Ambassador Tomasi has pointed out the urgency of the need to fill in two positions that are currently vacant. Before the discussions begins in the Council I wish to put forward a compromise proposal referred to by the Director-General.

This compromise proposal consists of three elements.

One of the elements would be that the Director-General would proceed with the issuance of vacancy announcements for the appointment of Secretaries of the IOTC and of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). He would implement standard procedures for the appointment of FAO senior staff with inclusion of two

representatives of Members in interview panels. Then there would be a subsequent referral by the Director-General of one candidate to the relevant bodies for approval.

The second point is that the secretaries would be appointed for a period of two years and would be subject to confirmation by the body concerned at the end of that period.

The third point is that meanwhile the FAO Secretariat and the Independent Chairperson of the Council would carry out consultations during this period, including with the bodies themselves, with a view to agreeing and adopting a long-term solution.

This is a compromise proposal that we would wish to refer to the Council for consideration before the discussions on this topic. Of course, as I said I shall be able to provide clarifications in due course on this matter.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I open the floor to delegates I would like to say that, as you have heard from Ambassador Ivanov and Ambassador Tomasi, there have been very extensive discussions on this issue but they all turned out to be the snake chasing its own tail. There has not been any compromise or any consensus, and what is important for us today is not to go back to the discussions we have already had in CCLM and in the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees. Otherwise it will take us a long time, as it was the case in the CCLM as well as in the Joint Meeting. So we have to use our wisdom to solve this issue.

We have a proposal from the Secretariat which does not end this problem but it ends the issue of going in cycles. At least for two years we would be able to sort out this issue while having substantive secretaries working in those bodies.

If you have another good proposal, then bring it to the Council and we will discuss it. We should not involve ourselves in the legality as we will continue debating this issue endlessly.

With these remarks, I open the floor and I hope we will get a consensus in a very short time.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

I understand the advice that you just gave us as Council Members. However, Australia feels there is some very important history to this that is important that all Council Members know. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter here today. We appreciated the Director-General's comments in the opening session on Monday that further explained the proposal and his perspective on it.

We would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the many *fora* in which this issue has been discussed over the last year or so. This is because we hope it will provide more understanding of our view. At the governing body of the International Plant Treaty for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture late last year, a proposed change to the selection and appointment process was discussed. It was a slightly different version to the one before us now, but the key parts are essentially the same.

Discussion was extensive and resulted in the governing body asking FAO to consult with its bureau to discuss the proposed changes, so that they could come up with a process that was suitable to both. At the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) session in May this year, as the Director-General said, FAO, through its Legal Counsel, presented a proposal to the Members to change the selection and appointment process.

Again, it was a slightly different version to the one before us now, but the key parts are essentially the same. The IOTC did not agree to the proposal as it did not support the imposition of FAO's processes over the Rules and Procedures that the Commission had legitimately adopted.

But the IOTC did acknowledge FAO's concerns and expressed its openness by considering an amendment to its Rules and Procedures. This approach would have a process that better meets the interests of FAO, while continuing the Commission's right and ability to be involved in the recruitment of its own staff.

FAO was invited to consult with the IOTC in the months after the main meeting on the development and amendments to the current Rules and Procedure.

At the Committee on Fisheries here in Rome in July this year, Members raised concerns about the selection process for the Secretary of the IOTC. The meeting report, in paragraph 142, stated that several Members expressed concerns with regard to the selection process of the IOTC Executive Secretary and its consistency with the established IOTC rules of procedure. Then, they called on an urgent solution that respects the legitimate rules and procedures of the IOTC.

As the Chair of the CCLM just told us, in October this year, Members acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV related to bodies with the legal and administrative responsibilities borne by FAO.

The meeting report also set forth that the CCLM agreed that further consultations would be needed with wider participation, including with the bodies themselves. As the Chair of the Programme Committee just explained to us, we did discuss this matter at length at the Joint Session of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, but I would like to correct the record.

The Chair of the Programme Committee declared that his proposal for consultation by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) was rejected by three Members. I know Australia was one of those. We rejected it because it was not something that was discussed at the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee meeting. It was something that was new and was introduced during the adoption of the meeting report.

FAO's procedures on meeting reports reflect what was discussed in the meeting and do not open up new debates. That was the basis on which Australia rejected that proposal.

We understand some consultation has occurred with some Permanent Representatives, which has led to the current slightly modified proposal, but not with the bodies themselves. Australia appreciates the efforts made by FAO to try and find a solution that is acceptable to all parties. Yet, it is difficult to see how the proposal before us meets the requirements outlined by the IOTC, the Committee on Fisheries and the CCLM to balance the responsibilities of the Article XIV bodies. Particularly the IOTC with those of the FAO, especially in the absence of any advice from the Article XIV bodies themselves.

Australia understands the need to provide certainty to the bodies and that the current situation is not ideal. We could have been in a position now to have reached an agreement if this consultation had occurred when it was first requested. Nonetheless, Australia's view is that it is more undesirable to impose a process on the bodies now that it does not respect their own rules of procedure and it has not been agreed with them.

On this basis, we cannot support a proposal that imposes a selection process on the bodies without their agreement. We encourage FAO to urgently put the revised proposal to the bodies out of session to seek their views and to hopefully achieve a swift resolution.

Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairuddin MOHD (Malaysia)

Malaysia has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We would like to recognize the work carried out by the members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, for their ability to consider specific legal and constitutional matters within the Organization.

The Asia Regional Group has carefully considered the existing problems incorporated in the report and wishes only to provide guidance to the Council, since it had already been comprehensively discussed by the Members of the CCLM, as well as the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees.

On the issue of the procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and other entities hosted in FAO, the Asia Regional Group wishes to underline the importance of Management, in particular to conduct consultations with the Members or Parties of those Bodies established under Article XIV of the Constitution. From this point of view, there is a strong need to balance the functional autonomy of the Article XIV Bodies with the legal and administrative responsibilities set up by the Organization for such bodies.

We welcome further updates from Management on this issue in order to urgently come into a cordial solution for the benefit of all related parties, and in accordance with the FAO idea, which in turn will contribute to the world economy and will ensure humanity's freedom from hunger.

On the issue of decision-making procedures in bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the Asia Regional Group is in conformity with the consideration of the CCLM, and takes note that formal meetings of Statutory Bodies should be public. Likewise, the general principle reflected in Article VII, paragraph 5 of the FAO Constitution, to formal meetings of the statutory bodies should be made applicable, and the Director-General or his representative shall participate without the right to vote at formal meetings of the statutory bodies and their subsidiary bodies.

With this note, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

M. Gabriel AHOANDOGBO (Bénin)

Le Bénin fait sienne la déclaration de l'Australie et fait cette remarque au nom du Groupe Afrique.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ) et tient à exprimer ses remerciements au Secrétariat. La région Afrique appuie fermement les orientations du CQCJ sur cette question et se félicite donc de la poursuite de la consultation sur l'Article XIV. À ce sujet, le Groupe Afrique appréciera une consultation plus large avec les groupes régionaux et les organismes concernés.

Le Groupe Afrique souhaiterait un processus démocratique dans la nomination des membres de ses organes et des parties contractantes. La qualité des candidats sélectionnés ou élus doit être bien étudiée pour le bien de l'Organisation. Et la région Afrique recommande que des consultations avec les organismes compétents soient menées et que par conséquent, cette proposition soit présentée afin que les avis puissent être examinés en fonction de leur expertise. En fait, le document, à notre avis, n'a pas suffisamment expliqué ce qui pourrait arriver au cas où les organismes concernés rejetteraient un candidat proposé, peut-être en raison du manque d'expérience ou de qualifications appropriées. Il est également nécessaire de distinguer clairement les différents types d'organes visés par l'Article XIV.

L'amendement à la Constitution de la FAO devrait être dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation et des Membres. Tout compromis susceptible de donner un pouvoir illimité à une personne déterminera une mauvaise préséance pour l'Organisation. Nous recommandons donc que toute proposition soit discutée au sein des organismes visés par l'Article XIV.

Nous nous demandons si le document explique clairement encore comment les changements seraient apportés si les propositions étaient approuvées. Le Groupe Afrique note également que cette question avait été discutée dans d'autres instances pertinentes, par exemple, l'organe directeur du Traité en octobre 2015 et en mai 2016 où les deux organes ont rejeté des propositions similaires qui leur avait été soumises par le Secrétariat. En fait, avec ces commentaires, nous attendons avec intérêt une consultation plus large avec la participation des organismes.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

Mi agradecimiento al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y también al Presidente de la Reunión Conjunta. Realizamos esta intervención a nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y del Caribe (GRULAC).

Agradecemos la presentación del documento CL 155/2. En lo que respecta al procedimiento de selección y nombramiento de los Secretarios de los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO y otras entidades albergadas por la Organización, el GRULAC apoyó la propuesta de la Secretaría en el 103.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, a saber, que se sigan los procesos estándar para la selección de funcionarios superiores en la selección de los Secretarios con algunos ajustes — como la inclusión de uno o dos representantes de los Estados Miembros en el comité de selección — y que posteriormente se someta la candidatura propuesta a la aprobación del órgano de que se trate.

Sobre la base de dicha propuesta, visto que en su pasada sesión el CACJ reconoció la necesidad de conjugar la autonomía funcional de los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV y las

responsabilidades jurídicas y administrativas de la Organización con respecto a estos órganos, y reconociendo que con la práctica llevada a cabo en la actualidad el Director General queda imposibilitado, de hecho, para desempeñar la función estatutaria que le corresponde;

Considerando que la Reunión Conjunta examinó el documento JM 2016.2/6 sobre este asunto y señaló la urgencia de ocupar los puestos vacantes para Secretarios Ejecutivos de dos de los órganos en cuestión.

En el entendido de que no existen fundamentos para celebrar elecciones en los acuerdos constituyentes pertinentes ni en la práctica del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y que de hecho la práctica de la elección es contraria al sentido de dichos acuerdos y a lo estipulado en los textos básicos de la Organización.

A sabiendas de que el 103.º período de sesiones del CACJ convino en la necesidad de celebrar más consultas con una mayor participación, y que el tema fue visto en la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, donde se admitió que el impasse sobre el tema del procedimiento de selección y nombramiento de los Secretarios no sólo es de naturaleza técnica sino también política; y visto que entre las funciones del Presidente Independiente del Consejo está la de realizar consultas con los representantes de los Estados Miembros para explorar la posibilidad de recomendar la adopción de medidas que puedan ser necesarias para facilitar y lograr un consenso;

El GRULAC acoge con satisfacción la propuesta formulada por el Director General en su intervención inaugural en esta sesión del Consejo. Consideramos que el mecanismo ad interim propuesto para la selección y nombramientos de los Secretarios de los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO es una vía satisfactoria para superar los obstáculos en aras de una solución definitiva. Le invitamos a Usted, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a asumir el papel de facilitador de un proceso consultivo con los órganos directivos de los instrumentos enmarcados bajo el artículo XIV, de manera tal que dichos órganos comprendan las limitaciones que nos impone la Constitución de la FAO para que acepten como definitiva la solución ofrecida por el Director General para este tema.

Por último, con respecto a las cuestiones relacionadas con los procedimientos de adopción de decisiones en los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO, el GRULAC favorece que las reuniones oficiales de los órganos estatutarios sean públicas y que el Director General, o un representante suyo, participe sin derecho a voto en las reuniones oficiales de los órganos estatutarios y sus órganos auxiliares, de conformidad con lo dispuesto en el párrafo 5 del artículo VII de la Constitución de la FAO.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Nicaragua se alinea a la declaración realizada por la distinguida Delegación de México en nombre del GRULAC.

Mi Delegación considera que las disposiciones de la Constitución de la FAO en cuanto a la forma como el fondo se alinean a las disposiciones de los instrumentos constitutivos de otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. En ese sentido, el enfoque común de las cuestiones en todo el sistema y sus mismas lógicas son reflejados en los textos fundamentales de cada una de las organizaciones. Por tanto, desde el punto de vista jurídico, es ahí donde se alinea e integra plenamente el ámbito institucional de la FAO.

En mérito al documento presentado sobre las cuestiones concernientes a la relación entre las entidades albergadas por la Organización, en especial los órganos establecidos en virtud del artículo XIV de la Organización y la necesidad de conciliar autonomía funcional y operativa, consideramos que la relación entre FAO y dichos órganos, a pesar que estos últimos están encuadrados en el marco de la Organización, vinculados administrativamente y sujetos a las normas y procedimientos de funcionamiento de la FAO, se han ido paulatinamente desvirtuando con prácticas que afectan los principios de buena gobernanza, de transparencia y en mera contradicción con las disposiciones de los tratados, incluyendo aquellos en materia de selección y nombramientos de los secretarios.

En ese sentido queremos dejar sentados que las prácticas o malas prácticas no pueden en ningún momento convertirse en derecho consuetudinario, suplantando ipso facto las disposiciones superiores

que rigen la Constitución de esta Organización. Las implicaciones incluidas a cualquier decisión derivada de dichas prácticas sentarían un mal precedente en el ordenamiento jurídico establecido.

Por otra parte, en aras de facilitar el consenso y superar el impasse, consideramos satisfactoria y acogemos la propuesta de compromiso formulada por el Director General y reiterada por el asesor jurídico para la selección y nombramiento de los secretarios.

Finalmente, mi Delegación considera que la participación del Director General o de un representante por él designado en las reuniones oficiales de los órganos estatutarios y órganos auxiliares es absolutamente congruente con las disposiciones de la Constitución y en línea con la práctica establecida en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Por tanto, refrendamos las recomendaciones del comité.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by Australia, Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Group, and Benin on behalf of the Africa Group on the issue of the procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of Article XIV bodies.

Japan also stresses the importance of holding wider consultations on this issue, including the Parties of the Article XIV bodies themselves, as it was recommended by the CCLM. In this regard, we do appreciate the FAO Secretariat's proposal to offer opportunities for more consultations. However, we would like to emphasize that any changes to the current selection and appointment procedure stipulated in the Basic Texts of the Article XIV bodies concerned must be effected in accordance with the rules of procedure provided for the amendment of those texts.

Therefore, from the legal perspective, Japan cannot accept the selection as the Secretariat's proposal to proceed with its standard recruitment process on the selection and appointment of the secretaries of the concerned Article XIV bodies, before formally amending their current rules of procedure.

We would also like to emphasize the need to carefully look into any negative implications of the FAO's proposal, in terms of the legal and functional autonomy of Article XIV bodies. This matter should be discussed among the Parties of the bodies themselves, as well as between the Parties and the FAO Secretariat.

Ms Susanne SCHLAACK (Germany)

I would just like to ask to pass the floor to Slovakia to speak on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States take note of the reports of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and of the joint PC/FC meetings and note that the latter was not able to reach consensus on the Secretariat proposal on the 'Procedure for the selection and appointment of secretaries of bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and other entities hosted in FAO'.

We underline the conclusions of the CCLM in stating the need to balance the functional autonomy of the Article XIV bodies with legal and administrative responsibilities borne by the Organization for such bodies. We also underline the need for further consultations with wider participation, including the bodies themselves.

We would also like to recall the important diversity of Article XIV bodies and their financial autonomy. This diversity as well as the need for adherence to common principles should be taken into account when selecting Executive Secretaries. While we need to respect the FAO Basic Texts, we consider that any change of the existing rules of procedure of Article XIV Bodies requires adequate consultation and approval by their respective governing bodies. Any changes should also be in line with FAO's Basic Texts and should take due account of the specific nature of each Article XIV Body.

While acknowledging that prolonged tenure of interim secretaries is not in the long-term interest of the bodies and the Organization, we would like to ask if it is possible to maintain the existing interim secretaries while the consultative process with Members and the governing bodies of the respective Article XIV Bodies is taking place. If this is not possible, please can the Secretariat explain why not? This information will help us to take a final view on the ideas presented by the Secretariat.

Finally, we endorse the conclusion reached by the CCLM on the decision-making procedures in bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. Formal meetings of Statutory Bodies should be held in public, consistent with the longstanding practice of the Organization, and as recognized by the General Rules of the Organization.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe makes this statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

Let me begin by clarifying that a colleague has already spoken, and you may have seen a number of African delegations coming to consult with me for this. This is because the Africa Regional Group met last week and unfortunately the colleague who has spoken was not at that meeting and he was probably not aware that the Group had taken a very different position from the one that has been presented.

We appreciate that the Committee had to grapple with a complex and difficult issue. Most of these complexities are clearly the result of derogations from the founding treaties of the Article XIV bodies.

The Africa Regional Group devoted an entire afternoon to this issue a week ago. Our conclusion was that the interests of all countries, especially developing countries, are best protected and guaranteed when rules are respected and followed. If rules are not followed we soon descend into Thomas Hobbes' state of nature where the strong and powerful ride roughshod over the weak and vulnerable.

I am reminded of the football matches I used to play in in the township when I was a little boy. There were no rules in those matches. The biggest boy determined what happened on the pitch. If you outran him and scored, he would say 'you were offside' and disallow the goal. If you dribbled past him and scored, again you were offside. It did not matter where you stood when you received the ball, you were always offside.

That is what happens when there are no rules or rules are not followed. The weak and powerless always get the short end of the stick. That is why we do not want to see a breakdown of the rule of law in FAO and its subsidiary bodies, including the Article XIV bodies. This is even more important when it relates to Article XIV bodies where we often have to grapple with issues of benefit sharing.

As a Group, we have therefore taken a firm and uncompromising position that the founding treaties of the Article XIV bodies should be respected. The treaties clearly stipulate the responsibilities of the Director-General and the Membership in relation to the appointment of the Secretaries of Article XIV bodies. The Director-General appoints, the Members approve. This means the process starts with the Director-General, after which the Members step in and play their own part. The reverse is simply not possible as it is not provided for under the treaties. Similarly, any procedure other than the one stipulated in the treaties, is contrary to the treaties and therefore illegal.

In our view there is no need for negotiations on this matter, which is so simple and straightforward.

However, we have taken note of the Director-General's proposal to involve Members in the selection interviews. It is a good proposal and worthy of our support. We hope all delegations can support this proposal.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I fully support our colleague from Zimbabwe who spoke on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We also approve the statement of Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The CCLM has given guidance to Council on the procedure for selection and appointment of the Secretaries for the Article XIV bodies of FAO. China believes that we should defend the authorities of

the Basic Texts and the authorities of FAO. If these are totally independent bodies, why are they hosted by FAO? Or to put it differently, since these bodies do not have a legal nature then it is obvious that the provisions that apply to the appointment of the Executive Secretaries should be followed. These bodies do enjoy a level of autonomy. They have their Membership. They may make proposals to FAO. However the final decision concerning the procedure and the actual selection should be in FAO's hands.

Since a consensus does not appear to be achievable at this stage, we think that the proposal coming from the Legal Counsel is very constructive and responsible. We welcome this proposal.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada believes that a way forward must be found which addresses the Secretariat's concerns while maintaining the autonomy of the Article XIV bodies and the Members' right to be consulted and to provide approval or countenance.

At the CCLM, the Joint Meeting and now today we have all seen that Members share a desire to find a way forward. We appreciate the Secretariat's and the Director-General's efforts to come up with a proposal. However, instead of rushing to a conclusion which will divide the Membership and antagonize the bodies themselves, we encourage further consultation as soon as possible including with the two Article XIV bodies most concerned.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Regarding the procedures for the selection and appointment of the Secretaries for the bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution and other bodies hosted by FAO, I would like to make the following statement on behalf of my country, Sudan.

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the CCLM for the presentation of this Report which describes the efforts made by the Committee in addressing this issue. The documents referring to the procedures for the selection and appointment of secretaries in these Article XIV bodies and other bodies hosted by the Organization stipulate that the Director-General appoints the Executive Secretaries after approval of the Membership but, in the current procedure, we see that elections are being held without, or with only very limited, participation of FAO Secretariat in the process and then the outcome is submitted to the Director-General for appointment.

Now this procedure is not following the text and has no precedence neither in the text nor in the practice of other United Nations organizations. This selection is in no way involving the Director-General. The best procedure in this case would be to return to the Constitution, to the Basic Texts of these bodies and respect the provisions.

We cannot reverse what has happened in the last 15 years. We do approve the proposal for the appointment of the Secretaries of these bodies as agreed on in conformity with the procedures for the selection of human resources of this Organization that does call for the participation of the Membership of the relevant bodies and therefore there should be an announcement of the vacancies and the procedures for the appointments of high-ranking officials of FAO should be followed. This would enable the selection of three candidates to be submitted to the Director-General who can then make his choice.

In this way the Secretariat of the Organization would be able to carry out consultations at the time in which the vacancies are announced to ensure consultation with the relevant bodies, taking into account also the dates of the sessions of these bodies so that the appointment of the Secretary is made in a way that enables these bodies to fulfil their role as provided for under the constitution of the Basic Texts. This would also dispel the doubts that may exist regarding favouring one or another side and ensure a higher level of transparency.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I am disappointed and discouraged by the direction that this debate has taken. I share the points of view expressed by Mexico on behalf of my Regional Group. I also take note of the positions taken by China, the African Regional Group and others, which are consistent with our views. However, if I recognize that a compromise has been found by the Director-General and the Legal Counsel which has

not been met by any moves on the parts of those who have consequently reiterated their objection to any solution to this matter at this juncture. This is worrisome above all because I do not see a clear direction being indicated by Management. In my understanding, the verb “to consult” is a ditransitive verb, meaning that it requires a subject and two objects. The direct object is: What are we consulting on? The indirect object is: Whom is this consultation addressed to? From what I hear these objects have not been defined.

In order to hold any further consultations on this matter, we should have a clear definition of the terms of reference for this consultation. For my delegation the terms of reference are those that have been outlined in the proposal that we heard from the Director-General yesterday and from the Legal Counsel this morning. Leaving the consultation process without a direct object would be aimless.

With regard to whom to consult, my understanding is that an inter-governmental body such as the Article XIV bodies should be addressed by another inter-governmental body, i.e. this Council. It would not be appropriate to leave this consultation in the hands of the Secretariat who should only consult with the secretariats of those bodies who are the interested parties and who are the subjects of this matter. That is why we have entrusted you, Mr Chairperson, to conduct this consultation on behalf of the Council.

In order for the Council to address the governing bodies of the treaties under Article XIV, we need to have an object to consult on. That is the reason why it is distressing for me to hear that people say we need further consultations but at the same time do not agree on who is consulting with whom and on what.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Je remercie le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ), le Président du Comité du Programme qui a eu à gérer la Réunion conjointe sur une question difficile. Je vous remercie aussi Monsieur le Président du Conseil parce que vous nous avez donné une orientation claire et je remercie aussi les délégués.

Nous sommes en train de répéter le même débat que nous avons eu lors de la Réunion conjointe, mais je pense qu'il faut donner une orientation. Mon groupe régional a donné la sienne. Lorsqu'on veut changer les règles du jeu, on navigue dans le flou, comme l'a bien exprimé l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe, et c'est la position du Groupe Afrique: faisons d'abord respecter ce qui existe, le changement, c'est un autre processus. Si l'on ne fait pas respecter ce qui existe, cela veut dire que même notre Conseil n'a plus sa place.

Si l'on s'engage dans une procédure de changement, comme l'a notifié le délégué du Brésil, on fixe les règles du jeu. Comment aller vers cette consultation? Quels sont les termes de base?

Mais pour le moment respectons d'abord ce qui existe. Laissons à celui qui en a l'autorité de nommer qui il décide et si l'on veut s'engager dans une procédure de consultation, que l'on fixe les règles du jeu et s'engage dans le processus.

Je réitère donc la position du Groupe Afrique, telle qu'elle a été exprimée par l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Our view is that the Constitution of FAO must be respected, particularly by one of the governing bodies of FAO. In this respect the Ambassador of Zimbabwe explained very elegantly what the issue is.

Therefore, we support the proposal which was put forward by the Director-General yesterday and was repeated by the Legal Counsel today.

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

We are not members of the CCLM and we are not members of most of the bodies that are under discussion now. However, as members of the Council, as well as of the Finance Committee, we have considered this issue in light of the Basic Texts. The Basic Texts contain provisions in a section entitled, and I will read in English.

Continues in English

“Principles and procedures which should govern conventions and agreements concluded under Articles XIV and XV of the Constitution”

Continues in Russian

Paragraph 35 of that section contains a provision, and I will read it in English:

Continues in English

“Conventions and agreements establishing commissions and committees under Article XIV of the Constitution shall provide that the rules of procedure and amendments thereto adopted by such commissions and committees shall not be inconsistent with the convention or agreement establishing the body or with the Constitution.”

Continues in Russian

These provisions lead us to conclude that, from a legal point of view, the selection of the Executive Secretaries of these bodies by the Member States during the last few years was carried out inconsistently with the provisions of the FAO Constitution and with the agreements establishing these bodies. As a result, the Director-General, as Head of the administration of FAO, was deprived of the right to appoint the Executive Secretaries of these bodies who work under the rules of the Organization and are partially under the Regular Programme budget.

In this regard, we welcome the compromise suggested by the Director-General, which attempts to respond to the concerns voiced by a number of Member States. Many of the previous speakers have mentioned the need for consultation including with the Article XIV bodies. We have no objection regarding this consultation but at the same time we consider that we have to follow the option proposed by the Director-General, at least for an interim period, so as to address this situation.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I take the floor on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to give our support to the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

I just want to highlight one important point from that statement. That is the diversity of the Article XIV bodies and their financial economy. This diversity as well as the need to adhere to the common principles should be taken into account when selecting the Executive Secretaries. While we need to respect the FAO Basic Texts, we consider that any changes of the existing rules and procedures of the Article XIV bodies does require adequate consultations and approval by the respective governing bodies. Any changes should also be in line with FAO Basic Texts and should fully take into account the specific nature of each Article XIV body.

We look forward to hearing the reply from the Legal Counsel on the question raised in the European Union statement.

M. Mongui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Sur cette question nous avons deux points sur lesquels nous pensons que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (CQCJ) et la Réunion conjointe se sont déjà penchés: la procédure de sélection des secrétaires des organes relevant des Articles XIV et XV, et la nomination d'un Secrétaire pour chacun des deux postes vacants.

Sur la question des procédures, nous savons très bien que ce n'est pas une question nouvelle. Nous avons coutume de la discuter de manière régulière, elle est déjà revenue plusieurs fois et vous avez même facilité par le passé des discussions à ce sujet. Comme nous participons aux réunions des organes directeurs, mais également aux réunions de ces organes relevant des Articles XIV et XV (la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux (CIPV), le Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la Commission du CODEX Alimentarius), nous avons là aussi parfois le même débat.

Nous avons entendu beaucoup de choses, mais la position de l'Afrique telle qu'exprimée par le Zimbabwe tout à l'heure, reste celle du consensus, débattu la semaine dernière et auquel nous nous

attachons. Nous avons retenu qu'il fallait consulter les organes pour pouvoir décider, mais on se demande parfois ce que nous devons faire. Considérer l'œuf avant la poule ou la poule avant l'œuf? Je pense que la FAO est quand même l'organe mère de tous les autres organes et que ses textes doivent avoir primauté. Si nous devons procéder à des consultations, je pense que le message à envoyer à ces organes est qu'ils doivent revoir leurs méthodes par rapport à l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. Je ne vois pas de meilleur moyen d'aborder cette question. Ce n'est pas à nous de nous arrimer à leur rythme, mais ce sont ces organes qui doivent considérer que la FAO est l'organe mère et à eux de s'atteler à la FAO. C'est mon point de vue, celui du Cameroun, et même de l'Afrique.

Je voudrais aussi reprendre certaines choses qui ont été dites en ce qui concerne la procédure de consultation. Quelle forme va prendre cette consultation? Cela va être très difficile. Quand je ne participe pas aux réunions de ces organes, je préfère le dire ici franchement, c'est une question de «lobby». Les «lobbies» dans ces organes sont très puissants et ils exercent leur puissance pour que les choses fonctionnent dans la direction qu'ils veulent. C'est pour cela qu'au Conseil nous avons des difficultés à trancher. Alors, allons-nous laisser continuer ces lobbies de fonctionner? Je pense que non.

Maintenant, le Président du Comité du Programme, qui a présidé la Réunion conjointe, a dit quelque chose qui, à mon avis, avait beaucoup de sens, mais qui a été repris par l'Australie tout à l'heure en disant que cette question était arrivée après les discussions, lors de l'adoption du rapport. N'étant pas présent à l'adoption du rapport, je ne peux pas savoir. Comme le Président du Comité du Programme l'a dit, je suggère que l'on vous donne la possibilité de conduire les discussions sur ces questions a posteriori. Mais nous avons un problème à résoudre dans l'immédiat: il faut nommer les deux Secrétaires des postes vacants. Le Directeur général, nous a fait une proposition de nomination. Je pense qu'il faut la suivre, quitte après à reprendre ce que vous avez enclenché comme discussion autour de la question des procédures de manière générale.

Et si la question est trop difficile, soyez assuré que nous restons vos amis. Vous pouvez donc nous inviter à une réunion entre amis afin de trancher sur un certain nombre de questions. Donc, une réunion des Amis du Président n'est pas exclue, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil. Si c'est difficile, réunissez-nous à côté et nous essaierons de discuter et de trancher la question avec vous.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

There has been a lot of discussion about the need to consult more with the Article XIV bodies themselves and about what would we consult on and what would that consultation look like. I think it is quite simple as I said in my first statement.

We would recommend that the Secretariat or the Independent Chair of the Council or the Legal Counsel, whoever the Director-General considered best placed to do it, take the current proposal that is before us today to the Chairs of the relevant bodies. It would allow them to have a discussion about whether they may wish to take the proposal to the Bureau or to have some more formal conversations across the Board and Membership of the bodies.

In particular they could address the following questions: do you need to change your rules and procedures? Is there another solution that we can come up with together that suits both FAO and the bodies and then get on and do it? In the meantime, we propose to let the interim appointments continue.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We ask for the floor for the second time to offer our support to the comment just made by our Australian colleague.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Observateur de l'Angola)

Il est important que la FAO se conforme à ce qui est défini dans les textes fondamentaux ainsi qu'aux accords de création de ces organisations, afin de travailler conformément aux orientations de la Conférence. Certaines pratiques utilisées dans un passé récent devraient servir d'expérience pour que dans un prochain futur, les ajustements nécessaires aux accords soient effectués compte tenu des nouvelles réalités.

Toutefois, comme il s'est vérifié, la pratique a démontré que ces expériences n'ont pas toujours été positives et qu'elles ont même créé quelques difficultés à l'égard de la crédibilité de l'Organisation, qu'il serait important d'éviter à nouveau. Pour cette raison Monsieur le Président, nous soutenons l'intervention faite par la délégation du Zimbabwe qui a parlé au nom du Groupe Afrique.

De toute façon, nous pensons que pendant l'application des accords, nous encourageons le Secrétariat ou la Direction à engager un dialogue avec les organisations afin de définir, à moyen et long terme, la meilleure façon de travailler ensemble, avec le souci d'assurer la crédibilité et la transparence de l'Organisation. L'effort sûrement sain et efficace de ces organisations est de veiller à ce que les ressources naturelles, à savoir les poissons dans le cadre des zones de pêche ou les ressources phylogénétiques dans le cadre du Traité, soient gérées d'une manière durable dans le respect des accords internationaux, tout comme celui des intérêts, respectivement, des pays et de la région.

Mr A. Haruna-Rashid KROMAH (Observer for Liberia)

Liberia is intervening on this Agenda item as member and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

My delegation welcomes the CCLM Report and wishes to express thanks and appreciation to the Secretariat. Though we welcome the report, we however regret to say that some arm twisting was deployed during the discussion which in our view did not represent a democratic process.

Liberia supports the guidance of the CCLM on this matter and therefore requests a wider consultation on Article XIV with the bodies concerned and the regional groups. We need further discussion on this proposal.

Liberia believes in the rule of law and thereby encourages a democratic process in the nomination of the Executive Secretary of these bodies and the contracting parties. The performance by candidates selected must be well vetted for the good of the Organization and therefore the input of contracting Member Nations to the Treaties is indeed in the right direction for the benefit of Member Nations.

Respecting Treaties currently in place would require the current rules and procedure to be followed, meaning any changes to implement the Director-General's proposal will require consultation.

There are mechanisms for possible consultation going forward: through the intersessional period with the *ad interim* Commission Chair, FAO should work out a process for consulting intersessionally with members for transparency and accountability to achieve good governance. This could also be done at the next scheduled meeting.

The document in our view has not adequately explained what may happen in case the relevant bodies were to reject a proposed candidate. Will there be an opportunity for further dialogue with the bodies involved or there will be an imposition of the nominee chosen? Also, there is a need to clearly distinguish between the different types of Article XIV bodies.

The "consultation" held by the Director-General last week did not appear to involve many countries that are likely interested in this from the capitals, as contracting parties to some of these bodies.

Amendment to the FAO Constitution should be in line with the basic rules and procedures which we fully respect. Any compromise that may give unrestricted power to one party will set a bad precedent for the Organization and we therefore recommend that any proposal brought forward should be discussed within the Article XIV bodies as parties to the agreement. Hence the need for consultation.

We also take note that this issue has already been discussed at other relevant bodies, such as the Governing Body of the Treaty in October 2015 and the IOTC in May 2016, where both bodies rejected similar proposals that were brought before them by the Secretariat.

For example, at the 32nd Session of COFI in July 2016, it was stated, and I quote paragraph 142 of the report: "Several Members expressed concern with regards to the selection process of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Executive Secretary and its consistency with the established IOTC rules of procedure and called for an urgent solution that respects the legitimate rules and procedures of IOTC".

To conclude, Liberia would like that ODG (Office of the Director-General) actively engage with the relevant bodies and consult to find a solution. We also want to add that we subscribe to the statement made by Benin.

With these comments Liberia welcomes the Report.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I am an observer, but listening to the Members on this Agenda item, I would like to make a short comment: as it was said by Brazil, Cameroon, and others, the discussion is not in a single trend.

