

Rome, Roma, 2009



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-sixth Session • Trente-sixième session • 36° período de sesiones

**Rome, 18-23 November 2009
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 18-23 novembre 2009
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 18-23 de noviembre de 2009
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

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

18 November 2009

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 16:06 hours
Kathleen Merrigan,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 06
sous la présidence de Kathleen Merrigan,
Présidente de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 16:06 horas
bajo la presidencia de Kathleen Merrigan,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACIÓN**

- 1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons** (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)
1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)
1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome you to FAO Headquarters and declare open the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

I am pleased to welcome you and your organizations, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

Our Director-General is currently awaiting the Prime Minister of Turkey and will be here momentarily, but to use our time efficiently I have been asked to launch the Conference.

The first Item on our Agenda is the election of the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson. At its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session in September, the Council proposed the Honourable Kathleen Merrigan, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, to preside over the Session of the Conference.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and can confirm this by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

May I now invite the Honourable Kathleen Merrigan to come forward as the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is an honour for me to have been elected Chairperson of this Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Ministerial Conference and I wish to thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

The Conference this year comes at a critical time following the World Summit on Food Security.

President Obama has committed the United States to a whole new government approach to tackle the problem of global food security. The United States will work with Members as we move forward with this important effort.

My Government fully supports FAO and its mission. We believe that the FAO Reform process underway provides a unique opportunity to move the Organization into a more relevant, focused and effective Organization, and we reaffirm our commitment and dedication to the faithful implementation of the FAO's Immediate Plan of Action. This endeavour will greatly enhance FAO's contribution to agricultural development and global food security.

The FAO's mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, improve agricultural productivity, promote rural development and ultimately provide all people at all times with access to the food they need for an active and healthy life is extremely important to the United States.

It has been twenty years since the last time the United States chaired this Ministerial Conference, but I am no stranger to FAO. My association with FAO began ten years ago when as an Expert

Consultant I assisted FAO staff in drafting the Committee on Agriculture paper on Organic Agriculture adopted at the Thirtieth Session of the Conference.

Since that time, organic agriculture has grown substantially in my country and around the world. In the United States, more than two million hectares and over ten thousand certified producers are involved in organic agriculture.

There have been some important efforts by FAO on organic agriculture including the FAO-led organic standard harmonization effort and the 2007 meeting in partnership with the International Federation of Organic Farming Movements on Organic Agriculture and Food Security.

However, after ten years the organic programme is neither mainstreamed in the FAO Programme of Work, nor in the FAO Budget.

Even the very small amount of central funds given to the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Organic Agriculture may soon disappear. As someone with a deep interest in this subject, I would like to see the importance of organic agriculture and its role of agro-ecology elevated within the FAO's scope of work.

The Agenda before us calls for decisions which will have a lasting impact on the future of the Organization. Given that we have only five-and-a-half days to do this, I call on your cooperation, I call on your understanding, so that we can assure that we make the best use of our time to make wise and forward-looking decisions for the good of the Organization and its mission.

I suggest we return to the first Item on the Agenda.

Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the Report of the Council, shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

The proposal made by the Council in June and September regarding the nominations of the three Vice Chairpersons of the Conference are as follows: Mr C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed from Bangladesh, H.E. Hans-Heinrich Wrede from Germany, the Honourable Mary Margaret Muchada from Zimbabwe. Can I take it that the Conference approves these nominations?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

I congratulate the Vice-Chairs and look forward to working with them during the following days.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this completes Item 1 on our Agenda.

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)

2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 2009/12; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, the Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee.

I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee, as submitted by the Council. They are as follow: China, Guatemala, Jordan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, United States of America.

Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee made by the Council: Austria, Cyprus, El Salvador, Estonia, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, San Marino, Sri Lanka.

Do you wish to endorse this list?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I consider these nine countries duly-endorsed as Members of the Credentials Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this completes Item 2 on the Agenda.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

The meeting was suspended from 16:15 to 16:34 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 15 à 16 h 34

Se suspende la sesión de las 16:15 a las 16:34 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to give the floor to the Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honour and a privilege for me to welcome His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, to join us here at this opening meeting of the FAO Conference.

Mr Erdogan has earned himself a reputation as a builder of bridges, not only with Turkey's immediate neighbours, but also beyond regional borders. Turkey's support for multilateralism is well known to FAO. In 2006, the Organization's Ankara Office was upgraded to become the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia, covering Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey. The Sub-Regional Office provides assistance through Technical Cooperation Programme projects to meet the pressing needs of countries whose food and agriculture sectors are in transition.

Furthermore, through the work of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), Mr Erdogan's Government has shown an acute awareness of the fact that the biggest threat to food security in the developing world is the paucity of resources dedicated to the agriculture sector. Indeed, Turkey, drawing on its own experience of having nurtured one of the most successful agriculture sectors in the region, is currently transferring skills and capacities acquired domestically to the developing world through TIKA's Agricultural Cooperation and Training Program for East and West African Countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is surely fitting that Prime Minister Erdogan, whose role in introducing reforms in his country is widely acknowledged, should give an opening message to a Session of the FAO Conference which marks a milestone in the Reform Process this Organization has embarked upon.

Prime Minister Erdogan, welcome to FAO. We are greatly honoured that you have accepted my invitation to make an address to the Conference.

Mr Prime Minister.

CHAIRPERSON

Prime Minister, a very warm welcome, you have the floor, Sir.

I would briefly like to thank the Prime Minister for his words of support and we look forward to his remarks.

Recep Tayyip ERDOGAN (Turkey)

Distinguished Director-General of the FAO, honourable participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to extend my best regards to you and I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference in Rome.

On behalf of my delegation, first and foremost, I would like to thank Jacques Diouf for honouring me with this opportunity this afternoon. The General Assembly, the Thirty-sixth Assembly of the FAO is actually coinciding with a period where we are going through a difficult crisis. Following the food crisis we had encountered in the year 2006, again in the years 2008 and 2009 we have been deeply impacted by the global financial crisis which eventually had an impact on the food security and food supply, and our boundaries are being pushed further.

I would like to, once more, share with you one issue that I attach great significance to. Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen is known to be the conscience of global economy, and I would like to draw your attention to his remarks, quote "*in the world there is not an apolitical food crisis whatsoever*"; in other terms, he refers to the concept of food and food security as a matter of policy which is within the framework of policy. If we want to attach a solution to the food scarcity in the world and the food crisis in the world, I would like to reiterate one fact, that we have to take political measures as well as fundamental economic measures, and it is a problem of humanity, a problem of economy. This situation that we are encountering right now is not independent from policy, that is why I believe the prospective solutions to be attached to this problem should be produced by the political figures themselves.

Towards the end of last month, the Government of Ethiopia officially declared that they were in a very significant food crisis and they required urgent assistance from other nations to provide food and alimentation to the people of Ethiopia. According to the information provided, in the last twenty-five years, one million inhabitants have lost their lives due to famine, and not only in Ethiopia. Today, primarily in Africa and Asia, we see people losing their lives due to drought and famine in over five continents, laying the very foundations for conflicts and battles and wars. The world security is under a continuous threat. In the year 2005, the number of the hungry people was around 850 million, whereas this number exceeds one billion today. This is a fact we all know, we all see and we are all aware of. There are certain contradictions, there are certain paradoxes that we all have to come to terms with. In one country of the world you can walk into a supermarket and consume as much as you want, but if you travel towards the other side of the globe you have to labour for an entire day for literally a palmful of rice. In one part of the world, some children are growing up in safe and secure environments with opportunities for a better future; but on the other hand, in another part of the globe, children are learning how to live with lack of health facilities, food and security.

There is the concept of globalization that we need to attach great significance to because we are talking about a communication age. The communication age is an age where we need a response to these threats. In the developed countries, wheat, corn and seeds are some fundamental

agricultural products but they are being used as feed for animals and cattle. They are being employed as a source for bio-energy and bio-fuels. Those who are driving their cars on bio-fuels, of course, are not polluting the environment and they are not manipulating the balances of the global climate indicators, but they are not aware of the millions of people who are in urgent need of the sources for food which they use as a bio-fuel for their cars.

With chemical weapons, weapons of mass destruction, water problems and the threats posed by the global climate change, we can observe an even darker picture. Food security is a pinnacle for the development of the human race, the right to live, the right to education, the right to health, right to property or freedom of expression, are certain concepts which are labelled as the fundamental rights and liberties of the human race. It is the same for having equal access, just and fair access, to food. Because today, because of malnutrition and because of famine, we see social tensions skyrocketing, violence increasing and wars breaking out due to lack of adequate food and nutrition resources. Dear friends, this situation is no more sustainable. I am not going to be very pessimistic here this afternoon while I am addressing you. I am not going to waste your hopes in vain. On the contrary, I am here to invite you to the fact that we can reverse this process, and I believe we can divert our endeavours towards a better and a much more promising future. I am very hopeful and I am very optimistic. As Turkey, primarily in the G20 Summits and in all the other platforms where we are present, we always speak about the unsustainability of this process and we always call open the global influential figures to immediately attach prospective solutions to these problems.

The unlimited consumption, the everlasting greed to get ever higher profits, are the fundamental reasons for the global financial crisis that we are living through. In order for these crises to be avoided in the future, we need to establish solidarity, cooperation, we need to internalize these facts and we need to empathize with other stakeholders within our vicinity. I would like to remind you of something: are we in favour of a consumption economy or are we in favour of an efficiency economy? First and foremost, I would like to say that those who are in favour of consumption and waste economy are the very reasons why people are going to bed with an empty stomach every night. These are the consequences of a waste economy or a consumption economy. We have to establish a balance between the causes and the consequences.

The capitals are becoming much more globalized, so should prosperity and welfare. On a global scale, at every length, every walk of life, we need a sound establishment of justice for all. Our world is becoming a smaller village as time goes by, but the inhabitants of this village are all entitled to be refurbished with the opportunities that will provide them food, provide them prosperity and welfare, or else in the future we will not be able to compensate the consequences of the global financial crisis which is of great concern to us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, as I was saying, in Turkey we are warning our stakeholders every chance we get; we are enjoying the benefits of the globalization-related endeavours and we are doing everything within our capability to take the necessary measures in order to provide equality and justice to people in all walks of life, to people of all nations. With my dear friend, Mr Zapatero, I am co-chairing the Alliance of Civilizations endeavour which was initiated under the very roof of the United Nations, and this initiative not only comprises different cultures and different followers of different faiths, it is the merging of the North with the South, the West and the East, where a melting pot can be created for mutual understanding and mutual empathy. I would like to underline one more fact here. On one side, in one country of the globe, in one particular region, if a negative incident breaks out and if we fail to respond to it, react to it, we would fail and it is impossible to turn a blind eye towards incidents that happen in faraway geographical centers. We have come across water on the moon, we are talking to ourselves over the 3G infrastructure, we are talking about particle physics and particle science and in such an age it is impossible to turn a blind eye towards terrorism, towards violence, towards famine and towards the sufferings of the human race, and it is contradictory to the soul of the time to ignore these problems. The people, the children who are dying of famine, are our children. The homeless people in Bangladesh are our own people. The massacred people in Gaza are our people, and the hopeless people living in Gaza are our people. Nothing is happening on a remote

place anymore, we cannot keep at bay from these incidents that happen. We are talking about an age where Mars is even getting closer to the world and under these circumstances Addis Ababa is not far away. Dakar, these places are no longer far away from us. We cannot go to bed on a full stomach knowing that our neighbours somewhere out there have no food to feed their children. Nobody can put their head down on their pillows confidently and comfortably, knowing that somewhere out there a child is starving.

With a population of 72 million inhabitants, in terms of fundamental sources of food, Turkey is a self-containing and self-sufficient country. Due to certain measures that we have taken in recent years, the agricultural production has proven to be very efficient. The agricultural gross domestic product in the year 2008 was around USD 57 billion, whereas our agricultural export levels have amounted to USD 11 billion. The Turkish Solidarity and Cooperation Agency is a very productive platform through which we can provide food and nutrition assistance to far and remote areas. Thanks to this Organization, in the year 2008, the official donations we have provided exceed USD 780 million and along with participation of TICA, the Turkish Economic Development Agency, we have provided technical assistance to the experts coming from African and Asian countries in several directorates within Ankara. Jointly we had established the African Development Programme which is going to function with the framework of FAO's Development Framework, and in Ankara we had inaugurated this initiative formally. The Sub-Regional Office of FAO is going to be responsible for the areas where we are going to implement food security projects, and we have set aside significant amounts of funds for this. In the next few months, we are going to implement nine projects. We are going to provide assistance to international organizations, but also to regional and local organizations in terms of agricultural production, and the Food Security Regional Programme is one of the significant programmes that we are supporting. If the other countries, if the other stakeholders wish to participate, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture can coordinate the endeavours henceforth. So, within this framework, the members of OECD can get together to implement even further influential projects in remote areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen one of the most important issues that we need to talk about today is trying to respond to the question of how we will be able to meet the needs of food and shelter for future generations. We need to take necessary measures in order to increase efficiency in the agricultural sector if we need to cater for the expectations of the future generations. But we also need to take into consideration the negative impacts of agricultural activities that are destined to improve the efficiency of our sectors, and we need to make sure that future generations inherit a liveable and survivable world.

The water resources that are being employed by the players within the agricultural sector should take into consideration different measures. The small-scale investors and regional projects should be supported and agricultural endeavours should be rendered much more efficient so that the agricultural sector can become much more profitable and poverty can be stopped. In that regard, seed, cattle feed and fertilizers are some of the items that we need to provide easier access to *vis-à-vis* our agriculture sector players. We need to adopt the necessary approaches in order to cater for the needs of the players within different sectors. In every country, there are those who are, of course, vulnerable towards the fluctuations in food provision and food security. The weakest links should be provided with all the support that they can get in order to eradicate poverty and hunger once and for all. Whether it be regional, whether it be local, the necessary measures should be taken in order to mobilize all the resources that are available. And on the other hand, we should always take into consideration that agriculture very much depends on environmental conditions. Drought or an unexpected flood that comes out of nowhere can actually wipe clean a year's worth of a farmer's labour. We need to come to terms with the fact that global climate change has a direct impact on the efficiency of agriculture, so as Governments and as the States we need to take necessary steps forward in order to eliminate the effects of global warming. We need to allocate more resources for research and development activities in order to cater to the needs of future generations for the diversification of agricultural items.