The basic question is the appointment of the Secretaries in the bodies created under Article XIV. If it is clearly mentioned in the Article of the Basic Texts, then there should not be any problem. However, if the Basic Texts are not clear enough, we need a proposal, such as the compromise proposal made by the Legal Counsel.

My recommendation is the following, as Australia proposed: We should have a single direction discussion, in order to be able to come up with a solution. In that case, as an interim process, we could take the proposal made by the Legal Counsel for the time being. Then we will have a discussion in the respective bodies, where we could take the time necessary to tackle the issue. We should not have this kind of endless discussion.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As the Members know, and I know some mention of the Legal Counsel has been made recently, I try to avoid having to take the floor for a long time in meetings of the Organization. This may not be the case now. In any case, I will try to be reasonably short.

We had received noticed of a number of questions that were asked in this debate and, before you adjourn, I would ask you to allow me to address some of these points. Then when we will resume, we may perhaps be able to have another perspective on some of the points.

We in the Secretariat feel that there continues to be some misunderstanding about this issue. Although we take note that an evolution has taken place, one of the observations that is made is that the Secretariat is not taking up this matter in its proper forum. Such statements have, in fact, already been made at the Joint Meeting in very strong terms by some Members. Some Members (I forgot who they were) even said that we were discourteous by discussing this matter at headquarters rather than with the bodies themselves, without informing them, without consulting them, without discussing the matter with them.

This is the first point I am presenting here on behalf of the Director-General. I cannot leave any ambiguity regarding the fact that we did take this matter to the bodies. We did take this matter to the bodies, and if the Members are to retain any specific points of our discussion, at least they should know that we did take the matter to the bodies.

In the case of IOTC, since last year we voiced concerns with an appointment procedure that was not in line with the treaties, which politicized what was and should remain a professional appointment, and which had resulted in serious reputational risks for the Organization and its Members.

We also drew attention to the fact that this procedure was unheard of in the United Nations system for the implementation of similar provisions.

Earlier this year, we sent a detailed communication to the Chairperson of IOTC. We explained our concerns and our proposals. This letter was circulated to each and every Member of the IOTC; Members who are present in this room.

We did send a substantial delegation in size to the IOTC Session, which took place last May on the French island of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean. As you know, FAO tries to reduce the number of representatives to meetings. The FAO Delegation at this meeting included *inter alia* the Assistant Director-General, Arni Mathiesen. As an expression of the interest that the Director-General attached to this matter, an Attaché de Cabinet, Raschad, also travelled to La Réunion. Annick van Houtte sitting next to me and I, personally, also travelled to La Réunion.

I made very detailed presentations of our concerns and proposals and we invited the Commission to consider the matter. I personally left after two days, but my colleagues remained and the matter continued to be under discussion.

There cannot be the slightest doubt, Mr Chairman, that for a period of some six days, we tried our best to convince IOTC Members to face their responsibilities.

We can make available to the Council a verbatim extracted from the audio recordings of the session of the IOTC and this verbatim record would allow the Council to have an idea of what was done at the Session and the degree of detail with which we submitted the matter to the Commission.

At the end of the Session, the IOTC Members decided to let the situation continue. The Commission still decided on that occasion to take up the matter with the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries in July 2016.

We note that this point is reflected in the report but at no moment was the Secretariat approached to discuss the issue.

It is erroneous and misleading to mention that the FAO Secretariat has not taken up the matter with the bodies. The Secretariat, and I will have the occasion to provide further details on this, has been taking up this matter with the bodies for a substantial period of time.

We find it very strange, therefore, that some Members who have prevented the discussion, or do not allow a discussion to take place within the IOTC, should now be saying that we must discuss the matter with the bodies. What does this mean?

Does this mean that we are going to have the same situation as we have witnessed up until now? We believe that there is a serious governance issue in this matter. It is not a Secretariat issue.

On the occasion of the Joint Meeting there were references to a letter from the European Commissioner in charge of fisheries who followed this matter with the Director-General on a number of occasions. He drew the attention to the Director-General to the urgency of the need to find a solution to the appointment of the Secretary.

And if I mention this letter here in this meeting, it is because there were references in the Joint Meeting to this correspondence. Indeed, the Director-General received a letter stressing the need to have a solution and stressing the urgency of a solution for this matter. But we realize that the European Union, and I shall be discussing and addressing a number of questions raised by the European Union, decided to let this current situation continue.

So we would call upon your sense of responsibility and the sense of responsibility of Member States to allow us to find a solution to this matter.

I would also recall that both IOTC and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as other Article XIV bodies are subsidiary bodies of FAO. They act through the Organization and are subject to a principle of hierarchy of rules, which is recognized and applied in respect of all treaties concluded within the United Nations System.

Maybe one day some of these bodies will be outside the framework of FAO and they can certainly adopt such rules as they would wish.

This is in fact very clearly stated in the Principles and Procedure adopted by the Conference and which apply to Article XIV bodies, and I note that the Representative of Russia has specifically referred to this provision. It would be legally correct; it would be open to the Council, it would be within the authority of the Council to take a decision on this matter and to prescribe a particular course of action on this matter.

And of course the IOTC and the bodies would be required to reconsider their procedures.

IOTC Members and parties to the treaties are the same as those which are here. There is a principle of unity in the representation of states without which it is difficult to imagine international relations. We have difficulties that we should have countries here taking a different position in other *fora*, especially if these *fora* are FAO bodies.

We would expect that when a delegation sits behind the name plate of a country, that delegation presents a corporate position of its country and from this angle, we wonder if we are not in the presence of a governance issue that is a cause of concern for the Organization.

I would also wish to address the specific question that was asked by the Representative of Slovakia and was pursued by the Representative of Iceland. This question is why does FAO consider the current situation where there are interim secretaries unsatisfactory? Why does FAO not let the current arrangements proceed?

In fact, it is true that we have consistently stated that we shall ensure continuity in the function of these bodies. Why do we not let the current situation to continue?

Let me start once again by saying that we find this question, with all due respect, a bit strange. Indeed, as regards the situation that we have now, we did not receive only one letter. We did receive several letters from Members saying that the current situation was unsatisfactory, that it is not appropriate to have the offices in charge for such an extended period of time.

Let me quote one among several of the letters that we received. And I quote – it is a letter to the Director-General, “As you are undoubtedly aware, the absence of a properly appointed Secretary is affecting the day-to-day management of the Secretariat and the fulfilment of the IOTC objectives. I do hope that a solution that meets our respective objectives can be found as soon as possible.”

Members have drawn attention to the situation that we have, and have criticized us. And we have now the opposite question, why do you not let the state of affairs continue?

So on the substance, let me say for the benefit of all Members - because we realize that there is a deficit of information in this forum – that we have had in IOTC an abnormal situation since at least March 2015.

We have had a situation which is not a normal one for some years. We have a Secretary under investigation, whose efficiency and credibility was seriously impaired, and this was known through a number of Members’ interventions and reports.

We have had uncertainty as to the status of that Secretary for a long period of time. There were doubts as to the extent of the Director-General’s authority to take action *vis-à-vis* that particular official and then we have had an Interim Secretary designated by the Director-General. A situation of this nature has inherently a number of shortcomings.

There are inconveniences in a situation where you have an officer-in-charge who is designated by the Director-General on an *ad hoc* basis and is essentially a caretaker. That appointment was not approved by the Commission. This cannot be a lasting solution.

We have a Secretary who is not fully operational with limited ability to take important decisions and the Organization has been criticized for that. We have a Secretary who is denied legitimacy, and I will give you a specific example of this, to take important decisions. We do not think that it is in the interest of the statutory bodies, nor in the interest of the administration to maintain this situation for a protracted period of time.

And if the situation is not addressed now, we do not know when it will be addressed. This is a situation, as we mentioned in the proceedings, that concerns the IOTC, which concerns also the Secretary of the Treaty.

The merit that we see in the proposal that was made, the compromise proposal is that it would allow for the appointment of an effective Secretary and at the same time it would allow the Members within two years to confirm that Secretary. Meanwhile there would be a possibility of looking further into the matter and trying to come up with a long-term solution for this.

This would respect the views and positions of both parties.

I wish to make two final observations. I know that I am taking longer than usual, but I wanted to give through you, Mr Chairperson, to the Council, a tangible and practical example of the shortcoming of the situation. There are a number of lower-level, technical positions of officials at the IOTC Secretariat that need to be filled.

A letter was received by FAO about one week ago from one Member together with a request for circulation of that letter to all IOTC members. The letter says that since there is no Secretary, it would be appropriate to submit the proposed appointments for lower-ranking technical officials of the Secretariat to all IOTC Members for confirmation.

So it is indicated that since there is no Secretary, the appointment should be made by the Commission itself which should confirm this appointment.

We have difficulties with this proposal that is a direct consequence of the absence of a full Secretary. This proposal is incompatible with the international nature of the UN Secretariat. By joining FAO, Members have accepted to respect the independence and international nature of the Secretariat and refrain from intervening with its autonomous character and the autonomous character of the selection procedures.

The second point that I wanted to mention and I shall be finishing my intervention, is that if IOTC Members wish to leave the framework of FAO and of the United Nations system, it is their right to do so. We have stated that point several times and we do not even know if the discussions in this Plenary, and this extended body, will facilitate this process.

As long as IOTC is under the framework of FAO, we consider that we are duty-bound to ensure that it adheres to proper standards. We feel that it is our duty *vis-à-vis* our Members to ensure that the Commission operates efficiently. We consider that the countries concerned about illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing should also be concerned with this situation.

At the beginning of the session, the Director-General drew attention to an article published in the New York Times last Sunday written by a former EU Commissioner underlining the need to ensure proper management of southern blue fin tuna.

We feel that we are duty-bound to take steps within our reach to ensure that the IOTC, which for the time operates under the framework of the United Nations System and for which FAO is responsible, should function adequately.

Should one day the Commission cease to be, and be outside of FAO and outside the United Nations system, we would of course not express any reservations about this. This is why, Mr Chairman, we believe that it is neither in the interest of the IOTC nor in the interest of IOTC Members, nor in the interest of FAO Members, to allow the state of affairs to continue.

Just a final word because I know that some other questions were asked, but some Members continue to be concerned with the fact; they continue to ask the question which was extensively discussed at CCLM, at the Joint Meeting, what happens if the body does not confirm an appointment?

But throughout the United Nations system, heads of agencies, the Secretary-General has been confronted with situations of this nature. And if we have in FAO situations of staff members who are confirmed by the Council, we have some of our colleagues whose appointments were confirmed by the Council. So if for some reason we do not have an approval of a candidate, of course the Director-General will have to reconsider his proposal.

That is why we also, in order to ensure the regularity of the procedure and to give comfort to the Members, would have two Representatives of the Members taking part in the selection panel and then if for some reason, in its wisdom, the Commission decided not to confirm the candidates, we would of course have to make an alternative proposal.

I will stop here for the time being and maybe this afternoon we could resume our discussions on this topic. And I apologize if I was long.

M. Serge TOMASI (President du Comité du Programme)

Je voulais effectivement faire deux commentaires. Un pour répondre à un point de procédure soulevé par la délégation de l'Australie, à qui je voudrais dire très amicalement qu'être membre du Conseil de la FAO induit des droits, mais aussi des devoirs, à commencer par le respect des prérogatives des organes de gouvernance de la FAO. Le président d'un comité, comme tout membre du comité, peut faire toute proposition concernant un projet de décision tant que la décision n'a pas été adoptée par

ledit comité. D'ailleurs, je vous signale que cet après-midi, nous parlerons de la collaboration entre les organismes ayant leur siège à Rome, et la décision de la Réunion conjointe comprend deux amendements, qui ont été introduits lors de la séance de clôture et qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de débat pendant la Réunion conjointe. Par ailleurs, sur cette question de la consultation, un autre membre du Comité, je crois que c'était la Pologne, avait proposé aussi un processus de consultation permettant d'aboutir à un compromis avant cette session, mais il ne demandait pas de clarifier qui devait mener cette consultation. Moi-même, j'avais proposé qu'elle soit conduite par notre Président indépendant du Conseil, en application des règles émises par notre Conférence qui s'imposent à tous.

Sur mon deuxième point, je voudrais souligner l'importance de ce qu'a dit M. Tavares. Je crois qu'il nous met quand même un peu face à nos responsabilités. Depuis deux ans nous échangeons sur ce dossier, avec toujours les mêmes arguments et les mêmes débats, sans avancer, et cela commence à mettre notre Organisation et sa réputation dans une situation délicate. Je crois que si nous voulons vraiment aller de l'avant, il faut travailler sur des propositions concrètes. Il faut clarifier et formaliser les options sur la table. Il y a une proposition du Directeur général. Si elle ne fait pas consensus, il faut peut-être proposer des amendements à celle-ci ou une autre proposition, mais il faut travailler sur des choses concrètes.

Quant au processus de consultation, je rappelle ce que j'avais dit pendant la Réunion conjointe. Il ne sert à rien de parler de consultation, il faut, comme l'a dit le Brésil, définir qui consulte qui et sur quoi?

J'ai quand-même une difficulté que je voudrais partager avec vous. Est-ce que vous vous rendez compte de ce que cela veut dire quand vous appelez le Secrétariat à consulter l'organe de gouvernance d'un organe extérieur à la FAO? Le Secrétariat doit consulter son organe de gouvernance qui est ce Conseil et qui est la Conférence. Alors, s'il doit y avoir des consultations entre les organes de gouvernance, j'en reviens à ma proposition, cela ne peut être conduit, selon moi, que par le Président de notre Conseil. Ensuite cela peut être, comme certains l'ont proposé, avec un groupe des Amis du Président, ou avec l'appui du Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, avec l'appui du Secrétariat, mais il me semble vraiment étrange que le Secrétariat soit invité par son Conseil à mener des consultations avec un organe de gouvernance externe à notre Organisation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to remind delegates of the Side Event on *The Role of Agriculture in National Adaptation Planning after COP22*, which will take place in the Iran Room from 12.30 to 13.30.

Then, from 13.30 to 14.30 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre will take place the side event *Launch of the FAO publication: "The future of food and agriculture: trends and challenges"*.

We will resume here this afternoon our Council Session at 14:45 hours.

I was also asked to announce that there will be an EU Coordination Meeting immediately after this Session in the German Room.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We will resume at 14:45 hours.

The meeting rose at 12:41 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 41

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.41

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 December 2016

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.03 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.03
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 9. Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (24-26 October 2016) (continued)

Point 9. Rapport de la cent troisième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (24-26 octobre 2016) (suite)

Tema 9. Informe del 103.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (24-26 de octubre de 2016) (continuación)

(CL 155/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Sixth Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We continue with Item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

We have heard replies which were raised from the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of Finance and the Programme Committee, also from the Legal Counsel.

Ladies and gentlemen, as you may remember that, at the start of the week, the Director-General reminded the Council that consensus building takes time, but once achieved can pave the way for moving ahead efficiently and together.

Since I became ICC (Independent Chairperson of the Council), I have always striven to achieve consensus, which has united us as we pursue matters in the interest of the Organization and of its Members.

This consensus approach is also in the spirit of the reform of FAO approved by the Conference in 2008. I believe we should make a concerted effort not to backtrack to the pre-Reform era.

The arguments and counter arguments have all been put on the table today, and the various positions have been clearly stated.

It is also clear that all those who have spoken on this issue wish to abide by the established rules.

There has also been widespread acknowledgement that the present state of affairs *vis-à-vis* Secretaries of some Article XIV bodies is detrimental to the bodies themselves, to their efficient functioning and, ultimately, to the mission of the Organization.

From the rich debate on Article XIV bodies that has taken place today, and in other Governing Body meetings before, it transpires that while there is broad support for the Director-General's proposal, which also calls for consultations and the participation of Members in the first two years, there are still some Members who wish to have further consultations.

Members of the Council, I call on you to help us move out of this impasse and to move on.

Naturally, consensus does not mean that we all share the same views or opinions, but that we strive to find sufficient common ground between the points of view that separate us, and this enables us to move ahead.

In this spirit, I beg the indulgence of those Members who have spoken in favour of continuing negotiations and ask them to concede to the proposal presented this morning, namely that:

- 1) "The Director-General issues Vacancy Announcements for the appointment of two Secretaries (IOTC and ITPGRFA) following standard procedures for the appointment of FAO senior staff with the inclusion of two representatives of Members in interview panels and subsequent referral by the Director-General of one candidate to the bodies for approval;
- 2) The Secretaries to be appointed for two years subject to confirmation of the appointment at the end of that period; the confirmation will be done by the bodies;
- 3) The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) carry out consultations during that period, including with the bodies themselves, with a view to agreeing and adopting a long-term solution."

I wish to propose that the Council agree to adopt this two-year solution, which includes a consultative role for the Independent Chairperson of the Council to find a long-term solution.

The alternative would seem to be a protracted and inconclusive debate, which would be to the detriment of the work of the Organization.

Members of the Council, can I count on your support in helping us exit this impasse? Can we accept the proposal and move on?

If the Council chooses not to accept the proposal, we risk being locked in endless debates on this matter, to the detriment of Article XIV bodies and the mission of the Organization.

Members of the Council, I call on you to approve the proposal I have just outlined.

M. Gabriel AHOUANOGBO (Bénin)

Ce matin, le Bénin a fait une déclaration sur la base d'une mauvaise compréhension des faits. Le Bénin souhaite donc retirer sa déclaration du matin et se rallie à celle du Groupe Afrique faite par l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that correction for the interest of the Africa Regional Group. Silence means you agree to my proposal.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Well, I must say I find it very disappointing indeed that we have landed here. I know there was some ideas that people discussed with me over the lunch break about a very pragmatic way forward that we could have lived with but they may be voiced now so perhaps I will let colleagues from the European Union and Germany speak about those before I proceed.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

Thank you, Chair. I would like to pass the floor to the Slovak Republic.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States and we would like to thank the Secretariat and the Legal Counsel for the explanations that have been provided to us this morning. While we can see positive elements in the proposal tabled by the Secretariat, we have a number of concerns. We believe that more time is needed to carefully consider all the merits and implications of the proposal with a view to finding a compromise. We are willing and ready to continue discussions on the proposal possibly in the format of Friends of the Chair group with a view to moving forward on this issue and seeking a solution during this Council.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We would also like to express our concerns and we really need more time to consider this issue given that this proposal by the Secretariat was only shared with us in the evening of Friday and we have not really had time properly to consult with our Government.

Ms April COHEN (United States of America)

We have heard many points of view today and I wonder if we may propose a way forward by calling upon our colleague and friend to lead a consultative process with interested Member States and the treaty bodies themselves. Due to the urgency of the situation, we would ask that he submit a solution at the next Council with the hope that all those who feel their views will be taken into account.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

La Delegación de Argentina quiere apoyar completamente la propuesta realizada por Usted hace unos minutos y además queremos dejar en claro lo siguiente: nos parece que el Consejo debe dar soluciones efectivas. Tenemos que tener resultados concretos, y como Usted mencionara, este tema debe ser resuelto con agilidad, ya que afecta las labores de los Órganos Estatutarios en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO y afectan también la labor de la Secretaría de la FAO. Es por esto que mi país insta a las delegaciones a que podamos encontrar un consenso lo antes posible dentro de esta sesión.

Como señalábamos anteriormente, apoyamos completamente su propuesta y en caso de que existan ciertas cuestiones a debatir, estamos dispuestos a trabajar en un grupo de trabajo, pero durante esta sesión del Consejo, porque necesitamos resultados concretos lo antes posible para que se normalice esta situación.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Mi Delegación también apoya su propuesta y la consideramos muy constructiva y balanceada, y que reúne en un criterio las preocupaciones de las delegaciones sobre este tema. No obstante, podríamos considerar que haya, como se menciona, un grupo de trabajo para discutir sobre la misma, pero como lo ha señalado Argentina, la decisión tiene que tomarse en este Consejo.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We fully agree with my colleagues from Argentina and Ecuador and agree with your proposal but we would like to add your proposal is not a permanent solution. A permanent solution would have been a negotiation which is part of this proposal in the long term. Moreover from now to Friday it is impossible to come up with a solution so your proposal is the most intelligent way to go forward and solve this impasse.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

We agree with your proposal in the same line as Afghanistan here. We think it is the best option on the table at the moment.

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Indonesia)

Indonesia takes the floor for the first time on this issue and would align itself with the position of the statement delivered by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would also like to align our positions and spirit with those of Australia, United States, Benin, Liberia, and also with our colleague, Japan.

Firstly, we would like to again convey our highest appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal matters for the presentation and the proposals. We would like to acknowledge also the work that has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Indonesia has been following the discussion that took place since this morning. We take note of the proposal and shall deliver a full report including the dynamics of the deliberations reflected during this Council meeting to our Capital and to be further discussed with various related authorities dealing with Article XIV bodies in Indonesia. At the same time, Indonesia is highly encouraging the consultation by FAO with such bodies to continue.

Our discussion today is focused on the views and opinions of Council Members on the report of the 103rd Session of the CCLM. However, I believe that many of us present here today are not legal experts and with limited legal knowledge and backgrounds to discuss expanded related legal issues already mentioned by the Independent Chairperson of the Council which will lead to a never-ending debate.

We totally understand the requests that are being put forward by the Secretariat; however, it is also our strong belief and within the interest of all parties to seek the best way forward to resolve this matter accordingly and in accordance with the laws of nations. We must together try to find an amicable solution towards this matter without diminishing the spirit of togetherness in addressing many global food security issues.

In this light, we would like to welcome the proposals stated by Brazil and France, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, and welcomed by the ICC to seek a concrete solution under the able leadership of the ICC. We would like to stress the need to proceed with the ICC inviting members of the Article XIV bodies to convene discussion and seek a comprehensive and composed solution in FAO headquarters.

As all of the respective members of the Council are already aware, Indonesia is a member party to both IOTC and ITPGRFA, two important Article XIV bodies that deal with food security issues, in particular the sustainable use of fisheries and agricultural resources. Indonesia has and shall

continue to play an important role within these bodies and to globally contribute to the preservation and conservation of all natural resources including but not only limited to the strong measures taken to fight IUU fishing in the area while bridging and maintaining the current relations with all related parties involved in the work of these bodies.

I would like to once again highly appreciate the concerns raised by the Secretariat and by some Members regarding this particular issue.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We support your proposal and we also agree with the comments made by Afghanistan.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Having heard from Members that currently your last proposal is not applying easily at least, I would like to align myself with those who believe that there is still a chance to find a common ground closer for both and everyone, so I would like to support the suggestion by the European Union that we have Friends of the Chair to sit down and try once more. It is only Wednesday. They have to finish before Friday.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

México apoya la posición expresada por Argentina y Ecuador así de encontrar la mejor solución posible a este tema, y de acuerdo a lo ya presentado por Usted anteriormente.

Mr Joseph NGETICH (Kenya)

Having listened to the positions with the various delegations on this issue, the Kenya delegation believes that, with the position you have just given, we will have a solution and we support your proposal.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Having heard the views from other delegations I feel that there are some concerns and quite a number of delegations asking for more time to consider this issue and probably perhaps set up the Friends of the Chair or this kind of thing to discuss this issue and come up with some solutions at the next session of the Council. Japan can go along with that suggestion but probably still does not agree because cannot really accept the proposal currently by the Chair at this moment.

Mr Mohammed ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, Saudi Arabia would like to support your proposal that has been recommended by my friend and colleague from Afghanistan. I think this is a very smart solution that will lead us forward as we have been reminded by Argentina and Pakistan. That said, I would like to support your proposal.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Apoyamos su propuesta y respaldamos el apoyo que ha recibido de las Delegaciones de Argentina, Ecuador, Afganistán, Zimbabue, Pakistán, México, Chile y Arabia Saudita.

Sra. Margarita VIGNEAUX (Chile)

Nosotros y nuestra Delegación se alinea con la declaración del GRULAC sobre este tema y en particular con la propuesta de Argentina y de Ecuador. Nosotros apoyamos también la propuesta del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Mr Kayoya MASUHWA (Zambia)

Zambia is speaking not as an observer but as a Member of the Council. We want to align ourselves to a statement that was made by the Africa Regional Group. We just wanted to say that we support your proposal.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

Listening to the honourable Council Members it seems to me that we do not have a clear consensus either on your proposal or from the discussion but, in that case, actually there is no solution.

The solution is that we need to have some secretaries for the Article XIV bodies. It was said by Afghanistan and other colleagues it is the ability to deliver an interim arrangement what you have proposed. In that case, my request to the Members is let us suspend the discussion on this item right now. You have time still. Then let us discuss with the Members so actually willing to discuss and then come up with a solution. If by two days we can find a solution let us accept it by the Council; otherwise, let us accept your proposal on an interim basis so that we can proceed to have the secretaries for these two bodies.

Sra. Marycel PACHECO GUTIERREZ (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Queremos ratificar lo expresado por Argentina y Ecuador. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela se encuentra de acuerdo con su propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

Up to now we do not have a consensus on how to approach this issue. I can say that this agenda item is still on the table. I would like to know those who agree to have a Friends of the Chair which has been proposed. I will come back to this agenda item and see what comes from the discussion between now and maybe up to Friday. So could I say that each regional group has two representatives who will be my friends and then I postpone discussion on this agenda item until Friday morning because we still have other important agenda items to conclude on. We cannot be stuck on only one item and at the end of the exam, we find that we have failed! Whereas there are other questions which are easier for us to tackle so let us take it up on Friday morning and during this interim period I will come to those who want to be my friends. Two persons per regional group. Let me get the names before I close the session this evening. Thank you.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

Just for clarification, would you require your future friends to be members of the Council?

CHAIRPERSON

That will be very helpful. I need two people from the regional groups, not European Union or OECD, G77 or Nordic countries. Thank you.

Item 11. Rome-based Agencies Collaboration

Point 11. Collaboration entre les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome

Tema 11. Colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma

(CL 155/12 Rev.2)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we continue with Item 11. That is *Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*. The document before Council is CL 155/12 Rev.2. I am pleased to welcome Representatives of WFP.

I am pleased to welcome Representatives of WFP and IFAD.

Ms Mihoko Tamamura, Director, Rome-based Agencies and the Committee on World Food Security Division of the World Food Programme, and Mr Shantanu Mathur on behalf of the Associate Vice-President from the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

I would like to remind Members that it is agreed at the outset of our work this week, the comments on RBA collaboration contained in the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee in the 164th Session of the Finance Committee will be taken into consideration under this item.

I now invite Mr Mario Lubetkin, Chief of Staff of the Office of the FAO Director-General, to introduce this Item. Mario, you have the floor please.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

I have the honour to introduce document CL 155/12: Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies: Delivering the 2030 Agenda.

This paper answers the call of the Membership of FAO, IFAD and WFP to outline the RBAs collaboration, including how they will support countries in implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Joint RBAs Paper builds on good practices of collaboration and proposes a way forward to translate our wish to plan, programme and implement together at global, regional and country levels into concrete action.

This is done in the spirit of a true partnership for results, where each institution is contributing according to its mandated responsibility.

It also gives us pride to see the three logos of the RBAs on this document, which was prepared by a joint team of RBA staff.

Before presenting the document, I would like to express my gratitude to my counterparts, the Chiefs of Staff of IFAD and WFP, Mr Henock Kifle and Mr Jim Harvey, and logically my friends and colleagues here that worked very hard with our team here in FAO, to try to concrete this very important document.

I want to thank both, in particular for their constructive role in the end-phase, in which our Sherpas spent many long hours here at FAO finalizing the document and they were both available to provide inputs and feedback.

Excellencies, the ambitious 2030 Agenda and the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are a historic opportunity and a major challenge for the entire UN System.

We believe that this paper could not have been produced in a more crucial moment, as the UN System is addressing the challenges of ensuring a coordinated support to the implementation of the SDGs.

In that respect, the paper contributes to positioning the RBAs within the global development context.

It is important to stress that this is a consensus document, which we perceive as a compromise in terms of the mechanisms for the common actions it contains.

But we are optimistic and do believe that this is a good start and a solid basis on which we can build in the future.

We consider this a living document and will continue to update and add more issues on it, as suggested by Members.

In that respect, we look forward to continuous input from our Members. Their feedback is of high importance for the future collaboration of our three agencies.

We perceive this document as a reference against which all the upcoming activities of the three RBAs that have the potentiality to include joint work will be measured.

This is especially true at country level, where our support to Members in achieving the SDGs is central.

The document captures a new spirit of collaboration that we are working hard to introduce among the three RBAs.

We are looking forward to receiving the views of the Committee on the present document as well as its guidance on the way forward in implementing the suggested measures of collaboration it contains.

CHAIRPERSON

I now pass the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, who chaired the November 2016 Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, to report on the Joint Meeting's discussions on Rome-based Agencies collaboration.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier a examiné le document conjoint sur la collaboration entre les organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome: le document CL 155/12.

Un consensus a aisément émergé pour, premièrement, se féliciter de ce document commun et remercier les trois organismes; deuxièmement, pour suggérer que ce document puisse être amendé dans un sens plus opérationnel, en soulignant les expériences actuelles ou futures de collaboration.

La Réunion conjointe a aussi exprimé le souhait que ces présentations incluent les calendriers de mise en œuvre, des évaluations conjointes, ainsi que des mécanismes visant à éviter les chevauchements et les doublons.

Les membres ont aussi souligné le besoin d'aligner cette collaboration entre les organismes sur les priorités des gouvernements, en insistant sur les niveaux nationaux et régionaux, cette collaboration devant s'inscrire dans le cadre des processus de coordination du système des Nations Unies.

Les membres ont aussi convenu de l'intérêt de programmer des réunions annuelles des organes de gouvernance des trois organismes romains, invitant à la présentation, lors de ces réunions, d'un rapport annuel conjoint des trois organismes sur les progrès réalisés dans leur collaboration.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

I would like to pass the floor to Bangladesh who will speak on behalf of G77.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of all of the Members of the G77 and China. Mr Chairperson, G77 and China appreciates and thanks FAO, IFAD, and WFP for developing this RBA Collaboration Paper as a response to a request from the Membership.

We appreciate that the paper outlines the common vision and guiding principles for an enhanced collaboration as well as the distinctive strengths, prerequisites and comparative advantage of each institution and how they can help Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Rome is the hub helping international efforts to achieve SDG 2 particularly, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It is the centre of the United Nations activities on development, humanitarian and resilience assistance in the areas of food, agriculture, and transformative rural development done by FAO, IFAD and WFP.

When we look at the vision of all three UN Agencies, we will find that SDG 2 is at the heart of all RBAs. Therefore the main objective of developing this collaboration approach on how RBA country teams can support governments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is to enhance coordination and avoid overlaps, duplication and gaps among all three institutions.

There is no doubt that adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the UN Agenda 2015 has created an immense opportunity for collaboration among RBAs in achieving SDG 2. The collaboration should be based on the respective mandates, capacities, comparative advantages and distinct strengths of each partner.

We appreciate the identification of the five guiding principles and four pillars of collaboration contained in the document. The principle of shared priorities in the context of country-led implementation process of 2030 Agenda needs to be strengthened. Joint technical support in the fields of nutrition, resilience building, data and statistics should also be stimulated.

The Group of 77 and China strongly supports the Coordination Mechanism of RBAs through the Senior Consultative Group (RBA SCG) which will follow up the shared priorities identified, particularly at the country level.

We appreciate the collaboration mechanism set out at the regional and global levels, including for thematic and cooperative services in areas outlined in the document. The G77 and China notes with appreciation that a number of countries' country office premises is shared by RBAs. We are of the opinion that the establishment of joint premises at the country and regional levels could be considered as a possibility in the future depending on specific circumstances of each country and region.

The G77 and China considers that the way forward presented in the document is quite satisfactory. However, we underscore the importance of strengthening the country-level collaboration which in our view should be more specific and detailed in the document.

This is the crucial point since it is at the country level that projects and programmes will be implemented towards achieving SDG 2. It is our expectation to have more detailed information about how the country-level collaboration will work out, in particular during the development and implementation of the country programmes and projects.

Therefore we suggest the insertion of one or two paragraphs in the RBA Collaboration Paper to clearly outline the collaboration among the three institutions in the preparation and updating of FAO's Country Programming Framework that appears in WFP's Country Strategic Plan CSP's and IFAD's Strategic Opportunities Programme.

With these notes, the G77 and China endorses the RBA Collaboration Paper.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group 77. We commend the management of the three Rome-based Agencies for coming together and producing this document which we consider as a living document that will be subject to periodic updates and improvements to respond to the changes in the international agenda.

We call on the three organizations to jointly identify areas of potential synergy and collaboration, especially in areas relating to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular nutrition, food security, as well as dealing with the challenges in protracted crisis areas.

We call on the three organizations to enhance coordination, especially at the country level, and to work closely with host governments to ensure that this collaboration is in line with the demands and priorities of Member States.

We expect that this enhanced collaboration can result in more engagement with other UN agencies and international financial institutions to help achieve the mandate of the three organizations.

Finally, and in light of the living nature of this document, we expect that the results of the period assessments will guide the three organizations in improving their interventions in the future.

Mr Faisal AL HASAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, we support the speech of Bangladesh on behalf of the G77 and China. We would like to congratulate the Secretariat for this document which clarifies the joint vision and the pillars for collaboration between the UN Agencies based in Rome because we need to take the best elements of each of the organizations in relation to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

There are four pillars of collaboration working together at the country and regional levels, cooperating at the global level, collaboration on the thematic knowledge, and finally the Joint Corporate Services.

On this cooperation, it needs to be technical, financing and administrative in an equal way, in an equitable way, and this to help countries in their realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as best as possible to face the challenges that these organizations have in their efforts.

This requires, and I insist on this, that work be done in a joint way and not individually in silos.

The biggest challenges that risk to have a detrimental effect on collaboration within the organizations are as follows. We need to avoid duplication on the technical front and also on the financial front because these organizations need to work together in the field and their role is very important in the realization of development and food security, particularly at the country level.