Distinguished friends, the apple of my eye, my country, Turkey, is enjoying a promising a project which is known as the South Eastern Anatolian Project, plus other promising projects as the

Konya Basin Project and East Anatolian Project. I am proud of these projects. The South Eastern Anatolian Project comprises 10 percent of the entire Turkish territory and this region actually consists of 20 percent of the land that can be irrigated for different means. The Euphrates and Tigris rivers that run through this area consist of the total of 28 percent of the water availability, and this vast land is known to be the first part of the world where agriculture was initiated. Unfortunately, for many decades, the waters of that area have been wasted. In order to generate power out from rivers and in order to diversify the activities in the region, we had initiated a vast colossal project under the name South Eastern Anatolian Project, but for various reasons we were not capable of concluding this project on the promised date. We then drafted a new activity plan under the name 2008 South Eastern Anatolian Project Activity Plan, and before the year-end of 2013 we are going to complete this project, and by then 1.60 million hectares' worth of land will be irrigated through modern and contemporary means. Once this project shall be completed, per capita GDP will be doubled and 4 million people will enjoy new means of employment, not agriculturally but also in other terms, whether it be transportation, whether it be education, whether it be health, because we will continue to conduct further investments. And I would like to underline one fact. This region is not going to be a food depository for the Middle Eastern region, but also for the entire globe. When this colossal project shall be completed, Africa, Middle East and the rest of the globe will reap the benefits of such a new approach to contemporary agriculture. Similarly, the Eastern Anatolian Project, is worth mentioning. As I said before, the Konya Basin Project is a very significant project and we are taking all the necessary steps forward in order to finalize these endeavours. In the Konya Basin we are on the brink of completing 17km of a Blue Stream tunnel. We are going to eliminate the archaic means of irrigation, and sub-terrestrial structures will be used in order to eliminate the effects of evaporation. After we complete this new structure, the irrigation-related problems of the Basin will have been eradicated once and for all, and 765 hectares' worth of land will be irrigated.

I would like to underline one more significant fact. All these steps that I have referred to are significant steps to stop terrorism. You might wonder why I am referring to terror. Because Turkey is a country which is currently combating terrorism. If you are to observe the reasons for terrorism more closely, you would find there and then poverty. Terrorism employs the poor on a global scale. They make use of the poor people, they make use of those who are in urgent need. We have to eradicate poverty once and for all so that we can be successful in our combat against terrorism on a global scale. If we cannot eradicate poverty once and for all we will not be successful in our endeavours towards a terrorism-free world.

The Turkish experience, the problems we had encountered and the results we had achieved are worth paying closer attention to. And in that regard, the South Eastern Anatolian Project is a promising project. I personally have great expectations from the South Eastern Anatolian Project. Although quite delayed and belated, we are now welcoming international support regarding our combat against terrorism. The process that we have lived through should set an example for the rest of the world, and we have to come to terms with the necessity to eradicate the reasons that cause terrorism such as poverty and malnutrition. I wish to remind our friends in the European countries that terrorism should never be harboured, it should never be tolerated or else what we are suffering from today might happen to those who are harbouring and tolerating terror. Terrorism recognizes no religion, no nation, no nationality, no flag. Terrorism is terrorism everywhere. Terrorism poses a great threat to us all.

Distinguished participants, ever since its establishment, FAO, with the participation of Member Nations and with the support of different stakeholders, has measured up to several occasions and fulfilled the tasks bestowed upon it. FAO, within different UN Organizations is very efficient, is very weightful and is totally credible. But in the light of ever-changing circumstances and different expectations, certain principles should be reformed and certain standards should be revised. Many different approaches are being generated and many different ideas are being vocalized. We need to talk about how we can render FAO into a much more efficient organization, because we believe in the absolute necessity of an organization of this scale. Because, in the world, food plays a significant role in sustainable development. The fair

distribution of food is a *sine qua non* for the security and safety of future generations and FAO can be a very efficient platform within which we can discuss what kind of an approach we are going to adopt in terms of GMOs. The genetically-modified organisms should be tackled in very careful ways. We can never use the GMOs at the expense of the health of the future generations. In Turkey, we are going to provide our full support to the endeavours undertaken under the auspices of FAO, and we are going to provide our full assistance to the endeavours undertaken by different stakeholders in order to establish food security for future generations. I would like to highlight one more fact, that I am privileged and honoured to be able to address you with a title of an Honorary Guest, and I would like to end my remarks with the deepest respect and regards. I would like to thank the esteemed representatives of FAO for organizing an event of this scale.

Thank you and I wish you the best of luck and health.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank Prime Minister Erdogan for his words of support for the work of the Organization. We will suspend the meeting very briefly to allow Mr Erdogan to take his leave.

OTHER MATTERS

QUESTIONS DIVERSES

OTROS ASUNTOS

30. Any Other Matters

30. Autres questions

30. Asuntos varios

30.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 2009/INF/9)

30.1 Conférence McDougall (C 2009/INF/9)

30.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (C 2009/INF/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Sub-item 30.1, under which the Conference will listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization. The Lecture is delivered at each ordinary session of the Conference.

I will ask Mr Butler, Deputy Director-General will now introduce this year's McDougall lecturer.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to introduce Professor Olivier De Schutter, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, who has kindly agreed to deliver the 26th McDougall Memorial Lecture.

We are privileged to have with us an eminent academic who is well known in the field of the right to food.

Professor De Schutter is Professor of Law at the University of Louvain in Belgium and at the College of Europe in Poland. He holds a Masters Degree in Law from Harvard University, a diploma *Cum Laude* from the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg), and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Louvain.

Professor De Schutter is the founder and coordinator of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights and the Director of the International Center for the teaching of human rights in Universities, at the International Institute of Human Rights.

Professor De Schutter is an expert on social and economic rights and on trade and human rights, who served between 2004 and 2008 as a Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights. He was appointed Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food by the Human Rights Council in 2008.

CHAIRPERSON

I have the pleasure of inviting Professor De Schutter to deliver his Lecture.

Olivier DE SCHUTTER (UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food)

I am extremely honoured to be invited to deliver this Lecture and to address the FAO Conference at the start of its deliberations. It is an honour which I share with all those who work so tirelessly to defend the right to food in the world, and among them are the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, Director-General Diouf and many others in this house. I am humbled also to stand in the company of the great figures who addressed you in the past, and whose efforts to work towards a world free from hunger continue to inspire me.

Almost exactly five years ago, the governments within the FAO Council unanimously approved the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, the only text of intergovernmental nature clarifying the concrete measures that States should take in order to comply with the human right to adequate food. And yet, more than one billion people today are hungry. At least twice that number lacks the essential micro-nutrients that are needed to lead a healthy and active life. In developing countries, one in three children is stunted, and one in two is born to women who suffer from anemia at the moment of birth.

This failure does not mean that the Voluntary Guidelines are ineffective. It means that we have failed to implement them effectively. The guidelines were based on the conviction of the international community that first emerged at the 1996 World Food Summit, that we needed to address the question of global hunger not as one of production only, but also as one of marginalization, deepening inequalities, and social injustice. This is a lesson which must be taught again. We live in a world in which we produce more food than ever and in which, nevertheless, the hungry have never been as many. There is a reason for this: for too many years, we have focused on increasing food availability while neglecting both the distributional impacts of our ways of producing food and their long-term environmental consequences. We have succeeded, remarkably, in increasing yields. But we must now come to realize that we can produce more, and fail to tackle hunger at the same time; that increases in yields, while a *necessary* condition for alleviating hunger and malnutrition, are not a *sufficient* condition; and that as we spectacularly boosted overall levels of production during the second half of the Twentieth Century, we also created the conditions for a major ecological disaster in the Twenty-first Century.

As the world population grows and as diets change, feeding the planet will require that we put the best science at the service of agriculture. But we would be repeating the mistakes of the past if we focused only on that goal. However much we increase food production, we will not alleviate the fate of the billion who are hungry today, not because there is too little food available, but because these people are too poor to buy the food that is available. We must therefore ask with humility: what has gone wrong?

The present situation of hunger has its primary source in modes of production that have made small-scale farming generally non-viable, relegating it, at best, to subsistence agriculture. Unable to compete, relegated to the poorest soils – the hilly, the arid, and the erosion-prone – small farmers have been pushed to the margins; they were valued neither as a political constituency since they were unable to mobilize effectively, nor as an economic sector since they had no access to the global supply chains and were therefore not a source of foreign currency. They were forgotten from public policies because they were considered irrelevant. We know what the results were. Rural flight was massive. More than one billion people today – one in six people – already live in slums, and by 2030, when the global population will have reached the mark of eight

billion, that figure will increase to one in three individuals. The vast majority of these urban poor have access to no social protection of any kind. The small farmers who remained in the countryside barely manage to survive on the crops they cultivated. Often, they found themselves obliged to sell their land, or even to abandon it, becoming landless labourers living off seasonal work on the larger farms. The consequences of these developments are well known; the purchasing power of large groups of the population is now insufficient to buy the food that is available on the markets. Hunger stems, historically, from this large mass of small farmers being robbed of their livelihoods. This is not a calamity. It is a developmental process. It could have been different. And it can be changed.

In the face of a crisis of this magnitude, it is tempting to see the Right to Adequate Food as a long-term objective, perhaps desirable to achieve, but clearly beyond reach for the moment, and thus of little immediate relevance. This, however, betrays a fundamental misunderstanding about what the Right to Food really means. The role of the Right to Food is more central, not less, in times of crisis. It is not simply an objective; it also shows the way towards fulfilling it.

I. Putting the most vulnerable at the centre

The right to food requires from us, first, that we take the plight of the most vulnerable as our departure point. It is time that we descend from the lofty heights of the commodity prices on the international markets to the situation of those who work in the fields or live from petty trade in the outskirts of the cities. Poor farmers do not sell on the Chicago Board of Trade; poor consumers buy their bag of rice from the local markets, not from the commodities exchanges.

By not taking that perspective on hunger, we fail to see the political economy problems that arise in the food production and distribution chain. We see hunger as a problem of supply and demand, when it is primarily a problem of unscrupulous employers and traders, of an increasingly concentrated input providers sector, or of insufficient safety nets for the very poor. This is why the Voluntary Guidelines require, as a first step, that we map food insecurity and vulnerability. Only by knowing who the hungry are, why they are hungry, and where they reside, can we design truly effective policies to remove or lower the obstacles to their enjoyment of the Right to Food. In many countries, however, reliable data remains to this day a major challenge. The FAO and the WFP are making commendable efforts to improve information gathering and to allow for early responses to impending crises. By and large however, data on hunger and malnutrition often remain fragmentary or outdated, or based on questionable methodologies. Even where such data exist, they may be ignored or kept under wraps by policy-makers wanting to rely on a purported 'lack of solid facts' as an excuse for remaining passive. They must know nothing in order to do nothing.

Combating hunger on the basis of the right to food also requires that we design policies that remove the obstacles to its enjoyment by each individual. The Guidelines on the Right to Food call for the adoption of national strategies that define which actions should be taken, by whom, within which precise timeframe, and according to which process. Such national strategies or action plans serve to ensure that appropriate resources will be mobilized. They seek to improve coordination across different branches of government, ensuring that all the many (and interrelated) causes of hunger are addressed. They also enhance accountability; by assigning role players and defining responsibilities, they allow civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national parliaments or courts, to better monitor the conduct of various state agencies. In certain cases, they will allow public prosecutors or ombudsinstitutions to intervene where these agencies remain passive. Such national strategies favour collective learning. Since progress is monitored through appropriate indicators, policies that are misguided or fail to achieve results can be corrected at an early stage. Finally, because such strategies are participatory and inclusive, they contribute to democratization and empowerment – particularly when they are institutionalized into framework laws as they are in Brazil, in Guatemala, in Nicaragua. They, therefore, limit the risk of arbitrariness or favouritism in decision-making, and they ensure that the decisions are made in the light of the real needs, as expressed by the ultimate beneficiaries.

So the Right to Food is a method; it is a way of doing things, which is more bottom-up than top-down, more democratic than technocratic, and more participatory than exclusive. But the Right to Food is also a set of legal entitlements, grounded in international law, and it imposes clear obligations on States. States must respect the right to food; they must protect it from interference by private parties; and they must fulfil the right to food by appropriate policies. Courts increasingly understand their role in protecting the Right to Food, from South Africa to India, and from Colombia to Nepal. Today more than ever, this constitutes an essential safeguard for the most vulnerable. The next few years will witness a rapid transformation of the livelihoods of many poor around the world, and we cannot afford to fail them. Grounding our choices on the Right to Food will help us to move in the right direction. It will lead to a social and economic development that will be more fair and more sustainable.

II. Reinvesting in agriculture and the obligation of States to respect the right to food

Massive changes lie ahead, first, because the global food, energy and climate crises have led to renewed interest in agricultural development. Foreign direct investment in agriculture jumped to USD 3 billion in 2005-2007, up from USD 600 million during the 1990s. This is a welcome and important development. Investments in agriculture have a powerful impact in the reduction of poverty. And one of the reasons why the food system is going through such a crisis today is because, since the 1980s, investments in agriculture have been sorely insufficient.

But these new opportunities also represent threats. Speculation on land is increasing, sometimes leading cash-strapped farmers to be priced out of land and exposing the fragility of market-based land reforms. Large-scale land leases or acquisitions are becoming increasingly common as a result of a number of drivers. Fiscal incentives and subsidies in developed countries have triggered a rush towards the production of agro-fuels as an alternative to fossil fuels. Countries confronted with the growth of their population and urbanization, combined with the exhaustion of natural resources, see large-scale land acquisitions as a means to achieve long-term food security, something they rightly care about. They worry also about the continued availability of freshwater. Investors are attracted by subsidies for carbon storage through deforestation avoided and the plantation of trees under the Kyoto Clean Development Mechanism. Some investments in farmland, particularly by private investment funds, are purely speculative.

Local populations may benefit from the arrival of investors. But they may also lose their livelihoods as a result. In Ghana, Biofuel Africa Ltd has acquired 23,700 hectares of land, allegedly forcing out the inhabitants of seven villages in the Tamale district. In Uganda, a Dutch Foundation assists with the planting of 25,000 hectares of trees to absorb carbon dioxide and thereby offset emissions from a coal-fired power station in the Netherlands and from western airline companies. But indigenous people have reportedly been displaced to clear the way to tree-planting projects. These, unfortunately, are not isolated examples.

In many developing countries and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, the rights of land users are not properly secured. Much of the land is formally owned by the government, and the land users have no property titles on the land they cultivate and depend on. In many cases too, as a result of a complex combination of property rights and users' rights, those who cultivate the land do not own it, although they may or may not be paying rent and may or may not have a formal agreement with the nominal owner. If these people are evicted, they will not have access to legal remedies, and they will not receive adequate compensation. Others use the land for activities such as for grazing and gathering wood. These can be critical sources of livelihood especially for women. In Sub-Saharan Africa, pastoralism is particularly important; almost half of the 120 million pastoralists worldwide resides in the sub-continent where the largest pastoral or agro-pastoral populations (of seven million each) live in Sudan and Somalia, followed by Ethiopia with four million. Which land, then, is really 'idle'? Which land can be given away to investors? Under which conditions? We must ensure that no individual shall be deprived of his or her access to productive resources on which he or she depends without compensatory measures, since this would constitute a clear violation of the Right to Food.

Suite en français

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le droit à l'alimentation importe aujourd'hui aussi en raison de la transformation des chaînes de distribution alimentaire au niveau local, régional et mondial. Afin de comprendre pourquoi ceci importe et ce que ceci signifie, pensons à une femme qui cultive une petite parcelle de terrain dans un pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne. Elle dispose d'un ou deux hectares, la terre est relativement pauvre, elle n'est pas irriguée. Depuis l'époque coloniale, les meilleures terres ont été occupées par les grandes plantations comme celles sur lesquelles son mari est employé quelques mois par an comme travailleur agricole saisonnier. Les récoltes ne suffisent pas à nourrir la famille tout au cours de l'année et, pourtant, après les récoltes cette femme veut écouler tout ce que la famille ne peut pas consommer au cours du mois suivant. Si elle attend trop, les récoltes pourriront sur place à défaut de moyen de stockage adéquat. Elle n'a qu'un intermédiaire auquel vendre. C'est lui qui décide du prix qu'il payera pour la récolte. Ce prix est bas, mais cette femme n'a pas le choix. Sans moyen de transport elle ne peut elle-même vendre sa récolte dans la ville. Elle compense ce bas prix en n'achetant pas d'intrants par les circuits commerciaux. Les semences qu'elle utilise sont prélevées sur les récoltes de l'année précédente même si parfois elle échange des semences avec les autres femmes du village. Elle travaille sans engrais car ceux-ci sont trop chers, les prix ont augmentés de quarante pour cent depuis l'année dernière. Cette femme travaille la terre pour nourrir sa famille même si elle sait que ce travail est à peine viable. Dans trois mois, avec le peu d'argent qu'elle aura obtenu en vendant une partie des récoltes, elle achètera sur les marchés de quoi manger deux ou trois fois le prix qu'elle aura reçu elle-même pour ce qu'elle a produit.

Au moins un milliard et demi de personnes sont dans cette situation dépendants de la petite agriculture familiale pour leur subsistance, et, souvent ces personnes ont faim. Comment les soutenir? Il y a une approche qui a fascinée une génération de décideurs, c'est le modèle de la Révolution verte. J'avoue hésiter à utiliser le terme ici car les programmes qui sont actuellement en cours sous le concept de Révolution verte présente des différences significatives par rapport au modèle tel qu'il a été initialement conçu.

Lorsqu'elle fut d'abord lancée en 1943 au Mexique avec le soutien des fondations Rockefeller et Ford avant de s'étendre en Amérique latine et en Asie du Sud dans les années soixante, la Révolution verte était fondée sur le développement de l'irrigation, un recours massif aux engrais chimique et à la mécanisation. Le secteur public a joué un rôle important dans ces développements, des semences améliorées étaient données gratuitement et n'étaient pas protégées par des droits de propriété actuels et la qualité des infrastructures notamment des voies de communication, étaient bien meilleures lorsque la Révolution verte fut lancée qu'elle ne l'est aujourd'hui dans beaucoup de pays d'Afrique sub-saharienne, ou une tentative est faite de lancer une nouvelle transformation de la même espèce. On fait crédit à la Révolution verte d'avoir conduit à une augmentation significative de la productivité agricole, là où elle a été mise en œuvre et même d'avoir évité des famines et les résultats, en effet, ont été spectaculaires en tout cas là où toutes les conditions ont été réunies pour qu'elles le soit. Pourtant accroître la productivité, Mesdames et Messieurs, ne suffit pas.

Dans sa belle allocution, le Premier Ministre Erdogan, dont je salue l'intervention, a rappelé la contribution du Prix Nobel d'économie, Amartya Sen, au droit à l'alimentation. Au départ de son étude de certaines des famines les plus importantes du siècle Amartya Sen a attiré notre attention sur le fait que la faim pouvait progresser en période de bonnes récoltes, si les revenus de certains groupes demeurent trop bas alors que les revenus d'autres groupes progressent rapidement. L'originalité de l'approche de Sen était de s'intéresser moins aux indicateurs macro-économiques et aux valeurs agrégées qu'à la situation des groupes les plus vulnérables de la société. Si l'augmentation à la production ne conduit pas à ce que la situation de ces groupes s'améliore alors, elle ne suffira pas à elle seule à réduire la faim. La question que nous devons nous poser aujourd'hui, n'est donc pas seulement celle de savoir si certaines formes de développement agricoles accroissent les rendements, mais aussi de savoir quels impacts ils auront en termes de

distribution. Qui va bénéficier de ces accroissements? Qui ne va pas en bénéficier et qui pourrait même se trouver perdant? Ce sont ces questions-là qui sont décisives dans la perspective du droit à l'alimentation.

Même Norman Borlaug, l'architecte de la Révolution verte à qui ses contributions à la sécurité alimentaire ont valu le Prix Nobel de la Paix en 1970, reconnaissait que sous cet angle, le succès de la révolution ouverte était au mieux mitigé. Il disait en 2004: "naturellement la richesse a augmenté plus dans les régions irriguées que dans les régions moins favorisées et pratiquant l'agriculture à l'eau de pluie, ce qui a, accru les inégalités entre les revenus". Ceci est sans doute un euphémisme, la Révolution verte, en fait, a souvent encouragé la concentration des terres entre les mains des producteurs les plus importants, elle n'a pas profité à beaucoup de paysans pauvres travaillant sur les terres les plus marginales. Compte tenu de leurs difficultés à accéder aux crédits et au faible soutien qu'elles reçoivent des services ruraux, les femmes très souvent n'ont pas pu participer au progrès de la Révolution verte, celle-ci étant fondée sur le recours accru à des intrants externes inaccessibles pour elles.

La Révolution verte a parfois entraîné à une dépendance des paysans à l'égard d'intrants coûteux qui, pour ceux ayant un faible accès au crédit, pour ceux qui sont sans capital, s'est révélé peu soutenable. Le passage d'une agriculture à forte intensité de mains d'œuvre à une agriculture fortement capitalisée a accéléré l'exode rural en l'absence d'autres emplois dans les zones rurales. Les augmentations de production peuvent aller de pair avec la perpétuation d'inégalité considérable. En Asie du Sud, tandis que la production alimentaire par tête d'habitant, augmentait de neuf pour cent entre 1970 et 1990, le nombre de personnes affamées a crû dans les mêmes proportions. En Amérique Latine, sur cette même période, la disponibilité de nourriture a augmenté de huit pour cent et la faim a touché dix neuf pour cent de personnes supplémentaires.

Quelques leçons se dégagent de ces expériences. D'abord, il est illusoire de dissocier la production de la distribution. Il existe différents modèles de production agricole ainsi que différents modèles de développement agricole, dont les impacts sur la structure des revenus en zone rurale peut varier significativement et qui peuvent ou non contribuer à davantage d'équité. Ensuite, l'on ne peut qu'ignorer les questions d'économie politique soulevée par l'organisation des systèmes de production et de distribution alimentaire. Il vaut la peine par exemple de se demander, si l'on peut se permettre aujourd'hui, d'apater les paysans avec de nouvelles variétés des semences, au risque de les enfermer dans un système, dans lequel les dix plus importantes firmes occupent soixante sept pour cent du marché et des semences commerciales dans lequel le semencier, le plus important, occupe vingt-trois pour cent du marché et les trois firmes les plus importantes occupent quarante-sept pour cent du marché. Un tel degré de concentration doit être vu comme un problème. Se focaliser uniquement sur la question de l'accès à ces technologies qui sont saintes de monopoles que confère les droits de propriété actuels ne saurait constitué qu'un palliatif, une solution de court terme tant que cet échec du marché ne sera pas rencontré.

Troisièmement, et sans doute par-dessus tout, on ne peut travailler pour les groupes vulnérables sans les groupes vulnérables, ainsi que l'atteste l'incapacité de la Révolution verte à lutter durablement contre la faim, c'est seulement en mettant la participation au cœur de la formulation et de la mise en œuvre des politiques publiques que l'on peut espérer répondre au véritable besoin des pauvres et mettre sur pied des politiques appropriées qui sont révisées en permanence à la lumière de leurs impacts.

Ce qui me frappe le plus, dans les discussions actuelles, qui entourent la Révolution verte, c'est au plan surtout que les approches alternatives par lesquelles soutenir l'agriculture ne sont pas explorées alors qu'elles pourraient, en fait, correspondre mieux à ce qui pourrait améliorer la situation des plus petits paysans qui travaillent dans les environnements les plus difficiles. Dans de nombreux pays, la Révolution verte a constitué dans les faits, un substitut à la réforme agraire. Au lieu d'augmenter les rendements en redistribuant la terre aux pauvres dans les zones rurales, on l'a fait par le recours à la technologie. Mais, d'autres mesures moins sensibles politiquement peut-être, pourraient être mise en œuvre, qui sont de nature significativement à améliorer la situation

des petits paysans d'une manière qui est peut-être plus durable pour eux que le recours à des solutions purement technologiques.

Parmi ces mesures, figurent d'abord des innovations institutionnelles et la fourniture de biens publics. Revenons un instant si vous le voulez bien à cette femme, qui cultive une petite parcelle dans un pays d'Afrique. Cette femme, doit pouvoir obtenir un prix plus élevé pour ses récoltes, et elle doit être encouragée à produire plus en favorisant la création de coopératives au niveau du village. Nous pouvons à la fois renforcer son pouvoir de négociation vis-à-vis de l'intermédiaire qui capte une part disproportionnée de la valeur de sa récolte et nous pouvons accroître ses capacités et celles des membres de son village. Nous pouvons ainsi les aider à réaliser certaines économies d'échelle, dans le transport et dans la commercialisation de leur production et peut-être les aider à s'élever sur l'échelle de la valeur ajoutée en développant leur capacité de transformation des denrées qu'ils produisent. En améliorant les voies de communication et l'information sur les prix, on étend la gamme de leur choix et par conséquent, leurs capacités de vendre à des meilleures conditions. En construisant tout simplement des silos de stockage au niveau du village, nous l'autorisons à choisir quand vendre au lieu qu'elle soit obligée aujourd'hui de céder ces récoltes au moment où les prix sont les plus bas dans les semaines qui suivent la récolte.

En développant des services ruraux et en s'assurant qu'ils atteignent les autres membres du village, nous pouvons aider à augmenter les capacités de ces personnes et nous pouvons améliorer leurs capacités à produire dans des conditions qui respectent l'environnement local. En mettant sur pied un mécanisme public permettant l'achat de certaines productions agricoles à des prix suffisamment rémunérateurs pour les fermiers comme le fait l'Inde d'aujourd'hui, non seulement l'on s'assure que les intermédiaires des secteurs privés seront incités à s'aligner sur des prix plus élevés, mais en outre, on permet la création de réserves alimentaires qui peuvent limiter la variabilité des prix entre les périodes de récoltes et les périodes creuses pour autant que l'organisme qui gère cette réserve soit tenu de rendre des comptes et intègre dans son fonctionnement la participation des Organisations paysannes comme celle des consommateurs. En assurant un soutien spécifique aux petits agriculteurs par des mécanismes tel que l'accès au crédit à des taux d'intérêts bas, ou une politique préférentielle par des achats publics par exemple, pour les cantines scolaires comme le fait aujourd'hui le Brésil, nous pouvons assurer que la petite agriculture familiale sera viable pour celles et ceux qui en dépendent.

Ces réformes, Mesdames et Messieurs, peuvent avoir un impact profond, durable en aidant les paysans les plus marginaux à produire. Elles sont de nature institutionnelle plutôt que technologique. Elles consistent en la fourniture de biens publics plutôt qu'en la subsidiation de biens privés tels que les intrants.

En les mettant en œuvre, l'Etat s'acquitte de son obligation de protéger le droit à l'alimentation. Sauf en cas de catastrophe naturelle ou de conflit civil, le droit à l'alimentation ce n'est pas le droit d'être nourri, c'est le droit de se nourrir dans la dignité. Et pour elle, pour cette femme, qui vit de son travail dans les champs c'est le droit de produire dans les conditions qui leur garantissent à elle et à sa famille le droit de vivre décemment.

Continues in English

IV. The environmental challenge: fulfilling the right to food in this century

One reason why the Green Revolution approach has exercised such a powerful grip on our minds, so much so that it is almost impossible to imagine other complementary ways to innovate in agriculture, is because no real alternative has been tested on a large scale. But this also reveals the fundamental poverty in our unilinear understanding of progress; while we express wonder at the yield increases achieved by the Green Revolution, we tend to forget that these increases are impressive as measured not against other paths of agricultural development, but against no development at all. We should measure the success of the Green Revolution not against the lack of innovation. We should examine its merits against those of other modes of innovation, whether they complement the Green Revolution or whether they compete against it. The question of evaluation is itself fraught with dangers. It is clear enough that we should not take the increase in

the yields of one crop alone as the sole criterion of progress; total productivity by hectare (on intercropped fields, by the addition of different crops) is a better measure. Nor should we confuse profitability with productivity. While large-scale mechanized agricultural practices relying on monocropping can be hugely productive per active labourer, hence more competitive, they have also been shown to be less productive per hectare than more small-scale, labour-intensive modes of production, except when the units are so small that they do not command sufficient attention or labour from the users. Even more important, productivity should not be seen separately from the impact on incomes and on food security. Small-holders contribute to greater food security, particularly in backward remote areas where locally produced foods avoid the high transport and marketing costs associated with many purchased foods. And, for most of them, because of the lack of access to credit and insurance schemes against weather-related events, achieving reasonably good yields on a regular basis may be more desirable than achieving high yields with greater uncertainty. One reason for them to rely on inter-cropping is that this limits the risk, by the diversification and 'portfolio effect' it contributes to, that certain shocks will result in irreparable consequences, such as a spiral of debts which will be impossible to repay.

The choice therefore is about size, and whether we continue favouring the concentration of food production by a limited number of large producers, or whether we support smallholders providing them with the kind of services they require. But the choice today is also between different modes of agricultural production. Low tillage and low external input agriculture practiced on small farms, relying on inter-cropping rather than on monocultures, using bio-pesticides and manure instead of chemicals to fight against the attacks of nature or to fertilize soils, in fact has the potential of significantly raising yields. In what remains one of the most impressive cross-country studies of low, resource-conserving technologies, Jules Pretty and his team have surveyed 286 projects in 57 developing countries covering a total area of 37 million hectares. The average crop yield increase was 79 percent. These results are peer-reviewed, and they were published in the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, the oldest scientific institution on Earth. Spectacular increases in incomes of small farmers can result from the use of such techniques. The planting, for example, of nitrogen-fixing legumes or trees can limit dependency on chemical fertilizers; reliance on locally-produced inputs may be more sustainable, for most marginal farmers, than the use of high-value external inputs.

There are many examples to choose from. In Tanzania, the Western provinces of Shinyanga and Tabora used to be called "The Desert of Tanzania". Beginning in the 1980s, the use of agro-forestry techniques and participatory processes allowed some 350,000 hectares of land to be rehabilitated. Benefits for households were as high as USD 500 per household. Moreover, the increased use of trees in agro-forestry schemes improves the resilience of farming systems, which is especially important in the context of climate change. In Malawi, in 2005, some 100,000 smallholders benefitted to some degree from the use of fertilizer trees. Maize is inter-cropped with a nitrogen-fixing tree led to an average of 3.7 tonnes a hectare to be produced, compared to just 1.1 tonnes on plots without such trees, and yields could further reach 5 tonnes with some addition of mineral fertilizer. Malawi's Agroforestry Food Security Programme now benefits some 1.3 million of the poorest people whose ability to produce food has increased with a minimal investment of financial resources. Scientists from the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi have proven that the use of fertilizer trees can reduce the need for commercial nitrogen fertilizers by up to 75 percent while doubling or tripling crop yields. Agro-forestry could also result in 50 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide being removed from the atmosphere, about one third of the world's total carbon reduction challenge.