The document mentions a collaboration mechanism and this is thanks to the creation of an advisory group at a high level which will examine the issues of common interests in an executive, operational, and financial way.

In this regard, we would like joint priorities to be presented in a clearer, more detailed and precise way. We also need to specify the mandate of this advisory group and that this mandate include a clear timetable, a timeline, and this should be submitted to Member States to allow everyone to realize the objectives that they are working towards on the ground.

This advisory group should not neglect also the financial aspect because coordination in financial matters will allow us to avoid all financial waste and avoid duplication in actions on the ground in the technical areas and also administratively speaking. We would suggest that this advisory group at a high level be made up of experts within the three agencies without any extra additional costs involved, as that would impact the budgets of these three organizations because the aim that we are looking towards here is more efficiency and more effectiveness. Cost efficiency is what we are looking for.

In conclusion, Kuwait insists on the role played by each of these three Rome-based Agencies. All three bodies are very important and their role is even more important in the future to come, especially in the Near East where the severity of crises is only continuing to increase.

All organizations that have a humanitarian dimension in their work need to work together to realize the Strategic Objectives and also the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan welcomes the preparation of the joint paper on RBAs collaboration, and we appreciate that the three agencies are making efforts to promote efficient and effective collaboration based on their technical knowledge and comparative advantages within their mandates, while avoiding duplication, in order to achieve better results in addressing global challenges, including the SDGs.

In terms of collaboration at the regional and country levels, we consider that the joint development of country work plans and mapping exercises to identify gaps are particularly meaningful in promoting context-specific, effective collaboration among the RBAs. Japan hopes that the RBAs continue to raise awareness of the positive impacts of their collaboration throughout all organisational levels, including through sharing of good practices, and to create an environment that fosters collaboration rather than competition.

Japan also requests the RBAs to regularly report on the progress to their Members and other relevant stakeholders. In this regard, we commend the addition of specific examples of collaboration to the revised version of this joint paper.

Furthermore, Japan places great importance on the humanitarian and development nexus. This is an area where the work of the RBAs may overlap, but, precisely for that reason, we believe that this is where RBA collaboration can make particularly significant impacts. Continuing and enhancing dialogue among the RBAs at the global, regional and country levels is key to increasing synergies of their work.

Finally, Japan reiterates the expected role of the RBAs to lead the global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the field of food security, nutrition and agriculture.

In this light, we encourage the RBAs to strengthen collaboration with all stakeholders, including other international organizations, governments, civil society and the private sector.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to echo Bangladesh for the statement on behalf of the G77 and China. We encourage the three Rome-based Agencies to strengthen their cooperation and collaboration so they can have better strengths and avoid duplication or overlap or buck passing.

Currently, it is very important to collaborate across sector for SDG 2. China encourages the three Rome-based Agencies to input their resources more into the vast number of developing countries and they can be concrete activities such as for South-South cooperation. The three RBAs can choose a leading department on a consultative basis.

FAO has its advantages, WFP as well, IFAD as well. So in general, China believes that FAO has more comparative advantage.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Esta intervención la realizo a nombre del GRULAC. Se agradece y reconoce el esfuerzo de las Agencias con sede en Roma por la elaboración y presentación del tan anhelado documento que se había solicitado por los Estados Miembros de las mismas desde el año 2015.

Los inmensos desafíos que presentan para la comunidad internacional, el crecimiento de la población y los desastres naturales ocasionados por el cambio climático exigen hoy más que nunca el trabajo coordinado de las agencias con sede en Roma para alcanzar las ambiciosas metas de la Agenda 2030 y los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible. Así, es fundamental identificar y reconocer las ventajas comparativas de cada uno de los organismos para garantizar la eficiencia del trabajo en el campo y reducir la duplicación de labores.

Se resalta que en el documento, en especial en los párrafos de ocho al diez, se identifica de manera concisa el mandato de cada agencia y el aporte que pueden ofrecer hacia el cumplimiento de los ODS. En particular, el segundo: Hambre Cero. El documento, de manera acertada, enfatiza que se deben aprovechar las oportunidades para trabajar de manera coordinada y complementaria, aprovechando el conocimiento y las experiencias de cada agencia con sede en Roma, para que todos en conjunto ayuden y colaboren a fin de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Es oportuno resaltar la adecuada concepción del documento, que se estructura de manera clara y completa, incluyendo una introducción donde se alude al origen del mismo, recordando antecedentes similares, pero actualizado a las exigencias del momento y de la realidad y, más ahora con el compromiso de los Estados y organismos internacionales de lograr las metas de la Agenda 2030. Es decir, este documento se constituye en una herramienta más para ese objetivo y una declaración expresa para llegar a ese fin a través del esfuerzo común.

La segunda parte hace énfasis en la visión común, las oportunidades y desafíos para que las OSR constituyan a los ODS lo que se concreta en la tercera parte de manera ya específica con principios guías, entre los que sobresalen, los de colaboración como sus mecanismos y acciones a niveles regionales de cada país y a nivel global.

En efecto, disponer de ejemplos prácticos del trabajo conjunto sobre el campo por parte de las tres agencias demuestra que es posible, con coordinación y buena comunicación, llevar adelante las operaciones y cumplir las metas de cada agencia. Lo anterior es factible siempre y cuando se establezca con precisión que esa coordinación en los países es el reflejo de la labor permanente desde las sedes principales de cada agencia en Roma.

Es reconfortante para el GRULAC encontrar reflejado en el documento referencias hacia la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular, que es un tema reiterado por nuestros países, pues para esos objetivos ambiciosos se requiere este tipo de cooperación, aprovechando y compartiendo las experiencias exitosas de los diversos estados, canalizando a través de los adecuados canales que brindan las agencias.

El GRULAC lamenta que la presentación conjunta entre FAO, FIDA y PMA del documento Colaboración entre los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030, programada para el 18 de noviembre, fuera cancelada, ya que se esperaba con ansias esta presentación con la participación de las tres agencias, y hacemos un llamado para que esta sea reprogramada.

Por otra parte, el párrafo 49 consagra con acierto la importancia de evaluar el esfuerzo común y la oportunidad de construir, a partir de las lecciones aprendidas. Sin embargo, se debería adoptar una metodología que presente los resultados tangibles en todos los niveles, para hacer un correcto seguimiento y evaluación de las acciones en conjunto en cada país.

Finalmente, como menciona el párrafo 56, este documento representa un aporte importante para el fortalecimiento de la colaboración de las Agencias con sede en Roma, y refleja las observaciones frecuentes de los Estados Miembros para llegar así de la manera más constructiva y real a las metas de la Agenda 2030

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Mi Delegación se suma a la declaración realizada por el Grupo G77 más China y por el GRULAC.

A medida que los nuevos ODS marcan prioridades de desarrollo sostenible a nivel mundial, redefinir las características esenciales y el alcance de la colaboración de los Organismos con sede en Roma, con un mayor énfasis en las ventajas comparativas y los enfoques complementarios, resulta fundamental a

la hora de reivindicar el liderazgo en la erradicación del hambre, la agricultura sostenible, la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Acogemos con satisfacción el documento CL 155/12, el cual define, a partir de una visión y objetivos comunes, un marco de actuación conjunta dentro de la perspectiva de apoyo a los países, para alcanzar los objetivos de la Agenda 2030.

Mr Hinrich THÖLKEN (Germany)

I would like to pass on the floor to the Slovak Republic.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement, and the Republic of San Marino as well.

We welcome the document on collaboration among the Rome-based UN Agencies (RBAs) and look forward to the more detailed discussions during the joint presentation at the seminar, hopefully organized soon.

We strongly support embedding the document in the Agenda 2030 and encourage further development, which provides both an opportunity and an expectation for enhanced, more strategic and deeper collaboration among RBAs committed to achieving the SDGs, mainly SDG 2 that lies in the heart of their mandate, by creating synergies, avoiding duplication and building on their respective strengths and comparative advantages.

The collaboration at the different levels should be defined within the framework of the respective mandates of the three agencies. This should be the main tool for avoiding duplications and to promote a long-term sustainable cooperation, specifically at field level

We acknowledge identification of potential obstacles to collaboration. We believe that the paper constitutes a good starting point from which to enhance RBAs collaboration and overcome these challenges. It is a long-lasting process that requires constant efforts at all levels, both at the headquarters and in the field.

We especially welcome the suggested “principles of action” and the four “pillars of collaboration”, as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence, which should in our view focus on the operational level.

We appreciate the emphasis laid on transparency, accountability and regular reporting. We would, however, encourage the identification of concrete deliverables and commitments with precise timeframes, to go beyond the suggestions outlined in the 'Way Forward' section. We believe that it is the duty of the RBAs themselves – and not, as mentioned in paragraph 30, of the Membership – to ensure that effective monitoring mechanisms are in place.

We would welcome a commitment to more frequent meetings of the Senior Consultative Group and the RBAs country representatives, as well as informal annual joint meetings of the RBAs governing bodies, at which a joint annual progress report on RBAs collaboration could be presented and discussed. This would provide regular guidance to the respective teams, would help avoid duplication of work, and would go beyond an approach that could leave the exploration of potential untapped areas of collaboration up to the goodwill of staff members.

Pilot forms of coordination such as joint strategies, joint assessments or joint programming could be developed, perhaps on a country-by-country basis. The common 'mapping exercise' is also a welcome and useful process, but it would benefit from a more precise timeline. More detail would likewise be welcomed on incentives for enhanced cooperation, for example on standard project documents and evaluation reports, and for staff to engage in collaborative work.

Similarly, we concur on the crucial importance of defining clear and agreed upon roles and responsibilities that give rise to effective division of labor. In this spirit, we would welcome further details on the thematic teams and working groups mentioned in paragraph 37, particularly on the potential for enhanced collaboration on climate change, financial inclusion, gender, and food loss and waste. We would also appreciate more information on collaboration on joint corporate services and

communication. Furthermore, we would appreciate more detailed proposals on the possibilities of pooling back office functions.

We appreciate the references to the RBAs' engagement in the Committee on World Food Security. We call on the RBAs not only work together to disseminate CFS products, but also to enhance the implementation of such products at country level and in their partnerships. More generally, we encourage the RBAs to make better and more strategic use of the CFS, and to further engage in its work.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the scope of the collaborative process that the RBAs have embarked upon, and strongly encourage the FAO to advance along this promising path.

Sr. Elias ELSORI (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea felicitar a la FAO, al FIDA y al PMA por el documento presentado sobre la Colaboración de los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) y se suma a lo expresado por el GRULAC en este tema.

Quisiéramos añadir que tomamos nota con agrado de que en el documento se describen la visión común, los principios rectores, las condiciones previas y los compromisos relativos al modo en que los equipos en los países de los OSR pueden ayudar a los gobiernos y trabajar en común en pos de la aplicación de la Agenda 2030 mediante la mejora de la coordinación, evitando al mismo tiempo superposiciones, duplicaciones y carencias.

Así como en el párrafo 3 señala que los OSR definieron conjuntamente y clasificaron por orden de prioridad los indicadores relativos al ODS 2, tal espíritu de colaboración, coordinación y sinergia podrá servir de base para que puedan superar las asociaciones que exceden de sus competencias, señalado en el párrafo 5. Ello permitirá potenciar al máximo las sinergias y emplear las convergencias como base, y evitar de ese modo solapamientos y duplicaciones innecesarios, con el fin de aumentar la eficiencia y la repercusión, tal como se indica en el párrafo 14.

En consonancia con la intervención del GRULAC en el tema 3, relativo al “Marco Estratégico Revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2018 –2021”, solicitamos que sea eliminada de la nota al pie de página número 3 la mención a la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial y su Compromiso de Acción, entre los principales procesos normativos mundiales que sirven de base para la colaboración de los OSR en apoyo de los ODS, indicado en el párrafo 17.

Con estos comentarios, apoyamos las recomendaciones contenidas en el documento CL 155/12.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe makes this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and first we want to begin by associating ourselves to the statement that is been read by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China.

We want to thank the Management of the three RBAs for the document before us. The paper clearly indicates that some collaboration already exists among the RBAs. This is a good start and we would want to see this intensified, especially at country level where implementation of the SDGs is going to take place. We therefore look forward to future updates from the RBAs on this important issue.

With these few remarks, Africa endorses the document on RBAs collaboration.

Mr Joseph NGETICH (Kenya)

We support the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

Kenya thanks the Secretariat for this well presented background and concept document.

Strengthening the strategic collaboration of the RBAs is particularly timely and welcome, considering the critical role that the three agencies played in shaping the 2030 Agenda and particularly SDG 2.

We believe that the ongoing efforts to reinforce the collaboration of the RBAs will create added value and increase the impact of activities carried out individually or jointly by the three Rome-based Agencies.

It is important to particularly draw and build upon helpful lessons learnt from existing collaboration, particularly at country level where the work of the institutions have maximum impact. In Kenya, this is demonstrated by their support to the Kenya Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme, in partnership with the European Union and Kenyan Government.

The programme is supporting vulnerable households and most resource-poor to shift from food insecurity to resilience and transformed livelihoods and aligns each agency's contribution by its comparative advantage and creates strong complementarity.

Kenya takes note with appreciation that this document presents a common vision, guiding principles for enhanced collaboration, the distinctive strengths of each organization, prerequisites, commitments and challenges on how RBAs country teams can support governments.

Further it outlines opportunities, challenges, how the agencies will work together based on particular contexts, and strengthened coordination efforts at the country, regional and global levels.

The proposed four pillars of collaboration would provide opportunity for each agency to leverage resources, knowledge, financing, and implementation support from other development stakeholders and generate tangible results.

With these comments, we support the document.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)¹

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

We welcome the joint paper by the RBAs and take note of the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee with the following comments.

We commend the agencies for its preparation and appreciate the annexes therein listing what is already done well.

Reiterate the importance of the UN development system to deliver on 2030 Agenda in line with the common UNDG country approach and "Delivery as One".

Stress the importance that the paper must be a living document reviewed by the agencies whenever needed, taking into account relevant developments and experiences, not forgetting the QCPR resolution now being negotiated by Member States in New York.

Finally, we support that the RBAs' governing bodies hold informal annual joint meetings to present a joint annual progress report, as well as more frequent meetings of the Senior Consultative Group and the Permanent Representatives in Rome.

Further on the annual reporting, we would like to stress that it should not only be a long list of what is working well, that will probably only be a repetition of information from other documents already presented to the governing bodies, this reporting should be future oriented, about possible new developments, existing challenges, limitations and opportunities.

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

We would like to thank the Secretariat of FAO, IFAD and WFP for the joint document. In comparison with the original version, the content has become more comprehensive with concrete specific examples related to the key workstreams, particular partnerships at the country and regional levels, cooperation at the global level and thematic knowledge cooperation and associated administrative services.

We would emphasize that the cooperation between the three Rome-based Agencies should not be a goal in itself or prevent the improvement of working mechanisms but rather supplement them. In this document there is a reference to the fact that the inter-agency cooperation, in order to implement Agenda 2030, will in the future be based on the so-called global policy processes and this is something

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

that is addressed in paragraph 17. This is something that footnote 3 refers to, the commitment made at the World Humanitarian Summit, the so-called commitment for action.

In this regard, and as the previous speaker has already said, this so-called commitment for action is a voluntary notion and has not been confirmed in the process of conventional inter-governmental approach. Therefore, it cannot be considered to be a basis for United Nations structure without prior agreement with member countries and with regard to the Rome-based Agencies or without the approval of the governing bodies.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First, we welcome the joint document by RBAs. Secondly, we wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China and also with the statement made by Egypt.

We wish to limit our intervention to Part III of the document because it is there where the crux of the matter is discussed.

At the regional and country levels, we agree that collaboration should focus on assisting the governments and regional bodies in implementing the SDGs to the following six elements:

1. Building on the expertise and technical skills of each agency;
2. Creation of RBA regional teams to decide on focus countries;
3. Concrete collaboration process at the country level to identify gaps and overlaps, and to explore new opportunities for collaboration on joint programming;
4. To replicate successful collaborative efforts and, in the case of fragile situations, assist in building resilient communities to achieve the SDGs;
5. Explore modalities to enhance cross-sectoral, multi-sectoral and inter-governmental coordination at the country level.
6. Make greater use of the South South and triangular cooperation.

At the global level, we suggest that the ongoing collaboration should be expanded to include contributions to HLPF, UNFCCC, the Zero Hunger Challenge, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, preparation of SOFI, support to the CFS as a multi-stakeholder negotiation process and the global Food Security Cluster.

A few words about the way forward. What is stated in paragraphs 44 to 49 is indeed encouraging. In fact, paragraph 49 keeps the door open for further deepening of collaboration among RBAs, catalyzing on achievements and readiness to test other models of collaboration.

With these comments, Afghanistan fully supports the contents of the document.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nos sumamos a la declaración hecha por México en nombre del GRULAC y de Bangladesh en nombre del G77 más China.

Queremos agradecer la presentación del documento conjunto con la presencia de los representantes de los tres organismos de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma. Nos complace que el documento se base sobre una visión común y que la colaboración se plantee a nivel no solo mundial, sino también regional y nacional. Esa colaboración debe ser entendida desde la perspectiva de que el rol de las tres agencias es prestar asistencia a los requerimientos de los países y no actuaciones desconectadas o fuera de lo solicitado por los gobiernos.

En nuestro criterio, la colaboración de los tres organismos debe ir más allá de la Agenda 2030 y los ODS, o sea, debería estar en la razón misma de su trabajo. Esto implica un necesario cambio de cultura, a fin de que no se vean como posibles competidores, sino como socios. Y esto solo puede conseguirse sobre la base de un claro entendimiento de las competencias, mandatos y las ventajas comparativas de cada uno.

Al propio tiempo, hay que tener presente que los mandatos de FAO, FIDA y PMA tienen una estrecha relación, lo cual debe ser visto como una oportunidad para el trabajo conjunto, de tal forma que las iniciativas y acciones que se formulen sean planteadas desde perspectivas integrales que incluye planificación a corto, medio y largo plazo, así como la aplicación de enfoques de especialización de cada organismo.

Creemos que es muy importante el rol de los mecanismos de coordinación aquí en Roma, pero es igualmente importante que haya mecanismos de coordinación a nivel regional y nacional, por lo cual alentamos a que los representantes nacionales y regionales mantengan reuniones periódicas. No obstante, además de esos mecanismos de coordinación, deben establecerse mecanismos de rendición de cuentas, por lo cual respaldamos la recomendación de la reunión conjunta para que anualmente se presente un informe conjunto sobre la implementación del documento. Este informe conjunto de implementación debe basarse en las actividades, no solo en la sede, sino sobre todo del terreno, ya que como se ha visto en algunas evaluaciones presentadas por el Comité del Programa, es necesario una mayor colaboración en el terreno.

Finalmente, si bien el Consejo no va a tomar una decisión final sobre este tema, ya que el documento conjunto es un documento vivo y deberán incorporarse las sugerencias planteadas en la reunión conjunta y en esta reunión del Consejo, es importante que, sin perjuicio de lo mencionado, los tres organismos con sede en Roma inicien ya la colaboración y coordinación conjuntas sobre las bases contenidas en el documento.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to address this issue of the Rome-based Agencies collaboration. At the beginning, we commend the document on the collaboration between the three Rome-based Agencies. We fully support the four pillars of collaboration mentioned therein, namely working together at the country and regional levels, cooperating at the global level, collaborating on thematic knowledge and joint corporate services.

We also welcome the intention of the three agencies to focus on assisting the countries in the future in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving its goals. We stress that the joint efforts and the current and ongoing actions focusing on the country level implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also include nutrition resilience data and statistics. These are the main areas of interest to our country. The work among the three Rome-based Agencies in a collaborative and coordinated manner will enhance the interventions of these organizations and will avoid any conflicts that may arise from a competition viewpoint. Capitalizing on the respective strengths of each agency by doing so, we will be able to enhance the collaboration in terms of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Each organization should focus on its respective comparative advantages and strengths according to its mandate and area of competency.

We also appreciate the mechanism of collaboration and the meeting of the heads and the Senior Consultative Group on a regular basis to identify the joint priorities that require collaborative efforts and cooperation at the regional and country levels, as well as at the global level and in the area of thematic issues through joint corporate services. We also agree with the proposal about linking the collaboration among the agencies with the national needs and requests of governments.

We also stress the importance of receiving an annual progress Report from the three Rome-based Agencies on their collaboration.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Pakistan would like to align itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We approve this document that has been prepared in response to requests by Member Nations. To be exact, since 1996 there were discussions about this collaboration for many years, so the document is particularly welcome.

Many colleagues have made very valid and important points, so I will restrict myself to some general issues.

Mr Chairman, since we have heard that this is a living document, it is our understanding that the proposed joint activities and the potential collaboration will be made more specific and concrete as requested in the Programme Committee's Report, and that there will also be regular reporting on this collaboration.

Some colleagues have mentioned collaboration in the financial and administrative areas, especially the Joint Corporate Services. This is another issue which has been discussed often. Although there is some collaboration amongst the three agencies in this area, the full benefits have not been achieved because all three agencies have different ERP systems, problems of compatibility.

We would therefore suggest that the RBAs should conduct a review to see what it would take to make their systems compatible, because once compatibility has been achieved, this would open up many more areas for collaboration and cooperation, thus resulting in significant savings. There could be a Joint Shared Service Centre for example.

With these brief general comments, Pakistan approves the document.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States thanks the three Rome-based Agencies for the important work they have done to put together this paper. We believe this is a good starting point and we are encouraged by the shared vision for future work together.

We support the RBAs presenting a joint annual report instead of individually reporting back to the respective governing bodies and we also support a joint coordination meeting once per year, on a cost-neutral basis, and look forward to seeing some concrete deliverables and steps that will improve RBA collaboration.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

On IFAD, I think that we can highlight two aspects about your comments. First of all, I think that it is important to note that on 13 December IFAD will organize the third consultative meeting for the IFAD Board. After that meeting and the FAO Council, and the meeting I think that three weeks ago in the WFP Executive Board in which in fact we opened this discussion and this exchange and with dialogue and we will continue the beginning of next year.

The second important point is that in the middle of January the Senior Management of the three RBAs will meet in the IFAD headquarters to start the work on this joint document and at the same time, you can be sure that we will add in our discussion comments you made here, at the meeting in WFP, and the comments that you will make in IFAD. Your comments and your advice will be taken into account in the implementation process that will start in January.

Mr Shantanu MATHUR (IFAD)

Thank you very much for giving IFAD also the opportunity to add our own words. First we thank all of you for your very positive statements and guidance. There is a remarkable confluence and coherence of views that all of you have expressed over various groups and also through individual statements.

I would like to certainly underline the fact that the Agenda 2030 has given us an amazing new renewed impetus to collaborate our management and our principles have also given us the power to collaborate together. And the new vision that we have developed, Agenda 2030, certainly underpins that very clearly and seeks that the RBAs should fully coordinate and collaborate in delivering as the lead entity cluster, not only SDG 2 in itself but also development approach so that they do so through the interconnected delivery of the other seventeen or sixteen SDGs.

We would like to assure you that we will pursue partnerships at all levels, at the Global Development Policy Platform levels. You have already seen a lot of collaboration at CFS43 last week in this building at the World Food Day in terms of common advocacy. At the thematic level, a number of you have also highlighted certain thematic areas where collaboration is already commenced and we will strengthen it in several areas that you have mentioned in the context of resilience, climate change,

nutrition, gender, and the slow onset emergencies like El Niño for instance. So a lot of collaboration already going on in the thematic areas which we will certainly strengthen further.

And we will shift the focus or at least sharpen the focus of our collaboration very much at the country level as you have said, working right through the programme and project cycles, from conception all the way to completion. And that is where it will be much more practical for us to develop a results measurement framework that many of you have mentioned which will make it easier for us to measure results not just at the output level but at the outcome level as well.

And has already been mentioned, we will try and look for a rubric for joint reporting on an annual basis to the extent that we can.

Ms Mihoko TAMAMURA (WFP)

Before stating a few words, I would like to thank FAO for having given us an opportunity to be with you, to be part of this important meeting.

This week WFP's Senior Management, including regional directors and country directors are meeting in Rome and we are, as of now, discussing how to concretely assist Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

I was personally heartened by some of the country directors approaching me to share concrete examples of RBA collaboration. I have been in this position for the last three years and I see a lot of differences in the country directors' behaviour and also perception about Rome-based Agencies collaboration.

I feel that it is very much taking root in their minds and the need of the hour is for us to provide continuous encouragement and also guidance and concrete proposals as to how to promote their country level collaboration.

One example I would like to share with you is that the Regional Director in Southern Africa has informed that the three RBAs are meeting in Johannesburg to discuss specific country level collaboration in eight countries. And the meeting is taking place in February. The date is yet to be confirmed but this is one of the very encouraging initiatives.

And just to address one question or proposal as regards RBA collaboration on CFS. I fully agree that we have to do more to disseminate CFS policy instruments at country level.

I would like to take this opportunity to demonstrate WFP's willingness to work together with FAO and IFAD in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Ambassador Tomasi. I thank the three RBAs, in particular for the additional information which is not contained in the document. It is a good way to collaborate and this is the desire of all of the Members. Thank you.

I will make my conclusions for item 11 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the joint document on *Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration* and commended the three RBAs for its preparation, noting it was a useful reference for future joint activities of the RBAs and that it was a living document subject to periodical update.
2. The Council invited the RBAs to take into account the principles outlined in the joint document in the preparation of future strategic plans and recommended that proposed joint activities and areas for potential collaboration be made more specific and concrete by including *inter alia* timelines, joint assessments and incentive mechanisms, while avoiding duplication and overlap.
3. The Council welcomed the common objective to focus future collaboration on assisting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The Council welcomed the suggested "principles of action" and the four "pillars of collaboration", as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence.

5. The Council noted with appreciation that the RBA regional teams would develop regional processes for determining focus countries, joint priority areas and joint monitoring of progress.

6. The Council agreed on the usefulness of holding joint meetings of governing bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies; and that an activity report on RBA collaboration be prepared on a regular basis.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

Just one point that we believe is missing and was highlighted in our statement and by Sudan and is part of the Joint Report of the Finance and Programme Committees, which is the importance that the collaboration be in line with the demands and priorities of host countries.

If we could add something around this language, we would appreciate it.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

In general, we very much appreciate your summary as reflecting the discussion we had this afternoon.

We have a proposal on paragraph 6, where you mentioned the usefulness of the joint meetings and to discuss the joint report. We would appreciate a more specific timeframe: your suggestion is “on a regular basis” and we would welcome “on an annual basis” if that is possible.

We have heard from WFP that there is a need to do more on CFS so we would very much welcome a reference to one of our requests to encourage the RBAs to continue to be fully engaged with CFS work, to enhance the implementation of all CFS products at country level and in their partnerships, and to make better and more strategic use of the CFS.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

With regard to paragraph 6, we do not oppose it but we would be grateful if the Secretariat of the RBAs could elaborate on the format of the possible joint meetings and on the added value of such meetings, apart from discussing the joint paper.

Also the issue of interpretation is interesting to me in this regard.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

If you remember, I think that happened the same in WFP and will happen in IFAD, the idea of this annual meeting. On the report, you know, one of the key issues that we discussed in the other RBA institutions is to use this meeting first of all to update. This is a global scenario, we are talking about the experience globally, regionally and locally. We are talking to put into practice the mechanisms to reduce overlapping to try to complete and reinforce the experience.

The point is really an update about how we are working in link with the Joint Paper to try to think in results and in future perspectives. This is the idea in which we are thinking and that is one of the issues that we will start to discuss in our internal meeting in January.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read those paragraphs where we have incorporated the issues which have been raised. Otherwise, Russia got a response from the RBAs.

4. The Council welcomed the suggested “principles of action” and the four “pillars of collaboration”, as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence and full engagement with CFS work.

5. The Council noted with appreciation that the RBA regional teams would develop regional processes for determining focus countries, joint priority areas and joint monitoring of progress in line with the demands and priorities of governments.

6. The Council agreed on the usefulness of holding joint meetings and governing bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies, and that an activity report on RBA collaboration would be prepared on an annual basis.

Thank you. We have concluded on this Agenda item.

Item 12. Arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference**Point 12. Organisation de la quarantième session de la Conférence de la FAO****Tema 12. Disposiciones para el 40.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia**

(CL 155/8)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we proceed now with item 12, *Arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference*, including the Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a topic for the General Debate at Conference. The document before Council is CL 155/8 Rev.1 (English only).

The document gives an overview of arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference, to be held from 3 to 8 July 2017, and contains proposals regarding the Provisional Agenda for the session; a topic for the General Debate during the Conference; a theme for governing body sessions convened in the 2018-19 biennium; the scheduling of agenda items; deadlines for receipt of nominations for election purposes; and, proposed resolutions and invitations.

I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, who will inform us of the decisions Council is requested to take under this item.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council is invited to take decisions on:

- The Provisional Agenda of the 40th Session of the Conference which can be found in Appendix A of the document;
- A topic for the General Debate on the state of food and agriculture, when heads of delegation address the Plenary Meeting of the Conference;
- Limiting statements by Heads of Delegation during the general debate to no more than five minutes;
- A biennial theme for governing body sessions convened in the 2018-19 biennium;
- Deadlines for the receipt of nominations for the Independent Chairperson of Council for the period July 2017 to the 41st Session of Conference in 2019; and Council Membership for the period July 2017 to June 2019 and July 2018 to June 2020;
- The establishment of two commissions: Commission I on Substantive and Policy Matters; and Commission II on Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- Inviting Palestine to participate in the Session as an observer.

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest we begin by considering the draft Provisional Agenda proposed for the Conference.

Does Council wish to approve the Provisional Agenda for the 40th Session of Conference contained in Appendix A of document CL 155/8?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Regarding the proposed Agenda of the Conference, we very much support the Agenda items that have been proposed. In Section D which is 'Other Substantive and Policy Matters' we support Agenda item 14 to have a Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action and Nutrition. We also note that the theme of the Conference or the topic for the General Debate is climate change as well as the proposed topic for the biennium.

In this regard, we strongly believe that all cross-cutting themes should feature on the Conference Agenda and we would therefore request that an Agenda item be added under Section D: a 'Progress Report on the Implementation of FAO Gender Policy and United Nations SWAP' as it was done at the 2013 Conference.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I would like to support the proposal made by Canada given the fact that at the last Conference this topic was not included in the Agenda and the last time was in 2013. If we do not contemplate it in the coming session of the Conference there would be a huge gap of six years between the appreciation of this topic in 2013 and eventually at the following Conference so my delegation thinks it is opportune that it be contemplated.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries and I can be brief after the intervention by Canada and Brazil. We fully support the suggestion.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States would like to associate ourselves with the recommendation made by Canada and supported by Brazil and Iceland.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Just very shortly we will also like to join the other delegations in supporting the Canadian proposal on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Could Canada repeat the proposal?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to propose that the Provisional Agenda of the Conference under Section D, 'Other Substantive and Policy Matters', does include an agenda item entitled "Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Gender Policy and United Nations SWAP". That is the title that was as well on the agenda of the 2013 Conference and would be aligned with Agenda item 14 which is a progress report on the other cross-cutting themes of nutrition.

Ms Marina EMILIANI (San Marino)

My delegation would like to support the proposal made by Canada to add an agenda item to Section D on "Progress report on the implementation on FAO gender policy and United Nations SWAP" as gender is a cross-cutting theme.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We can also support the Canadian proposal.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Argentina quiere apoyar la propuesta de Canadá, que ha sido también apoyada por varios otros Miembros.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

We fully support the idea but we are not sure that this should be covered in the next Conference for the following reasons. First of all, gender is a cross-cutting issue in all the five Strategic Objectives. Strategic Objective 5 was reviewed as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee has explained to us when we discussed the item on the Programme Committee. Gender issues under that evaluation was one of the weaknesses. Strategic Objective 1, 2, 3 and 4 are to be evaluated in 2017 and during the first half of 2018.

In addition, the role and work plan of the Office of Evaluation on the recommendation of the Programme Committee has an item dedicated to the evaluation of the gender policy that will be submitted to the Programme Committee in the spring of 2019. Reviewing gender issues without having the entire basic knowledge is a bit premature. It will be a good idea to include it in the Conference 4.1, not 4.0.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Bien sûr, je soutiens pleinement la proposition qui a été faite par le Canada, mais je voudrais faire deux propositions complémentaires sur la forme, non pas pour des décisions à ce Conseil, mais peut-être pour voir si le Secrétariat pourrait y réfléchir. À la dernière Conférence, lorsque nous avons fait son bilan, nous avons été plusieurs à noter que son déroulé était très formel avec une succession de déclarations formelles de tous les États Membres. Peut-être pourrait-on imaginer, pour la prochaine Conférence, qu'un certain nombre de thèmes puissent être abordés sous forme de «panel», de table ronde, avec des «speakers», des orateurs auxquels ensuite les délégations pourraient répondre. Je souhaiterais qu'on examine la possibilité d'étudier ce format pour la question de la parité hommes-femmes, «gender».

Deuxièmement, pour reprendre une proposition présentée mardi par le collègue de l'Iran, que cela puisse être une occasion d'inviter une agricultrice ou des agricultrices à venir à prendre la parole à cette table ronde. Ce serait ainsi une occasion d'inviter le monde agricole à la Conférence de la FAO, qui se limite quand même souvent à des déclarations purement officielles, et il serait peut-être bon d'avoir des témoignages avec des acteurs du terrain.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I agree with some of the points made by Afghanistan and I have a question. Two of the items on the Agenda of the Conference have to go through a process of reviews by the Finance and Programme Committees and the Council. They are the technical bodies which are reviewing items in detail before going to the Conference. Furthermore, the next session of the Council is going to consider an update on the Agenda. We can thus ask ourselves whether it would not be appropriate for these bodies to review the subject matter before it reaches the Council in such a way there is an informed discussion. The Conference would then benefit from the view of its technical bodies.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nosotros vemos con buenos ojos la propuesta que ha hecho Canadá y que ha sido respaldada por Argentina y Brasil, entre otras Delegaciones. Sin embargo, luego de haber escuchado a Afganistán y las razones que nos ha presentado, creemos que lo más oportuno sería, como mencionaba el Delegado de Afganistán, esperar a la evaluación, que será presentada en el 2019, es decir, compartimos el criterio de que quizás sería más oportuno y relevante, sobre todo, al contar para entonces con más informaciones y la evaluación, que este tema sea presentado en el programa de la Conferencia de 2019.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Al igual que mi colega de Ecuador, después de haber escuchado el intervento de nuestro profesor de Afganistán, consideramos que es importante esperar que salga la evaluación del 2019 para poder afrontar el tema con la debida autoridad.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

We were considering the suggestion made by Canada and supported by many other Members which has of course justification since the issue of women's empowerment and gender equality is a very important one. It is a cross-cutting theme.