The science upon which such sustainable forms of agriculture is based is called agro-ecology, which is the result of the fusion of the best agronomic science with the science of ecology. Many of the scientists I consult consider that it may be better equipped to address the huge environmental challenges we are facing than are current farming methods. Making better varieties of seeds available to farmers and improving irrigation can be hugely important. But support of that kind is part of a much larger set of improvements to be made to the farming systems. And in order to make the best choices, we must explore the full range of possibilities.

There is not one single way to support agriculture; what matters is to ensure that all farmers receive the support that best suits their own, specific needs.

In deciding how to support agriculture, we cannot underestimate the importance of environmental challenges ahead. The first challenge, of course, is climate change. As we have seen recently in East Africa, in India, or in the Central American regions affected by the *El Niño* phenomenon, climate change is already threatening the ability of entire regions to maintain actual levels of agricultural production. In sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in parts of Asia, climate change will affect rains. It will increase the frequency of droughts and it will affect average temperatures. Less fresh water will be available for agricultural production. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that in Southern Africa yields from rainfed agriculture will be reduced 50 percent between 2000 and 2020. Overall, our productive capacity worldwide will decrease at least 3 percent by the 2080s in comparison to levels of 2000, and up to 16 percent if the anticipated carbon fertilization effects fail to materialize. The losses will be particularly important for Africa and for Latin America.

While these findings may sound bleak, they still err in the direction of optimism. They do not include the impact of more frequent extreme weather events, such as floods and droughts, which are the most immediate manifestation of climate change. Nor do they take into account the fact that rising sea levels may contaminate coastal freshwater aquifers with salt water. They do not consider, finally, the risks of diminished agricultural production due to the scarcity of water for irrigation. But the melting of the great glaciers of the Himalayas, for instance, could increase flooding from river overflows while, at the same time, affecting the water resources of a large number of people in Central and South Asia. More than one billion people could be affected by the 2050s and crop yields could decrease by up to 30 percent in Central and South Asia by 2050.

While agriculture is a victim of climate change, it is also an obvious culprit. Unsustainable forms of agriculture and unsustainable patterns of consumption are accelerating the trend towards global warming. Modern agriculture accounts for 14 percent of the total annual GHG emissions which are man made. Land-use change, including forest deforestation to develop agricultural land, contributes another 19 percent. While forests play an essential role in capturing CO₂, they are currently being destroyed on a large scale.

Unsustainable modes of consumption in the rich countries are, in part, responsible for this situation. The food we eat determines how we produce food. The increase in livestock production, in response to our demand for meat, results in huge negative externalities that are not accounted for. In 2006, the FAO published a study called *Livestock's Long Shadow - Environmental Issues and Options*. The study noted that livestock are responsible for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, about double the share of transport. Together, grazing land and cropland dedicated to the production of feed-crops and fodder account for 70 percent of all agricultural land, or about 30 percent of the land surface of the planet. The rapid expansion of pastures is one of the major reasons for deforestation, particularly in the Amazon region.

This is not the best use of our natural resources. Earlier this year, the UNEP published a report on 'The Environment's Role in Averting Future Food Crises'. It noted that by reducing meat consumption in the industrialized world and restraining it worldwide in 2050 at 37,4 kg/capita - the level in 2000 - we would free an estimated 400 million tonnes of cereals per year for human consumption. This is enough to cover the annual calorie need for 1.2 billion people. Under a business-as-usual scenario, by 2050, 1,573 million tonnes of cereals will be used annually for non-food, of which at least 1.450 million tonnes will be used as animal feed - enough to cover the calorie need for about 4.35 billion people.

Of course, the picture is a complex one, and the factors are many that should be taken into consideration. Farm animals raised in rich countries consume more than 5 calories in feedstock for each calorie of meat or dairy food produced. In India, the rate is a less than 1.5 calories. In Kenya, where animals are fed not on grain but live off grass or agricultural by-products which are not edible by humans, livestock actually yield more calories than they consume. And we have to recognize also that livestock rearing represents a source of income for perhaps one billion people,

representing one third of the poor in the rural areas. What I am suggesting however, is that we cannot define quantitative objectives in the production of food – such as the need to increase meat output by more than 200 million tonnes per year to reach 470 million tonnes by 2050 – without also questioning trends on the demand side of the equation, particularly when epidemiologists constantly warn us of public health problems resulting from the meatification of diets.

Nor is climate change the only threat we are facing. In 1996, the FAO's Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, based on more than 150 country reports, warned about the loss of genetic diversity. It noted that 'the spread of modern, commercial agriculture and the introduction of new varieties of crops' has been one of its main causes. Indeed, uniformity and homogeneity in agricultural are increasing. All efforts have been put into the development of a limited number of standard, high-yielding varieties. Barely more than 150 species are now cultivated. Most of mankind now lives off no more than 12 plant species, with the four biggest staple crops (wheat, rice, maize and potato) taking the lion's share. As farmers worldwide have abandoned their local varieties for genetically uniform varieties that produce higher yields under certain conditions, about 75 percent of plant genetic diversity has been lost. And genetic diversity even within crops is also decreasing. At both the field level and at global level, this diminishes our resilience to climate change and to attacks from pests and disease.

These challenges present a direct relationship to the Right to Food. First, by scaling up the agro-ecological approaches to production I have been referring to, we not only may be providing poor farmers living in the most difficult environments with solutions that they need the most, we also preserve the soils and the water of the next generation and its ability to feed itself. We reduce GHG emissions and we can even stock carbon, so that agriculture, from being a major problem today, can become part of the solution. Second, applying strategies to realize the Right to Food ensures that the policies adopted by States will take into account these relatively long-term considerations, and that they will not be dictated exclusively or primarily by the need for short-term profits or by the bait of export opportunities. Third, strategies for the realization of the Right to Food ensure accountability. It is not enough for governments to pledge to take into account the impact of their agricultural policies on climate change, on soil degradation, or on loss of biodiversity. Reneging on these pledges should come at a high political cost. Accountability raises this cost. It increases the chances that promises that are made are promises that are kept.

V. Conclusion

I have emphasized three major challenges: speculation over farmland, the squeezing of small farmers between increased costs and falling prices, and the environment. These challenges serve to illustrate what the Right to Food is about, and they present a striking similarity. In all three cases, unless they are carefully monitored, the policies that are aimed at increasing production may at the same time lead to increased inequality, poverty and marginalization in the rural areas. The arrival of investors can, if it goes unchecked, destroy livelihoods. The increased concentration of food production both across and within States, as a result of the pressures of trade liberalization and the removal of the State from the market, can condemn small farmers to fail. The push towards large-scale, highly mechanized farms, relying on high levels of external inputs, can produce huge negative externalities that are not accounted for in the price of food – and either push smallholders onto marginal lands and the low segments of the market or displace them entirely. Each of these developments is sometimes encouraged in the name of producing more. But we must be guided, not only by the need to increase yields, however important this may be, but also by the imperative to do so sustainably – by improving the livelihoods of small farmers and by limiting the ecological footprint of agriculture. The human right to adequate food provides a signpost. It obliges us to pay attention to the situation of the most vulnerable. It requires participation and accountability. It asks questions that are political and not merely technical. It offers a better diagnosis of what has gone wrong and of what to do to eliminate at last the injustice of hunger. It enriches our understanding of what hunger is about and how to combat it. By acting together, this is a battle we can win.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank the Professor for delivering the twenty-sixth MacDougall Lecture. As you know Frank MacDougall came from Australia, hence I now called upon the Honourable Tony Burke, the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to take the floor.

Tony BURKE (Australia)

It is a great honour, as an Australian, to have this lecture named after one of our own in Frank McDougall. I would like to say a couple of words about Frank McDougall, a few words about Dr Norman Borlaug who is referred to in the address and provide a brief response to Professor De Schutter's speech.

Frank McDougall was one of the founders of FAO and in 1942 he raised the prospect then of the need to double food supply in order to meet nutritional requirements. I am reminded of speeches I have consistently heard by our Director-General, Jacques Diouf, on the importance of revisiting the doubling of food supply.

Norman Borlaug, who is referred to in Professor De Schutter's speech, sadly passed away in September of this year. As the architect of the Green Revolution he made it through to the age of 95, a Nobel Laureate and a previous speaker at the McDougall Lecture. His work focused on developing high-yielding disease-resistant seed varieties to provide food for the most vulnerable. There are many people in Mexico, India and Pakistan who have lived very different and longer lives because of the 60 percent increase in yields that was largely driven as a result of the work of Norman Borlaug.

In Professor De Schutter's presentation I want to thank the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for his lecture. He has provided an important perspective on the food security debate. There was a line that was very telling in the situation which we find ourselves in today and I quote "save in situations of natural disaster or civil strife, the right to food is not the right to be fed" and the Lecture went on to say what more it would be.

Sadly, in an age of climate change many of the representatives in this room are in a situation where natural disaster is currently the norm when we are dealing with food production. In that context I want to endorse wholeheartedly one of the comments that was made by Dr De Schutter with the role of mitigation and where it can go right and where it can go wrong.

One of the challenges that all our governments face in the negotiations in the lead up to Copenhagen and the negotiations that will, no doubt, continue beyond that is to make sure that we do not end up with perverse outcomes that actually challenge the Right to Food and food production.

Because of the limitations on the science at the time that Kyoto was first determined there is in the current accounting rules a favouring of investment in forestry over investment in sustainable agriculture. This creates a circumstance where it is far more likely when offsets are being purchased in developing nations for it to be done so in a way that actually takes away from the food supply and provides a line of income for people who hold the title to the land but do not necessarily work the land. This results in a whole series of issues involving displacements of communities. It is tremendously important that we try to find ways to align offsets for carbon sequestration in ways that open the door to investment in sustainable agriculture.

The Global Alliance referred to in speeches earlier by New Zealand and supported strongly by the United States of America has a role here in trying to make sure that mitigation options which are found align with productivity and have a very direct relevance to the role of small landholders throughout the world.

There is a serious adaptation task before us all. Dr De Schutter referred to this when he referred to some of the challenges we see with climate change, but these challenges are before you even take into account the major weather events. Yesterday at a round table we heard an extraordinary address from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, where major weather events are a very real part of climate change. In dealing with this we need to understand that even if we could get subsistence to work perfectly throughout the world, major weather events are now going to regularly, for many parts of the world, wipe those crops out and even if there has been storage away from the farm the monsoons, the typhoons, the major flooding events are just as likely to wipe out the storage as they are to wipe out the crop. This is why the principle of allowing food to move is one which we all need to face up to.

Minister Hikki from Papua New Guinea, I heard earlier today say the following "the greatest difficulty we have in Papua New Guinea is moving our food. Our people in the rural areas are kept relatively poor because we cannot move our food. We have large areas, growing urban areas, where people are kept poor because of the unavailability of food".

The principles of subsistence alone do not get us there in a world of climate change and when we talk about increasing food production it cannot be limited to the large farms. It must be brought to small landholders as well and we must then maximize the number of market opportunities that are available for the woman farmer in Sub-Saharan Africa. We need to be conscious that moving food and the capacity to move it if it is right to do within national boundaries it is right to do across national boundaries. The challenge ahead of us is far too great to turn our minds away from the essential logic of that principle and moving food demands investment in transport corridors. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in a paper many of you would be aware of from earlier this year, said something in the order of USD 7 billion is required to adapt to climate change each year in the developing world, and what does that adaptation principally involve? Some of it on changed farming mechanisms, most of it on roads, most of it on the capacity to allow food to move. That USD 7 billion required for adaptation in the developing world can be easily contrasted with the USD 280 billion spent across the OECD each year on subsidies for our farmers.

The first priority when we talk about food security needs to be seen as food security, not necessarily in every year as food sovereignty. Climate change puts a new paradigm on that. Climate change means that some of the solutions and things that we have seen go wrong in the last fifty years require a different approach in the fifty years to come. Markets will need to be part of that because of what major weather events will do to our food production and within that framework many of the methods that have been referred to by Professor De Schutter today, I have no doubt, will form part of the solutions which lie ahead.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Burke, and also thank you very much for your remembrance of our countryman, Norman Borlaug, who we have mourned greatly in the United States of America, his passing. Thank you, Professor, for a very stimulating, enjoyable Lecture and you may take your leave now. We thank you for your contributions.

30.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 2009/INF/6)

30.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen (C 2009/INF/6)

30.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen (C 2009/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

As the Organization has not received any Applications for Membership since its last Session, we can move on to Item 30 on our Agenda. But before we do so, I am going to honour a US tradition

and I am just going to encourage everyone to stand up and then sit down again because the hour is late and we all need to give our bodies a little reprieve. I will show you how it is done.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Let us begin with Sub-item 30.2 on the Agenda, the Presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards for 2008 and 2009. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of USD 5,000 and a round trip for the winner and spouse to attend the Conference Session in Rome.

I should like to ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the B.R. Sen Awards for 2008 and 2009.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The B.R. Sen Award is in honour of the former Director-General, Mr B.R. Sen. As agreed by the FAO Conference in 1967, a yearly award is to be given to the FAO Field Officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he or she has been assigned, in particular in the fields of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security. On this occasion, I shall be presenting the Awards for the years 2008 and 2009 to three very deserving winners, one for 2008 and two sharing the 2009 Award.

The B.R. Sen Award for 2008 goes to Mr Javier Escobedo, a national of Peru. It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the development of FAO's emergency and rehabilitation work in Haiti and the Latin America and Caribbean Region, and for his efforts in pioneering response, preparedness and transition to development, while serving as Regional Senior Emergency Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean. In complex emergency situations throughout the Region, Mr Escobedo has focused on reducing the vulnerability of the population, seeking innovative and alternative approaches to address the multiple causes of poverty and facilitate sustainable development. The achievements were possible due to a strong team spirit of the national team established under Mr Escobedo's leadership, as well as to his clear vision, sound technical expertise and practical knowledge of the field.

For 2009, the Award has been bestowed upon two officers, one of whom is Mr Luigi Damiani, a national of Italy, for supporting the rehabilitation of Palestinian agriculture in a conflict situation through the development and implementation of a portfolio of over 30 projects, providing immediate responses to crises and addressing longer-term recovery objectives. This was achieved while serving as Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordinator for the Emergency Programme in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Programme has been built on the basis of continuous monitoring and analysis of the food security situation. This has led to the successful implementation of technically well-founded projects that respond effectively to the real needs of producers affected by conflict and poverty. The achievements are the result of a solid, well-motivated team working under the strong leadership of Mr Damiani, and also to his commitment, management capability and own technical contributions.

The 2009 Award is also being given to Mr Kevin Gallagher of the United States for the establishment of an excellent FAO Country Programme in Sierra Leone, reinforcing country ownership and introducing creative innovations particularly in communications and field approaches. In 2008, Mr Gallagher was appointed FAO Representative in Sierra Leone where he was able, within a very short timeframe, to establish a highly recognized FAO Country Development Programme, providing support under the country's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process for the definition of a sector development programme. In September 2009, Sierra Leone became the fourth country to sign the CAADP Compact. Although many initiatives are still underway, the Government, along with development partners, is making good progress in rebuilding and supporting structural orientation of the agricultural sector to one that is more commercially-driven and less subsistence-dependent.

Mr Gallagher has assisted the country in mobilizing a substantial amount of new funding to support these initiatives.

In closing, I wish to congratulate the B.R. Sen Award winners and express the Organization's respect and gratitude for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the advancement of sustainable agriculture and rural development in their countries of assignment.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Director-General. I invite Mr Escobedo to come to the podium to receive his award and address the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Javier ESCOBEDO (Perú)

Todos tenemos en nuestra memoria que el año 2008 fue un año muy difícil para toda la humanidad y en particular para los más vulnerables de Haití que sufrieron por el alza de precios de los alimentos y que también tuvieron las peores catástrofes de los últimos años a consecuencia de las tormentas y huracanes.

Con el concurso del Gobierno de Haití, de la Comunidad Internacional y de la FAO, hemos podido responder a la gravísima situación de los pequeños agricultores en el marco de los proyectos de emergencia, entre ellos el de multiplicación de semillas y plantas mejoradas, de reservas estratégicas de semillas, de agricultura urbana, de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición y también de aprovechamiento y conservación de los recursos naturales.

Estos proyectos, además del carácter humanitario fueron concebidos y orientados para aumentar la producción de alimentos básicos y la resiliencia socioeconómica y ambiental de los más vulnerables. Los mecanismos de coordinación institucional establecidos con diferentes actores y sobre todo la participación de las organizaciones de agricultores, han facilitado la mejor preparación ante eventuales desastres y la rehabilitación del sector. Las últimas noticias sobre la producción y seguridad alimentaria en Haití dan cuenta de mejores perspectivas y creemos haber contribuido a éstos logros.

Es un privilegio para mí el aceptar el Premio B.R. Sen, el cuál comparto con el equipo de la FAO, y dedicándolo especialmente a los pequeños agricultores de Haití y de otros países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, con quienes he compartido en el campo sus experiencias, sufrimientos, frustraciones, inquietudes y deseos durante los últimos años.

Quisiera resaltar, que el ejercer mi trabajo en países con dificultades y problemas de seguridad, ha significado el sacrificio de mi familia, a la cual reconozco con gratitud por su paciencia y abnegación.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Escobedo and congratulations and thank you to your family as well.

I now invite Mr Luigi Damiani to the podium to receive his award and address the Conference of course.

Luigi DAMIANI (Italy)

Madame Chair, Mr Director-General, Excellencies and distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much for this great honour. I am humbled to receive for the 2009 B.R. Sen Award today. This Award acknowledges the work put forth to rehabilitate and revitalize the agriculture sector in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

With the hard work and dedication of my team, we have formulated and implemented several emergency projects to provide immediate relief to the crisis generated by the occupation.

Working directly with the Palestinian people in the field and on the ground has been the main source of inspiration for designing projects for interventions to respond to new challenges to local agriculture and food security, like the high population growth and water scarcity. Much of this work has been based on studies and analysis on food insecurity and conducted in close cooperation with the civil society, with the Minister of Agriculture of the Palestinian Authority, and within the common efforts made by the UN family.

I wish to thank the many people who have participated in the work conducted including my field staff and their officers of the desk for the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the Special Emergency Programme Service, and to the relevant technical division for their timely and substantive support. Special thanks to the Emergency Operation and Rehabilitation Division for the opportunity given to me to be involved in this intense and exciting experience that makes me proud to work for FAO.

Last, but not least, I wish to express thanks to my family. Once again, let me just say how deeply privileged I feel to receive this Award. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Damiani, and thank you also to your family and thank you for your wonderful work.

I am now thrilled to introduce my countryman, Kevin Gallagher, and call him up to the podium. When I first came to FAO, he is a man who helped me greatly in my work. He is a man whose career at FAO I watched very closely with great admiration. This is a special pleasure for me.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Kevin GALLAGHER (United States of America)

Madame Chair, it is very good to see you again. Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As FAO Representative in Sierra Leone, I am frequently asked: What does FAO do? To which I normally respond: FAO is global cooperative of nations working together in bringing our good faith and our networks in access to global experiences. The National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan which includes export of organic goods which is also part of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan, the CAADEP process in which it is one example in which together we have done a very good job and tonight I would like to explain what we have done together.

A National Programme of Food Security in Sierra Leone had been running for several years and that programme hinted on the way forward. The field staff of this large programme had actually been trained by other FAO programmes including the Integrated Pest Management Programme (IPM), sponsoring Farmer Field Schools with experts from Uganda who had been trained in Kenya, who in turn had been trained in the Philippines. This trainer, a woman Jennifer Heeray, had also been trained by Zimbabweans who in turn had been trained by facilitators from Vietnam and Bangladesh. All of these were under FAO programmes of various sorts.

If we follow the roots, we come to Indonesia where Farmer Field Schools and IPM have started under a regional programme on rice IPM led by FAO's Mr Peter Kenmore, and supported by the Netherlands and the United States. Interwoven in this path were lessons from a number of programmes such as the Special Programme for Food Security guided, by Mr Abdul Kobakiwal for so many years in the South-South Cooperation, Chinese experts serving in Sierra Leone for the last two years, and, of course, many of the high-level experts in the country had studied in other countries such as Russia, the UK and South Africa. New ideas were added from experts in Mr Doyle Baker's group here in FAO on receiving food security through commercialization of agriculture, bringing all farmers into the market economy. Successful lessons which came from around Africa were supported by Italy. This mixture came together under the national leadership of several Sierra Leoneans who were also supported by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Forum for African Research in Africa. I am sure if we probe further, most of our nations have contributed in some way or another.

My role in all of this, as an FAO staff member for more than 15 years, has been the privilege to either establish the programmes or to work with the colleagues mentioned above and bring them into Sierra Leone's sphere as it emerged from its conflict. As FAO Representative in Sierra Leone, I have drawn upon much wider networks of FAO to enrich our contributions in the CAADP process, and I would add that these networks are networks linked to networks and involve so many people here in FAO.

FAO, as a community, can bring together the best from each of our nations in our institutions to focus on successful ways forward to achieve the goals FAO founding members established and enshrined on stone at the entrance of this building.

The case of Sierra Leone is just one example. I believe the idealism of FAO is possible and as the truly esteemed Mahatma Ghandi stated "we must be the change we wish to see". We appreciate the many persons with whom I have gone and worked with in FAO in the many countries that I have had the opportunity to work in and it is with great humility and gratitude that I accept the BR Sen Award today.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you very much, Mr Gallagher. Thank you to your family and congratulations for your fine work.

30.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 2009/INF/7)

30.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma (C 2009/INF/7)

30.3 Entrega del Premio A. H. Boerma (C 2009/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 30.3, the Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, a biennial prize given to a writer or journalist whose writing or work on radio or television has increased international awareness of world food problems and measures to resolve them. The award consists of a medal, a personalised scroll, a cash prize for a total of USD 10 000 and a round-trip to Rome for the winner and spouse.

I invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the A.H. Boerma Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

This past biennium has seen some of the most profound changes in the global financial and economic arena, with deep repercussions on the way we approach investment, on our

understanding of banking systems and financial markets and, from FAO's point of view, on the actual and potential impact on the economies of the developing countries.

The media have a key role in the dissemination of information about the crisis and its impact on both rich and poor countries. There are journalists who work to inform a broad general public about day-to-day issues that affect agriculture, food production, processing, marketing and food safety, presenting the facts in a way that gives a voice to the most affected.

Two such journalists have played a critical role in informing their respective audiences in a manner which is both responsible and humane.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winners of the A. H. Boerma Award for 2008-2009. They are:

Ms Laetitia Clavreul, journalist working for France's leading newspaper, *Le Monde*, and Mr Shykh Seraj broadcast journalist/producer and presenter for Bangladesh television.

Mme Laetitia Clavreul has been writing on economic affairs to France's newspaper, *Le Monde*. She has brought readers' attention to the importance of agriculture and its impact on the French economy and on the economies of developed and developing countries.

Ms Clavreul's writing has raised awareness about issues related to food production and agriculture and rural development. She has frequently emphasized the critical role played by small-holder farmers in developing countries. Her work seeks to identify and make sense of principal trends in food production and world agriculture, and their impact on economies of both developed and developing countries. Among these issues are those connected with agricultural trade, international trade negotiations and the importance of agricultural development for emerging economies.

Mr Shykh Seraj - with almost thirty years of experience in the media, has worked as a print and broadcast journalist, presenter and producer on many television programmes, exploring the problems faced by farmers and rural communities. Mr Seraj has effectively used his position in the media to become a mediator between different sectors of society, in many ways bridging the gap between the poor and the better off.

Mr Seraj's programmes 'give a voice to farmers' by bringing their problems to the attention of policy-makers and government. He is also a trusted promoter of new technologies and food security in farming communities. Mr Seraj has introduced a live broadcast to enable farmers to join his programmes from remote areas and is currently working to bridge the digital divide by setting up an E-agriculture initiative.

I would like to express my appreciation for the role played by the media in disseminating FAO's messages and those of our partners in the struggle to eradicate hunger.

CHAIRPERSON

I invite Ms Clavreul to come to the Podium to accept her award and then to address the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Laetitia CLAVREUL (France)

Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, chers confrères que je tiens aussi à féliciter ce soir. C'est avec une vive émotion mais aussi avec un vrai bonheur que je reçois le prix Boerma aujourd'hui.

Avec la fierté aussi de voir que mes articles, comme le laisse entrevoir l'attribution de cette récompense, ont pu contribuer à sensibiliser l'opinion sur la question primordiale pour l'avenir de la planète qu'est le développement agricole.

Et quoi de plus important pour un journaliste que de savoir que son travail est jugé utile, d'autant plus quand il est question d'un sujet aussi crucial que la lutte contre la faim.

Ce prix revient également à toute la rédaction, celle de mon journal, Le Monde, dont les choix éditoriaux sont par vous aujourd'hui reconnus. Alors que dans les journaux l'espace est contraint, que chaque jour il faut faire un choix entre des sujets aussi inévitables les uns que les autres, nous avons souvent ces dernières années, fait place à l'agriculture, de plus en plus même.

Je me souviendrai longtemps de cette Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation 2007, où nous avons consacré une page entière à la menace que constituait la hausse des cours mondiaux des céréales pour les populations des pays qui en sont fortement importateurs. L'article expliquait alors que, selon la FAO, des risques de troubles sociaux émergeaient. C'était six mois avant les "émeutes de la faim". Le sujet intéressait peu à l'époque, mais tous les signes étaient pourtant réunis pour comprendre ce qui allait se passer.

Flambée des cours donc, mais aussi biocarburants, grippe aviaire, ruée vers les terres agricoles plus récemment, pour chaque sujet majeur, j'ai souvent trouvé auprès de la FAO des experts disposés à me fournir des données chiffrées et leur analyse. Je tiens aujourd'hui à tous les en remercier.

Bien sûr les temps de la FAO ne sont pas ceux des journalistes qui aimeraient souvent voir l'analyse trancher plus vite, la voir trancher tout court. Mais ce temps-là nous appelle justement, nous journalistes, au raisonnement et à la mesure. Cela m'a beaucoup servi à ne pas tomber ni dans la facilité ni dans la caricature.

Devant ce défi qui ne cesse de grandir: faire en sorte que ce chiffre honteux de 1 milliard d'êtres humains ne mangeant pas à leur faim soit un jour un mauvais souvenir. Devant ce grand défi qui ne cesse de se complexifier aussi, alors qu'il faut produire plus tout en réussissant à produire mieux pour préserver notre planète, j'espère que la FAO, le PAM et le FIDA d'une part, et les journalistes de l'autre, continueront en s'épaulant à jouer chacun leur rôle.

Je veux croire que notre travail est utile et que les choses avancent sur la scène internationale.

Je veux croire aussi que si la problématique de la faim disparaît un jour des colonnes des journaux, ce ne sera pas par désintérêt des médias, comme cela a été trop souvent le cas durant ces trente dernières années, où les besoins de développement de l'agriculture vivrière n'étaient pas entendus, mais qu'au contraire ce sera parce qu'enfin, les petits paysans vivront dignement de leurs terres.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Clavreul, and congratulations on the Award. I now invite Mr Seraj to take the floor and to address the Conference.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Shykh SERAJ (Bangladesh)

Honourable Director General of FAO, Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, respected Ministers, and Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is my great pleasure to be present here with all of you.

I am grateful to FAO for presenting me this prestigious recognition, the A.H. Boerma Award for 2008-2009. It is an inspiration for me to work with more determination and join your efforts to eradicate hunger from the world.

I would like to thank the FAO Representation in Bangladesh. I have been working with them for a long time to ensure food security and rural development in Bangladesh.

It is for three decades now that I have been working as a journalist to raise awareness regarding the crises of hunger and to report on successful solutions in the battle against it.

The media's role is to inform sensitively its viewers, readers and listeners sensibly. We, the journalists, should provide valuable information to the farmers so that they can produce more in a sustainable way, even in times of crisis.

Bangladesh has more than 150 million people in only 144 thousand square kilometres. It is in the world's largest delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers, making it extremely vulnerable to floods and cyclones.

Recent declines in exports, remittances and income come together with the global food and financial crises. The cyclones in 2007 and 2009 are further testing the resilience of Bangladeshi farmers.

Our farmers always fought back against all odds, with success in meeting the country's food demand. This is a great achievement. I stand here as the testimony of the glories of our farmers, our heroes.

"World Media" need to focus on these success stories. Usually, we are treated as 'poor' or even 'ultra-poor' - but that isn't the way we should be introduced. Now, we're self-reliant in producing food.

Charismatic news contents attract audiences. Global politics, economy, entertainment and other trendy news contents are hot cakes. But, if we do not highlight the crises and challenges of the farmers as well as their success stories, then the poor may be condemned to suffer in silence.

While reporting agricultural stories in the electronic and print media, I've found millions of marginal farmers facing countless difficulties. I believe more in solving problems rather than only finding it.

World is under threat of 'Food Insecurity' in this age of climate change. World hunger tops one billion now. I fully agree with FAO that only a healthy agriculture sector can provide an economic and employment safeguard in times of crisis. Safety nets must address the short-term impacts, while agriculture can provide long-term solutions.

Media is not only a tool to eliminate hunger, but also an effective science, which can bring harmony and peace all around the world.

I would like to thank FAO, all the journalists and farmers around the world, my colleagues, wife and two sons for keeping their faith in me.

World knows best that "Media can feed you". Thank you very much for your patience.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Seraj and congratulations to your family that they could be here with you.