However, when considering this suggestion, we had some observations to make in this regard. The first one was already voiced by Afghanistan and several other speakers. It is our previous decision to have an evaluation on the FAO work on gender during the Conference in 2019.

The second one is that although the cross-cutting themes of nutrition and climate change will be addressed by the Agenda items of the next Conference, those Agenda items are not devoted to those issues as cross-cutting themes.

I also want to recall the Report of the 153rd Session of the Council, namely paragraph 7(f) devoted to the gender issue, which welcomed the FAO Policy on Gender Equality and women's empowerment. I quote, "[...] and looked forward to continued attention to mainstreaming of gender across FAO's activities and to the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, including consideration of

UN/SWAP, as well as reporting thereon, through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms, notably the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 in May 2016, the Mid-Term Review in March 2017, and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be considered by the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017”.

This decision, made by the Council at that time, clearly traces how this issue will be addressed in terms of reporting. The issue of gender is covered by the Agenda of the 40th Conference. Therefore, I am not sure whether a separate agenda item should be included in the Agenda of the Conference since we do not have separate agenda items for all the four cross-cutting themes. In addition, the gender issue as per the decision of the Council that I have just quoted will be addressed anyway by the Conference.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

We just raised our flag to agree with Afghanistan on this issue.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

A few comments. We see evaluations as separate from having an opportunity to discuss substantively and strategically FAO's work on important issues. Such issues were so important that we decided that it would be cross-cutting theme in a specific objective. That is why we welcome the fact that we can discuss on a regular basis. We will have tomorrow an opportunity to hear about the COP 22 and the outcomes of FAO's work on climate change. It will be a main theme, which is going to be a proposed theme for the biennium. The biennium has had an international symposium on nutrition, which we welcome. We will have also a progress report at Conference, so this is not mutually exclusive.

These cross-cutting themes are also reported on through the corporate standing reporting mechanisms. Gender should also be included. However, this third cross-cutting theme of gender, which is very important, is not receiving the same treatment. It is high time to have a substantive discussion on FAO's work and especially on how FAO is implementing its gender policy and how it intends to focus its work on it. When I am asked by my capital what is FAO's approach and FAO's performance on gender equality and how it intends to address that in a context of the new global policy agenda, it is still very difficult for me to answer. Whereas on the other cross-cutting issues, we have constantly updates and substantive discussions so we believe that it is very warranted for this Conference.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial quiere simplemente manifestar su apoyo a la declaración pronunciada por el Representante de Afganistán.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I would like to add that by contemplating this topic in the forthcoming Conference should not jeopardize the inclusion of this item in the Agenda of the 41st Conference, as it was already foreseen. Actually both are complementary. I find the suggestions made by the Distinguished Representative of France very interesting. One way of moving forward with this topic could be to include it and give it a different format. This format would highlight the field experience in implementing gender policy and would also allow for getting feedback from those stakeholders concerned.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems that the proposal is receiving great attention so there seems to be an agreement to that. There are observations which have been put forward by Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Russian Federation on the issue of binding to what is contained in the decision which was made by the Conference.

Moreover, in the Report of the Programme Committee it was reiterated the importance of the cross-cutting themes including gender, nutrition, climate change and governance and “looked forward to reporting thereon through the organizations existing reporting mechanisms”.

Having these observations and listening to what Brazil has put on the table, I hope we can still have this as an agenda item but in a different format of reporting. It can be the progress, how far the issue is being taken up and we are updating on the progress so far which will take us to the 2017 reporting to

the Conference. I hope there is an agreement for incorporating this into the agenda item. The Secretariat wants to make a clarification.

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

Gender got a thorough review in the last PIR and the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report will be coming in spring 2017. In addition, the substantive knowledge of how gender is being mainstreamed into the Strategic Framework will come out of the evaluations of the Strategic Framework. Evaluations, as outlined by Afghanistan, are very important to give us some guidance for reporting on gender as a cross-cutting issue.

The 2019 Conference, which has already foreseen evaluation of gender, will be the most appropriate way of doing this.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Pour répondre à la question du Secrétariat, je crois que les deux exercices sont très différents. L'évaluation qui a été demandée pour 2019 par le Comité du Programme est un rapport d'évaluation classique, externe, qui en principe est soumis au Comité du Programme. L'idée serait d'utiliser la Conférence pour promouvoir les actions d'abord et les résultats atteints par notre Organisation sur cette question de parité.

Nous sommes très fiers de ce que fait l'Organisation, mais il faut le valoriser. La Conférence est une belle opportunité pour valoriser cette action, ses résultats et, du coup, avoir aussi un format de discussion dans cette Conférence un peu plus dynamique, vivant, permettant notamment d'associer, comme je le proposais, des acteurs du terrain et des agriculteurs ou des agricultrices.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

This topic is not controversial. We all agree to say that this subject should be discussed thoroughly by the Conference. The only issue is the timing. Many of us think that the Conference should receive a high quality document. This document could be reproduced if there is material coming out of the evaluation of the remaining four Strategic Objectives and the final evaluation on gender in 2018.

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

In line with the proposal of the French Ambassador, we can organize an event during the Conference. This event could be a side event or an event likely to bring several participants and discuss the gender issue, including FAO's work on gender.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I would like to align myself with the first point made by Afghanistan and his previous statement that the issue is important and everybody wants it to be thoroughly discussed here in the Conference.

However, again on the format, and here probably the Secretariat could clarify a bit, I am a bit lost. I am looking at the Agenda of the 40th Session of the Conference and I can see the Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. However, I do not think that it is identical to studying nutrition as a cross-cutting theme within the FAO Strategic Framework. Rather, it is quite different.

This agenda item is included as a direct follow-up of the ICN2 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the United Nations Decade of Action. But it does not have a direct link to the FAO Strategic Framework.

With regard to the biennial theme, it is a new element. This year, the main theme is climate change. Next year, it may be another theme. In any case, it is a decision on the biennial theme. It is different from studying climate change as an FAO cross-cutting theme.

With respect to the cross-cutting theme of governance, it can be addressed within other agenda items. Therefore, although acknowledging the importance of the topic of gender, including as a cross-cutting

theme of FAO's Strategic Framework, I have difficulty in figuring out how we are choosing between the full cross-cutting themes.

I strongly believe that FAO lacked attention to gender. On the contrary, we tackled the issue during our discussions on Agenda items 3 and 6 on the Programme Committee. Many delegations noted that there was progress in this regard. More importantly, I would like to express concern about redefining the decisions that we have already made as reflected on the reporting by the Secretariat. The format of the reporting was adopted by the 153rd Session of the Council and then confirmed by the Programme Committee.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Quiero confirmar que para mi Delegación el tema de género es obviamente un tema muy sensible. En mi región nosotros somos pioneros en el tema. Lo que estamos diciendo nosotros es que, en este momento, lo que tiene más sentido es esperar los resultados de la evaluación. En tal sentido nuevamente me tengo que sumar a la declaración que hizo Afganistán y Rusia y confirmar que lo más idóneo, lo mejor que se puede hacer, es esperar la evaluación del 2019 para poder trabajar sobre una base completa.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I would like to agree with Afghanistan. The problem is not the discussion of the topic of gender, which everyone considers to be very important and relevant. The question is whether the Conference should have an item on its Agenda dealing with this issue. As pointed out by Afghanistan, we should have a document resulting from the evaluations carried out. Besides, I have received no clarification to my question about the technical bodies of the Conference considering issues before it reaches the Conference. This is problematic. The Conference should base its discussions upon the views of the technical bodies, accordingly to the Basic Texts. This is the only way of having a really informed discussion.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo respecto a la importancia del género, y quizás deberíamos evitar entrar en debates dicotómicos. Creemos que la propuesta presentada por Brasil es una propuesta que tiene cierta flexibilidad y que, quizás, podría acomodar las distintas visiones, incorporando este tema a la próxima Conferencia pero con un formato distinto. Porque quizás se podría explorar la cuestión del formato, pero que esto esté incluido en la próxima Conferencia no obsta que sea tratado en la Conferencia 2019 de manera más profunda y con los informes que esperamos. Pero, en este sentido, nosotros queremos apoyar la propuesta hecha por la distinguida Delegación de Brasil.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Solamente para señalar que el tema de género y la propia política de género, a nuestro entender, va a ser considerada cuando se analice el tema de la agenda del Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2014-2015. De hecho, allí se mencionan varios indicadores y metas con respecto a la política de género. Es decir, el tema del género y la política de género bajo este Informe de Ejecución del Programa será ya analizado. No obstante, consideramos que sería positivo lo que ha surgido, o sea los planteamientos acá y un evento paralelo, en el cual se puedan tomar en cuenta lo que manifestaba el Embajador de Francia para dicho evento. Y esto obviamente con miras a la Conferencia 2019, en la cual se presentará la evaluación.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I will be very quick. It is just to support what was said by Afghanistan, Russia and Pakistan.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I support that we have found a solution through the suggestion made by Brazil. There could be a different form but for those who said that we need a quality document, I think it was Russia and the Secretariat, repeated what I would say. We are expecting a quality of reporting for the Conference next year. So, in my opinion, there is plenty of reporting to the Conference. We only need the Agenda to take it further. As for a side event, this is something else. We can decide on that in another manner.

We do not have to do that at the Council. I support the item and the way forward as suggested by France and Brussels.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I do not want to prolong the discussion but I just would like to read one sentence from the excellent FAO Gender Policy just to remind us that the FAO Conference and regional conferences include a standing agenda item on gender equality. So gender policy has been approved by the Conference and it includes that a standing agenda item will be on each Conference and regional conference. We are very much flexible on what the item would be, but it is part of the policy and we can support the proposal made by Brazil.

CHAIRPERSON

Let us now act as a Council, respecting our own decisions. During the 153rd Session of the Council, the Council noted the cross-regional statement on gender equality and women's empowerment delivered by the Members, welcomed the FAO policy in this regard, and looked forward to continuing the attention to mainstream gender across FAO activities and to the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, including consideration of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) as well as reporting to it through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms, notably the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15 in May 2016, the Mid-term Review in March, and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review to be considered by the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017.

Under the Agenda of the Conference, Part D on 'Other Substantive and Policy Matters', this will be reported under item 15.

So, we cannot have a repetition of having another item on the same issue. I would like to concur with the different approach or the different format as was presented by France and also supported by Brazil if the Council can recommend for a special event on gender to be organized during the Conference which allows for dynamic participation of Members. That is a way out. I hope there is an agreement on this.

Regarding the intervention made by Canada, I would like to ask if you remember when we came out with this decision of the Council, do you know how long it took us? For more than two hours, we were on this issue of gender and the Council guided us and now it wants to go against this guidance of the Council. Why? There are good proposals that are coming from the Members. How can this be treated in a different way and at the same time it is going to be reported under item 15.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I am absolutely in favour of all of the guidance that has been provided by the governing bodies of FAO and the Council on the issue of gender which has been quite forthcoming and I think that we should not confuse again the issues of evaluation, the issues of formal reporting through corporate standing mechanisms, and an opportunity to discuss the FAO work on gender.

We very much support what France and Brazil have suggested and we would suggest that we take out the 'side event' and we have an event that is on the Agenda of the Conference. We are flexible on the exact title but it should be on gender and I think there is already activities that are planned and going on with the report that can easily be consolidated into presentation or lively discussion that would show where FAO is intending to treat this issue. I think that is a very constructive proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

That is a subject for discussion but it will not be part of the Agenda of the Conference. I agree on the fact that there can be an event.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

No, my proposal is that it is on the Agenda. I think that most of the comments that were made were not necessarily about the Agenda. It was more about a report that would be judging the outcomes of evaluation under the same quality. I think that as many other issues that are being discussed, there are ways to discuss an issue that is not contradicting other reports. Again, the progress report that we get

on nutrition all the time is not something that will undermine the quality of other reporting on nutrition.

We are not talking about evaluating FAO's performance at the Conference. We are talking about discussing the gender issue in the strategic way given the new Medium Term Plan and PWB and, as you know, different activities that FAO has undertaken, updates that we should have. We always have to make the work of saying okay, you know, four technical committees have decided to have a gender item for all of the regional conferences highlighted. But it is not something that we have to do as a homework. It is easy to be able to elevate this work of FAO and have a constructive discussion on gender and food security and nutrition.

We are flexible on the format and the title but we strongly believe it should be on the Agenda of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I think I am not ready to agree to this because it contradicts our decision.

We should not be weighing; for example if you say nutrition is not on the Agenda, or climate change or governance, why is it that this is not there? All of these are of equal importance. It is a matter of time. But it is going to be reported under item 15 as it was decided by the Council. This will be progress and details.

I very much welcome, and everybody welcomes, the proposal based on France and Brazil.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Could the discussion on gender be consolidated under a sub item of item 15?

CHAIRPERSON

Under 15? What is the difference? What is going to be reported under the decision of the Council? It does not add any value. Anyway, I leave it to the Members to decide.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I want to support your proposal, Mr Chairperson. As you are supporting what France and Brazil had proposed which is really a compromise between what we were saying and what other countries were saying. For some countries on that side to continue to insist will mean we are going to continue to insist on our position as well. So I think the proposal that you have made on the basis of what France and Brazil said is the best way forward. We can only surrender our own position on the basis of that proposal.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nosotros solamente queremos apoyar la propuesta que Usted ha hecho y consideramos que incluye los elementos de Francia y Brasil.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Sr. Presidente, apoyamos su propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

I think there is an agreement from the Members that you support my proposal, which was not really my proposal. It is a proposal which was put out by Members of this Council to try to be a custodian to the decisions made by the Council. That is all.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I just wanted to clarify that my understanding of the proposal made by France and Brazil was not necessarily to have a side event. It was just to propose a lively format to discuss this issue at the Conference. So I would like to find – and this is not in contradiction of the decision of the Council – if there is a way to have an event with a lively format to discuss this issue at the Conference during the Plenary Session.

CHAIRPERSON

If you want it in the Plenary, then it has to go into the Agenda.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

What I am saying is that my understanding of the proposal that was made by Brazil and France was not to suggest that it will not be on the Agenda. I think there is a way to have a proposal that you have a good, lively discussion in the Plenary on the Agenda. That is not contradicting the decision of the Council.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je ne veux pas prolonger les débats, mais effectivement le Canada a tout à fait compris le sens de ma proposition, qui était d'avoir à l'intérieur de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, un événement spécial avec un format plus vivant. Un peu sur le modèle de ce que nous avons lors de la session du Conseil ou du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, où des événements parallèles ont mis en lumière certains thèmes d'une façon vivante et dynamique.

Si l'on pouvait trouver une solution sur ce sujet et essayer d'arriver à un consensus avant de nous prononcer définitivement sur notre décision, car je suis frappé qu'effectivement on considère toujours que ce thème est très important, mais tout le monde veut le repousser. Si un thème est important, il faut en parler.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Sr. Presidente, nuevamente queremos apoyar la propuesta que hizo Usted.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I fully support the intents of Canada and what was said by the Distinguished Ambassador of France: the issue is important and we have to discuss it and we will discuss it. I would like to address some points.

Firstly, many thanks to Slovakia for reminding of the importance of the gender policy. However, there is nothing pointing out that there should be a standing separate item on gender.

I fully support what has been said by Canada, i.e. that we should discuss this issue in the context of the MTP (Medium Term Plan) and PWB (Programme of Work and Budget). From this point of view, I believe that the items devoted to the MTP and to the PWB are the ones where we should discuss all the four cross-cutting themes.

A report could be easily consolidated based on the events that will take place this December. The Secretariat should assess the workload and determine whether such an event could be easily set up.

Lastly, while understanding and supporting the importance of the women's empowerment and gender equality issues, I still observe that we are treating the four cross-cutting themes not equally. There is a decision making it clear that this issue should be addressed through the QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) programme discussion under Agenda item 15 and through the PIR (Programme Implementation Report) as mentioned by Ecuador.

Therefore we are more in favour of your proposal, i.e. a formal event or side event. It would allow for a very lively interactive discussion and exchange of views and good dialogue. This would stimulate further discussion on the sidelines of the Conference leading to the 2019 fully-fledged discussion.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We do not want to prolong this discussion anymore. As a compromise, we would like to propose to put on the Agenda the outcome of the high-level event on rural women, which will be held next week, on Friday, under *Any Other Matters*. This item would be thus downgraded to the less substantial discussion. However, there will be a place for something on the Agenda related to gender.

CHAIRPERSON

The proposal made is controversial because the proposed symposium will not have the authority of a governing body.

I urge you to agree on having a special event on gender to be organized during the Conference. Then, let us agree on approving the Agenda as it is proposed now.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Creemos que estamos muy cerca de poder lograr un consenso, pareciera haber un acuerdo general en la idea de tener un evento especial. En este sentido, quizás podemos aprovechar la experiencia del CCA como mencionara el Embajador Tomasi. Estaba viendo precisamente el Programa Provisional Anotado del CCA, "*Provisional Annotated Agenda*" y en ese caso hemos tenido algunos eventos especiales. Hacia el final del programa se hace una mención a "*other activities during the week, special events*" y allí se estipulan cuáles serán los eventos de la semana. Recuerdo que dichos eventos no tuvieron necesariamente lugar en la sala de la plenaria, pero estaban estipulados en el Programa Provisional Anotado, pero hacia el final con un especie de anexo que refería a otras actividades durante la semana. En este sentido quizás podríamos llegar a un acuerdo para poder acercar las posiciones al respecto de este tema.

CHAIRPERSON

The Provisional Agenda for the 40th Session of Conference is approved and will be despatched with the invitation to the session in early April 2017.

With regard to the main topic for the general debate of the Conference under Item 9 "*Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*", it is proposed that Council consider the topic chosen for the 2016 State of Food and Agriculture publication: "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security".

Before giving the floor to delegates, I invite Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department *ad interim*, to provide clarification on this proposal.

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

The negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and agricultural production pose a serious threat and growing one to food security, not least in countries that are already highly food insecure.

The agriculture sectors are also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and have a unique potential for contributing to stabilizing the world's climate.

In adopting the goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the international community took responsibility for building a sustainable future.

But meeting the goals of eradicating hunger and poverty by 2030, while addressing the threat of climate change, will require a profound transformation of food and agriculture systems worldwide.

Changes will need to be made in ways that do not jeopardize the capacity of the agriculture sectors to meet the world's food needs.

Global food demand in 2050 is projected to increase by at least 60 percent above 2006 levels, driven by population and income growth, as well as rapid urbanization.

At the same time, efforts by the agriculture sectors to contribute to a carbon-neutral world are leading to competing demands on water and land used to produce food and energy, and to forest conservation initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions but limit land available for crop and livestock production.

In the coming decades, population increases will be concentrated in regions with the highest level of undernourishment and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

The effects of climate change on agricultural production and livelihoods are expected to intensify over time. The negative impacts of climate change on the productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry will become increasingly severe in all regions.

Productivity declines in agriculture resulting from climate change will have serious negative implications for livelihoods and food security.

Food supply shortfalls will lead to major increases in food prices while increased climate variability will accentuate price volatility.

The areas most affected will be those with already high rates of hunger and poverty.

Among the most vulnerable will be those who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and income, particularly smallholder producers in developing countries.

To counter the threat of climate change, action must be taken now to make agriculture more sustainable, productive and resilient and to reduce farming's own greenhouse gas emissions.

Delaying the transformation of the agriculture sectors will force poorer countries to fight poverty, hunger and climate change at the same time.

The State of Food and Agriculture 2016 (SOFA) presents a careful analysis and overview of the challenges posed to agriculture and food security by climate change and discusses how to address them.

It examines the options available to farmers to adapt to climate change, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Synergies and trade-offs of different measures and management practices are highlighted.

Of particular relevance is the evidence provided that the adoption by farmers of improved practices is still very limited.

Adoption is often hampered by a combination of policy, institutional, and financial barriers to change.

Smallholders, especially, face a broad range of barriers, such as limited access to markets, credit, extension advice, weather information, risk management tools and social protection.

The Paris Agreement represents a new beginning in the global effort to stabilize the climate before it is too late. It recognizes the importance of food security and agriculture in the international response to climate change, as reflected by the many countries focusing prominently on the agriculture sector in their planned contributions to adaptation and mitigation.

To help put these plans into action, the report identifies strategies, financing opportunities and data and information needs. It also describes transformative policies and institutions that can help overcome barriers to implementation of more sustainable agricultural practices.

Climate change and its relationship to agriculture and food security will inevitably form an important part of FAO's work over the coming years.

The contents covered by the SOFA report, combined with FAO's ongoing work on climate change, lay out the major challenges we face and the actions needed in order to address them.

We believe that the discussion in the Conference on "Climate change, agriculture and food security" can help us frame the debate on how effectively to turn commitments to address climate change into action in the areas of agriculture and food security.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Will there be a special guest speaker on this theme for the Conference?

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

This is the fourth time we have a topic for the general discussion in the Conference under the state of food and agriculture. We usually do not have a guest speaker. We have not thought about it. There is a member of the Secretariat making the basic presentation and then there is a special document that is produced by the Secretariat ahead of time. Then the Members take the floor and discuss the topic.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now conclude that the General Debate will revolve around “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security”. I also take it that statements by Heads of Delegations will be limited to five minutes as proposed in the document and as has been the case over many Sessions of the Conference.

Section C of CL 155/8 sets out the background as to why this session of Council is being requested to propose a biennial theme for governing body sessions convened in the 2018-19 biennium. You will note that Council is asked to consider endorsing the following proposed theme: “Climate Change and its Impact on the Work in the Activities of FAO”.

I should like to request Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, to provide some background to this proposal.

Ms Maria Helena M.Q. SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)

I will start by quoting one paragraph from *The State of Food and Agriculture* (SOFA) that Mr Stamoulis has just mentioned and it states: “In the absence of climate change, and with continuing economic progress, most regions are projected to see a decline in the number of people at risk of hunger by 2050. With climate change, however, the population living in poverty could increase by between 35 and 122 million by 2030 relative to a future without climate change, largely due to its negative impacts on incomes in the agricultural sector”.

This shows how important climate change is and its effects on agriculture to achieve our common goal which is to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030.

During the COP 22 in Marrakesh, in the Marrakesh Proclamation, it states: “We call for all parties to strengthen and support efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and to take stringent action to deal with climate change challenges in agriculture”, and we consider that FAO has a mandate and responsibility to work and to help the countries achieve this goal and work on the linkage between climate change, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

We consider that during the two years we should work with countries, we should have this debate at our regional conferences and at our technical committees to help the countries to design the appropriate strategic policies, to have a cross-sectoral policy dialogue – if you see the majority of the countries in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presented the agricultural sector as the sector which they will work to contribute to the reducing of greenhouse gas emissions and we should link this agenda to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

On the other side, we need to integrate the NDCs in development policies, they cannot be a stand-alone item. We need to help the countries also to prepare investment proposals to assess to climate change. We will work on the short hand supporting countries to integrate agriculture and food security and nutrition concerns into their first NDCs and work together to scale up climate finance for adaptation in agriculture.

Our medium-term goals will be to support countries to turn their high-level commitment into concrete action plans for the agriculture sectors, to keep agriculture at the forefront of the discourse on climate change, including in the UNFCCC.

By proposing the biennial theme “Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO”, member countries and FAO are able to constantly engage in a focus dialogue. This will lead to a more effective impact in delivering FAO's work in climate change. We consider that climate change and its relationship to agriculture and food security will be an important item in FAO's work on the years to come, I think even beyond 2018-19.

This is the reason why we propose to your consideration this theme for FAO's work for the next biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

I open the floor for Members who need clarification. I see people nodding with agreement to this proposed biennial theme.

I can conclude that the theme for governing bodies held in the 2018-19 biennium will be:
Climate Change and its impact on the Work and Activities of FAO.

We now move on to the proposed deadlines for submission of nominations for an Independent Chairperson of the Council and Council Membership.

The deadlines proposed are as follows: 5 April 2017 at noon time for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council; and 3 July 2017 at noon time for Council Membership.

Does Council agree with these proposed deadlines or any question for clarification?

I note that there is agreement.

I would like to point out that, in keeping with regional rotation, the FAO Asia region was approached with a view to nominating the Chairperson of the 40th Session of Conference. The Asia Regional Group has informed the Secretariat that The Honourable Emmanuel F. Piñol, Secretary for Agriculture of the Philippines, is proposed as Chair of the Conference for endorsement at this Council Session.

Can I take it that Council wishes to endorse this proposal?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

Regarding the formation of the two Commissions of the Conference, it is proposed to appoint a representative of the Group of 77 and China to chair Commission I, which deals with substantive issues and policy, and a representative of a country which does not belong to the Group of 77 and China to chair Commission II, which deals with matters relating to the programme and budget. Can I take it that Council is in agreement with this proposal?

Thank you. You are in agreement.

As regards the General Committee and the Credentials Committee, I would suggest that membership of these Committees be discussed at our next session in April 2017.

Finally, does Council agree to follow past practice and to invite Palestine to participate in the Session in an observer capacity? It is accepted.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me now pin everything together in my conclusion:

Arrangements for the 40th Session and Provisional Agenda

The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the Provisional Agenda and the arrangements outlined in document CL 155/8 for approval, and in particular recommended that:

- a) two Commissions be established to examine, respectively: (i) Substantive and Policy Matters in Food and Agriculture; and (ii) Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- b) the deadline for receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 12.00 hours on Monday 3 July 2017, and the election be held on Friday 7 July 2017;
- c) recommended that a proposal to hold a Special Event on Gender during the Conference, allowing for the dynamic participation of Members, be further discussed at informal meetings convened by the ICC with the Chairs of the Regional Groups.

The Council further agreed to recommend to the Conference that the topic for the General Debate at the 40th Session be "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" and that statements by heads of delegation be limited to a maximum of five minutes each.

The Council also endorsed the following biennial theme for governing body sessions held in the 2018-19 biennium: "Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO."

Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council

The Council decided to establish a deadline for the receipt of nominations for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12.00 hours on Wednesday 5 April 2017; and Wednesday 12 April 2017 as the dates by which nominations would be circulated through the FAO Members Gateway and by letter by the Secretary-General.

Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II

The Council noted that consultations within the FAO Asia Regional Group had led to consensus on nominating The Honourable Emmanuel F. Piñol, Secretary of Agriculture of The Philippines, as Chairperson of the Conference. Furthermore, it agreed that the Chairperson of Commission I be from a country belonging to the G77 and China Group; and that the Chairperson of Commission II be from a country not belonging to the G77 and China Group.

The Council agreed to proceed at its 156th Session (April 2017) with the nomination of candidates for the offices of:

- a) Chairperson of the Commissions of the Conference;
- b) Three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference;
- c) Seven elected Members of the General Committee to the Conference; and
- d) Nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that Palestine be invited to the Conference in an observer capacity.

Item 16. Margarita Lizárraga Medal

Point 16. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga

Tema 16. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

(CL 155/LIM/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We move on now to item 16, *Margarita Lizárraga Medal*. The document before Council is CL 155/LIM/6 Rev.1.

The medal is awarded in honour of the late Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and is awarded biennially upon recommendation of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code.

It is proposed to bestow the 2016-17 Award on the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, based in Australia, in recognition of its conservation and management of marine living resources in the Convention Area (Southern Ocean), consistent with the Code, in particular for the precautionary and ecosystem-sensitive approach taken by the Commission to balance environmental conservation with the rational utilization of resources.

The Commission's achievement can be considered a role model and catalyst for similar initiatives in other regions.

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the proposed candidate organization, which will be awarded the Medal during a special ceremony to be held in 2017.

Have Members got any questions to ask?

I do not see any questions. Therefore, let me conclude on item 16 as follows: The Council endorsed the nomination of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and recommended that the Medal be presented by the Director-General during a special ceremony to be held before 31 December 2017.

Thank you. Item 16 is now concluded.

Item 15. World Food Programme:**Point 15. Programme alimentaire mondial:****Tema 15. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:***Item 15.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board**Point 15.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM**Tema 15.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA**(CL 155/9; CL 155/LIM/4)***CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now take up item 15, which concerns World Food Programme matters.

Under sub-item 15.1 the Council is requested to elect six members to the WFP Executive Board.

The documents before Council are CL 155/9 Rev.1 and CL 155/LIM/4.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members:

Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary of the Executive Board and Director, Executive Board Secretariat; Ms Jane Pearce, Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division; and Ms Meemi Taalas, Chief, Performance Management and Reporting, Performance Management and Monitoring Division.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 155/LIM/4.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For List A there are two candidate for two seats: Congo and Zimbabwe.

For List B, there is one candidate for one seat: Pakistan.

For List C, there is one candidate for one seat: Argentina.

For List D, there are two candidates for two seats: Canada and Germany.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for Lists A, B, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

*Applause**Applaudissements**Aplausos*

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the List Coordinators for List A, List C and List D regarding agreements that have been reached in those lists on the sharing of terms of office.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix B of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note that Guatemala had agreed to step down from the List C seat which would be occupied by Brazil as of 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2017.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

It is so decided. Brazil is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix C of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note the decision of Mauritania to stand down from the List A seat it currently occupies and that Benin be elected to this seat as of 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

It is so decided. Benin is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix E of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note the decision of Mexico to stand down from the List C seat it currently occupies and to elect Peru to this seat for the period from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

I note that the Council agrees to this.

It is so decided. Peru is elected for the aforementioned seat for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Finally, Appendix F of document CL 155/9 Rev.1 mentions an agreement whereby Sweden will stand down from the List D seat it currently occupies and that Switzerland will occupy that seat for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Does the Council agree to this arrangement?

I note that the Council agrees to this.

Therefore, Switzerland is elected for the aforementioned seat for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

The Council is also requested to note the correspondence contained in Appendix A of document CL 155/LIM/4 concerning an agreement reached in List A for the seat to be occupied by Zimbabwe starting in January 2017.

I wish to congratulate all the newly elected WFP Executive Board Members and wish them well for the work that lays ahead of them.

Item 15.2 *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2015*
Point 15.2 *Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2015*
Tema 15.2 *Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2015*
 (CL 155/10)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move onto sub-item 15.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2015*. Please ensure that you have document CL 155/10 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Ms Jane Pearce, Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, to introduce this report. Ms Pearce you have the floor.

Ms Jane PEARCE (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

The document that I am presenting to you this evening is WFP's principle accountability document. It is the tool that the World Food Programme uses to demonstrate its results against the objectives set in the Strategic Plan and to communicate performance to all stakeholders.

The document follows WFP's Performance Management Framework at both strategic and management results level. This report is fully framed in accordance with the United Nations Principles for Harmonized Results Reporting. It reflects the findings of the report which was discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during this year's annual session in June.

First of all, I would like to point out that the work that WFP undertook in 2015 should be seen in context. At no time in history has WFP faced so many complex emergencies over such a long period. For most of 2015, WFP was responding to six level three emergencies. Moreover, ten of the twelve level two and three emergencies persisted throughout the year and now at the end of 2016, we know that this trend unfortunately continues.

In response and with strong donor support, WFP heightened and sustained its emergency response. Many processes and systems in which WFP has invested over the years, things such as the rapid response delivery mechanisms and advanced financing facilities, played a key role in enabling the results achieved.

While WFP recognizes the challenges of meeting immediate humanitarian needs such as implementing activities needed to end hunger over the next fifteen years, we kept our commitments in protracted recovery and development contexts as well.

This was possible through strong partnerships both locally and internationally, as well as a side portfolio of food assistance activities that WFP was able to provide, tailored to specific national contexts.

In November 2014, WFP presented a Management Plan in which it committed to reaching 78 million vulnerable people during the year, a goal post towards which we have worked in the following year.

With the resources received in 2015, WFP delivered more than 12.5 billion rations to 76.7 million people in 81 countries. The published report provides further details, including which activities they benefitted from and what was the split in terms of age and gender, the cross-cutting issues.

In addition, the 2015 report includes for the first time an overview of assistance provided through trust fund mechanisms which includes an additional 1.6 million people in 2015. It includes an estimate of people benefitting beyond food and cash transfers. More than two million people received nutrition messaging, farmer support, and capacity development. There were additional millions of people benefitting from assets created through our food for assets programmes through which a methodology is still being developed.

Acknowledgement of programmes which with the governments that then assisted millions of people, including countries such as India and Peru where numbers can go up to 30 million. In part two of the report, we examined the effectiveness of WFP as per the Strategic Results Framework.

Seventy-nine percent of all programme expenditure in 2015 was spent on saving lives, Strategic Objective 1. WFP delivered positive outcomes, supported increased humanitarian access and ensured uninterrupted implementation of the programmes.

Strong progress was achieved under Objective 2, post emergency settings. Emergency work reduced the extent of planned activities. Nine percent of resources were spent on this Objective.

Strategic Objective 3, risk reduction and resilience building, received the least financial support and comprised five percent of our expenditures. An outcome level performance was mixed.

However, WFP did progress in enhancing food and livelihood and security of communities.

Under Strategic Objective 4, reducing the intergenerational cycle of hunger, WFP helped to reduce malnutrition and contributed to improvements in access to education. However, with eight percent of overall expenditures spent on this Strategic Objective, there were some gaps at output level. It was also evident that WFP is still constrained by under reporting on capacity development. It is partially a resourcing issue but it is also a call to refine our approach to capacity assessment and monitoring, and this is something that we are working on.

Finally, a higher number of projects reported indicators related to cross-cutting areas, gender, protection, accountability to affected populations and partnerships. Results observed were overall positive, comparable to those in previous years.

In part three of the report, we examined our work based on the Management Results Framework. Indicators reflected strong progress in all of the defined dimensions, people, partnerships, processes and systems, programmes, accountability and funding. We do still have some challenges that we will continue to work on.

In the people dimension, the Global Staff Survey showed good results and we can continue to work towards gender balance in international professional positions. This APR (Annual Performance Report) mentions some of the actions in place to address the challenges that we still face.

With regard to partnerships, I spoke already on capacity development and would like to stress the importance of working jointly with agencies to address this, including as part of the QCPR (Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review) agenda.

In processes and systems, the report provides rich information on metrics linked to lead time reductions. In addition, we continue to explore additional indicators on the efficiency of our supply chain. In programmes, strong overall progress under this dimension again links to the results shown in part two.

Nonetheless, our projects did not always meet our targets. A stronger link between projected resources and results, one that is envisaged in the next Strategic Plan, will support more realistic target setting in line with funding projections.

In accountability and funding, the level of funding for 2015 was the second highest in WFP's history and WFP received one third of all aid in humanitarian appeals. We were the top recipient.

But requirements continue to soar. Long-term crises struggle to meet their sense of urgency and most donor currencies depreciated against the US dollar in 2015.

As a final comment, the report also included a section on looking forward in 2016. Much of what has materialized by now, including the approval of WFP's New Strategic Plan, the Corporate Results Framework, the Policy on Country Strategic Plans and a revised Financial Framework for WFP. This was to be coupled by further organizational strengthening, including a review of the fit-for-purpose initiative, the results of which will be incorporated in the 2016 report which we are already well in the process of preparing.

I would just like to reiterate that the WFP Executive Board welcomed this report in June and gave us valuable feedback as always to further improve our corporate reporting efforts and continue to address monitoring challenges at field level.

I am new in this position. I have just come in from the field for WFP and these are some of the things that I will be taking forward and which I hope to present to you at the next time we present the annual report.

Mr Mitiku Tesso JEBESSA (Ethiopia)

Ethiopia is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

At the outset, we would like to thank WFP management and its staff members at all levels for their unwavering commitment which has been made to save lives and livelihoods of people who were affected by natural and human-made disasters.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization in the world and for the past decades was engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to needy people across the world.

The year 2015 proved to be turmoil. Several emergencies brought more hardship and instability with devastating life-threatening consequences. At the same time, persistent poverty relentlessly undermined food and nutrition security for many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people with immediate and long-term physical, social and economic consequences.

The Annual Performance Report describes the World Food Programme's actions and achievements in serving people's emergency, recovery and development needs in 2015. It also covers WFP's provision of vital, common platforms and services for the humanitarian and development community.

During emergencies in 2015, WFP made effective contributions to saving lives and protecting livelihoods by delivering positive food and nutrition security outcomes, supporting increased humanitarian access and helping to ensure uninterrupted implementation of relief programmes.

In 2015, WFP directly assisted 76.7 million people in 81 countries, most of them women and children. WFP also assisted an additional 1.6 million beneficiaries under trust funds, which are usually established with support from host governments. WFP responded by helping severe and complex emergencies in Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen and the Syria region as well as Ebola-affected West Africa. WFP also responded to major emergencies in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Mali, Ukraine and Nepal. WFP's ability to respond to 12 major emergencies during 2015 was commended by many stakeholders. When we look at the assisted beneficiaries in 2015 in each Strategic Objective, 63 percent were assisted under Strategic Objective 1, 13 percent under Strategic Objective 2, 6 percent under Strategic 3 and 18 percent under Strategic Objective 4.

Performance Against the Management Results Dimensions also shows WFP's commitment reporting on its work to improve efficiency and effectiveness and able for the first time to report strong progress across all five Management Result Dimensions.

In 2015 WFP received USD 4.8 billion in voluntary contributions. During the year, 79 percent of WFP's expenditure was directed to emergencies. However lack of funding limited the effectiveness of some of WFP's operations, for example in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. In many operations WFP was forced to reduce its assistance to focus on the most vulnerable people, leaving others with little or no food assistance. More than 91 percent of funds received in 2015 were earmarked by donors for use in specific projects or activities. This funding shortfall reduced the ability of WFP's country teams to plan for optimum use of resources, inhibiting nutrition impacts and achievement of programme outcome.

In 2015, WFP has started working on an integrated approach to strategic planning and financing aligned with the agenda 2030 SDGs and was approved in 2016 by the Executive Board.

The integrated plan will guide WFP's participation in humanitarian and development partnerships, and will promote enhanced advocacy. We look forward for the effective and efficient implementation of the plan.

Finally, the Africa Regional Group fully supports the 2015 report to be approved by the Council.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We highly appreciate the report. The report comprehensively and systematically introduced the work done by WFP in 2015. WFP's endeavour in the eradication of hunger supports small-scale farmers and supports the poor and supports the developing countries and South-South cooperation. It is all what China wanted to see and are glad to see.

At the same time, we hope WFP can strengthen the cooperation with FAO and also especially they can use their resources to purchase FAO's services so that FAO can play their technical capacity as a knowledge centre.

Ms Jane Pearce (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

Thank you, Ethiopia, most appreciated comments. Thank you also to the Distinguished Delegate from China.

I just want to make a comment about the cooperation between FAO and WFP. There is very much a move towards strengthening the cooperation between us. I know from my own personal experience from working in WFP country offices that the cooperation between FAO and WFP is very strong. We will continue to build on that and to work closely with them as we move forward in the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Members of the Council. Thank you, WFP, for coming to present this annual report.

I want to make the conclusion as follows:

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2015.
2. In particular, the Council:
 - a) acknowledged WFP's results in meeting its Strategic Objectives, supported by the achievements by Management Results Dimensions;
 - b) recognised the commitment of WFP staff in the field working in challenging circumstances, both in addressing concurrent Level 2 (L2) and Level 3 (L3) emergencies in addition to protracted crises;
 - c) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, its engagement with partners towards zero hunger and for the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - d) welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies;

e) noted the ongoing work under the major change management initiatives, including preparation of the new Strategic Plan, Country Strategic Plans and related policy and Financial Framework Review, as well as the continued organizational strengthening envisaged; and

f) noted WFP's implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review reporting into its Annual Performance Report, with a particular focus on gender, capacity development, South-South and triangular cooperation, "Delivering as One", alignment with the United Nations Development Group, results-based management and harmonization and simplification of business practices.

That is the end of the conclusion. Thank you.

Item 13. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2017-20

Point 13. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020

Tema 13. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2017-20

(CL 155/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the Agenda is item 13, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2017-20*. Please ensure that you have document CL 155/LIM/5 before you.

As Members are aware, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's agenda. Due to the rolling nature of the MYPOW, it should be considered a "living document" and, as such, is subject to constant improvement and fine-tuning, also as a result of consultations on the MYPOW that take place at the regular informal meetings I hold with the regional group chairs and vice-chairs, and the text you have before you has gone through that process.

The floor is now open for delegates who may wish to propose further improvements.

Mr Gerhard STIENS (Germany)

I want to give the floor to the Republic of Slovakia to deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

The statement of the European Union and its 28 Member States is very short, and also the Republic of San Marino, Montenegro and Serbia align themselves.

We welcome the Council Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2017-20 as a good planning tool for the complex work of the Council in the coming years. It reflects the Council's objective as well as the expected results.

We expect the Council to continuously improve and adapt the MYPOW where it is deemed necessary. In addition, we consider the informal meetings initiated by the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC) as a useful platform for keeping a good dialogue going among the Membership and would strongly like to encourage continued use of the platform.

We would like to underline the need to monitor the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies effectively with a view to optimising the planned sequence of the regional conferences, technical committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council. Also, overlaps with meetings of WFP and IFAD should be avoided wherever possible.

Finally, we endorse the MYPOW for 2017-20.

M. Belkacem BELGAID (Algérie)

L'Algérie prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe régional Afrique prend note des informations communiquées dans le document CL 155/LIM/5, relatives au Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020, et saisit cette opportunité pour exprimer à M. Wilfried Ngirwa, Président indépendant du Conseil, et M. Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général du Conseil, ainsi que toute l'équipe qui l'entoure, ses remerciements pour la qualité et la clarté du document qui nous a été soumis pour examen. Le Groupe Afrique apprécie fortement la pertinence du contenu de ce rapport, qui présente les principaux points suivants: la définition des stratégies, des priorités et planification du

budget, le suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance, l'exercice des fonctions de contrôle, le suivi et évaluation des résultats obtenus par la Direction, la planification des activités et méthodes de travail et enfin, les sessions et plan de travail du Conseil. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'excellent travail accompli par le Conseil et par son Président, dont la clairvoyance et l'esprit de consensus ont permis d'orienter les débats afin que l'Organisation puisse atteindre ses objectifs.

Toutefois, le Groupe Afrique estime que les questions que je vais citer maintenant sont importantes et méritent, de notre point de vue, un suivi particulier par la FAO. Ces questions concernent les cinq éléments suivants.

Le premier, il faut veiller, selon le Groupe Afrique, à ce que les priorités régionales arrêtées lors des Conférences régionales de la FAO, qui se sont tenues pendant le premier semestre de l'année 2016, soient mises à exécution.

Le deuxième point, il s'agit d'adapter le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020 au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 avec les objectifs qui y sont rattachés, au Programme et au Plan d'action d'Addis Abeba sur le financement du développement, et à l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique, ainsi qu'aux conclusions et recommandations récemment adoptées dans le cadre de la COP22, notamment, les recommandations qui tiennent compte des trois «A»: «Adaptation de l'Agriculture Africaine».

Le troisième élément, intégrer le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020 dans le Cadre de programmation par pays (CPP) de la FAO, afin de leur permettre d'atteindre les objectifs de développement durable, notamment les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO.

Le quatrième point concerne les questions de planification du budget, qui s'avèrent cruciales dans le cadre du Plan à moyen terme et du Programme et budget, notamment en y intégrant les questions de décentralisation et de renforcement des capacités techniques des pays.

L'ultime point concerne le besoin de renforcer et de dynamiser la coopération sud-sud et triangulaire entre les États eux-mêmes d'une part, et entre les États et la FAO et les institutions basées à Rome, pour la mise en place de partenariats efficaces en vue d'une cohérence des politiques publiques et leur intégration aux ODD (objectifs de développement durable) et les engagements internationaux en matière de changement climatique.

Monsieur le Président, après cette synthèse des préoccupations et questions prioritaires pour le Groupe Afrique, je voudrais réitérer que notre Groupe appuie pleinement l'adoption du document CL 155/LIM/5 relatif au Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour la période 2017-2020.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we conclude this item, I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of any improvements made to our working methods. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that document CL 155/INF/9 *Note on the Methods of Work of the Council* is available for information on the Council webpage.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In keeping with the Secretary-General of the UN's call to adopt a "Paper Smart" approach to UN system activities, and the success of a paper-free CFS session and paper-smart COAG session in October 2016, I wish to report that this FAO Council session has been the first "Paper Smart". This means that the documents desk is no longer handing out sets of printed documents to delegates at the start of the day, thereby reducing the environmental impact and its related costs.

Delegates who have not downloaded documents to electronic devices have made use of the "Print-on-demand" service at the Korean Conference Service Centre.

CHAIRPERSON

I note that the Council wishes to endorse its MYPOW for the period 2017-20 and I can conclude on this as follows. The Council reviewed in the approved multiyear Programme of Work, MYPOW, 2017-20 and took note of the issues to be identified by members for inclusion in the MYPOW.

Before I proceed I wish to request the Council members who have not yet done so to provide their names of two representatives from each of the regional groups who are members of the Council to participate in the Friends of the Chair no later than 19.30 tonight for interpretation purposes. This is the purpose why I am saying that. The names will be provided 19.30 tonight so that the interpretation can be arranged accordingly. In this regard, I propose that the Friends of the Chair convene tomorrow morning at 11.00 in the Lebanon Room.

Note that in the morning the drafting committee will not be meeting.

Item 14. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 154th Session of the Council

Point 14. État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent cinquante-quatrième session

Tema 14. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 154.º período de sesiones

(CL 155/LIM/3 ; CL 155/LIM/3 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 14, *Status of implementation of the sessions taken at the 154th Session of the Council*. The relevant documents are CL 155/LIM/3 REV1 and CL155/LIM/3 Add.1.

As foreseen in the Multi-year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note information on the implementation of the sessions taken at its 154th Session in May-June 2016 and include updates on the decisions taken at the 153rd Session of the Council which took place in November and December 2015 and the 150th Session in December 2014.

I will now give the floor to the delegations who wish to speak on the status Report set out in the relevant documents. The floor is open.

Mr Fabian Sumba MUYA (Kenya)

Kenya is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

The Africa Regional Group thanks you, Mr Chairperson, for the manner in which you are conducting this session of the Council and it also welcomes the document and its addendum and takes note of the document.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing this document that is elaborating the decisions so far taken and the ones pending. We have three comments.

The document contains 28 decisions taken at three sessions of the FAO Council: the 150th Session held in December 2014, the 153rd Session in November – December 2015, and the 154th Session in May-June 2016. We note that there are 12 decisions that are completed, 15 are ongoing and one is yet to be done, being the evaluation of FAO's work on gender for consideration by the Conference in 2019.

Within the ongoing decisions, we take cognizance of the fact that this work is in progress in which there is more efforts to consolidate decentralization, including strengthening of the regional and other decentralized offices being included in the Mid-Term Review 2016 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. We view this activity as an important one for it will enhance FAO's efforts in enabling food-insecure states to achieve food self-sufficiency and nutrition.

With regard to the creation of a separate Sub-regional Office for West Africa, preferably based in a francophone country, with the location to be determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the countries concerned, we hope FAO will continue to work on this matter in order to reach a decision by early 2017.

In conclusion, the Africa Regional Group supports the decisions taken on this document and encourages FAO to continue implementing the remaining decisions.

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

We took note of the outcome of this session of the Council. We would like to draw attention to page 10 on the decision of the Council and the need for written translation in all of the FAO languages of the documents. We would also note the reference that was contained in this point on the terms of

reference of the partnerships. We think that, in this context, it would be important to refer to the rules and procedures of the partnership, which were taken in 2013 and in particular Rule 3.9 which clearly deals with the need to provide translation and interpretation in all FAO languages. We would like this amendment to be effectively implemented.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm the need to provide regular written translation in all languages of FAO, including Russian, in the Global Soil Partnership Assembly. In this connection, we expect measures to be taken to ensure that interpretation is provided in the context of the preparation of the PWB for 2017 as set out in Point 10. We also note the status of these activities.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russian Federation, for your comments. The amendment will be made.

We can now conclude on this item.

1. The Council took note of the status of implementation of the decisions taken at its 154th (30 May – 3 June 2016), 153rd (30 November – 4 December 2015) and 150th (1-5 December 2014) Sessions.
2. The Council recommended that line 10 in document CL 155/LIM/3 should refer to both the terms of reference as well as the rules of procedure of the Global Soil Partnership.

Item 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2016-18

Point 17. Calendrier 2016-2018 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

Tema 17. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2016-18

(CL 155/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 17, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2016-18*. The document before Council is CL 155/LIM/1.

To avoid meetings overlapping, FAO draws up this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP and through the web-based Common Calendar, which may be consulted by Members at any time through the FAO Members Gateway on the FAO Home Page.

The schedule of meetings for 2017 is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for information, are indicated with an asterisk. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2017.

In this respect, I wish to announce that an additional session of the Finance Committee dealing with WFP matters was convened after the draft calendar was issued as a Council document. It is proposed that the 165th Session of the Finance Committee take place from 7 to 8 February 2017.

Any comments from the floor?

Mr Mitiku Tesso JEBESSA (Ethiopia)

The Africa Regional Group really would like to accept the calendar that it suits all the three organizations.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA DA COSTA (Brazil)

We note that in this calendar that was presented to us there was no reference to the next meeting of the FAO Committee on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that will take place here in FAO headquarters from 30 January to 3 February 2017.

In the table in Appendix B of document CL 155/LIM/1 there is no reference to the Commission's meeting so we would like to see it included in the calendar. I see that the Commission is referred to below the list as one of the FAO's subsidiary bodies but the next meeting of the Commission is not referred to in the table. With these amendments, Chair, we can approve the calendar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I think you are right. When you look at Appendix B, there is the list of the governing and statutory bodies whose meetings should be reflected there. It is an oversight and it will be included.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Let me conclude on item 17: the Council took note of and approved the calendar for 2017 with the addition of the 16th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to be held from 30 January to 3 February 2017.

Item 19. Provisional Agenda for the 156th Session of the Council (April 2017)

Point 19. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent cinquante-sixième session du Conseil (avril 2017)

Tema 19. Programa provisional del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo (abril de 2017)

(CL 155/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to Item 19, *Provisional Agenda for the 156th Session of the Council (April 2017)*. The relevant document is CL 155/INF/2.

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En nombre del Grupo de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, deseo expresar que en seguimiento a las recomendaciones del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y la decisión del 155.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, resulta pertinente incluir el tema sobre el Año Internacional de los Camélidos en el Programa Provisional de 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, que se realizará en abril del 2017. En ese sentido, el Año Internacional de los Camélidos deberá ser incluido en el programa provisional como tema nuevo.

En otros asuntos, de acuerdo al documento CL 155/INF/2.

Sra. Roxana OLLER CATOIRA (Observador de Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Nos referimos a la intervención realizada por la presidencia del GRULAC para incluir el Año Internacional de los Camélidos como nuevo tema del Programa rovisional del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO de abril de 2017, y por supuesto que Bolivia la apoya plenamente.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. For item 19, I can therefore conclude that the Council endorsed the Provisional Agenda of its 156th Session to be held in April 2017 and agreed to add an item on the proposal to establish an International Year of Camelids.

Item 20. Any Other Matters

Point 20. Autres questions

Tema 20. Asuntos varios

Item 20.1 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Point 20.1 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Tema 20.1 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to *Any Other Matters*. Ladies and Gentlemen, as announced on Monday, a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies will now be made.

I invite Mr Juan Coy, General Secretary of the Association of Professional Staff in FAO (AP-in-FAO), to deliver the statement.

Mr Juan COY (General Secretary, Association of Professional Staff in FAO)

At the outset, let us thank the Director-General for allowing the Staff Representative Bodies to address you once more. It is an honour for us to be able to regularly speak before the Council and share with you the views and concerns of the staff we represent. Our statements during your sessions are an event we take very seriously, as they give us the chance to convey what we see and feel being on the front line of the Organization's mission. And it is only fitting that it be so, for communication, dialogue and cooperation between the main stakeholders are essential, in our opinion, for a healthy and well-functioning Organization.

On this occasion, you, the Members of the Council, are seized with some very important matters. First and foremost, the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the outline of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. In the run-up to the upcoming 40th Session of the Conference, this is the first step along the development of the programme that will guide FAO's action and determine its relevance in the near future, for the benefit of its wide array of beneficiaries and its Members.

On behalf of the Organization's staff, who are committed to their work and keen on advancing FAO's mandate, we wish you success in your efforts during the next few months to set FAO's course for the following quadriennium.

Concerning the relationship between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies, today we bring you mixed news. On the one hand, we are glad to acknowledge that the atmosphere and the tone of the discussions in the Staff-Management Consultative Committee have somehow improved lately. There has been a fruitful collaboration on some issues leading to results which are generally satisfactory for all concerned parties. Among these, we might mention the revision of provisions relating to short-term personnel, procedures for the processing of sick leave requests and principles and rules applicable to the use of information technology resources. We are pleased with this positive progress, especially in terms of the collaborative atmosphere.

On the other hand, however, we regret to say that some serious problems still afflict the relations between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies. These, we fear, are in essence the result of Senior Management's attitude towards the Staff Representative Bodies and towards staff at large.

Our role and input are, in our opinion, not adequately recognized and taken into consideration.

Instead of viewing us like another critical stakeholder, essential for the success of the Organization, we feel that Senior Management considers the Staff Representative Bodies as an obstacle to be avoided and staff as a mere tool that can be freely disposed of.

All too often this Administration takes unilateral action, bypassing the Staff Representative Bodies and thus infringing the statutory requirements for consultation and negotiation, as provided for in the Staff Regulations and more specifically in Article VIII on Staff Relations.

We saw this last year when the mobility policy that had been agreed between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies was superseded a few days later by a radically changed policy which completely disregards the views and personal circumstances of staff.

We saw it again with the issuance of the new policy on short-term personnel by which a maximum limit in employment was imposed whereas, in related discussions with the Staff Representative Bodies, Management had expressly excluded this possibility, and in writing, too. And we have seen it again this year, when the schedule of official holidays was revised superseding the previously agreed one. In the latter case, this action was followed by a revision of Manual Section 302 as well, against the objections of the Staff Representative Bodies, who had demanded clarifications on the rationale for the changes - clarifications that, to this day, have not been provided.

Therefore, we cannot be satisfied. Even less so when we consider that this management style is accompanied by an all-pervading lack of transparency. This is particularly worrying for us when it affects decisions about staffing and recruitment. The abolition of the centralized Staff Selection Committees, in which the Staff Representative Bodies were present, and which was justified on the grounds that it would speed up the recruitment process, seems to have failed in that intent.

What it did succeed in doing was fragmenting the recruitment mechanisms and eliminating a previously existing measure of uniform oversight, as well as consistency of process throughout the house. Coupled with other developments (like the fact that General Service staff no longer have access to vacancy announcements or position details, and the fact that the results of the 2016 Professional selection processes have not been made public, despite our requests to that effect), this makes for greater opacity. Which clearly facilitates episodes like the recent spate of “express” appointments (as many as 140 professional posts, it would seem) without vacancy announcements in some cases and even without consulting the concerned Divisions.

The hasty filling of posts, in what would seem an attempt to boost the statistics in the face of criticism from Members about the high rate of vacancies, could have detrimental effects on the Organization’s technical capacity in the long term. We are of the opinion that little regard has been given to the effective needs of the programme, as established by the units concerned. The risk is that FAO, in order to prove its speediness in filling vacancies, will have sacrificed quality in selecting staff that may be overall competent, but not adequate for the posts they are assigned to. A similar concern arises from the way the mobility policy is applied. When staff are transferred without the involvement and agreement of all parties concerned - releasing and receiving units and staff - or when they are less than two years, or even one, from retirement, it is hard to understand what contribution they will be able to make to the receiving units or how this will support FAO’s work overall.

We cannot be satisfied. To keep their hands free, Senior Management keeps information under shrouds. We have many times asked for data or for statements of position from Management with scarce results. A problem, by the way, that the member countries themselves seem to be experiencing, judging from some passages in the reports of recent governing bodies’ sessions. A case in point is the rise of the retirement age to 65 years for all staff by 1 January 2018, with due respect for acquired rights, as decided by the General Assembly in late 2015.

We have asked Management repeatedly to declare when it intended to implement this measure, so that we could appraise our constituencies, to no avail.

We were finally informed orally, just recently, that FAO is really assessing if it is legally obliged to apply the General Assembly’s decision on mandatory age of separation.

In our understanding, this means that FAO would be looking for a justification not to apply it. Which is why we especially welcome the Finance Committee’s call to Management, in its last session, and I quote: “To consider the expeditious implementation of the new mandatory age of separation”.

It seems obvious to us that what member countries decided was appropriate for the United Nations, should in principle be appropriate too for the other organizations of the common system.

Finally, we cannot be satisfied because when Management eventually provides information, it is often misleading. We would like to refer in this respect to document FC 164/7 on Human Resources Management. In paragraphs 4 regarding the abolition of PSSC 19, regarding abolition of job growth and 49 regarding the introduction of the mobility policy, readers are led to believe that these actions were taken in accord with the Staff Representative Bodies. Nothing could be further from the truth. We disagreed, and we continue to disagree, with these initiatives (in the first two cases) or with the way they have been handled in the latter case, and we struggle to understand how this *modus operandi* may benefit the Organization. In this respect, we wrote to the Director of the Office of Human Resources, the officer responsible for the above-mentioned report, asking her to issue a revision to set the record straight. The reply was no reply at all, not even an acknowledgment of receipt of our communication.

And this brings me back to our main point. The root problem, as we see it, of the state of staff-Management relations: lack of recognition of and respect for the role of the Staff Representative Bodies in the functioning of the Organization. We have said it time and again. Our desire to participate in the decision-making process regarding issues which directly affect us is not to be confused with a desire to co-manage FAO.

We do believe, however, that we can provide valuable input which could help improve some aspects of the Organization’s operations and administration, thereby making it more effective.

Regretfully, we are afraid that unless Senior Management's attitude is reversed, this will not be possible.

We will in any case continue to do our best, under the prevailing circumstances, to advance FAO's worthy goals, to which we all subscribe. But we will do so with a sense of frustration and impotence arising out of the realization that we are not being allowed by the hierarchy of our Organization to contribute to the maximum of our potential. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Juan Coy, for presenting the statement from the Staff Representative Bodies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this meeting.

Algeria? You have the floor for Any Other Matters.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Je vais faire une présentation au nom de l'Algérie, comme je l'avais sollicité lundi à l'occasion de l'ouverture de notre session, et conformément aux recommandations de la Réunion des ministres en charge de la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale, qui s'est tenue le 25 octobre 2016 à Alger, et a demandé que ses conclusions soient présentées au Conseil de la FAO.

J'ai donc le plaisir de vous exposer au nom de l'Algérie, au nom des pays membres de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale (CLCPRO), les conclusions de la déclaration d'Alger, issue de la deuxième Réunion des ministres en charge de la lutte antiacridienne, membres de cette organisation.

Je voudrais rappeler brièvement que, suite à l'invitation adressée par le Ministre algérien de l'agriculture, du développement rural et de la pêche à ses homologues du Burkina Faso, de la Lybie, du Mali, du Maroc, de la Mauritanie, du Niger, du Sénégal, du Tchad, et de la Tunisie, et celles adressées également aux principaux partenaires techniques et financiers de la CLCPRO, l'Algérie a accueilli cette deuxième réunion ministérielle, faisant suite à celle tenue il y a sept ans à Bamako, au Mali.

La réunion d'Alger a permis de réaffirmer l'engagement des pays de la région dans la lutte contre le fléau du criquet pèlerin. Elle a compté avec la participation de six pays au niveau ministériel sur les dix pays membres de la CLCPRO. Les ministres des autres pays qui n'ont pas participé ont été représentés par leur Ambassadeur accrédité à Alger. Pour sa part, la FAO a été représentée au niveau du Représentant régional pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord.

La réunion d'Alger a été un rendez-vous important pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de lutte préventive contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale, car c'est la seconde fois qu'une telle rencontre est organisée en période d'accalmie acridienne.

À l'issue de la première réunion, qui a eu lieu au mois de mars 2009 à Bamako, au Mali, les pays membres de la CLCPRO se sont engagés à financer durablement les dispositifs de lutte contre ce phénomène dans leurs territoires respectifs, ce qui a triplé les contributions annuelles des États membres du Fond Fiduciaire de la CLCPRO.

Une atmosphère constructive a marqué la réunion ministérielle d'Alger, qui a permis l'adoption de conclusions dont je vais vous donner lecture tout à l'heure. Elle a été marquée également par l'intervention de plusieurs personnalités, à commencer par les interventions du pays hôte: le Ministre algérien de l'agriculture a livré la vision de l'Algérie, qui considère la menace acridienne comme étant à caractère transfrontalier, car elle n'a pas de frontières, comme en témoignent les dégâts occasionnés par l'invasion acridienne pendant la période 2003 et 2005, dégâts qui ont été évalués à 570 millions de dollars avec des pertes considérables en termes de récoltes agricoles et de pâturages.

Devant l'ampleur de ce phénomène, l'Algérie considère la coopération régionale comme solution idoine pour y faire face avec efficacité et célérité. Elle considère également que la mise en place d'une

feuille de route commune s'avère plus que jamais nécessaire et impérative pour protéger les récoltes agricoles et les espaces verts qui sont, il faut le dire, rares dans certaines régions reculées de la zone.

Le Représentant de la FAO et le Secrétaire exécutif de la CLCPRO ont salué les avancées enregistrées en matière de lutte préventive contre ce ravageur dans la région occidentale et une présentation a été faite sur les acquis de la lutte antiacridienne. Il a été souligné que les statistiques récoltées montrent que la région est touchée par deux invasions de criquets pèlerins tous les trois ans. Lors des deux invasions majeures enregistrées en 1988 et en 2003, les pays de la région ont dû mobiliser 1.250.000.000 dollars pour y faire face.

En dépit des efforts consentis par les pays membres dans la détection précoce du phénomène et les résultats satisfaisants constatés, les défis engendrés ces dernières années par les contraintes d'insécurité prévalant dans certaines zones de la région - je me réfère à l'impossibilité d'effectuer des opérations de surveillance au Nord du Mali et du Niger -, auxquels s'ajoute l'impact du changement climatique sur la fréquence d'apparition des résurgences du criquet pèlerin ont amené les pays membres de la CLCPRO à décider, lors de la réunion d'Alger, de se doter d'un instrument financier qui leur permettra d'intervenir rapidement en cas de résurgence majeure avant que la situation ne dégénère en une recrudescence. C'est ainsi qu'à l'occasion de la réunion d'Alger, les ministres participants et les pays membres ont décidé de la création du Fonds régional de gestion du risque acridien, pour un montant de 6 millions de dollars, alimenté par les contributions volontaires de chaque pays membre de la CLCPRO et par celles des donateurs souhaitant apporter un soutien à cette stratégie, ainsi que par une contribution annuelle de la CLCPRO évaluée à 100.000 dollars.

La deuxième conclusion emblématique adoptée à Alger concerne la création d'une force d'intervention de la région occidentale dans le but de mutualiser les moyens d'intervention. Je me permets de vous donner lecture des huit autres conclusions adoptées à l'occasion de la réunion d'Alger.

La première concerne le besoin de réaffirmer la nécessité de renforcer le Secrétariat de la CLCPRO. Deuxièmement, les Ministres ont décidé de réaffirmer l'engagement des pays membres à pérenniser les structures nationales de lutte antiacridienne à travers l'allocation de budgets conséquents inscrits annuellement dans la loi de finance de chaque pays, et l'affectation du personnel requis. En troisième lieu, s'engager à préserver les capacités matérielles acquises et spécifiquement dédiées à la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin. Quatrièmement, s'engager à poursuivre l'acquittement régulier des contributions respectives des États membres au Fonds fiduciaire de la CLCPRO. Cinquièmement, s'engager à poursuivre la triangulation de pesticides entre les pays de la région. Sixièmement, les Ministres ont invité les institutions régionales à développer des accords de partenariat avec la CLCPRO pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire des pays membres. Septièmement, les Ministres ont invité les partenaires au développement à poursuivre leur appui dans le cadre de la deuxième phase de consolidation des acquis du Programme «Plan d'urgence en région occidentale» - Programme EMPRES. Huitième et dernière conclusion, les Ministres ont réaffirmé le principe d'organiser de façon périodique des réunions des Ministres des pays membres de la CLCPRO en charge de la lutte antiacridienne.

Enfin, je demande que cette présentation soit consignée dans le procès verbal sanctionnant les travaux de notre session du Conseil.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Algeria, for briefing Members of the Council on the deliberations made during the meeting of the Commission to Combat the Desert Locusts in the Western Region. This was the second session; the meeting held in Algeria. Your report will be contained in the bottom. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this long day meeting.

Before we close I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to remind delegates of the side events which will take place tomorrow, Thursday, and Friday. Tomorrow the side event "Using national and global agricultural data for evidence based policy making" will take place in the Iran Room from 12.30 to 13.30.

On Friday, the side event on the “*Pest des ruminants: global eradication programme*” will take place in the Iran Room from 1.00 to 2.30.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to inform you again that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place this evening in the Iraq Room starting at 20.30.

The second Meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place tomorrow afternoon at a time to be announced.

The Friends of the Chair will meet at 11.00 tomorrow morning in the Lebanon Room. Please note that, in addition to the two representatives per regional group who are Members of the Council, one silent observer per regional group will also be invited to be present in the meeting room. One silent observer.

We shall meet again on Friday morning at 9.30 sharp for Agenda item 18, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO* which is presented to Council for information. This item will be followed by a briefing on Hurricane Matthew which will be jointly represented by His Excellency Pierre Guito Laurore, Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti, Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience, and Ms Denise Brown, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme.

Then we will take a debriefing on field visits which took place from 11 to 15 September 2016 to Papua New Guinea, and from 18 to 19 September 2016 to the Solomon Islands.

With those words, I wish you a good night and thank you for your resilience.

The meeting rose at 20:09 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 09

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.09

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

9 December 2016

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Seventh meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Before we start this morning session, I wish to inform the Council that Iceland has provided a more complete text of its intervention on RBA Collaboration under item 11, and that this text has been included in the Verbatim Records (CL 155/PV/6).

I would also like to draw the attention of Council to the Order of the Day in which it is foreseen that we will proceed to the Adoption of the Report at our afternoon meeting today.

As announced on Wednesday, we shall first resume our discussion on item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

Then we will proceed with item 18, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, which is for information.

This last item on our agenda will be followed by the briefing on Hurricane Matthew, to be jointly presented by the Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti, the Director of the FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience; and the Director of Emergencies of the World Food Programme.

The session will end with the debriefing on the field visits of last September in the Southwest Pacific region, which will take place this afternoon before the adoption of the Council Report.