30.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 2009/INF/8)

30.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma (C 2009/INF/8)

30.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma (C 2009/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to Item 30.4, the Presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award for 2008 to 2009. This award was established in honour of FAO Director General from 1976 to 1993. It is awarded every biennium to an institution which has successfully implemented a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll and a cash price for a total of USD 25,000. Numbers are going up, Mr Director General. I know the stuff. I invite the Director General to introduce the winners and to present the Saouma Award for 2008-2009.

DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

J'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer que le prix Edouard Saouma pour l'exercice biennal 2008-2009 a été décerné à la Direction des pêches du Ministère de l'environnement et des ressources halieutiques de la République du Tchad pour la qualité exceptionnelle de la mise en œuvre d'un projet de PCT qui avait comme objectif le renforcement de la capacité nationale de contrôle sanitaire et de l'utilisation responsable des produits halieutiques.

La Directrice de cette institution, Mme Flore Koumatey Iré, nous fait l'honneur de sa présence aujourd'hui et recevra ce prix au nom de toute son équipe. Par le prix Edouard Saouma, l'Organisation souhaite récompenser le dévouement et la grande compétence du personnel de la Direction des pêches ainsi que son aptitude exceptionnelle à mobiliser le soutien de partenaires essentiels au niveau central et au niveau des communautés. Toutes ces qualités ont favorisé une mise en œuvre efficace du projet.

Le projet a ainsi permis l'accroissement de la plus-value résultant de l'amélioration de la qualité du poisson transformé et la réduction des pertes post-capture. Je suis donc très heureux d'accueillir Mme Flore Koumatey Iré pour lui remettre ce prix.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Koumatey Iré FLORE (Tchad)

C'est un grand privilège pour moi de prendre en ce jour la parole pour présenter à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO et au Comité de sélection du "prix Edouard Saouma" le message de reconnaissance du Chef de l'État, Président de la République du Tchad, du Premier Ministre, des Membres du Gouvernement, du Ministre de l'Agriculture ici présent et tout particulièrement, les remerciements des Groupements des femmes des localités de Mahada, Kinassarom, Kassalare, Djoumras, Amlahali et Miterine, bénéficiaires du projet TCP/CHD/3003 relatif au "Renforcement des capacités nationales en inspection sanitaire et amélioration de la qualité des produits halieutiques du lac Tchad et du fleuve Chari".

Au Tchad, plus de 300 000 personnes tirent leurs revenus directement des activités de la pêche, notamment les femmes, qui sont majoritaires dans le sous-secteur post-capture.

Cependant, peu d'investissements ont été consentis à ce sous-secteur qui est soumis à de graves contraintes organisationnelles dans le secteur.

La FAO, fidèle à sa tradition de partenariat de proximité pour le Tchad a répondu favorablement à la requête prioritaire de mon pays en 2005 en finançant ledit projet dont l'objectif a été atteint grâce à un dispositif d'exécution performant.

Exécuté dans un délai de 20 mois, le projet a produit des résultats très significatifs grâce à une mobilisation à temps des ressources et de l'expertise de la Coopération Sud-Sud.

Au-delà des réalisations physiques et des renforcements des capacités des acteurs dont 95 pour cent de femmes, les objectifs du projet ont été, non seulement atteints et dépassés, mais ses résultats ont eu des effets multiplicateurs sur l'ensemble du territoire national avec la construction en cours du Centre national de contrôle des denrées alimentaires d'origine animale, y compris les produits halieutiques et, avec l'appui de la FAO, le financement par la Banque africaine de développement du Projet de développement de la pêche (PRODEPECHE) qui assure actuellement la diffusion à grande échelle des réalisations du projet.

Il faut également rappeler le rôle très important que la FAO continue de jouer en accompagnant le Gouvernement dans la mobilisation d'autres partenaires tels que la Banque islamique de développement pour compléter le financement de la Banque africaine de développement et contribuer à la mise en œuvre du Programme national pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Le prix Edouard Saouma décerné à la Direction des pêches est une première pour le Tchad.

En tant que Directrice des pêches, je demeure la messagère de toute l'administration et de toutes les femmes du Tchad à cette cérémonie solennelle.

De retour au pays, une tournée de restitution sera organisée en vue de présenter le prix aux productrices.

En somme, ce projet qui est la traduction du partenariat exemplaire qui existe entre le Tchad et la FAO est l'illustration du fait que l'importance et la pertinence d'un projet ne se mesurent pas par le volume du financement et l'envergure du projet mais par l'efficacité de l'utilisation des ressources allouées et son niveau d'appropriation par les populations.

Merci pour votre aimable attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplauso

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Ms Koumatey and congratulations. This concludes Item 30.4.

30.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 2009/LIM/5)

30.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (C 2009/LIM/5)

30.5 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (C 2009/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed with Item 30.5, the Margarita Lizarraga Medal. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winner for 2008-2009.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Margarita Lizárraga Medal is awarded every two years to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Medal pays tribute to Dr. Margarita Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code and her work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, especially in developing countries.

It is my pleasure to announce that H.E. Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia, was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2008-2009 in recognition of his distinguished leadership, nationally, regionally and internationally, in the application of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries through the implementation of responsible fisheries science, policies and management. His involvement in the negotiations leading to the Reykjavik Declaration, his contribution to the establishment of the Benguela Current Large Marine Eco-system Project (BCLME), the Benguela-Environment-Fisheries-

Interaction and Training Programme (BENEFIT) as well as the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO) are also noteworthy.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call on the Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia to receive the Award.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Abraham IYAMBO (Namibia)

Director of Ceremonies, Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to accept the Margarita Lizárraga Medal. It is a special privilege for me to receive an Award in memory of Margarita Lizárraga who, throughout her forty-year career, worked towards fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

I salute and extend profound gratitude to Dr Jacques Diouf, our illustrious Director-General of FAO, and to the FAO community of Nations for the honour bestowed upon Namibia. The Award is not only in recognition of my individual efforts, but also serves as an inspiration to developing nations.

It is, indeed, gratifying that humanity's supreme body, the UN, is according fisheries its rightful place in the global agenda through the promoting of sustainable fisheries as shown by the commendable work of the General Assembly and FAO.

Namibia has been at the forefront of regional collaboration in marine scientific research in Southern Africa. We practise and value prudent management of shared stocks. In 1997, we established the Benguela Environment Fisheries Interaction and Training (BENEFIT Program) to enhance knowledge of the living marine resources and improve understanding of the environmental factors. In addition, Namibia helped establish the Benguela Current Large Marine Eco-system Program (BCLME) in 2001, in order to improve capacities in the region, and to deal with trans-boundary species.

Moreover, Namibia initiated and worked closely with Angola, South Africa and the UK and spearheaded the birth of the now fully functional South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) to ensure the protection of the environment, conservation and sustainable use of the living marine resources in the high sea outside the EEZs of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. Namibia is happy to have been the Co-chair of the drafting of the Reykjavik Declaration on Eco-system Management. Namibia led the initial work for the drafting of the SADC Fisheries Protocol, which is in harmony with the FAO Code of Conduct. We, therefore, remain solidly committed to implementing the tenets of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Namibia remains indebted to many countries and international organisations for their generous and consistent support in the development of our fisheries sector. These countries have, indeed, been safe pillars and bountiful fountains of hope and knowledge as we formulate our fisheries management initiatives.

Over half a billion people in developing countries depend directly or indirectly on fisheries for their livelihoods. However, the most frightening reality is that human induced climatic change is threatening agriculture, land fertility, fisheries and aquaculture. In addition, an estimated 1 billion US dollars are lost annually from sub-Saharan Africa, due to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, representing 30 percent of the catches. The time is now for world leaders to commit to sustainable fisheries and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

In the memory of Margarita Lizárraga, we must embrace concrete and collective actions and preserve what is left in the oceans.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I accept the Margarita Lizárraga Medal with humility and honour and dedicate it to my team of experts at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in the Republic of Namibia, to factory workers, sea-going personnel and to managers of Namibia's vibrant fishing industry. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank everybody for their kind attention this afternoon. You have been so wonderful in your kind attention that I decided to add six more speeches tonight.

This brings us to the end of our work for today. Before closing the meeting may I remind the Members of the General Committee, including my fellow Vice-Chairpersons, to make their way to the Lebanon Room for the first meeting of the General Committee which will begin immediately.

The second session of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall tomorrow morning at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 19:07 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:07 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Período de Sesiones**

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

19 November 2009

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.52 hours
Kathleen Merrigan,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 52
sous la présidence de Kathleen Merrigan,
Présidente de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 9:52 horas
bajo la presidencia de Kathleen Merrigan,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session (C 2009/1; C 2009/12; C 2009/INF/4; C 2009/LIM/1; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev1)

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session (C 2009/1; C 2009/12; C 2009/INF/4; C 2009/LIM/1; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev1)

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 2009/1; C 2009/12; C 2009/INF/4; C 2009/LIM/1; C 2009/LIM/6-Rev1)

4. Admission of Observers (C 2009/12; C 2009/13)

4. Admission d'observateurs (C 2009/12; C 2009/13)

4. Admisión de observadores (C 2009/12; C 2009/13)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Second Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference to order.

In the interests of safety for all of us, I have been asked to request your attention for just a few minutes to view a short audiovisual presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

Before proceeding further, I give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Community.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I have been asked to inform you that the Declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in information document C 2009/INF/4, which is available at the Documents Desk, and I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this Declaration. Thank you.

First Report of the General Committee (C 2009/LIM/1)

Premier rapport du Comité général (C 2009/LIM/1)

Primer Informe del Comité General (C 2009/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

Regarding Item 3, Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session and Item 4, Admission of Observers, as instructed by the Conference, the General Committee met yesterday evening and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

I would like to request all delegates to ensure that they have the Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee before them. The Report is set out in document C 2009/LIM/1.

I will now proceed to read the title of each section.

A. Agenda for the Session.

Are there comments on this section? If there are no comments I declare the section adopted. And so we will proceed to the following sections.

Section B. Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session.

Are there comments on Section B? Hearing none, I declare the section adopted.

And so we move on to the next section.

Section C. Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Two Commissions.

Are there comments on Section C? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section D. Resolutions Committee.

Comments on Section D? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Section E.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section F. Election of Members of the Council.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section G. Right to Vote.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section H. Right to Reply.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section I. Verbatim Records.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section J. Statements by Heads of Delegations.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section K. Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section L. Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section M. Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section N. Attendance by Liberation Movements.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

Section O. Conclusion.

Comments? Hearing none, it is adopted.

If there are no further comments on the Report, I take it the Conference approves in its entirety.

It is adopted.

Before moving on to the next item on our Agenda we shall have to adopt the Second Report of the Credentials Committee. I should like to give the floor to Ms. Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held three meetings on 6, 12 and 18 November to examine the Credentials received for this Session of the Conference.

A First Report was issued as document C 2009/LIM/2. A Second Report was issued as C 2009/LIM/13 and is now before you. Members are listed in List A and B. List A includes Members whose credentials in original form bear the signature or are signed by or on behalf of the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the Minister of the Department concerned. It also includes Members whose Permanent Representative have submitted a communication in original form confirming explicitly that the Delegation was designated upon instructions from the Government. List B includes Members which have submitted credentials or information on the composition of delegations in the form of, *inter alia*, an *ordre de mission* a specific mention is made of the current session of the Conference and, if they are signed by the Minister concerned, a Note Verbale, a photocopy, an electronic copy or a facsimile of original credentials. The list reflects the situation as of Wednesday 18 November.

The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials or information on the composition of delegations on both lists be accepted and recommended that all delegations be authorized to participate in the Conference Session. I would invite members to communicate directly to the Secretariat any additional information on their credentials as well as any corrections to the list. A revised list will be issued later in the Session. I would invite the Conference to approve the Second Report of the Credentials Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Do we have comments on this Report?

If there are none, I declare the Report adopted.

My thanks to the Chairperson and other Members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out before and during this session of the Conference.

I now call upon the Director-General to deliver his statement to the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Madam Chair of the Conference,
Mr Independent Chairman of the Council,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Seldom in the 65-year-old history of this Organization have two years been as important for global food security. In 2007 and 2008, we have had to deal with urgent pressing demands and also to simultaneously address the longer-term issues and the emerging challenges.

While deeply regretting the recent sharp increase in the number of hungry people to cross the one billion line, I can also draw some satisfaction at what we have achieved.

Someone told me recently that I have been repeating for 15 years the same things – the need to boost investment in agriculture, the crucial role of water control and the need to support smallholders. “Yes,” I replied, “but the difference is that at last now the leaders of the world seem to realize the importance after the riots of 2007-2008 of what I have been saying along all these years”.

The high food prices, the already discernable signs of global warming and bio-fuels, among many other things, have brought food security and agriculture to the apex of the international agenda.

A new governance of world food security would increase the prospect of the early and complete eradication of hunger from the face of the Earth.

While many of us probably hoped to get more concrete commitments in the Declaration of the Summit which ended yesterday, we have achieved some important progress. What counts now is to build on the gained momentum to realize our ultimate goal of a world free of hunger. I should take the opportunity to thank all the Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives who worked long hours to produce a Declaration that was approved by consensus. I wish to thank the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group who led this process diligently. Last, but not least, I would like to express my great appreciation for the hard work of the Secretariat and all the staff who made this event a success.

While you have seen the Declaration, I would like to highlight a few important elements on which, in my view, we should capitalize.

- One: The firm commitment to meet the MDG-1 and the World Food Summit targets of hunger reduction.
- Two: The commitment to fully implement the Reform of the CFS and the support for the creation, within it, of a High-Level Panel of Experts.
- Three: The commitment to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding for agriculture, food security and rural development in developing countries and to substantially increase their share in ODA.
- Four: The decision to promote new investment to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, reduce poverty and work towards achieving food security and access to food for all.

All these decisions mean one thing: if we really take the necessary actions and mobilize the needed resources to effectively halve hunger by 2015, and if we carry on with the same drive and determination, then we should be able to totally eradicate hunger from the face of the planet within less than a generation time.

In addition to the Summit, the biennium coming to a close was also marked by two other major events: the “High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges Climate Change and Bioenergy” organized in June 2008 and the “High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050” held last month.

The success of both events contributed significantly to our regular Programme of Work, while raising public awareness and influencing political decisions in favour of agriculture and food security.

In the field, an important programme implemented by FAO was the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, or ISFP, which has to date provided farmers in 93 countries with assistance in the face of skyrocketing prices that sent not only the cost of *food* soaring but also that of seeds, fertilizer and other essential inputs. USD 389 million have been effectively mobilized for ISFP projects, including USD 37 million from FAO’s Regular Programme resources.

As of October 2009, a total of 1 890 projects were operational, of which 468 were emergency projects. During the biennium 2008-09 (up to October), FAO has delivered in total close to USD 1.2 billion in projects, out of which USD 632 million in emergency operations. The Technical Cooperation Programme accounted for USD 552 million, of which 11.4 percent provided by FAO and the rest by external resources (87.7 percent by Trust Funds and 0.9 percent by UNDP).