Item 9. Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (24-26 October 2016) (continued)

Point 9. Rapport de la cent troisième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (24-26 octobre 2016) (suite)

Tema 9. Informe del 103.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (24-26 de octubre de 2016) (continuación)

(CL 155/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with Item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

As agreed by Council Members, the Friends of the Chair met yesterday and I am happy to report to you that they reached a consensus on a draft proposal for the report on item 9, which I will now read out:

1. The Council considered the Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee and the 164th Session of the Finance Committee insofar as the issue of the appointment of secretaries of Article XIV bodies was concerned.
2. The Council:
 - a) noted that under decisions of the Conference and provisions of treaties establishing bodies under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution, the secretaries were appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the bodies concerned;
 - b) acknowledged the need to balance the functional autonomy of Article XIV bodies with the responsibilities borne by the Organization for such bodies; and
 - c) stressed the urgency of filling vacant positions of the secretaries of two Article XIV bodies, that is IOTC and ITPGRFA.
3. In this regard, the Council acknowledged the proposal made by the Director-General and the various views expressed by Members, and agreed on the following process to be followed:
 - a) with immediate effect, the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the FAO Secretariat will consult with the concerned Article XIV bodies with a view to developing a proposal on

- procedures for the appointment of secretaries of concerned Article XIV bodies acceptable to the bodies and to be submitted to the FAO Council by the end of 2018;
- b) also immediately, on an exceptional basis and without setting any precedent, the Director-General will issue vacancy announcements for the appointment of two secretaries, one for IOTC and another for ITPGRFA. This will follow standard procedures for the appointment of FAO senior staff, with inclusion of two representatives of Members, to be decided by the bodies, in interview panels and subsequent referral by the Director-General of one candidate to the bodies for approval at their next session; and
 - c) the secretaries referred to in sub-paragraph (b), that I just read, will be appointed for two years subject to confirmation by the concerned body of the appointment at the end of that period.
4. The Council also confirmed that formal meetings of statutory bodies should be held in public and that the Director-General or a representative of the Director-General should participate without a right to vote at the formal meetings of the statutory bodies and their subsidiary bodies, pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 5, of the FAO Constitution.

Can I take it that Council is in agreement with this conclusion, which has been approved in its entirety by the Friends of the Chair?

Ms Catherine STEPHENSON (Australia)

I would just like to make a short statement. Australia accepted the majority of this issue and engaged constructively in the Friends of the Chair group that met yesterday.

Australia has reservations about the proposal to change the selection and appointment process for the secretaries of the relevant Article XIV bodies without the agreement of the bodies themselves. Both bodies have established procedures for fulfilling their functions to appoint a secretary, procedures that were developed within the FAO framework. We emphasize our concern that Council could be perceived as overstepping its role in seeking to make decisions about how largely autonomous Article XIV bodies fulfil their functions without the agreement of those bodies. Besides, the impact that this may have on the relationships between the FAO and the bodies is a matter of concern, which may lead these bodies to reconsider their future in the FAO.

Australia will not block consensus on this matter. On that basis, we are happy with the Report.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan fully agrees with Australia. We recommend that the efforts made by the Members and Secretariat to agree on this process keep going forward even though this is not exactly the way Japan wanted it to be. We do respect the spirit of consensus building and very much appreciate the constructive discussions held among the Friends of the Chair yesterday to reach a compromise that we can accept.

Japan would like to request the FAO Secretariat to keep the Members of the Council and also of the concerned Article XIV bodies well informed of this process by providing them with any relevant information in a timely and efficient manner. We also adopt the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

I know it was not easy to reach a consensus. However we did succeed because we work for the interest of the Organization and the interest of the Members as well as the interest of the bodies.

We have an agreement with this conclusion. This summary of item 9 will be included in the draft Report that will be submitted to the Council this afternoon.

We will now move on to item 18. Let the podium be arranged and the people concerned be here.

Item 18. Developments in *Fora* of Importance for the Mandate of FAO
Point 18. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO
Tema 18. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO
 (CL 155/INF/4 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now take up item 18 *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 155/INF/4 Rev.1.

The Council will be given presentations on issues taking place in other international *fora* which are of relevance to FAO's mandate. I should like to ask the Secretary-General to read the list of presentations.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council will be giving presentations on:

- Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Outcome of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22);
- Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);
- Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition - Foresight report: Food systems and diets: facing the challenges of the 21st century; and
- High-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Nairobi, 28 November – 1 December 2016);
- High-Level Segment of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

CHAIRPERSON

Following the completion of all the presentations, I will open the floor for questions.

The first topic under the presentation is "Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" will be presented by Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Economic and Social Development Department.

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

I would like to make a few points about the SDGs and some of the important upcoming meetings that FAO intends to play an important role in highlighting the areas of its mandate, so let me start from the beginning.

The FAO corporate approach to the SDGs is consistent of course with its mandate and would contribute to the Members' efforts to achieve the three overarching SDG objectives that you see on the transparency. One would be the eradication of poverty and hunger and malnutrition in all its forms as described by targets SDG 1 and 2. The eradication of poverty and hunger is closely connected to the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems with rural transformation at the centre of the common actions to ensure that the poorest of the poor still residing in rural areas are not left behind. Finally, mitigation and adaptation of the effects of climate change as a third important pillar.

Now domestication of the SDGs calls for continuing transformational, comprehensive and yet actionable policies, programmes and projects at national, regional and global levels. It also calls for integrated approaches that need to be backed by substantive, effective and long lasting partnerships and alliance with concerned stakeholders in which everyone brings their own viewpoints but also skills and capacities.

Now what has been a fundamental factor in this is the Member States policy guidance through the FAO governance in line with the key areas for prioritized contribution of FAO. The FAO Membership discussed operationalization of actions at all levels with dedicated agenda items in regional conferences and technical committees. The regional conferences discussed in detail key priorities on SDGs and their interconnection and harmonization with already established regional frameworks and programmes. Example, the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture and Postharvest Losses, the Latin America and Caribbean strategy for Zero Hunger, etc.

Technical committees at the same time discussed the contribution to SDGs of agriculture in the broad sense including fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, pastoral, etc. and Member States endorsed the elements of five principles for sustainable food and agriculture. Council discussed these outcomes in this present session. Specific mention is also made to the Committee on World Food Security of which the plenary endorsed the elements for continuous engagement of the committee to the global monitoring follow-up and review structure of the 2030 Agenda. Now the 2017 high-level political forum would be of particular interest to FAO, and I will talk about this in a bit, as a thematic review of key SDGs. For example SDG 2 and 14, and not only, would be made and so we have to play an important role and preparatory process for the high-level political forum of 2017.

Now in terms of the internal organization to deliver this, the principle of it is that we have not created new mechanisms. We rely on existing mechanisms of the Strategic Framework and its oversight in order to deliver the SDGs. The FAO Results Framework has been identified as a principle channel for FAO's technical contribution with the strategic programme leaders and their teams and their regional strategic programme coordinators responsible for the consolidation and delivery of technical support required by countries to set national priorities and to establish an enabling environment for integrated implementation of the SDGs.

Second, the integration of global SDG indicators in the MTP, also discussed earlier this week by Council, would allow FAO to measure its impact and contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

Third, with an expanded role in global monitoring of progress, FAO would also support countries through capacity building on data collection and reporting to establish national baselines and to monitor progress against targets. As you know, we are the custodians of 21 indicators in the global indicator framework and also contribute to other *fora*.

Four, close collaboration with United Nations regional commissions mandated to coordinate the efforts on SDG implementation are also ongoing.

What are the big opportunities for 2017 in different *fora* that have been organized in the context of the SDGs? So for us, 2017 will offer opportunities to keep food and agriculture as a high priority on the 2030 Agenda. In particular, by ensuring that the eradication of hunger and poverty in particular in rural areas as well as sustainable food and agriculture are properly featured in the outcome declaration of the high-level political forum whose theme is eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in the changing world.

In this, my last slide, a list of key events are being shown which may help ensure that rural transformation, food and agriculture remain, as I said before, top priorities. The United Nations Economic Commissions facilitate the sustainable development *fora* where regional priorities and progress will be discussed is at one key entry point. Outcomes of the *fora* would input into the high-level political forum and would ensure that global goals are appropriately informed by country and regional priorities.

The ECOSOC special meeting on industrialization would offer the chance to map the needs of the rural areas ensuring that know-how, capacity technology and innovation needed for rural areas and, in particular for small-scale food producers to fully contribute to national economies and economic growth. At the end of the day, it is unthinkable that in a lot of contexts the industrialization process does not include the development of agro-industry related activities.

Complimentary to the ECOSOC special meeting is the forum on science and technology and innovation where different stakeholders would come together and would share knowledge and experience as well as will launch and build partnerships in support of the SDGs at all levels.

Preparatory meetings would also be essential and FAO will engage with Member States in organizing one key participatory event in Victoria Falls soon.

The Forum on Financing for Development would discuss progress made in mobilizing the financial and non-financial means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda and FAO, in close collaboration with Rome-based Agencies and other United Nations agencies, will lead preparation of the Report for hunger eradication and sustainable agriculture - means of implementation. I remind you of the Addis Ababa Agenda for action in its broad approach to the financing for development.

Lastly, I would mention the United Nations International Conference on Oceans and Seas which will focus on SDG 14 to which FAO is contributing as a technical adviser. In this Conference as well, FAO is closely collaborating with sister agencies in Rome.

In conclusion, FAO is engaging in the implementation of SDGs at all levels ensuring that its staff is able to deliver the support needed by countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Our next speaker is Mr Martin Frick, Director, Climate and Environment Division, who will make a presentation on the “Outcome of the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22)”.

Mr Martin FRICK (Director, Climate and Environment Division)

A brief update on the Conference of the Parties that just concluded in Marrakesh. As you know, this was the first Conference of the Parties after the Paris Agreement and it really marked the transition from the negotiations that were concluded to a large extent in Paris through the implementation of the agreement and in the broader picture to climate action.

The first session of the Parties to the Paris Agreement was made possible as the agreement entered into force just briefly before the Paris Agreement and, to quite a few parties, this actually came as a surprise. Many were prepared that the Marrakesh COP would push for the early ratification of the Paris Agreement and many of the delegates were actually surprised by the speed with which the ratification took place.

Now left over from the Paris Agreement is the deliberations of the Rulebook which basically specifies the details of the agreement and has the task of making the Nationally Determined Contributions comparable and transparent. This is of great relevance for FAO because our work, for example on the greenhouse gas inventories, helps in the agricultural sectors to do exactly that and to produce transparency for the Paris Agreement.

Further decisions were adopted, calls for submissions issued, and in the outcomes and decisions relevant to FAO – I will come to the NDC Partnership in a moment – it is noteworthy that there is support for the National Adaptation Plans now increased, including by scaling up on finance, that there is a new five-year framework under the international mechanism on loss and damage, that the Paris Committee on Capacity Building was operationalized with a work plan and that the Lima Work Programme on Gender extended.

But let me come back to the first issue, the NDC Partnership, because it is significant for this COP. This COP of course picks up negotiations and works on the workstreams that previous COP's have been worked on. The NDC Partnership which is co-chaired by Morocco and Germany and done in partnership with the World Resources Institute is a very important step to actually enable countries to implement their NDCs and to get help in the question of how do we turn the political commitment into practical action.

This is just one example of how the COP actually transfers itself from a negotiation platform into really a platform for action, the NDC Partnership being one example. But also the Action Agenda in which FAO was a partner in three Action Days in agriculture, on oceans, and on forests is a very good example of how the COP provides a platform to share the knowledge and to show initiatives for concrete action in the implementation.

A third element which is new is the Marrakesh Action Proclamation for Climate and Sustainable Development. This is not a text that was negotiated in the framework of UNFCCC but at the margins

of it, and again, the COP is becoming more a platform in which political action is being possible and this ministerial declaration which is the Marrakesh Action Proclamation is really interesting for FAO because other than a reaffirmation of implementation on climate and sustainable development, there is a call for all parties to strengthen and to support efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and to take stringent action to deal with climate change challenges in agriculture.

That is of course the kind of text we would like to see in the negotiations. We are not quite there but in a ministerial declaration on the sides of the COP, this is indeed very helpful for our Agenda.

Now talking about the next steps. As always, this is coming up in early next year, in May, where we will continue the negotiations about an outcome on the agriculture negotiations that was not successful in Marrakesh, but the atmosphere has already much cleared up and FAO got substantial support for an agricultural negotiator workshop we have hosted prior to COP 22 here in Rome.

I think the role of FAO as providing good services to the agricultural negotiators through providing a neutral platform where the talks can be moved forward is much appreciated and we intend to continue with negotiator workshops to prepare the first session which is this event next year. Also the COP which is going to be in Bonn later this year.

COP 23 will be in Bonn but it will be a particular one because it will be in Germany but it is not going to be a German COP. It is going to be hosted by Fiji. And with the Conference facilities that UNFCCC has now at its disposal in Bonn, there is a possibility also for smaller Member States to host the COP, notwithstanding the enormous logistics that comes with it.

We are very happy that we are talking to Fiji already at the COP itself in Marrakesh where we spoke to the Minister for Agriculture and Environment who is the climate champion from Fiji and who will run the Action Agenda together with Hakima El Haite, the Moroccan Minister, and Ambassador Laurence Tubiana.

This is a part of the negotiations or I should better say of the UNFCCC process because it is outside of the negotiations which is now becoming an integral part of the COPs and getting support from UNFCCC. That is I think very good news because in our sectors, agriculture, the forest and the oceans, they are really important meetings to exchange and drive the Agenda forward.

The Global Climate Action Agenda has been formalized and that means that UNFCCC has now a mandate to support the preparation of the Action Days and the Action Agenda between the different COPs and that will bring a long-term perspective to this Agenda item.

We are now working on finalizing a memorandum of understanding with UNFCCC in which the Global Climate Action Agenda should be an integral part, but also our cooperation in the NDC Partnership, given that, and I spoke about this earlier, that most of the countries basically say in the NDCs that they want to work on the agricultural sector. So we are closing the loop here, enabling with the NDC Partnership, also countries to find the support they need for their agricultural sectors.

Let me just conclude by two visual impressions. FAO was a co-organizer or an active participant in more than 80 meetings and events, and despite our efforts to cut down the number of side events, we were much in demand and could make our points on very specific technical issues in these events. Here you see René Castro; the Director-General. We had many different meetings, that was a youth and learning event in which FAO was present.

COP 22 also gave the opportunity to sign new partnerships for FAO. Ms Semedo signed a partnership with the South Centre for cooperation. There is a new project on adoption of efficient and climate-smart agriculture in African SIDS that was signed at COP 22.

We formally joined the NDC partnership which is a big step as it will be a central platform for the NDC implementation, and we signed our readiness agreement with the Green Climate Fund which is very relevant for the Member States because it gives FAO the possibility to be an implementing partner on the Green Climate Fund Readiness Workstreams which is firstly building the capacity in the countries for Green Climate Fund projects. Secondly a special project preparation facility that is supporting countries to build up projects for the Green Climate Fund, and thirdly it is an envelope of up to USD 3 million per country to build national adaptation plans on which FAO is already working.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Robert Vos, Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, who will deliver a presentation on “Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)”.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

Urbanization poses an unprecedented challenge. By the middle of the century, at least two of every three persons will be living in towns and cities. Urbanization development and hence also food security are extricably linked together. Addressing urban challenges therefore will be essential to finding ways to ensure sustainable development and that is also recognized in SDG 11 next to other SDGs.

Against this background, Habitat III was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 21 October. It was the first major UN Conference to define steps towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Member States adopted a New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Conference. The NUA delineates a new global strategy, a common roadmap to lead urbanization into more sustainable patterns over the next two decades.

The Agenda identifies policies to improve food security and nutrition and that is being put central to the common road map for sustainable urban and territorial planning.

The Declaration recommends among other things “to promote the integration of food security and nutritional needs of urban residents, particularly the urban poor in urban and territorial planning in order to end hunger and malnutrition and “to promote the coordination of sustainable food security and agriculture policies across urban, peri-urban and rural areas to facilitate the production, storage, transport and marketing of foods to consumers in adequate and affordable ways in order to reduce food losses and prevent and reuse food waste”.

The prominence given to food security and nutrition issues is historic. Previous urbanization agendas hardly mention food security. The NUA is different. It not only puts food security at the centre of the agenda, it also calls on all stakeholders to assume responsibilities and active roles in the implementation process.

FAO actively participated in the preparations for Habitat III. It prepared issue papers on urban land, urban ecology and rural-urban linkages, and organized an expert group meeting at the UN headquarters on “integrating food into urban planning”. The multi-stakeholder expert group meeting was instrumental in providing inputs to the zero drafts of the new urban agenda and also secured the emphasis given food security in the overall agenda. FAO further hosted a high-level event during the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture on Urban Food Security and Nutrition. The communiqué of this event was endorsed by 65 governments.

During the Conference itself, FAO organized three side events and co-hosted with UN-Habitat the Special Session on Rural-Urban Linkages.

The upshot of these efforts on food security and nutrition related to Habitat III include six concrete follow-up activities in support of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:

First, an International Network on Rural-Urban Linkages was created. This network brings together UN agencies and other relevant partners aiming to share good practices, development of guidelines and tools for a balanced urban-rural development centred around food security and nutrition.

Second, training and capacity development tools will be developed to help improve food system planning and integration of food security and nutrition in urban and territorial planning.

Third, healthy diets will be promoted via nutrition-sensitive food systems for urban populations as part of the United Nation Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Fourth, urban agriculture, forest development and planting of trees were identified as important elements to foster sustainable urban development. At Habitat III, FAO officially launched the Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry (UPF), which include policy recommendations and actions needed to maximize the contribution of UPF in addressing both global and local challenges.

Fifth, the implementation of the NUA will be fostered further through support and capacity development for local government institutions and initiatives in the area of food security and nutrition (such as the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact). FAO will strengthen collaboration with the existing networks to contribute to this and will also seek opportunities for South-South cooperation in this area.

And finally, we will seek to further strengthen collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies and come to a common approach in the implementation of the NUA. This has started already through the joint RBA-message on “Food Security and Nutrition in the New Urban Agenda” prepared on the occasion of Habitat III.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Mr Árni Mathiesen to speak on “Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

In 2004 the United Nations General Assembly established an *ad-hoc* open ended informal Working Group to study the feasibility of implementing agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The Working Group agreed on a set of recommendations provided in the Resolution 69/292 of June 2015 to develop an implementing agreement on BBNJ. The Annex of Resolution 66/231 identifies the four core elements of the proposed implementing agreement, the so-called 2011 package, namely marine genetic resources including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, capacity building, and the transfer of marine technology.

The PrepComm is addressing each of these elements in informal Working Groups and, at the second session, an additional working group on crosscutting issues was created. This Working Group covers issues such as scope, guiding principles, use of terms, relationship to other instruments and framework, as well as institutional arrangements.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Legal Office participated in the BBNJ Informal Working Group between 2005 and 2015. Work involved the provision of information to the *ad-hoc* Open Ended IWG on the activities of FAO, including projects and instruments developed.

The FAO, through the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Legal Office, participated as an observer in the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Committee held respectively in New York from 28 March to 8 April 2016 and from 26 August to 9 September 2016.

At the first and second sessions, the FAO team provided the statements and background information on the activities of the FAO relating to the elements of the proposed agreement and provided technical inputs through multiple side events conducted on the margins of these meetings, several of which were organized by FAO.

FAO also shared documentation of relevance to the topics discussed by the delegates, hard copies and electronically.

It is important to note that COFI 32 recognized the need to enhance the participation of FAO to provide technical expertise in biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, negotiating process, while noting that the BBNJ process should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies agreed in the UN General Assembly Resolution 69/292.

The third and final sessions of this will be held in 2017. These sessions are critical because they will agree on the context of its substantive recommendations to the General Assembly which will then need to decide on the convening of an intergovernmental conference under the auspices of the United Nations to negotiate the implementing agreement.

Various implications of the implementing agreement are possible depending on the final outcome of the discussions, including impacts on existing relevant instruments and institutions or frameworks,

including regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO), requirement for access and benefit-sharing arrangements from marine genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction, multisectoral harmonization of area-based management tools. Several international institutions such as the International Maritime Organization, Regional Seas Organizations, and RFMOs have an existing mandate and international law to establish area-based management tools in BBNJ.

Additional overarching requirements and the proposed implementing agreement mandates harmonization across these and other sectors. Multisectoral requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment and the strategic environmental assessments with respect to the multisectoral requirements, one recurring issue is if there is a need for the setting up of a new multisectoral institution or the need to rely on existing institutions.

Additional conditions to fishing on the high seas will further diminish the freedom of fishing on the high seas. It is important to note that the freedom is foreseen in Article 87 of UNCLOS and will need to take due regard of the interests of other states as well as the rights listed under UNCLOS.

Changes to the common heritage of mankind concept with respect to the law of the sea. The common heritage of mankind is a seabed and subsoil beyond national jurisdiction and its solid, liquid and gaseous minerals. A possible change to the concept to include marine genetic resources will have significant implications on the concept, not to mention existing regimes as it would include biological material, not only non-living.

The implementing agreement could have additional constraints in conducting marine scientific research on top of the one foreseen under Article 143 of UNCLOS.

The international community has criticized regional fishery bodies (RFBs) for the lack of performance. However, it should be noted that RFBs can only be as effective as the Member States allow them to be and their performance depends directly on the Members' participation, engagement, and political will, including financial support.

In fact, limited funding and capacity of the Secretariat can constitute significant impediments for all RFBs to pursue their mandate. Significantly, the role of the RFMOs in regulation fishing inputs and outputs on the high seas areas will be affected.

Even if RFMOs are identified as authorizing institutions for assessing marine genetic resources, the very fact that they will be performing additional functions subject to the amendments to the constitutive instruments under the implement agreement subjects them to additional frameworks.

Aside from RFMOs, functions relating to access, the role and impact assessments, and the creation of area-based management tools such as marine-protected areas or marine-managed areas can be affected. In fact, one significant element in the ongoing preparatory process is the discussion on a global mechanism that may have a role in a designation of area-based measures such as MPAs, including the setting up of scientific bodies to guide the decision-making process.

It is unclear the extent of implications on RFMO's. It depends on the institutional arrangements that will be developed under the implementing agreement in relation to access and benefit-sharing regimes for the marine genetic resources, area-based management tools and the Environmental Impact Assessments. Thus, it is expected that RFMOs will need to adapt to new requirements and work procedures.

It is possible that RFMOs will be replaced where they will play the role of the blueprint for the management of resources in the BBNJ.

CHAIRPERSON

Our next speaker is Mr Karel Callens, Officer-in-Charge of SP1 on Food Security and Nutrition, who will make a presentation on "The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition - Foresight report: Food systems and diets: facing the challenges of the Twenty-first century".

Mr Karel CALLENS (Officer-in-Charge of SP1 on Food Security and Nutrition)

The global panel on agriculture and food systems for nutrition commissioned this foresight report on food systems and diets facing the challenges for the 21st century in 2015. The purpose of this foresight

report was to take a close look at the extent to which food systems are delivering healthy diets to date and to assess to what extent they are fit for the future.

The report was launched recently in Rome on 23 September 2016. The main statement made by the report is that we are facing a growing nutritional crisis. We have seen that substantial progress has been made in terms of reducing hunger and undernutrition in the past 25 years; however, malnutrition in all its forms, so not just undernourishment, undernutrition, but also problems of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases now affect one in three people worldwide. That is far beyond the 793 million people who experience hunger on a daily basis.

An important statement made in the report is that, with business as usual, SDG 2 will not be met. The estimate suggested by 2030 the number of overweight and obese people will have increased from 1.33 billion in 2005 to 3.28 billion. That is a staggering number. At the same time, there will be 653 million calorie-deficient people. That is down from 793 million in 2015 but still far away from Zero Hunger. No country to date has successfully reversed growth in obesity once it has been allowed to develop. I think that is important to note in terms of the actions we are taking currently.

In economic terms across Africa and Asia, the estimated impact of undernutrition on GDP is 11 percent per year, more than the annual economic downturn caused by the global financial crisis of 2008-10.

Now what are the main drivers behind this nutrition crisis? There are six. One is income growth. It is a double-edged sword when it comes to diet quality and nutrition. Secondly, there is rapid urbanization, less undernutrition but more diet-related obesity and chronic disease and greater risk from food price volatility. Thirdly, changes in the size and age distribution of populations. Population growth rates are decelerating but global food systems will need to provide high-quality diets to more than two billion additional people by 2050. Over a billion will be in Africa.

Fourthly, globalization of diets. Globalization can act to increase resilience but it can also decrease resilience by propagating systemic shocks and it may have spread the obesity epidemic by facilitating consumers to make low-quality dietary choices.

Fifthly, climate change. For example, by 2050, the estimated impact of elevated carbon dioxide on the zinc content of grains, tubers and legumes could place 138 million people at new risk of zinc deficiency. Both direct and indirect effects are there.

Sixth, competition for natural resources. Overall it could drive diets in unpredictable and highly context-specific ways. The growing consensus on the need to price scarce resources such as water and carbon storage should provide strong incentives both to increase efficiency of resource use and generate technical improvements.

Now the central message of the report is that food systems are at the centre of the problem and the solutions. All parts of the food system need to work together well beyond primary production in agriculture. Value and power in the food system is shifting towards the middle of the food chains with agriculture produce becoming ingredients for processed products. Decisions by large agribusinesses, manufacturers and retailers are playing a growing role relative to the public sector in the availability, affordability, safety and nutritional quality of foods. So whatever progress is made towards food security, unless foods reach people in the form that is nutritious and affordable the problem of food quality diets and malnutrition will not be solved.

The report goes on to outline a number of policy options and I will not go through all of them but just highlight some of the key ones. It calls on governments, donors and global partners to put food systems at the centre of global action including the SDGs. While policy must be tailored to meet country needs, some of the priority actions at the global and national levels include:

- i) prioritize empowerment and improvements in women's diet quality;
- ii) develop policies to regulate product formulation labelling, advertising, promotion and taxes to incentivise production of high-quality foods and inform consumers;
- iii) use public sector purchasing power to institutionalise high quality diets;

iv) improve availability, affordability and safety of fruits, vegetables, pulses, nuts and seeds in an effort to diversify diets;

v) foster increased collaboration and access to data information and analysis across agriculture, health, social protection and commerce.

Now what has been FAO's response so far? There are four main domains. One is that, in the Medium Term Plan 2010-21, we have made a stronger emphasis on food system approaches to address all forms of malnutrition. There is also a stronger focus on the consumer end of the food system. There are actions foreseen for nutrition-sensitive climate change adaptation and we have a strengthened emphasis on gender issues, gender being one of the major issues to be addressed.

Secondly, we also expanded the strategic programme-led policy assistance facilities to support countries in increasing uptake of evidence in policy decisions on food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture. This strengthened investment and capacities to implement policies and addressing political, economic and governance bottlenecks.

Thirdly, the regional initiatives. We have three Zero Hunger regional initiatives in Africa, in Asia and in the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We are strengthening these to ensure integrated work on food security and nutrition, poverty and food systems, so across SP work.

Lastly, we are scaling up our partnerships in South-South Cooperation to share positive experiences across countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker today is Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources, who will present the High-Level Segment of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

I have the pleasure to present to you the outcomes of the high-level segment of the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cancun from 1 to 3 December. This high-level segment will be followed by the Conference of Parties which started this Monday. Unfortunately I cannot report on the Conference of Parties because it is still ongoing. We try to report on the outcomes of the high-level segment.

As I said, the high-level segment was held on 2 and 3 December and the conference will be from 4 to 17 December. The high-level segment was attended by ministers for environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We had the minister for tourism also. It is the first time in the history of the COP of the CDB that was not only the three sectors but we have environment with the productive sectors or service as the tourism together discussing how to mainstream biodiversity.

FAO was very much involved in the high-level segment. I represented FAO. I was one of the keynote speakers in the opening of the meeting and FAO participated as a keynote speaker also in the discussion on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Cancun Declaration was approved and it was on mainstreaming the conservation of sustainable use of biodiversity for well-being. It encouraged closer cooperation and synergy around relevant United Nations organizations of which FAO is part, and supports and calls for the implementation of several FAO instruments as the code of conduct of responsible fisheries, the global action plans of the commission on genetic resources and it calls for its implementation.

The Cancun Declaration, as I said, we discussed how to mainstream biodiversity on these three sectors and the Declaration was approved where it calls to all the ministries, all the parties to work on how to mainstream and to preserve biodiversity. FAO was requested and invited by several parties including the Mexico President and I take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Mexico for hosting this conference and for choosing the theme of this COP 13 which is very much timely and it was for all the parties commended.

As I said, we approved the Cancun Declaration and the Cancun Declaration calls for all the parties to work together. FAO has been invited and offered to host a platform where all the ministries of

agriculture, forestry and fisheries and environments can have and can engage in a cross-sector dialogue in a more coordinated manner.

One slide is missing but I will tell you about the platform. As I said FAO has been called to host the platform and the platform will help to facilitate this cross-sector dialogue among the different ministries. We will be starting by mapping the existing governance initiatives that effectively mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within and across agriculture and food sectors. We will be strengthening and bridging processes allowing agriculture and food sectors and environment to learn from each other, identifying synergies and aligning goals. We will be facilitating the exchange of information and data among the different stakeholders. We will facilitate coherent approaches and strategies within and across agriculture sectors and we will be calling for investments on biodiversity especially responsible private investments.

The main theme as I said will conclude next week and we hope and we expect that the meeting will end by preparing in collaboration with FAO guidance on sustainability how we can sustainably use and mainstream biodiversity, how we can support countries in sharing experience on biodiversity and to call on GEF (Global Environment Facility) and other donors to financially support biodiversity mainstreaming by countries.

This is what I can report to you so far but I think this is very much in line what we discussed here on the outcomes from the COFI and COAG where the preservation of biodiversity and calling in FAO working in the international projects and programmes like pollination. We will follow on the COP 13 recommendations and we will report to the Council in the next session in March.

CHAIRPERSON

We still have a last speaker, Mr Alex Jones, Director *ad interim* of the South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division, who will speak on the high-level meeting of the “Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Nairobi, 28 November – 1 December 2016)”.

Mr Alex JONES (Director *ad interim*, South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division)

FAO is a very active participant in the second high-level meeting of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) which took place just ten days ago in Nairobi. For those who are not familiar with it, the global partnership was created at the 4th high-level forum in Busan in 2011 and it is a multi-stakeholder platform whose aim is to improve development effectiveness. FAO participates in this through the United Nations Development Group.

The partnership works on the basis of four main development effectiveness principles, namely country ownership, focus on results, inclusiveness and partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability. The high-level forum discussions took place in a number of formats, one of which was a high-level segment with plenary sessions and a number of side events. The main debates at the partnership meeting was focusing on aligning the work of the partnership with recent international agreements especially the Agenda 2030 as this was the first meeting of the partnership following the approval of the SDGs but also the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and of course building on the background of the Paris Agreement and other international agreements such as Sendai Framework and the new urban agenda, as just mentioned by my colleague in the context of Habitat III.

The partnership encourages and supports national-led responses helping the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs to become more effective. FAO is closely aligned with the GPEDC vision working through a number of important initiatives such as the Country Programming Frameworks, which are FAO's input into national development frameworks and planning cycles through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, through the proactive decentralization strategy that has been rolled out by FAO since 2012 which aims at improving the effectiveness at country, subregional and regional levels, through the mobilization of domestic resources including through unilateral trust funds at country level, through the development of South-South Cooperation partnerships to mobilize know-how to resource exchanges, supporting countries in mobilizing investment flows and designing the related programmes under-funding from international financial institutions, and last but far from least in providing important catalytic funding resources through the technical cooperation programme.

The HLM 2 plenary session focused on a number of important issues. First and foremost progress and challenges to effective development, delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals, learning from South-South and triangular cooperation, empowering women and youth, leaving no one behind, inclusive and multi-stakeholder partnerships and the role of the private sector. FAO co-organized and participated in two high-level events. One on inclusive and effective development cooperation to achieve the SDGs with the lessons from South-South and triangular cooperation. The second event was jointly hosted by FAO and OECD Secretariat on inclusive development partnerships for the future.

These events were showcasing FAO's role and experience as a facilitator and promoter of South-South and triangular cooperation. In them, FAO was able to emphasize the potential of triangular cooperation as a tool for bridging the gap that currently exists between South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation. FAO also had a key role in stressing the invaluable role of SS and triangular cooperation in achieving the SDGs in the Nairobi outcome document of the global partnership.

It is important to highlight the very important steps that FAO has taken and continues to take towards improving its own effectiveness for development cooperation. As the Director-General mentioned during his introduction at this Council, FAO was pleased to note the very good ratings that FAO had just received in terms of organizational strengths and development objectives under the recently completed multi-lateral development review. The MAR (Multilateral Aid Review) itself clearly states that it is closely aligned with the GPEDC in terms of transparency, results, partnership, developing country ownership and transparency. The GPEDC meeting itself highlighted FAO's role as a South-South and triangular cooperation facilitator including through the development of tools such as the South-South cooperation gateway in which many of your countries are active participants.

FAO is also proud to note that it is the largest United Nations recipient of non-OECD country funding through voluntary contributions. Moving into 2017, FAO will support the global partnership initiative on triangular cooperation as part of the working group to elaborate political and operational principles drawing on FAO's own South-South and triangular cooperation guidelines. This will involve drafting voluntary principles for triangular cooperation, developing a toolkit on operational guidance for triangular cooperation, distilling lessons learned and best practices from the existing frameworks in this area and identifying comparative advantages of triangular cooperation in fragile situations and least developing countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to ask questions or seek clarification on the presentations.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

Very interesting presentations. I must congratulate the FAO staff for briefing us on these important events and subjects. I am certain that the Council will strive to keep updated on these developments.

I would like to make four comments and questions with regard to the presentations, not in the order that they were presented. Let me start by the presentation Ms Semedo did on the CBD high-level segment of the COP in Cancun. Perhaps it is too early to take stock of what is happening in Cancun but one concern is being highlighted during these two weeks in Mexico which is that we are falling behind in the realization of the achieved targets. Most bodies will probably not be able to reach them so several of the achieved targets, I would say most of them, are relevant and congruent to the Strategic Objectives of FAO. Perhaps we could be enlightened on how FAO is collaborating with the CBD in order to support countries in implementing the achieved targets.

Another subject I would like to dwell upon is the role of FAO as a co-host of the IPBES platform (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). I know that IPBES is producing a number of studies but I have not seen these studies make their way back to us at FAO. What would be the Secretariat's envisaging as a channel for briefing us on the outcomes of the IPBES and how can we collaborate or support the work of FAO with the platform? Those are my two questions with regard to the CBD.

Then I would like to comment on the negotiations on the instrument on biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. From the briefing I heard, I understand that FAO is taking an active role

in the negotiation of the implementing agreement. It would be interesting to have us briefed on the several steps of this negotiation not only at the Council. I would encourage the Secretariat who are organizing informal seminars so that FAO's stand at the negotiations be cleared with Members. FAO is not acting on its own behalf but on behalf of its Membership and I would not like to have its participation in any way overstepping a mandate that would be given to the Secretariat.

Talking of mandates, I also would like to know if FAO has already acquired any mandate from its Governing Bodies to participate in the global partnership on the effectiveness of development cooperation. I heard that FAO is closely aligned with this partnership but given that some countries, and mine in particular, have issues with the Busan Declaration and this partnership was developed under its framework, I would like to know if any mandates have been given to the Secretariat to participate in it and how is that developing?

Finally I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the signing of the partnership with the South Centre. The South Centre is a think tank that has acquired a lot of knowledge in trade related aspects of commodities, another subject relevant to the mandates of FAO. By establishing such a partnership we are actually increasing the technical capacity of the Secretariat because it can tap on the vast knowledge that the South Centre has already developed. So may I ask if FAO funds are being dedicated to boost or to implement this partnership in a constructive way so that for instance if studies are required on market aspects of FAO's work could this be charged to the South Centre? Could this partnership develop into creating knowledge that would increase the capacity of the Secretariat?

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

Yo me quisiera referir a la presentación que hizo la Señora Semedo. Lamentablemente ahora no la veo en el pódium, pero, bueno, le informarán sobre el particular.

Nosotros quisiéramos agradecer a la Señora Semedo por la excelente presentación que ha hecho sobre los trabajos de la FAO en el Segmento de Alto Nivel de la Décimo Tercera Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica, que, como ella informó, tuvo lugar los días 2 y 3 de diciembre pasados en Cancún, México.

También quiero agradecerle, Señora Semedo, por sus amables expresiones sobre mi país. Como se ha mencionado a lo largo de esta sesión del Consejo, es tiempo de incorporar el elemento de diversidad biológica en los trabajos de la FAO, así como contar con una colaboración más estrecha con el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica. Ya existen marcos de diálogo para temas relacionados con pesquerías, bosques y silvicultura, pero nos falta incorporar a este diálogo aspectos relacionados con los cultivos y la ganadería. Nos felicitamos por la propuesta de la FAO hecha en Cancún para crear una plataforma que apoye a los Países Miembros a comprometerse con pasos concretos y cuantificables de transformación para una agricultura, ganadería y prácticas pesqueras y forestales sostenibles, como seguimiento a los acuerdos de la COP 13. Creemos que con esta importante iniciativa vamos en la dirección correcta en la FAO.

México apoya plenamente el generoso ofrecimiento de la FAO para crear una plataforma sobre biodiversidad, agricultura y alimentación. Esta iniciativa es un instrumento valioso para conocer casos exitosos en los países y lograr conjuntar el respeto por el medio ambiente con las prácticas agrícolas sostenibles. Esto es algo que todos podemos aprovechar. Lo importante es que esta plataforma resulte en el fortalecimiento del diálogo entre todos los sectores para tender puentes entre los sectores alimentario y agrícola y el sector ambiental, y así generar prácticas óptimas y concretas.

Creemos que la plataforma debe formar parte del Programa de Trabajo de la FAO.

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

We note the information provided by the Secretariat. We would also like to thank all of the presenters this morning for the extremely useful presentations. Very briefly, we would like to focus on one particular point and that is on the international legally binding document for the preservation of sustainable marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In this regard, we would like to emphasize that we believe that the development of this act should not change the existing system of international regulation of fishing in the areas of oceans beyond national jurisdiction. This system is based on regional fisheries management organizations.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je voulais faire référence — peut-être que la Hongrie en parlera — à l'atelier sur l'agroécologie pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale, qui s'est tenu à Budapest il y a dix jours et auquel j'ai participé avec le Directeur général. Ce qui m'a beaucoup frappé dans cet atelier, c'est à quel point les experts ont montré comment les approches agroécologiques «matchaient» tous les objectifs de l'agenda international.

Ils ont beaucoup insisté sur plusieurs liens: le lien entre agroécologie et lutte contre le changement climatique, à la fois sous l'angle adaptation et atténuation; le lien entre agroécologie et préservation de la biodiversité; le lien entre agroécologie et le forum habitat, l'urbanisation, parce que les approches agroécologiques, par définition, sont des approches territoriales et que la mise en œuvre des ODD et du plan adopté, Habitat III, supposent de développer ou de revenir aux approches territoriales. Et donc, ils ont insisté sur le fait que c'était un des rares modèles agricoles qui permettait de capter tous les objectifs de notre agenda.

Mais ils ont mis aussi l'accent sur une dimension, qui est un peu absente de toutes les présentations que nous avons vues: il s'agit de la question du capital humain et du développement humain dans l'agriculture. C'est quelque chose qui m'inquiète à chaque fois. D'ailleurs, je ne pouvais pas le souligner comme Président du Comité du Programme, mais je le souligne ici dans le projet de Plan à moyen terme, car il a été dit très peu sur la question des agriculteurs et de comment renforcer les capacités des agriculteurs et le capital humain dans l'agriculture; nous sommes quand même face à une contradiction. Nous devons produire toujours plus, mais avec de moins en moins d'agriculteurs, et ceci est valable autant pour les pays du Nord que pour les pays du Sud.

Donc une question se pose: la FAO n'est-elle pas en train de faire l'impasse sur un élément fondamental du développement agricole dans les années qui viennent, c'est-à-dire le capital humain? Comment recréer, comment rendre plus attractif ce secteur? Comment assurer la formation? La France a apporté un financement modeste à un atelier d'experts, qui s'est tenu ici même il y a un mois, sur la formation des jeunes de 15-17 ans, mais très peu d'États Membres apportent un soutien à la FAO pour qu'elle travaille sur cette question qui me paraît pourtant assez fondamentale.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I would ask for your indulgence and request that under this item, the floor be also given to the representatives of Fiji, Palau, and Samoa to make their interventions.

Mr Deo SARAN (Observer for Fiji)

I take the floor to speak on Fiji's preparation for the COP 23. At the outset, I would like, on behalf of my government and the people of Fiji, my neighboring Pacific Island countries and Small Island Developing States, to thank the international community for supporting Fiji for the presidency of the COP 23 which will be held in Bonn.

Fiji welcomes this initiative or arrangement to separate the Presidency from the host country as this will pave way in the future for small island nations to assume presidency and this is in line with the inclusiveness theme and the agenda for the UNFCCC.

Fiji is the first small island state to assume presidency and we, being a small island state, we have limited capacity and ability and we therefore will be relying and talking to our partners and friends for support to make the COP 23 a successful one.

We are in the process of having discussions with UNFCCC Secretariat in the formulation of our agenda and the theme for the COP.

We are mindful of the fact that we are now into the implementation phase. COP 21 was all about reaching an agreement and we did after 20 odd years of negotiation. COP 22 in Marrakesh was focused primarily on putting the agreement into force which we achieved after achieving the thresholds.

Distinguished guests, we have now the challenge to shift our mindset from the negotiation phase to the implementation phase. And in going into the implementation phase, we realize the COP 23 will largely be a technical one.

Having said that, from Fiji's perspective we would like also to have a political dimension to the COP 23 in the sense that we would like the COP 23 and its declarations therein to provide an anchor to future interests and agenda for the Small Island Developing States. We do not want to be in a situation whereby the COP 23 is in time forgotten. So from our own perspective, these are the thoughts we are taking to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC to facilitate that theme and also the agenda.

Distinguished guests, in talking about our discussions and our liaison with our friends and partners, we value FAO as a very strategic and important partner to Fiji.

We welcome the initiatives undertaken by FAO to address the impacts of climate change on food security and nutrition, and we share FAO's concern that this be brought back to the agenda having lost some traction in COP 22.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for giving me this space and opportunity to address the Council and also look forward to working with the FAO to make full efforts for the first COP 23.

Ms Ngedikes ULUDONG (Observer for Palau)

I would like to thank also Pakistan for giving Fiji and Palau and Samoa the chance to make comments at this Council Meeting as observers.

I will not repeat what the Distinguished Ambassador from Fiji has just said in his intervention as well as I will not repeat what Martin has presented in terms of the outcomes of COP 22. However, having said that, I would like to come in at this point to compliment both at the outset. Excellencies, let me thank FAO for its great work on adapting to the global changes that are happening in a multi-lateral process and, having said that, look toward restructuring the FAO Organization to include climate change.

I think this is timely as what we have seen over the last few years in climate change in the UN System.

However, I would like to caution from a SIDS perspective on this. Having the experience of limited resources and small scale, a lot of the SIDS are bombarded with a lot of these new initiatives that are coming out from all of these different processes.

However, I do think that FAO's mandate does cover what the priorities are for vulnerable countries like Palau, Fiji, Samoa, and other vulnerable groups and developing countries. And I would like to just see clarity in terms of you know, informing the Members of FAO on how the structuring of the climate change and the way forward for next year in terms of how you are going to assist the countries to implement initiatives on the ground with relation to climate change.

In Martin's intervention earlier when he talked about the NDC, the Nationally Determined Contributions which are featuring adaptation initiatives on agriculture, one of the things that we are doing in the Pacific is UNDP has a very strong presence in the region and UNDP is taking that role in partnerships with countries to implement their NDCs on adaptation.

So I mean, that is just an example that I hope that as next year comes in and we look at COP 23 and the sort of expanding and strengthening the work of FAO, that FAO be more focused on complementing what is happening on the ground to avoid duplication and stretching the SIDS too thin to effectively implement.

And one last point is that I would hope that next year with Fiji being the COP President, that FAO brings the resilience back because I think that resilience cross-cuts all of the sections whether it is climate change, the work on oceans, the work on forests or the work on agriculture.

So I think working ahead, time is not on our side here. We start negotiations for COP 23 in January. So I think if FAO would work with countries and also UNFCCC in partnership, then I think that we could really ensure that there is resilience that FAO can provide and it happens for those that are vulnerable.

I know Solomon Islands is not here but they had a recent earthquake and I just wanted to ensure that the sense of urgency is happening now for not just the Pacific but globally and I would hope that FAO continues to strengthen its work with the Member States.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Observer for Hungary)

I am going to make a short comment only on the presentation on the outcomes of the 32nd Conference of the Parties. I wish to express appreciation to FAO for the active role played in Marrakesh and in particular for the agreement with the Green Climate Fund.

In relation to the forthcoming COP 23 of Fiji, I would like to inform Council Members and Observers that between 23 and 25 November, a Regional Agroecology Symposium was held in Budapest with the financial support of the government of France, co-organized by FAO and the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.

The outcomes of this symposium are now available and I have the pleasure to inform you that it has been agreed that the set of recommendations adopted in Budapest will be presented in a joint FAO/Hungarian side event of the COP 23 of Fiji to be held in November next year in Bonn to draw attention to the role of agroecology and its importance both in adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

Mr Mamoun BARGHOUTH (Observer for Palestine) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank you for the valuable presentations. Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition and for the promotion of livelihoods in the face of threats and crises. That situation faces a major problem in Palestine since the smallholder farmers are faced with major problems in that field.

We have fully joined the implementation of Agenda 2030 despite the aggressions and violations by the Israeli occupation. However, we should like that the agricultural sector of Palestine be in the light and receive more support to provide food and to build resilience to that sector since it is also the major sector employing women in the rural areas.

We need to help them find markets for their products domestically and internationally. We also need to provide support to fishermen of Palestine in order to build their capacity and also to fight malnutrition. We call on the international community to help us have control over our resources, fish resources and plant resources, and to be allowed the space to practice what we are endowed to benefit from.

Mr Papali'i Giovanni CAFFARELLI (Observer for Samoa)

I just wanted to align my position and give my support to the previous two statements given by the two member countries from our region.

I will now ask the speakers to respond to the issues raised.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Economic and Social Department)

I would like to speak about the question of the French Ambassador on training and building the human capital of farmers, especially new farmers.

In my view, if you look at some of the data that came out in SOFA a few years ago, you will see that there are two parts to this. One is the trends in investment, in research for adaptation of varieties, and the other is the trends in investment in what we used to call extension and now we call different names, but we all know what it is all about.

In the first one, you will see the ratio between public and private expenditures on research changing rapidly in favour of more private investment on research. So that creates important problems regarding crops or crops that are not necessarily in the highest interest of private research. And the second, if you look at the extension, suffice it to say that an organized body of data on extension for countries does not exist.

So FAO is working with other platforms which they do work on capacity building in terms of educating or building human capital among farmers, like for instance the CGIAR, the Gates Foundation, etc. But – and we respond to – I think it was a point of yours, demands by governments for this type of human resource development.

The last point I would like to make, I think what is required is a broader approach to building the human capital of farmers because it is not just about farm skills but within the Transformation Agenda, the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, I think the building of human capital should be broadly considered in terms of the skills required for the future of farming, where farming is going, but also skills required in terms of basic education and the business skills for small-scale entrepreneurs, etc.

I am not sure how far this addresses your point but that is one of the issues I would like to raise.

Mr Martin FRICK (Director, Climate and Energy Division)

Let me start by thanking Fiji for the readiness to cooperate with FAO in the preparation of COP 22. We are very much looking forward to it and I should be saying that having a climate champion from Fiji also as a Minister responsible for agriculture is certainly welcome news here in FAO.

To the questions raised by Samoa, we are mindful of proliferation of initiatives and us joining the NDC partnership is exactly in this perspective, because the NDC partnership strives to be a clearing house and brings order and accessibility, particularly for small countries who are lacking resources to really make sense of how to cooperate with these different initiatives.

You mentioned UNDP and their work on readiness. FAO came a bit late to the Green Climate Fund but we are now accredited and, as I said in my presentation, we also signed the Readiness Framework Agreement and that enables us to work with countries, accessing Green Climate Fund money, on the readiness and on concrete projects.

Not least, I should be mentioning the climate change strategy which was now endorsed by this very Council which is guiding our work on climate change in relationship to the five Strategic Objectives, and we put the support for countries and responding for countries' needs for a very good reason on place one of the three main outcomes.

So we are fully geared up and we are mindful that particularly in adaptation, FAO has a very big role to play as so many developing countries are largely depending for their national economy on agriculture, sometimes 80 percent or even more.

Mr Robert VOS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

I do not think there were any specific questions raised regarding Habitat III, though the Ambassador of France did allude to it in his comment regarding agroecology. Part of his concerns were already answered by Mr Stamoulis. Let me just add that, in the new Urban Agenda, there is quite a bit of emphasis on linking agricultural development and sustainable agricultural development with the Sustainable Urban Agenda, and a lot of emphasis put on how the greater coherence in the territorial planning between urban and rural space, but also including the urban agriculture that has a distinct place within urban boundaries is done in ways that is promoting sustainable and a management of resources, be it water, land, and other resources, as well as the sustainable consumption and production in general.

So in fact, within the Urban Agenda there is a framework to do this in a more coherent way and to promote sustainable development for food and agriculture both within urban territories and in its linkages with the rural areas and where most of the agriculture takes place.

So I think it is fully consistent. Of course it is a framework. Now the next steps are how to put this in action.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I very much welcome Brazil's suggestion that we organize seminars on the subject; how and when we will do that will obviously be subject to our resource situation. Having said that, the reason why we are bringing the subject here in Council is that we would like to encourage further discussion amongst

the Members on the issue. However, the issue was discussed at COFI last summer and at previous COFIs and from those discussions we have got our leads on how to proceed.

The issue has also been a subject at the meetings of the FAO-GEF and ABNJ (Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction) project, the last one in Grenada during the Blue Week in May, but then quite extensively in January last week here in this room at a similar FAO-GEF and ABNJ conference that was held here.

We are obviously not negotiators, we are officers as I said in my intervention, but we have been requested by COFI to highlight the present situation and the implications that the various ideas that have been circulating would have on how we are managing our resources in the ABNJ at the moment.

Mr Karel CALLENS (Officer-in-Charge of SP1 on Food Security and Nutrition)

There were no specific comments related to the foresight report, but I would also like to emphasize the importance of the United Nations capacity development point of farmers. This is not only important in terms of skills, etc. related to farming, but it is also very important in terms of participation in policy-making processes. So participation in local governance around food security and nutrition sustainable agriculture; that is an important area.

I would like to expand it also further to say that is not only important for farmers but it is also important for consumers and consumer organizations. That is an area where we want also to put more emphasis, so their ability to participate in a meaningful way in food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture governance processes.

Mr Alex JONES (Director *ad interim*, South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division)

To address very specifically the question raised by the delegate of Brazil, FAO participates in the GPEDC invited and as part of the United Nations Development Group. Therefore, the formal linkages of our participation is through the UNDG. In this case it is also important to recall that the GPEDC is much broader than Busan, even though it was launched at that event and in fact the main purpose of this meeting was to integrate the framework of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 and to update it. Therefore it includes many other items such as I mentioned, the new Urban Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and so forth, so it is a much broader thing. But to directly respond to the question, it is under the UNDG group.

One other point that I wish to address was specifically on the intervention by France and the importance of building human capital and small farmers. I did want to raise the point that it is an important part of South-South and triangular cooperation which has a unique entry point into building the human capital especially of small farmers through the exchange of development solutions that have been tried and tested in countries, by farmers in countries that have had to face and overcome similar challenges in their own development continuum. So South-South and triangular cooperation, despite its small financial size, I believe can leverage a much higher capacity development in this sector, especially for smaller farmers.

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

The first question is regarding FAO collaboration with IPBES. I must say that FAO has been very much attending and collaborating with IPBES. We have not reported in previous Council on the meetings we have attended. We collaborate with IPBES on the work on assessment of pollinations and we are working now on the second assessment on land degradation and restoration and FAO has been requested to organize the next experts' meeting. We will report as soon as we move forward.

Regarding Aichi Targets, since the beginning we work with the CBD on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-20 and its Aichi Targets. FAO has been closely and actively involved on Aichi Targets 6, 7 on sustainability - for which we are the leaders - on Aichi Target 13 on genetic resources, and 15 on degraded land. We also are lead partners on several related partnerships: the partnership on wildlife management, on forests, on sustainable development on mountains and we have also developed several guidelines and instruments, because one of the problems of the Aichi Targets is how to implement them at country level. This has been one of the main impediments to the implementation of the Aichi Targets and it has been discussed in Cancun. We have some of them moving through

several partnerships but others are lagging behind. But more than on the Aichi Targets, we are working on the indicators and what is going on is how we can align the Aichi Targets indicators to the SDGs indicators, in order to have one agenda and one set of indicators to be reported on. The challenge is the timeframe: the Aichi Targets are for 2020, while the SDGs are for 2030. We hope that one of the outcomes of the COP will be how we should align and what will be the timeframe and how we can speed up the implementation, especially supporting countries to develop their country biodiversity plan and how it will be the action plan to implement those targets.

Regarding Mexico, I will also thank Mexico and I think we will be working closely in the implementation of the Cancun Declaration and outcomes of COP 13. As I said in Mexico, FAO is willing to be a partner with Mexico for successful presidency in the next two years.

Regarding the comments coming from Fiji, Palau and Samoa, we will be closely working with the small islands into the preparation of COP 23, as Mr Frick has already said. We think we can have a global agenda on the seeds and it will be one of the legacies of the Fiji presidency, and on the other side - as it has been proposed by Palau - resilience was one among the other main themes on COP 21 in France. Unfortunately it was not taking over in Marrakesh, but I believe we can bring it back to the next COP 23 as an action day or whatever format we will find out.

Continues in french

L'Ambassadeur de France a fait référence au capital humain dans l'agriculture et je pense que M. Kostas Stamoulis vous a déjà répondu. Nous travaillons en effet beaucoup avec le NEPAD sur les jeunes et l'agriculture en Afrique, justement pour changer la perception de l'agriculture, pour qu'elle soit vue comme un business, une entreprise et sur comment encourager une nouvelle génération de jeunes à se lancer dans l'agriculture. Je pense que ce n'est pas seulement un problème de l'Afrique, mais un problème général, qui touche tout le secteur agricole.

Malheureusement, le programme de la FAO n'a pas beaucoup de ressources à consacrer à ce domaine, et j'espère qu'une recommandation sera faite dans ce sens, afin que dans le prochain budget plus de ressources soient allouées pour tout le travail que requièrent la vulgarisation et la recherche. Mais nous travaillons aussi avec la Plateforme pour l'agriculture tropicale (TAP, Tropical Agriculture Platform), avec le Forum mondial sur la recherche agricole (GFAR), qui est ici à la FAO, et en fait surtout avec cette plateforme, qui permet de collaborer avec les pays et les autres partenaires travaillant déjà dans ce domaine.

Je suis en fin de compte tout à fait d'accord: si l'on veut vraiment changer l'agriculture et qu'elle soit plus productive, il faut que les petits agriculteurs soient les agents de ce changement et il faut vraiment investir en eux.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 18 of the agenda which was presented to Council for information only.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I think one question raised by the Ambassador of France should be taken very seriously because in the future of agriculture we have farmers, nations, everybody has to conserve resources for future generations but increase productivity to feed the current generation. So it is a very delicate problem.

In this process, farmers have a major role to play. From my experience in FAO we have South-South cooperation, farmers training, but I do not think FAO has a strategy on how to pass knowledge to farmers at the grassroots level. Not only men, but also women and between low income countries and middle income countries, so there is a variety of ranges in this scenario. I think the best thing will be to come up with a strategy for farmers training and I think the only way is for the Programme Committee to push it.

CHAIRPERSON

The list of presentations has been included in the draft Report.

In addition, the Power Point presentations we have just seen will be uploaded to the FAO Members Gateway.

I want to thank all the speakers on the podium for their presentations and their responses to the issues that were raised by the delegates.

Presentation on FAO's emergency response to Hurricane Matthew (Haiti)

Présentation de l'intervention d'urgence de la FAO après le passage de l'ouragan Matthew (Haïti)

Exposición sobre la respuesta de emergencia de la FAO al huracán Matthew (Haiti)

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to invite to the podium His Excellency Pierre Guito Laurore, Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development, and Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience, and Ms Denise Brown, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme, who will give a briefing on Hurricane Matthew.

S.E. M. Pierre GUITO LAURORE (Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural d'Haïti)

À l'occasion de la 155^{ème} Session du Conseil de la FAO, j'ai l'heureux privilège de prendre la parole, ce vendredi 9 décembre, pour vous faire part des dispositions prises par les acteurs du secteur agricole sous le leadership du Ministère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural, suite au passage de l'ouragan Matthew, du 3 au 5 octobre dernier.

Si nous tenons compte de l'histoire cyclonique d'Haïti, de 1954 à nos jours, le pays a été fortement frappé par 21 tempêtes et cyclones tropicaux, les uns plus dévastateurs et plus meurtriers que les autres, sans compter les inondations dans plusieurs zones du territoire, emportant du bétail ainsi que des plantations et des récoltes.

De ce fait, les dégâts causés par ces catastrophes naturelles sont récurrents et il faut les considérer comme un élément permanent de la problématique de la production agricole chez nous, d'où l'importance de développer, à la fois, une capacité d'évaluation rapide et précise des dommages et dégâts, et une capacité de réaction cohérente et adaptée.

Avec des vents monstrueux et violents de plus de 275 km/h, associés à des pluies abondantes de plus de 500 mm et une vitesse de déplacement très faible de l'ordre de 6 à 7 km/h, l'ouragan Matthew, qui a touché directement six départements géographiques du pays, ne pouvait qu'être dévastateur.

Le Ministère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural a mobilisé, dès les premières heures, ses ressources pour assurer l'évaluation des pertes et des dommages avec l'appui technique de ses partenaires et alliés, je dirais, naturels tels que l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture (IICA), la Banque interaméricaine de développement (BID), la Banque mondiale, le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) et bien sûr la FAO. Cette évaluation a révélé l'ampleur des dégâts enregistrés.

Potentiellement, 3,3 millions de personnes, soit un taux de 30,6 pourcent de la population haïtienne, ont été touchées par le passage de l'ouragan Matthew.

De ce nombre, 2,7 millions de personnes, soit 71 pourcent de la population des départements affectés ou 22 pourcent de la population haïtienne, vit en milieu rural. 420 000 exploitants agricoles ont été décapitalisés suite aux dégâts causés par le cyclone.

Tous les sous-secteurs ont été pratiquement exposés à la menace de Matthew: pour les filières végétales, c'était la pleine campagne d'été (soit 20 pour cent de la production nationale agricole) et beaucoup de parcelles contenaient encore des cultures annuelles de la campagne du printemps, qui assure 60 pourcent de la production agricole nationale; ainsi une bonne partie de la récolte de printemps, qui était encore en stock a été perdue, sans compter les espèces fruitières en pleine production; pour le secteur de l'élevage, à cause des pratiques de conduite du gros et du menu bétail, faites majoritairement à la corde ou en élevage libre dans les champs; dans le cas de l'aviculture, très peu d'infrastructures de production sécuritaires pour les troupeaux; même situation au niveau de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, soit des dommages et pertes estimés à 550 millions de dollars.

De tels dégâts ne sauraient laisser les autorités indifférentes face à la vulnérabilité du territoire, résultante de systèmes de production et de protection souvent inappropriés. Ainsi, avons-nous mis l'accent, dans les éléments du plan de réponse, sur la nécessité de mettre en place des systèmes capables de résister aux phénomènes adverses, tout en permettant une reprise plus rapide des activités, donc des systèmes résilients.

Ledit plan de réponse comporte trois phases et a pour objectif de contribuer à relancer l'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche dans les zones frappées par l'ouragan; participer à la restauration de la couverture végétale dans les endroits où les arbres forestiers et fruitiers ont été déracinés; participer à la remise en état de fonctionnement des infrastructures d'irrigation, de stockage et de transformation endommagées par le passage de l'ouragan; permettre aux exploitants victimes de disposer dans l'immédiat de moyens de subsistance pour satisfaire à certains de leurs besoins les plus urgents.

Stratégiquement, l'ampleur des dégâts nous amène à envisager, de préférence, une réponse nationale, non seulement pour les zones affectées, mais aussi pour celles jusque là épargnées, afin de mobiliser au maximum la capacité de production du pays à travers une démarche pragmatique et intelligente d'articulation urgence/développement pour que les actions d'urgence menées sous le leadership du Ministère de l'agriculture, tous types de financement confondus, ne freinent pas les perspectives de développement, mais au contraire les renforcent.

Dans le même temps, des actions d'intensification de la production agricole seront conduites au niveau des zones à hautes potentialités dans les départements moins touchés, dans l'optique de rassembler des surplus de production qui peuvent être redistribués vers les régions affectées.

Concernant la première phase, qui se situe entre novembre 2016 et mars 2017, il faudra: pallier à l'incapacité d'investissement de la majorité des producteurs par l'injection de numéraires dans les exploitations agricoles pour aider à freiner la décapitalisation des producteurs en particulier; financer des travaux à haute intensité de main d'œuvre (curage des canaux, protection des berges des rivières....) pour la remise en eau des périmètres; subventionner les travaux de préparation des sols et l'accès aux intrants, principalement les semences vivrières et maraîchères pour les prochaines campagnes agricoles; une emphase spéciale sera mise sur les cultures à cycle court; intensifier la valorisation agricole des périmètres existants dans les zones non touchées, car les zones affectées ne pourront pas apporter comme auparavant leur contribution à la disponibilité alimentaire.

Ces dispositions sont déjà effectives sur l'ensemble du territoire pour la campagne d'hiver 2016 et le seront également pour la campagne de printemps 2017.

Dans le cadre des activités prévues à court terme, un montant de 30 millions de dollars sera nécessaire.

Pour ce qui concerne la deuxième phase d'avril 2017 à décembre 2018, les actions du secteur agricole porteront sur: la réhabilitation des infrastructures agricoles, l'amélioration de la résilience des écosystèmes par la promotion de systèmes de production moins destructeurs de notre environnement, le développement de forêts énergétiques et communales, la promotion des vergers, le renforcement de l'application des principes de protection de l'environnement, pour ne citer que ceux-là.

La sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle par la constitution de stocks alimentaires stratégiques pourra garantir aux producteurs des marchés et des prix pour leurs productions. Ce programme servira de levier pour améliorer la production alimentaire nationale, garantir la stabilité des prix toute l'année et constituer des stocks d'aliments qui serviront aussi bien en cas de crise alimentaire que lors de catastrophes naturelles et de pénuries alimentaires dans certains points du pays.

L'amélioration des filières de denrées alimentaires de base de la population (céréales, légumes, fruits, viande, production piscicole et aquacole); la facilitation du crédit pour favoriser les investissements privés dans le secteur.

Cette deuxième phase coûtera 42 millions de dollars.

Enfin, la troisième phase, la plus longue, qui s'étend de 2019 à 2025.

Au cours de cette longue phase, qui durera près de sept ans, l'emphase sera mise sur la reconstitution de la capacité d'investissement dans le secteur agricole à travers des mesures incitatives pour faciliter les investissements, tels la mise en place de fonds de garantie, de réduction des taux d'intérêt, de

développement d'un programme d'assurance récolte/équipements, de développement de filières agricoles dans lesquelles le pays a des avantages compétitifs sûrs (fruits, légumes, produits de la mer, etc.).

Les besoins en fonds pour la troisième phase s'estiment à 106 millions de dollars.

Telles sont les actions envisagées pour relancer le secteur agricole. Elles touchent les productions végétales, animales, apicoles, aquacoles et piscicoles, la remise en état des infrastructures hydrauliques et l'aménagement des bassins versants. Elles seront renforcées par la mise en place d'un cadre favorable à l'investissement pour faciliter l'accès au crédit des exploitations agricoles; et étendre les mécanismes de facilitation du Fonds de développement industriel aux petites entreprises agroindustrielles et agroalimentaires endommagées par le cyclone Matthew pour leur permettre de relancer leurs activités.

Le Ministère de l'agriculture entend assumer le leadership des interventions post-Matthew dans le secteur agricole. Une partie du personnel de l'Administration centrale est déjà déployée dans les directions départementales affectées aux fins de renforcer leurs capacités opérationnelles et de procéder au recrutement de jeunes cadres en ce sens.

Le coût global des interventions pour les trois phases est estimé à 170 millions de dollars. L'apport des partenaires du Ministère de l'agriculture sera déterminant. Cependant, tenant compte de leurs procédures de décaissement, leurs apports risquent de ne pas être disponibles pour la campagne agricole d'hiver 2016.

Les défis à relever sont nombreux et variés. Le combat à mener dépasse les capacités d'une seule institution. Le Ministère de l'agriculture réitère sa conviction qu'Haïti peut compter sur la solidarité de ses partenaires, notamment la FAO, pour entreprendre une action d'envergure pouvant aider l'agriculture haïtienne à remplir son rôle vital dans la fourniture de produits alimentaires de base, de création d'emplois et de richesses pour la relance effective de l'économie nationale.

Je suis sûr que votre implication et votre engagement habituels dans le développement du secteur agricole ne nous feront pas défaut au cours des années à venir et ceci, avec la même ferveur.

M. Dominique BURGEON (Directeur, Division des urgences et de la réhabilitation)

Avec votre permission, nous souhaiterions tout d'abord vous présenter une courte vidéo illustrant l'ampleur de la catastrophe, ainsi que certaines interventions.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

Je souhaiterais remercier Son Excellence Monsieur Pierre Guito Laurore, Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural, pour ses propos nous rappelant la situation dans laquelle vivent aujourd'hui les populations haïtiennes affectées par l'ouragan Matthew.

Comme vous l'avez dit, Excellence, l'ouragan Matthew a entraîné la plus grande crise humanitaire en Haïti depuis le tremblement de terre de 2010. Mais alors que le tremblement de terre a causé une catastrophe essentiellement urbaine, l'ouragan Matthew a engendré cette fois une catastrophe rurale d'une ampleur inégalée au cours de ces dernières décennies. L'ouragan a en effet eu un impact dévastateur sur l'ensemble du secteur agricole. Il a frappé des régions les plus productives du pays au cours de la récolte, ce qui a gravement affecté les niveaux de sécurité alimentaire et les moyens de subsistance de la population.

Les premières évaluations ont indiqué qu'1,4 million de personnes avaient besoin d'une aide alimentaire, dont 806 000 d'une aide alimentaire d'urgence, parmi lesquelles 600 000 tirent leurs moyens d'existence exclusivement de l'agriculture. Selon des évaluations approfondies, auxquelles vous vous êtes référé, le secteur agricole aurait subi des pertes et dommages s'élevant à plus de 580 millions de dollars.

Afin de répondre aux besoins les plus immédiats, la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial ont entrepris des interventions à court terme pour assurer la disponibilité de denrées alimentaires, de liquidité et fournir les intrants agricoles essentiels.

Sur le terrain, les équipes du PAM et de la FAO collaborent dans le but de maximiser l'efficacité de l'aide distribuée, en accordant une attention particulière aux femmes. Cela se fait par le biais d'un ciblage conjoint des bénéficiaires au cours des distributions de l'aide, ce qui garantit par exemple que les semences distribuées par la FAO ne sont pas utilisées comme nourriture par les populations dont la sécurité alimentaire a été la plus sévèrement affectée par la catastrophe.