FAO’s activities on many fronts in the biennium are of course too numerous to be listed in my address. You will get reports on many of them throughout the Session of the Conference. Likewise, Reports on the five Regional Conferences and all the Technical Committees held in 2009 will be presented to you.

FAO has continued to deepen its ties with other UN Agencies with an important recent agreement after two years of intensive consultations on Directions for Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. The four pillars of this framework are: i) policy advice, knowledge and monitoring; ii) operations; iii) advocacy and communication; and iv) administrative matters. Joint action will be

pursued at the global, regional, national and local levels, including in the “Delivering as One” Pilot Countries.

Just last week we finalized, with Board approval from all three Agencies, a strategy for intensified cooperation drawing on FAO, IFAD and WFP joint expertise and capacity. This is in fact the culmination of a two-year effort that joins our unique strengths to create a more powerful whole, building on a portfolio of nearly 400 cooperative efforts in more than 70 countries.

Earlier in the biennium, FAO contributed to the preparation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) by the UN High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General in April 2008, and for which I had the honour to be nominated as its Vice-Chair. The CFA was presented by the Secretary General to the G8 Summit in Hokkaido in July 2008 and to the UN General Assembly in September 2008.

The future capacity of this Organization to address the many challenges ahead will be determined by the important initiatives that have been the focus of our collective attention during this biennium:

- First, the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO’s Renewal, where we are moving at full speed to make the Organization more relevant, effective and efficient in fighting hunger;
- Second, the approval and implementation of the Strategic Framework and the proposals in the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, where we aim to focus and prioritize the work of the Organization and establish a clear link between the results that need to be delivered and the required resources, also incorporating the Reforms in the IPA.

The implementation of the IPA has been a major objective of both Members and the Secretariat since it was adopted by the Special Session of the Conference in November 2008. On my part, it is at the top of my agenda. The reason is self-evident. A renewed FAO will be able to rise to the challenge of the heightened expectations that the world now has for national and international action to address food insecurity. Our collective reform efforts will deliver an Organization that can play its rightful part in helping the international community deliver the commitments made in the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative and at the just-concluded World Summit on Food Security.

We are only at the end of the first year of the five-year period envisaged for the implementation of the IPA but have already completed 56 percent of the actions planned despite the fact that to date the Special Trust Fund established for the purpose of this programme has received only USD 8.5 million out of an agreed 2009 provisional amount of USD 21.8 million. We have demonstrated that we mean business, not simply through words, but through actions.

Achievements thus far are important. The most important are the introduction of a results-based planning framework and change towards a results-based culture; decentralization and greater delegation of responsibility; organizational streamlining; improved human resources management and more effective governance.

Decentralized Offices have played a prominent role in the preparation of the 2010-2011 budget proposals. Starting from next January, Regional Offices will have budget and programme oversight responsibility for Technical Officers in the region and will progressively direct the substantive work of the Country Offices. Also, personnel in Decentralized Offices are being trained to take on additional responsibility for the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2010.

To facilitate the alignment of our organizational structure to the results framework, a comprehensive restructuring of Headquarters was initiated in 2009 for completion in 2012. A key element of this exercise has been a delayering of one third of the Director-level positions to produce a flatter, less hierarchical management structure.

We continue to ensure the efficient use of Member contributions through systematic reform of administrative and management systems. An external Root and Branch Review of our processes

and systems, as called for under the IPA, has identified several opportunities to lower the cost and improve the quality and timeliness of administrative services during the next five years.

The *new* draft Strategic Framework underpins our enhanced results-based approach to planning. It provides the broad principles for action and describes the impact expected to be achieved over a ten-year timeframe. The Strategic and Functional Objectives are the result of dedicated and extensive intergovernmental discussions over the past 18 months.

Therefore, the proposed Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget embody *a* serious attempt to link means to ends, that is, to connect resources to results. The new planning framework has allowed us to focus our work on Members' needs. I recognize that we have some way to go in working with Members to set priorities within and among the Objectives, but essential foundations have been laid in the results framework.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011 presents *a* comprehensive package of proposals in a new format. It exposes the financial requirements to implement both *a* biennial Programme of Work and a substantial set of reforms funded from Assessed and Voluntary Contributions.

In respect of Regular Programme assessments, and taking into account the concept of "Reform with Growth" advocated as the principal conclusion of the IEE and echoed in the IPA, the Secretariat has faced a dilemma.

On the one hand, FAO should indeed be able to address the range of challenges facing its stakeholders, and highlighted in your declarations, including the need to reverse the unacceptable rise in hunger and malnutrition.

On the other hand, we cannot ignore the detrimental effects of the exceptional financial and economic crisis on FAO's budget discussions.

In that context, efficiency savings could be considered as an important financial ingredient in maximizing FAO's services to Members at minimum cost. Indeed, as requested by Members in the IPA, savings of USD 17.4 million per biennium from delaying are redirected towards FAO's programmes. The Root and Branch Review has provided an expert, evidence-based analysis of the opportunities for further quantified efficiency savings in 2010-2011, that has been incorporated in the PWB. I must caution the Membership against the temptation of setting unsubstantiated and unprogrammed efficiency targets for the 2010-2011 biennium, which will put at risk the momentum of FAO renewal and its services to Members.

Turning to the specific numbers, the proposed biennial budget for the Net Appropriation is set at USD 995.9 million, representing a 7.1 percent increase over the current biennium. As previously requested by the Governing Bodies, I have also summarized measures to improve FAO's financial health, liquidity and reserves.

The proposed Net Appropriation reflects an adjustment for cost increases in the Regular Budget which has been examined twice by the Governing Bodies and is in line with the adjustments proposed by the other UN Rome-based Agencies.

In addition, the proposed Net Appropriation includes an increment to meet just over half the revised cost of the IPA in the biennium. In formulating my proposal, I have listened carefully to Members on the need to guarantee funding for IPA implementation, while protecting the Programme of Work.

While the Council decided to refer to the Conference the discussions on the level of the PWB 2010-2011, I welcome the informal consultative process that was initiated through the Friends of the Chair to bridge gaps on the matter of the budget. I will be guided by your decisions on the strategic direction and budget of the Organization in the coming days.

We naturally could have done better if world agriculture and food security had been given the relevant place in the priorities of the international agenda. We should nevertheless be satisfied by how much has been achieved by Members and the Secretariat. *"If FAO did not exist it would need*

to be invented,” the IEE has stated. Well, we are reinventing ourselves and in that creative and challenging process, *a new* and better FAO is emerging.

This Organization now has a rightful place in the chambers and at the tables where the world’s most powerful leaders meet to set the course of global events. FAO’s advice, views, recommendations and warnings are heeded with attention and respect. All this allows *a* renewed FAO to break new ground in its fight to eradicate hunger, to end poverty and to create *a* better life for everyone on earth. An FAO that everyone can be proud of.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you every success in your work.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

18. Report of the CoC-IEE on the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal

(C 2009/7; C 2009/LIM/10)

18. Rapport du CoC-EEI sur le Plan d’action immédiate pour le renouveau

de la FAO (C 2009/7; C 2009/LIM/10)

18. Informe del CoC-EEI sobre el Plan inmediato de acción para la renovación

de la FAO (C 2009/7; C 2009/LIM/10)

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to Item 18 Report of the Conference Committee on the Independent External Evaluation the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. I am going to hand the floor over the Professor Noori who is not only Independent Chairperson of the Council, but also the Chairperson of the CoC-IEE.

Mohammed Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Chairperson of Council)

Last year, during this same period, in this same forum, a Special Session of the Conference was convened, at which you unanimously approved the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA). On that occasion, I had the privilege of being appointed by you to chair the Conference Committee for Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE), and you tasked the Committee to provide you with a Report on its work at this Session of the Conference. Today I am deeply honoured to submit to you the Committee’s report on its achievements in 2009.

At the same time, I am pleased to present to you the Draft Resolution on the Immediate Plan of Action for the FAO Renewal, for adoption by this Conference, by which your Representatives have all agreed to recommend that the Conference endorse the Report of the Committee.

As mandated by the Conference in 2008, the Committee has produced a Report covering the activities it has undertaken in 2009 in three main areas, that is: (i) the planning documentation prepared in response to the requirements for a new results-based framework, namely the Strategic Framework, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget; (ii) the governance reform and the related amendments to the FAO Basic Texts necessary to implement the IPA; and (iii) the reform of systems, culture change and organizational restructuring. Additionally, the concluding section of the Report describes the areas where further work should be carried out to complete the reform process, as well as the follow-up mechanisms needed for monitoring the implementation of the IPA in the next biennium.

In line with our new methods of work stemming from the IPA, the main body of the Report has been drafted in a concise, action-oriented manner, with more detailed information provided in five complementary appendices.

The Committee's Report and its Appendices clearly show that significant progress has been made in implementing a sizeable number of IPA actions in the course of 2009, along with related recommendations from the Root and Branch Review of administrative processes. As stated in my foreword to the Committee's Report, the achievements are noteworthy in that:

- results-based management has been established and change towards a results-based culture has begun;
- decentralization is moving ahead, as is delegation of responsibility;
- organizational restructuring and streamlining has been initiated;
- greater attention is being given to improved human resource management; and finally
- more effective governance is being introduced.

Such notable progress could not have been accomplished without the spirit of trust and the increased collaboration between the Membership and the Management of FAO in jointly moving forward with the Reform of the Organization.

While number-wise more than half of the IPA actions have already been completed in the first year of implementation, the entire renewal process, in its multiple dimensions, will continue to entail considerable efforts on the part of both the Membership and the Management, to fully deliver a wide range of interdependent initiatives and complex projects in 2010-2011 and beyond.

To ensure continuity in providing guidance, monitoring and follow-up to the implementation of the IPA, you have determined, through the draft Conference Resolution I mentioned earlier, that the CoC-IEE should be re-established in the next biennium, recognizing the key role it has played as an efficient oversight mechanism, one which is open to the Membership at large, and that is therefore truly owned and fully supported by all Members. Acknowledging the enhanced facilitating functions now attributed to the Independent Chairperson of the Council under the IPA, you have agreed that he or she should also be entrusted with the responsibility of chairing the CoC-IEE in the coming biennium. And with the same sense of continuity, you have recommended that the current two Vice-Chairpersons of the CoC-IEE be re-appointed in 2010-2011, hence renewing the confidence you have all placed in them, and I thank you for that.

Allow me to reiterate my deep conviction, already expressed at the last Session of the Conference, that FAO is urgently needed as a reformed, efficient and effective partner in the multilateral system, providing a unique world forum on food and agriculture matters and for a coherent global governance of food security.

A fresh illustration of this unique strength of the Organization is the successful outcome of the very recently-concluded World Summit on Food Security. The Summit Declaration, adopted by acclamation at the opening session by the Heads of State and Government and their Representatives, calls for urgent action, at national, regional and world levels, towards eradicating hunger from the face of the planet at the earliest possible date. Underpinning the achievement of this goal, the Declaration sets forth four strategic objectives and five specific principles for sustainable global food security, including the enhancement of governance mechanisms and fostering effective partnerships. In this regard, the Declaration stresses the need to fully implement the reform of the Committee on World Food Security as the foremost platform for committed stakeholders to work together, and as a central component of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. This new architecture will require a stronger FAO, capable of fulfilling its vital responsibility in the Global Partnership, and of carrying out its unique role in achieving *Fiat Panis*, bread for all.

Lately I was asked the following question: "Of which accomplishment as Chair of Council are you most proud?" My answer was: "The establishment of the Friends of the Chair which led to the formation of the Committee of the Conference for Follow up to the IEE and, finally, the successful completion of the FAO Renewal Process."

Indeed, I am sure that you share my strong belief that the Immediate Plan of Action is "a vital pathway of reform with growth for a strengthened, efficient, effective and responsive Organization", as the draft Conference Resolution put it and paraphrasing the same document, I

should add that ensuring the sustainability of the FAO Reform in the future years is a shared challenge, ambition and responsibility of the Membership, Management and Staff of this Organization. It is a win-win endeavour and opportunity for all.

It is in this context of increased trust and partnership that I present to you the Report of the Committee and the draft Resolution for your approval. A few weeks ago, assembled in the Conference Committee, you unanimously endorsed both documents *en bloc*. Today I invite you to adopt them in the same way in the framework of the supreme Governing Body of the Organization, thus formally renewing the commitment of the entire Membership to the Reform of FAO.

In concluding these remarks, let me thank you all for the good will, enthusiastic involvement and collective efforts which led to the successful completion of the work of the CoC-IEE this year. I also wish to specially acknowledge the dedicated engagement and precious support that was extended by the CoC-IEE Vice-Chairs, the Chairs, Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of its Working Groups, as well as its Bureau Members. Likewise, my sincere appreciation goes to FAO's Management and Staff for their proactive support and unflinching commitment to the reform of the Organization and we heard from the Director-General right now that the reform is at the top of his agenda, and I want to thank him for his enthusiasm and commitment.

A few days ago, I could personally witness an impressive example of the deep dedication of the FAO staff during the launch of their *Internal Vision Statement*. The event was attended by more than 1000 staff members at all levels, both at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices, watching directly or listening by web stream or video conference, all connected simultaneously worldwide. Their central message was, and I quote: "we are proud to work for FAO" unquote, stressing their firm commitment to the Organization's mission of building a food-secure world.

Let me congratulate them and congratulate you for having collectively set, through the IPA process, an enlightening example for the whole UN System of an Organization that is proud to strive for a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

Finally, at the end of my term of office as Independent Chairperson of the Council and as Chairperson of the CoC-IEE, let me express my heartfelt appreciation for the support and friendship I have greatly enjoyed over the years in this house, saying to each and all of you in my native language, Persian: *motashakeram duste man*. That means: thank you my friend – and I really mean it.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2009/2; C 2009/2 Add.1)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2009/2; C 2009/2 Add.1)

5. Examen del estado de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2009/2; C 2009/2 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now begin deliberations on the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor to Ms Ghanem to introduce the item.

Hafez GHANEM (Assistant-Director General, Economic and Social Department)

In the Summit Declaration that you all agreed to work to achieve the World Food Summit target of halving hunger by the year 2015, the main message of my presentation today on the State of Food and Agriculture is that achieving this goal requires actions on three fronts.

The first front is policy frameworks that are supportive to agriculture and particularly to small-holders, linking small-holders to markets. The second front is an increase in the share of

developing country budgets allocated to agriculture and food security and increase in investment and the third front is a reallocation of ODA favouring agriculture.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goal and achieving the World Food Summit goal might appear quite daunting given that we are nearly in 2010, however many countries have actually succeeded already and we need to look at the success stories to gain inspiration and learn lessons on how this can be done. Now, if the computer was working, you would have seen a graph that you all know very well, which is the graph of the evolution of the number of hungry people in the world. Please imagine that you see that graph and you will see that the number of hungry people in the world was quite stable, at around 850 million people throughout the 90s and up to 2005-2006, then after 2006 with the food crisis and then with the financial and economic crisis that number jumps up. The reason I wanted to show you that graph again, which you already know, is that our argument is that the hunger problem in the world is not just a transitory phenomenon. It is not just a phenomenon of yesterday, it has been with us for a while. We do have a structural problem of hunger and undernourishment in the world, and actually the recent crisis might have had a silver lining, as it were, because it brought to the forefront those issues and it made us all aware of the importance of this problem and the need to act now. So, why do we have this hunger problem, this structural problem; why does it exist?