En Haïti, où la quasi-totalité de la population dépend de l'agriculture, il est en effet essentiel de rétablir les moyens d'existence fondés sur l'agriculture et la pêche si l'on veut réduire de manière considérable la dépendance à l'aide alimentaire dans les mois à venir. Dans cette optique, les interventions de la FAO portent sur une reprise rapide des activités productives, mais aussi sur le renforcement de la capacité des populations à absorber de telles catastrophes et à s'en relever, en un mot: renforcer leur résilience et ce, sur l'ensemble du territoire national.

Ces interventions comprennent: tout d'abord, la distribution de semences et d'outils pour la saison d'hiver, ainsi que des cultures horticoles à cycle court. Nos efforts portent également sur la protection du bétail ayant survécu, grâce à une assistance vétérinaire, la fourniture d'alimentation animale, mais aussi quand c'est possible, contribuer à la reconstitution du cheptel.

La réhabilitation du secteur de la pêche, lui aussi fortement affecté, retient également toute notre attention.

Enfin, nous sommes également en train d'identifier une série d'interventions dans le secteur de l'agro-foresterie.

Comme vous l'avez vu dans cette courte vidéo, la distribution des semences vivrières pour la campagne d'hiver, ainsi que des semences horticoles de cycle court, a ciblé plus de 125 000 personnes dans les départements les plus touchés. Des équipements de pêche seront également distribués prochainement et des cliniques vétérinaires mobiles sont actuellement déployées à travers le pays.

Je souhaiterais ici attirer toute votre attention et mobiliser votre soutien pour la campagne de printemps, qui débute en mars et représente près de 50 pourcent de la production annuelle.

Dans cette optique, la FAO planifie de distribuer diverses semences, ainsi que des boutures de manioc et des rejets de bananier grâce aux financements reçus à ce jour. Beaucoup reste cependant à faire. Sur les 39 millions de dollars identifiés par la FAO pour les interventions les plus urgentes, au moins 30 millions restent à mobiliser, comme l'a indiqué Monsieur le Ministre.

Le secteur agricole haïtien requiert urgemment une mobilisation de la communauté internationale. Investir dans l'agriculture, c'est non seulement assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour les mois à venir mais surtout, restaurer les moyens d'existence et la dignité des agriculteurs et de la population rurale d'Haïti.

Ms Denise BROWN (Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme)

Thank you very much. Mr Chair, Honourable Minister, Excellencies, and Colleagues, on behalf of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, we would like to thank FAO for providing this opportunity for us to sit alongside the governments and discuss the food security situation in Haiti following the hurricane.

I arrived in Haiti the day after the hurricane hit and I traveled down with the WFP team and other colleagues to Jérémie. As you have seen in the video, we witnessed that destruction firsthand, peoples' homes, their fields, their lives, and their livelihoods. But I also witnessed a coordinated effort by the Government to pull together the actors to ensure the response. Not an easy task; a tough job with challenges, but clearly there was progress since the post-earthquake response in 2010.

As of today, WFP has been able to deliver assistance to about 800 000 people, a challenge given the destruction to the roads and the isolated nature of this part of Haiti. We used trucks, boats and helicopters with slings. We tried to get very creative.

I wanted to highlight that the support of the government both in terms of the leadership and the coordination but also providing the security for those distributions to take place, because it was tense

at times, has been invaluable, and also to thank the donors who came forward very quickly with support for what was a life-saving response.

The basis for the first phase of that emergency response with a rapid food-security assessment, led by the Government with the participation of WFP and FAO and other actors. Today we have a team of experts from the same, from the Ministry of Agriculture and from our two organizations working under the *Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire*, and this team is in the field gathering more data and they will be covering about 6 000 affected households, and this joint effort is going to allow us to better plan the next steps in the response, really to dig down at household level to figure out what is going on. That will be important for the recovery phase and we expect the results by the end of December.

As noted by Mr Burgeon, WFP is providing a seed protection food ration for the farmers who receive agricultural support from FAO. We also do this - I would put in parentheses - in Madagascar, in the Central African Republic. We think it is an excellent model to be followed.

As FAO said, the seasonal calendar for Haiti tells us that the planting season for the next harvest is February and March and, if we miss that window of opportunity, we are looking at an extended period for the humanitarian response which no one wants for Haiti.

This is really important, the timing of this. Where it can, WFP has already done local production purchases in the country and where possible, we are committed to doing even more.

The Government goal that we heard today from the Minister, which we must support, is for Haiti to produce enough food for its population, and we need to be contributing to that effort.

Beginning next week, WFP will start shifting from food - as a food assistance support - to cash.

We are hopeful that this injection of cash will help markets restart at the community level and boost local economies. This is very closely coordinated response with the Government.

So we are working very closely on the emergency response on the planning for the incoming lean season and engaged in longer-term collaboration with the Government, to link up our strategic planning and programming.

And finally, as you know, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP, following the hurricane, signed a joint letter to Member States to signal our mutual commitment to Haiti and we thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity today to highlight that continued commitment.

CHAIRPERSON

I open the floor for those who wish to speak or have questions.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

The Brazilian government continues to support Haiti following the catastrophic occurrence of Hurricane Matthew.

This is a unique opportunity for enhancing the collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies in the field, so perhaps one aspect that was not sufficiently covered in the presentation is how the three agencies are interacting, not only on an emergency basis to the people of Haiti, but also in the long run. We might benefit from some more explanation in this regard.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Is the WFP Strategic Plan including phase 2 and phase 3, as described by His Excellency the Minister, in its programme?

S.E. M. Pierre GUITO LAUORE (Ministre de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural d'Haïti)

Tout d'abord, je dois vous dire que nous avons préparé ensemble, avec les partenaires du secteur agricole, un plan de réponse, dans lequel nous avons inclus toutes les activités à entreprendre. Chaque acteur a choisi en fait sa propre activité, c'est-à-dire que sous notre leadership, ils vont travailler avec les autres partenaires pour mieux coordonner les activités sur le terrain. Ainsi nous sommes toujours

en contact avec eux pour planifier les activités à entreprendre et évaluer celles qui ont déjà été réalisées.

M. Dominique BURGEON (Directeur, Division des urgences et de la réhabilitation)

Pour apporter quelques éléments de réponse, je dirais qu'effectivement nous avons une collaboration étroite qui non seulement s'inscrit, comme vous l'avez vu, dans le cadre de la réponse à court terme à la situation en Haïti. À ce titre, nous avons travaillé ensemble sur l'évaluation des besoins, le plan de réponse, l'évaluation des besoins à court, moyen et long termes - le plan de réponse est effectivement à court et moyen terme. Comme vous le savez, nous travaillons également ensemble, la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial, en tant que co-leaders du secteur sécurité alimentaire dans lequel nous apportons, en étroite collaboration avec les instances gouvernementales concernées, une plateforme qui permet la coordination des différents acteurs.

Sur le long terme, nous sommes impliqués également à travers, notamment, la définition conjointe, de nouveau en appui aux autorités gouvernementales, d'une stratégie de sécurité alimentaire pour les pays, ce qui nous paraît fondamental.

Vous savez aussi certainement que les agences romaines (la FAO, le FIDA et le PAM) ont développé une stratégie conjointe, un cadre conceptuel visant au renforcement de la résilience des populations face aux chocs et notamment face aux catastrophes auxquelles sont exposées de façon récurrente les populations haïtiennes. Nous avons un cadre conceptuel conjoint qui nous permet justement de mobiliser l'ensemble des capacités, moyens et outils des trois organisations, afin d'apporter une solution durable au renforcement de la résilience des populations.

Ms Denise BROWN (Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme)

There is an enormous commitment at field level to strengthen the partnership. I mentioned Madagascar and the Central African Republic where Dominique and I are really trying to encourage and work on the ground with the colleagues to put in place this model of "let us respond today" with an emergency response to ensure people have food to eat. At the same time we do invest in agriculture and agricultural production. So we bring our strengths together in the development plan. The joint advocacy programme, particularly around Haiti and Madagascar, which started right at the top is also an excellent example of the joint Rome-based Agencies commitment.

On the question from Afghanistan regarding the Strategic Plan which was just approved at the November Board, I just want to bring out that our new Country Director for Haiti has just arrived. He is in Rome this week to get briefings on the Strategic Plan, the Country Strategic Plan, and the Strategic Review. We will be having conversations with the Government and will look at the timeframe to include the next phases in those documents.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for this exhaustive joint presentation and, in particular, I want to express our appreciation to you, Minister, for participating in this forum.

Debriefing on Field Visits to Papua New Guinea (11-15 September 2016) and to the Solomon Islands (15-19 September 2016) by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations
Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en Papouasie-Nouvelle-Guinée (11-15 septembre 2016) et dans les Îles Salomon (15-19 septembre 2016) par des hauts fonctionnaires des Représentations permanentes auprès des institutions sises à Rome
Informe oral acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma a Papua Nueva Guinea (del 11 al 15 de septiembre de 2016) y a las Islas Salomón (del 15 al 19 de septiembre de 2016)

CHAIRPERSON

I now welcome to the podium Mr Abreha Ghebrai Aseffa, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to FAO, and Mr Mohamad Nazrain Bin Nordin, Alternate Permanent Representative of Malaysia to FAO, who participated in the field visit to Papua New Guinea from 11 to 15 September 2016 and from 15 to 19 September 2016 to the Solomon Islands. They will debrief the Council on this field visit.

Mr Ghebrai ASEFFA (Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to FAO)

My colleagues and I are pleased to debrief the Council on the Report of the Team of Permanent Representatives' Field Visit to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands that took place from 9 to 20 September 2016. It actually took us two days to reach it. We started on the ninth and not on the eleventh.

Members of the team were Ms Rosemary Navarrete from Australia representing the Southwest Pacific region, Mr Khaled El Taweel from Egypt, representing the Near East region, the Representative from Malaysia representing the Asia region, and myself from Ethiopia representing the Africa region.

The team was accompanied by Ms Rachel from the Office of Support to the Decentralized Offices, OSD; Sub-Regional Coordinator, Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands; and FAO Representative for the Solomon Islands, Mr Ken Shimizu, Programme Officer, FAO, Papua New Guinea; FAO National Forestry Inventory Project; and Assistant FAO Representative in Solomon Islands.

On behalf of the team and myself, I would like to express our appreciation to the Director of OSD, Mr Rodrigo de Lapuerta and his staff and all of the field staff for a successful field visit.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the peoples and governments of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands for their friendly and warm hospitality.

May I take this opportunity to say that my tour of duty here for the three United Nations agencies in Rome has expired and I have been replaced by my compatriot who is here participating in the Council.

May I now, Mr Chairperson, with your permission, call my colleague to make the PowerPoint presentation?

Mr Nazrain Bin NORDIN (Alternate Permanent Representative of Malaysia to FAO)

The focus of this mission is to understand better how FAO operates in the field as well as different types of FAO presence and activities in both countries. The mission also provides greater understanding on challenges faced by both countries. From that, we identified recommendations for improvement.

In the Southwest Pacific region, FAO's presence is through the Subregional Office for the Pacific islands. It was established in 1996 and is based in Apia, Samoa.

It covers 14 countries including the Solomon Islands.

However, the FAO office in Papua New Guinea reports directly to the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

Eighty percent of the Pacific Islands population comes from Papua New Guinea. The informal sector, largely subsistence agriculture, which sustains 85 percent of the population living in rural areas. Papua New Guinea is renowned for its unique diversity. Rich with geographical, socio-cultural and linguistic diversity.

The Government set forth national development goals, which have been translated into a number of ambitious strategies, policies and plans. Currently they are developing the Food Security Policy Framework.

The Papua New Guinea Country Office was established in 2013. Currently there is only one Regular Programme-funded post, that is the Programme Officer P4. Another post (Forestry Officer) is scheduled to be allocated end of this year. The Host Country Agreement is still pending to be signed by the Government. Under the current interim Country Programme Framework, five priorities were set.

Currently there are 11 ongoing FAO projects, with a large number of TCP. The biggest amount of funding goes to the National Forest Inventory project. There are also four pipeline projects, out of it, two have been activated since September.

The Team had meetings with relevant Government counterparts as well as a local institution. The Team also met with the UN and Development Partners such as UNDP, WHO, European Union, Australia and World Bank.

The Team visited the Madang Province to look at the National Forest Inventory Project. This important project is progressing successfully. It received funded support through the European Union and UN-REDD programme. It is one of the most thoroughly conducted inventory work and FAO should maximize the publicity of its success. It is important to note that Papua New Guinea has one of the most significant areas of largely intact tropical forest in the world. Approximately 60 percent of the total area of the country is covered by natural forests. Mr Chairperson, with your indulgence, I wish to share with the Council a short clip of this important project.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

Mr Nazrain Bin NORDIN (Alternate Permanent Representative of Malaysia to FAO)

Throughout our mission in Papua New Guinea, we recognized several challenges including: high operating costs; lack of access to infrastructure; risk of political instability (with the incoming election in 2017); there is often a lack of FAO office capacity and resources (with current shared office with Department of Agriculture and they are also dependent on UNDP for administrative support); lack of evidence-based information; and transforming the subsistence agriculture sector is a challenge for the Government.

After spending the first half of the mission in Papua New Guinea, the group went further east to the Solomon Islands. Eighty percent of the population lives in rural areas practicing subsistence economy.

The Government has put into place a number of policies and strategy to bolster its food and agriculture sector. Non-communicable diseases are common in Solomon Islands due to micronutrient deficiencies. Malnutrition is also an issue in Solomon Islands, in the form of stunting, underweight, obesity and overweight.

In Solomon Islands, FAO has only one staff member, an Assistant FAOR (Programme) appointed in January 2016. The Head of Office, who is the FAOR, resides in Samoa. She is the current Subregional Coordinator for Pacific Islands. While the Host Country Agreement has been signed, there still is no office space. The CPF (Country Programming Framework) for the Pacific Subregion for Solomon Islands is with five priorities.

The following are the list of projects from the CPF. Some of the projects are ongoing while others are in the pipeline.

The team had meetings with Government counterparts as well as other UN and Development Partners such as UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, UNFPA and Australia.

The team visited one of the largest NGO and Farmers Organizations in Solomon Islands in Kastom Gaden Association (KGA). KGA has been engaging with growing numbers of farmers in the Solomon Islands since 1993, and helped building capacity and training for women and youths.

The team identified several challenges faced in Solomon Islands including: limited FAO capacity – there is no office space, and the Assistant FAOR is still working from home at this time of reporting; the vulnerability to external shocks – from what we heard in the news yesterday, it was hit by an earthquake of magnitude 7.8, this clearly shows how the country is vulnerable to external shock as it is located near the Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’. There is also an increased dependence on food import; lack of infrastructure; prevalence of malnutrition; and outbreak of Rhinoceros beetle and Giant African Snail.

The Team identified key recommendations from this mission.

First, limited financial resources for TCP programmes in decentralized offices; we found that this is a structural challenge that is present more visible in the Southwest Pacific region. It could be addressed by working in reaching consensus at the level of Membership to increase the TCP allocation to suit the needs and challenges of these offices.

Second, to expedite the Host Country Agreement and upgrading of the office to a representation with an FAOR in the Papua New Guinea Country Office. As of today, steps have been taken between the Secretariat and the relevant authorities to move forward.

Third, to expedite provision of office premises for the Assistant FAOR in the Solomon Islands. Only then can the office in the Solomon Islands perform and deliver its function effectively and efficiently.

Fourth, we found that there is a lack of evidence based information in both countries. Supporting the statistics sector in these countries should be a priority where FAO can have tangible added value in the agriculture and forestry sectors with many positive effects beyond this.

Fifth, we noticed limited synergy between FAO and Donors/UN Agencies in both host countries. It would be better to design a policy for better synergy between FAO and regional partners and UN systems in both countries according to the comparative advantages and the different priorities of host countries.

Lastly, the need of greater support in travel to decentralized offices to permit flexibility and delegation for the regional and the subregional directors to visit more frequently the offices in the region, to make contact with relevant ministries and ensure the implementation of all the FAO programmes and to deal timely with any challenges.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Ghebrai Aseffa and Mr Nazrain Bin Nordin for this clear and thorough presentation. Are there any questions?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

In the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, the Director-General set aside an additional fund to the TCP for the Pacific Islands, I think six million. I do not recall how much. But obviously it is not enough. They need more. TCP, which is a Regular Programme fund, not an extra-budgetary fund is not enough for these countries. There are too many countries and they need more.

A mechanism is needed where you replenish the TCP. Co-funding the TCP for the Pacific Islands is the way out.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia as Co-Chair of the Sub-Region would like to sincerely thank the FAO for organizing this field visit to the South Pacific. It was an excellent opportunity for the Council to learn more about the many challenges we face in the region. Australia and other Members of the South Pacific region very much look forward to continuing to work with FAO to improve many issues in the South Pacific. We equally look forward to discussing further some of the recommendations that the Members of the Field Visit have put to us.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

I was part of this field visit and it was really interesting to see how the decentralized offices work on the ground. From this point of view, I want to cast light on the fact that the decentralized offices need huge support to be able to really function.

I take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work that is being done by FAO and by the staff in the field who are working in very challenging conditions. The second point, which was highlighted by the Delegate from Afghanistan, concerns TCP. TCP budgets are of utmost importance, especially to small countries. We should work to find a long-term solution, increasing the allocation from the budget next year to allow this small island and other developing and least developed countries to really achieve their developmental objectives.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Could you give the floor to Palau please?

Ms Ngedikes ULUDONG (Observer for Palau)

My comment is in line with what the Council Member from Afghanistan said earlier on the need for more funding. Indeed, the TCP only allows for six million. Besides, having just heard the presentation on the recent trip to the Southwest Pacific, I would like to make a point: I am always surprised when you say “Southwest” because Palau is in the North Pacific. Consequently, I strongly believe that we should also try to change the name in order to be inclusive not just for South Pacific countries but also for the North Pacific. In addition, I am looking forward to increasing funding for the Pacific SIDS as well as increasing field visits to the North Pacific countries. Actually, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea are in the Southwest Pacific and their vulnerability and challenges are really different to the countries from the North Pacific.

There is no current office for the North Pacific region. If you look at FAO work for the Pacific, you will see that it has been focused on the Samoa, Polynesian, and Melanesian group. My group has always been left out. That is the reason why there is now a lot of presence from UNDP and UNEP. It is very challenging issue and we do understand the constraints related to the geographical context.

My understanding from recently joining FAO (i.e. this year) is that it is better for us to be represented at the Bangkok Office for FAO in order to get more attention and coordination for our projects.

CHAIRPERSON

Suggestions from Pakistan and Egypt regarding the allocation of TCP, statement from Australia concerning the follow-up on the recommendations made by the visiting field team, and the concern expressed by Palau on the Southwest and North Pacific region are the critical issues which have just been raised.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wish to remind Members of the side event *Peste des Petits Ruminants Global Eradication Programme*, which will take place in the Iran Room from 13.00 to 14.30.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this morning’s meeting. We shall meet again at 15.00 hours this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12:52 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 52

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.52

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

9 December 2016

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:17 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 17
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 15.17
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Eighth and final meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council. We will now proceed with the adoption of the report.

Please ensure that you have the relevant document before you: CL 155/Draft Report.

I now invite Mr Spyridon Ellinas, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the report.

Mr Spyridon ELLINAS (Chairperson, Drafting Committee)

Thank you Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council for giving me the opportunity to report on the work carried out by the Drafting Committee of the 155th Session of the FAO Council.

Dr Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO, Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, ICC, Members of the Council, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, firstly allow me to thank the Council for giving its trust to me in providing this development opportunity to Chair the Drafting Committee for this Session.

It was an honour for me to work on the Committee with the distinguished delegates of: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iceland, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

The Committee met on two occasions on Wednesday evening and Thursday early in the afternoon. The work of the Committee was relatively smooth sailing. Members of the Committee did not spare their energy and efforts in deliberating and finalizing the Report.

At this point allow me to introduce a small editorial in the draft Report that you all have in front of you which is on page 9, item 6, paragraph 3. More specifically, in bullet point (f) the editorial that will have to be in place is instead of the beginning that says now: "The importance of mainstreaming" to be quote what bullet point (g) states at the beginning: "The request that FAO and countries mainstream." So, bullet point (f) will now read: "The request that FAO and countries mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, etc." And bullet point (g) will start directly by: "The incorporation of the Plan of Action, etc.".

I wish to stress out that our hard work was always characterized by a good spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. In that sense, I would like to underline that this Report is a report agreed by consensus by the whole Drafting Committee Members. Our work was supported by the numerous members of the Secretariat and I would like to thank them for their support.

Above all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues in the Drafting Committee for their commitment, attention and contributions through these hours of dedicated work. While they demonstrated seriousness and professionalism required by the importance of our work, I would like also to thank them for always working within a coordinated and collaborative spirit and at times with a very good sense of humour.

Members of the Council, the dedicated work by the Members of the Drafting Committee of the 155th Session of the FAO Council, as well as the maturity and flexibility of all Members, has led by consensus to the Report which I am honoured to present to you today.

In that respect, Mr Chair, we recommend for you to invite the Council Members to adopt the Report *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Ellinas. I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the Members of the Drafting Committee for the good work done.

It appears that the Report of this session may be approved *en bloc*.

Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Final Report.

Does the Council wish to adopt the Report *en bloc*?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The Report of the 155th Session of the FAO Council is adopted.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Esperamos la aprobación en bloque del informe para solicitar que, si bien ha sido aprobado ya el informe, sea incluida una referencia a la presencia del Ministro de Agricultura de Haití y la presentación que fue hecha sobre la situación de ese país y las necesidades luego del paso del huracán Matthew.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I think that it is not a big problem with the Members. We recognize his presence.

We now move on. I want to thank again the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for his good work. I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chair of the Council, Members of the Council, Ministers, Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to start by thanking all of you for your endorsement to the adjustments to FAO's working structure.

And for recognizing the urgency to enable FAO to better focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement.

This will consolidate the transformation process we have been promoting together since 2012.

I am also glad to see that the Council has welcomed the roadmap for the independent assessment of technical capacity of the Organization.

I also thank all of you for considering my proposal, and achieving a consensus to resolve the situation regarding the appointment of secretaries of bodies under Article XIV.

FAO will take the necessary steps to release the vacancy announcements for the appointments of the secretaries for IOTC and the Treaty.

These appointments will be based, above all, on the technical skills and qualifications of the candidates.

Let me observe that, in addition to the panel, all candidates to D level posts in FAO are submitted to a test called VAR (Vertical Assessment Review). This is made by an independent forum based in Canada that works for the UN System. They provide a confidential detailed report about the competencies, managerial qualifications and other skills of the candidate.

FAO will also put in place, along with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, the consultations with the concerned Article XIV bodies to find a final solution to this matter.

Allow me to thank and congratulate you all, but especially Mr Wilfred Ngirwa for his great effort and determination to achieve consensus on this Agenda item.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will soon start the discussions concerning the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19.

Let us not forget the extraordinary achievement we made in 2015 when, for the first time ever, we agreed on the level of the budget in the Session of the Council before the Conference.

I invite you all to try hard to do the same in 2017, and achieve a consensus on the level of the budget in the next Council Session in April. This will allow us to get rid of a very time-consuming issue and concentrate on substantive matters during the Conference in July.

I recognize that many countries are experiencing a period of political, economic and financial instability. And that will be difficult to ask all countries to increase their contributions. But we cannot lose sight of the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda. We should not save efforts and resources in this regard. And FAO has a fundamental role to play.

But for this, the Organization needs its member countries, particularly from developed countries, all the support to take forward its work and mandate.

I am committed to meet the expectations of the Conference to bring the level of funding of the Technical Cooperation Programme to at least 14 percent of the appropriation in our next budget proposal.

In 2016, we have forecast a small bonus in the budget, due to lower staff costs than estimated, resulting from low inflation factors.

But there is also a lot of uncertainty ahead, both regarding inflation, exchange rate and other funding elements. So, I will need more flexibility to manage the budget, especially in times of scarcity.

This means for example, keeping the vacancy rate between 10 and 15 percent as already agreed.

This also means mobilizing resources for the Special Fund for Development Finance Activities. With the support of the Council, this Fund has been established to enable FAO to engage with the evolving development finance mechanisms, especially regional development banks.

The target funding level is USD 10 million, which will be used in part to advance funding for technical assistance and in part for investment projects.

I encourage all partners to contribute to the fund. This is important for FAO's future work, especially on climate change.

I will continue committed to finding additional savings in efficiency, especially to convert administrative posts into technical positions in FAO.

This has allowed us to cut further bureaucracy and save additional USD 4.5 million this year. We have reinforced some important areas, such as AMR, climate change and also our office in New York, which will have a key role in the review process of the 2030 Agenda.

Allow me to make some considerations regarding the decentralized offices.

Last June, the Council supported the principles and criteria identified by the Independent Review of the Decentralized Office Network, and affirmed the need to readjust coverage, while ensuring flexibility and no overall cost increase.

The Organization has taken steps to implement some cost-neutral decisions.

This includes the establishment of the Subregional Office for the West Africa region. I have personally spoken with the presidents and relevant ministers of the three countries that have manifested interest to host the Office. A decision will be announced in February, after a detailed corporative analysis.

Next week, I will sign in Beirut the Subregional Office Agreement for the Mashreq countries.

And we are moving forward to convert the office in Mongolia into a fully-fledged representation.

Other specific recommendations to reinforce or upgrade certain decentralized offices will need to have the support of the countries involved.

Ideally, this support should be in the form of a partnership and liaison agreement, as well as a contribution to the functioning of the office.

FAO will invite middle-high income countries that currently have a fully-fledged representation but limited programmes, or less than USD 1 million in delivery per year, to explore either a multiple accreditation arrangement or an upgrade to a Partnership and Liaison Office.

Countries with a very limited presence might also wish to consider one of these modalities.

I will proceed as soon as possible with the appointment of the new Deputy Director-General for Programmes, the Chief Statistician and the head of the new Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water.

FAO welcomes the decision to include biodiversity as part of the title of this new department. FAO is ready to give new focus to biodiversity, as also requested by our technical committees.

We hear the call of the Cancun Declaration, adopted at the ongoing UN Biodiversity Conference, COP13.

Countries have pledged FAO to step up efforts to integrate biodiversity into the policies of their agriculture, forests and fisheries sectors. At COP13, FAO announced the launch of a biodiversity platform to build bridges among sectors and help mainstreaming biodiversity.

And next month, FAO will launch *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, developed under the guidance of FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This will be the first global assessment of all biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture.

Regarding climate change, FAO intends to increase its support for countries to assess climate finance, through the Green Climate Fund and other sources.

At COP22 in Marrakech, we launched the Global Framework on Water Scarcity. We also announced the African Package for Climate-Resilient Ocean Economies, in partnership with the World Bank and African Development Bank.

FAO will strengthen its collaboration with the current COP presidency of Morocco, and with the coming presidency of Fiji, in order to support the organization of COP 23 next year in Bonn.

We are also reinforcing our partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNFCCC. We are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding, which I hope to sign in April.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to highlight some other issues, activities and initiatives in which FAO will be involved until the next Conference in July.

In January, I will participate in some important multilateral meetings.

Two of them will be held in Berlin: the Agriculture Minister Summit of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) and the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting.

I thank the German Government for the invitations.

I will also attend the Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Santo Domingo, and the General Assembly of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, as well as the NEPAD Heads of State Summit.

In March, FAO will promote with partners, here at headquarters, a High-Level Meeting on the Management of the Red Palm Weevil Disease. This is a dangerous transboundary disease affecting palm trees.

In April, an important event will be organized in Victoria Falls focused on agro-industry for sustainable development. This has been promoted by Ambassador Frederick Shava of Zimbabwe, president of ECOSOC. The event is being co-led by FAO, together with NEPAD and the African Development Bank. And very close to the FAO Conference in July, the High-Level Political Forum in New York will review several of the SDGs, including SDGs 1 (extreme poverty), 2 (hunger and malnutrition), 5 (women's empowerment), and 14 (oceans).

The theme of the HLPF is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". FAO is taking an active role in the preparation.

Also regarding oceans, FAO is actively involved in the organization of the UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14. This will be convened in New York in June and co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden. FAO is participating in all seven working groups that are preparing this Conference.

Concerning migration, FAO will intensify its participation in the Global Migration Group that gathers together UN agencies. We intend to draw attention to the relationship between distress migration, food security and rural development. We will also explore migration issues in the celebration of the World Food Day 2017.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope to see many of you next Friday in the high-level event on gender, which FAO is co-organizing with the Slovak Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission, in consultation with UN Women, IFAD and WFP.

The day before, on Thursday, we will be honoured to receive the visit of the President of Colombia, Mr Juan Manuel Santos, and the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica.

They will talk about the historic peace agreement in Colombia, and the recognition in this agreement that food security, agriculture and rural development are fundamental for sustaining peace and promoting sustainable development.

This is the way that FAO, according to its mandate, can support the Government of this peace process in Colombia and elsewhere.

As we conclude this Session of the Council, I wish a safe trip back home for those who are not based in Rome, and also a happy holiday season to everyone I will not be seeing until next year.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Let me make my concluding remarks. Excellencies, Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, one of the functions of the Independent Chairperson of the Council described in Conference Resolution 9/2009 determines that “whenever necessary”, the Independent Chairperson of the Council should take such steps as may be required to facilitate and achieve consensus among Members, especially on important or controversial issues”.

I mention this as it seems to me that consensus, what it is and how to achieve it, has been at the forefront running through this Session of Council.

Of course, as a decision-making governing body of the UN organization, the Council knows the necessity, and the value, of consensus. I have noted with satisfaction throughout the week that we have strived to achieve widespread agreement among Members to ensure the success of the outcomes of all of our deliberations. I thank you.

The benefits of consensus building through stating positions plainly, respecting the points of views of others, and being prepared to modify one’s position, was evident in the Friends of the Chair Meeting yesterday.

I appreciate the consensus that existed at yesterday’s meeting has provided an opportunity to return to item 9 on Article XIV Bodies this morning and unanimously adopt the report. Anybody present in this room on Wednesday afternoon and again this morning would be curious to know what had happened to justify this morning’s change. Allow me to offer an explanation. You will recall that on Wednesday afternoon I stated that consensus does not mean we all share the same views or opinions, but that we wish to strive to find sufficient common ground between the points of views that separate us. Clearly, the frank exchanges that took place at the Friends of the Chair serves to map out the common ground that unites us and enabled us to move on from being roped into static positions to the consensus-seeking.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me recall some recent FAO governance history.

Just over ten years ago, the Independent External Evaluation Team reported that a measure shift in attitude was required to overcome divisions and to enable the constructive engagement of Members with each other. Those including myself who were familiar with the way the frame of governance

worked in the pre-reform period know that divisive attitudes were needed to overcome and that the way we function as a Council today owes much to that move “towards a new consensus”.

I feel we need to be cautious of the danger of data tracking to an era of division and we need to continue to strive for consensus through dialogue.

Consensus also underpins the way the Rome-based Agencies collaborate, while respecting their unique skills in their capacities. I think we were all encouraged to hear, for example, with RBA leader teams making decisions on priority areas jointly and the joint mapping exercise to identify gaps, overlaps, and new opportunities for collaboration and joint programming. We look forward to an activity report on the RBAs collaboration on an annual basis.

In the same spirit, I believe the way Council selected the Republic of Korea as a host country for the XV World Forestry Congress in 2021 without going to a vote, demonstrated the commendable capacity to reach satisfactory compromise solutions. We all wish the Republic of Korea the very best, as they begin to plan this global forestry event.

I believe we also wish to recognize Italy’s gracious solution overthrowing this bridge for 2021, announcing its intention to stand as host country for the 16th World Forestry Congress in 2026, the centenary of the first Congress, which was held here in the city of Rome.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Reviewed Strategic Framework tabled at this Session confirmed the consolidation of FAO’s programming work, with a focus on the issues and the challenges and a revision of the 20 Outcomes, thanks to the experience gained in implementing the results-based Strategic Framework.

It was encouraging to see linkages established between governing bodies in the Strategic Framework. The Regional Trends section drew on the reports of the five regional conferences, while reports of the technical committees provided much of the input for the Annex on sectorial trends, challenges and priorities.

In the same vein, recommendations emerging from the regional conferences and 83 priorities identified by the technical committees provided excellent input for the preparation of the MTP 2018-2021 and the PWB 2018-19.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to recognize the dedication and resilience of Council Members and observers as we worked through the challenges of the demanding Agenda, often during late sessions.

I believe that each Session of Council allows us to refine our method of summing up agenda items and this facilitated the work of the Drafting Committee and enabled us to adopt the Report at this meeting *en bloc*.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank all of those who worked behind the scenes to enable this Session to reach a successful conclusion: translators, reports office, meeting services, interpreters, verbatim hub, the Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General, I thank you

Before closing, ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to say a few words to thank Mr Stephen Dowd for his efficient and pivotal contribution to the work of the Council, the Conference and many other governing body sessions for more than 25 years. This is Mr Dowd’s last session of Council before retiring from the Organization in February 2017.

Since joining FAO in 1991, Mr Dowd has served on the Secretariat of over 56 sessions of the Council and 14 of the Conferences.

Over the years, Stephen has become a pillar of institutional knowledge and expertise and has provided invaluable support to Members, Senior Management and his colleagues.

Through his work as Chief of the Conference, Council, and Government Relations Branch (CPAC), he has established excellent relations with Members, offering much appreciated advice on the complex governance structure and the process of FAO. Stephen, an expert in linguistics, started his career at FAO in the translation service and has always given particular attention to multilingualism in his work, and I have personally come to rely on his excellent mastery of the English language.

We have come to know Stephen for his dedication, professionalism, team spirit and quiet demeanour, someone who prefers to work behind the scenes, discreetly ensuring that everything goes as planned.

We will miss his reassuring presence. I would like to invite you to join me in expressing our appreciation for his loyal work over more than 25 years and to wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Excellencies, Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all pleasant seasonal greetings and my best wishes for 2017.

With this, I wish to declare the 155th Session of the FAO Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 15:57 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 57

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.57



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