This is the graph that you kindly imagined and now we are here. Our argument is that the reason we have had this structural hunger problem in the world is that we have neglected agriculture for a long time. We have neglected agriculture and the argument was that we have no problem of food supply, that the problem of hunger is really a poverty problem and so focussing on agriculture *per se* is not particularly important, but actually, if you think about it, this argument does not hold. If hunger is a poverty problem, we need to remember that 75 percent of the poor people in the world live in rural areas and that their livelihoods depend directly, or indirectly, on agriculture and so if you neglect agriculture you are neglecting the livelihoods of 75 percent of the poor and when you look at the hunger figures, the majority of the undernourished in the world, paradoxically, are in rural areas and hence, the importance. If you look at the figures, when I say we neglected agriculture, you see that the rate of growth of agriculture capital stock fell by half over the last 15 years. Agriculture capital stock was growing at 1.1 percent since 1975, since the Food Conference at that time and up to 1990 and then that rate of growth fell to 0.5 percent. This decline in investment in agriculture, the decline in the rate of growth of capital stock, we see on all fronts. Developing countries in 2005 were only allocating 5.5 percent of their budget to investment in agriculture. Compare that with the Maputo Declaration of 10 percent, so we see a problem there. The share of all the aid going to agriculture, as you already know, fell dramatically, from 17 percent to 20 percent, depending on how you define agriculture, whether you want to include fisheries and forestry in it, to less than 4 percent in 2006 and so we had this happening. Now, what this picture here is showing is that we do have some empirical evidence on the relationship between investing in agriculture and reducing hunger. The green bars there, compared to the blue bars, we divided the sample of countries where in SOFI and we took the countries where they had the least improvement in hunger figures and compared them with the countries that had the most improvement in hunger figures and as you see, there is a big difference in the amount of investment those two groups of countries have done. Countries where there was much less, where the numbers are to the left, that is negative growth in the capital stock, are the countries with the highest hunger numbers, whereas the countries where you have those blue bars to the right, are the countries that also have succeeded in achieving the biggest reduction in hunger, so there is a correlation between the two. Of course, the correlation is not perfect. You find some countries that have succeeded in reducing hunger with little investment and you find some countries who invested a lot and did not succeed in reducing hunger. The differences between the two are policies. It is not just enough to invest, you have to invest within the right policy framework.

As we look forward to the future and we just had last month this "High-Level Forum on Feeding the World 2050", this whole question of dealing with hunger becomes particularly important. In that Forum we identified several important challenges. The first challenge is that there will be increased pressure and increased demands for agricultural goods, because population will increase

from 6 to 9 billion and all of those additional 3 billion people are expected to be in cities in developing countries and that means that food demand will increase by 70 percent between now and 2050. That does not mean that agriculture production needs to increase by 70 percent, it means that agriculture production needs to increase by more than 70 percent, because the 70 percent is just an increase in the demand for food. We do not include the increase in the demand for bio-fuels in this number, so if there is more demand for feed for biofuels, then the growth has to be much higher. Also, the 70 percent increase is an average number for the whole world. If you separate the world into OECD and developing countries, you will find that for developing countries the number is 100 percent, that food demand will double in developing countries over the next 40 years. Another point that is very important that was raised in that High-Level Forum is the issue of volatility. There has been a consensus that volatility will increase because of the climate change, because of market structures and because of greater market integration. If there is one issue that everybody agreed upon, other than the need to greatly expand agricultural production, was that volatility would become a much bigger problem in the future than it is today.

Now, we did an analysis of what it would take in terms of investment to feed the world in 2050 and we also did an analysis of what it would take to achieve the World Food Summit goal of 2015 in terms of investment and that is what we are showing here. Today, total investment in agriculture every year in developing countries is about USD 190 billion a year. Of course, most of it is done by farmers themselves. The public part of that investment is USD 47 billion and that is this small rectangle to the left of that graph. If our objective is to meet the increased demand by 2050, we need to raise that investment level to USD 280 billion a year, which means that the public investment share has to rise to USD 70 billion a year. If you want to achieve the target of reducing the number of hungry people by half over the next five years, then we need to invest USD 460 billion a year in developing countries. Most of the investment, as I said, comes from farmers. Most of the investment in agriculture is not done by government or by aid agencies, it is done by the farmers themselves and that highlights the importance of the first point I made, that the policy framework, the incentives to farmers are extremely important. Unless farming is profitable, they will not invest.

In terms of the increase in public investment, which is very necessary for infrastructure, irrigation, research and development, extension services and so on, we believe there is a need for developing countries to increase the share of their budgets going to agriculture and also, in terms of donors, they need to increase the share of ODA going to agriculture. Actually, the numbers look horrendously scary, but they are doable and I will show you later how some countries have actually done it, reduced hunger by half in five years.

We usually measure policies, the impact of policies on agriculture in terms of what we call the net rate of assistance and one of the dilemmas, one of the problems that we see in the world today, is that while developed countries are subsidizing and supporting agriculture, in many developing countries agriculture is still taxed, it is still getting what we economists call negative net assistance. Here we are showing you the graph for Africa. The average net rates of assistance for agriculture in Africa. As you see, there has been an improvement, but it is still negative and moving close to zero. We are far from a situation where developing countries are supporting their farmers the same way as developed countries have done.

Now, looking at those global investment numbers and looking at global figures of assistance to agriculture, can be quite discouraging, because the numbers are huge and the challenge appears insurmountable, but actually we produced a paper before the Summit on pathways to success and actually, as we were working on that paper, we discovered that, here I give you a list of some countries who have actually succeeded in reducing hunger and who are going to achieve, some of them have already achieved both the World Food Summit goals and the Millennium Development Goals and they certainly appear to have succeeded and those are countries all over the world. They range from Ghana and Nigeria in Africa, to Albania and Azerbaijan in West Asia, to China and Vietnam in East Asia, to Brazil, Ecuador and Jamaica in Latin America and the Caribbean. What are the common denominators of those successful countries? What can we learn from success? We find that we learned four important lessons.

The first lesson is the point that I started with on the policy environment. You need to create the right environment to promote economic growth and to provide incentives for investment. We cannot fight hunger if we are taxing agriculture. We cannot fight hunger if we keep prices artificially low for farmers.

The second point that we learnt is also a point that I mentioned, is that all of those countries increased investment in rural areas, both in agriculture infrastructure and so on.

The third point is that they had long-term plans for a sustainable future and the fourth and last point is that they had in place structures and institutions and policies to deal with shocks, whether climatic shocks or market shocks and to deal with emergencies and actually I will stop here because that point on emergencies will be developed further by my colleague, José María Sumpsi.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would request Members who are interested to take part in the proceedings of Commission II that you would go to the Red Room so that a quorum can be formed to begin the proceedings.

As you recall, the Conference has been invited by the Council to focus the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture at this session on the theme "Improving Preparedness for and Effective Response to Food and Agricultural Threats in Emergencies", which corresponds to Strategic Objective I of the new results-based management structure. I should therefore like to invite Mr José María Sumpsi, Assistant Director-General of the Technical Cooperation Department, to give us some background to this theme.

José María SUMPSI VIÑAS (Assistant-Director General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Creo que es un acierto que los Miembros hayan elegido el objetivo estratégico I de la FAO ("Mejora de la preparación y respuesta eficaz ante las amenazas y situaciones de emergencias alimentarias y agrarias") como el primer tema de debate general sobre la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura.

Ningún país se salva de las amenazas y de las situaciones de emergencia agrarias y alimentarias. Las situaciones de emergencia pueden deberse a catástrofes naturales, conflictos, plagas, enfermedades vegetales y animales, situaciones relacionadas con la inocuidad de los alimentos, pobreza extrema y, como sucede cada vez más a menudo, a una interacción compleja de varias de estas causas que se combinan a la vez para crear enormes situaciones conflictivas y problemáticas.

El Objetivo Estratégico I de la FAO representa un buen ejemplo de cómo el contenido y el tipo de apoyo que presta la Organización a sus Estados Miembros evoluciona a medida que éstos afrontan los nuevos desafíos que se plantean en el Siglo XXI. Esta evolución tiende a una mayor orientación estratégica, a un compromiso claro con resultados concretos medibles y a un mayor hincapié en la colaboración —en particular, con organizaciones humanitarias como el Programa Mundial de Alimentos— son todos ellos elementos claves de este nuevo Objetivo Estratégico y de la evolución del trabajo de FAO en el tema de emergencias.

Cada vez más se dan múltiples situaciones de emergencia a nuestro alrededor. En realidad, nadie duda ahora de que como consecuencia del cambio climático y otros elementos, la frecuencia y la intensidad de las catástrofes naturales está aumentando. Las cifras de 2008 son realmente alarmantes: más de 235 000 muertos, más de 214 millones de personas afectadas, pérdidas económicas por más de 190 000 millones de dólares y es importante resaltar que la lista de países afectados por catástrofes naturales incluye a países pobres pero también países ricos, de África, Europa, Cercano Oriente, Asia, Pacífico, América del Norte y América el Sur.

Todos, por tanto estamos afectados por esta tendencia al incremento de recurrencia de las catástrofes y de desastres naturales. Las catástrofes naturales azotaron amplias zonas del Sureste

Asiático y el Pacífico durante los últimos meses en este año: terremotos, tsunamis, ciclones, tifones y diversas tormentas. A lo que hay que añadir la fuerte sequía en el Cuerno de África creando severos problemas alimentarios. También la sequía en algún lugar de Centroamérica como Guatemala y tormentas tropicales en el Caribe y Centroamérica como ha sido recientemente el caso de El Salvador. Por tanto el panorama como vemos afecta a todas las regiones del mundo.

En un corto período de 10 días, cinco países se vieron gravemente afectados y se produjeron pérdidas por daños por valor de cientos de millones de dólares y los medios de subsistencia de cientos de miles de familias cuya principal fuente de alimentos e ingresos depende de la agricultura, también se vieron gravemente comprometidos. En las evaluaciones de daños realizadas por la FAO en estrecha colaboración con los Gobiernos y otros socios en algunas de las zonas afectadas que acabo de mencionar, se estimó que se había perdido más del 80 por ciento de las cosechas.

Y si pasamos del pasado inmediato al futuro inmediato, los riesgos y las amenazas continúan. Por ejemplo, muchos países tendrán que hacer frente en los próximos tiempos, en los próximos meses a desafíos relacionados con el clima debido al fenómeno de El Niño.

Los conflictos armados siguen causando pérdidas enormes de vidas humanas y dañando los medios de subsistencia de las personas. También las plagas y enfermedades de plantas y animales seguirán extendiéndose y causando daños.

En cierto modo también una clara actual interacción con el tema cambio climático y apareciendo en nuevas regiones enfermedades que eran solo típicas de otras regiones.

Y en lo que respecta a la inocuidad de los alimentos, los Gobiernos, y la comunidad internacional en general, afrontan nuevos desafíos relacionados con la globalización creciente de la distribución de alimentos.

En todos estos casos, hay una cosa muy clara: las personas, las comunidades y los países se beneficiarían claramente estando mejor preparados y siendo más capaces de responder de forma contundente, eficaz y coordinada a todos estos problemas, emergencias que se plantean en el mundo.

Los Miembros de la FAO han apoyado el Objetivo Estratégico I que es la: “Mejora para la preparación y respuesta eficaz ante amenazas y situaciones de emergencia alimentarias y agrarias”. Ustedes han decidido que la labor de la FAO en preparación y respuesta ante emergencias sea un objetivo incluido en el Marco Estratégico de esta Organización, ello sin duda es debido por un lado a las crecientes necesidades de los Miembros de recibir apoyo y asistencia en estas áreas, y por otro, al reconocimiento de la capacidad demostrada de la Organización para proporcionar asistencia técnica y operacional de calidad con rapidez, eficacia y eficiencia.

Todo es mejorable y nuestra respuesta y trabajo también lo es. Pero no cabe duda que la FAO ha tenido y sigue teniendo una clara incidencia y eficacia a la respuesta ante situaciones de emergencia.

El principal valor del Objetivo Estratégico I es que reúne toda la capacidad de que dispone la Organización para apoyar a los Gobiernos en la preparación y respuesta eficaz ante amenazas y emergencias. Y esto creo que es un tema importante a resaltar. No es solamente una cuestión de capacidad operativa sino que es también la capacidad técnica. FAO reúne capacidad-respuesta operativa sino también conocimientos y capacidad técnica para apoyar estas respuestas ante las emergencias.

También tiene otra parte importante, y es que siendo una Organización de desarrollo está preparada para la transición y es un tema al que dentro del Objetivo Estratégico I la FAO va a trabajar muy intensamente en la transición de las emergencias al desarrollo.

No podemos estar trabajando solo en emergencias, un año y otro y otro y otro. La FAO está decidida a poner el máximo énfasis en esta idea de la transición de intervenciones de emergencia

hacia intervenciones y programas de desarrollo, justamente para que esos países estén más preparados y necesiten menos la reacción ante emergencias.

Quiero hacer hincapié en el hecho de que la FAO no trabaja sola. Como he dicho, uno de los socios principales en las operaciones de emergencia agrarias y alimentarias es el Programa Mundial de Alimentos; esta asociación se está fortaleciendo día a día y cada vez es más eficaz tanto a nivel de Sede como en las Oficinas Regionales y a nivel de país.

La FAO además trabaja con otras Agencias de las Naciones Unidas y también con las organizaciones no-gubernamentales para dar respuesta coordinada ante las emergencias que se plantean en los países.

Por último quisiera resaltar que la FAO tiene cuatro ventajas comparativas que aseguran el logro de los resultados del Objetivo Estratégico I: la primera es su experiencia técnica en ganadería, cultivos, enfermedades animales, plagas, silvicultura, pesca y recursos naturales. Lo que nos permite prestar apoyo a la formulación de políticas, al fortalecimiento institucional de los sistemas de alerta temprana y a las buenas prácticas agrícolas; la segunda es su capacidad operativa para efectuar programas de rehabilitación en situaciones de emergencia; la tercera ventaja comparativa es la capacidad para propiciar una transición eficaz de intervenciones de emergencia a intervenciones de desarrollo, como he mencionado recientemente; y por último la cuarta ventaja comparativa es una capacidad creciente para integrar la gestión del riesgo de de catástrofes en las políticas agrarias y de seguridad alimentaria nacionales a través de las Oficinas Descentralizadas, que trabajan en estrecha colaboración con las contrapartes de los gobiernos nacionales y con el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y la sociedad civil.

El Proceso de Renovación de la FAO, que se articula en torno a un nuevo Marco Estratégico y a un nuevo modelo de gestión basada en resultados, ha dado un impulso considerable y proporciona un contexto adecuado para la aplicación y el éxito del Objetivo Estratégico I de la FAO.

La FAO está preparada para reforzar y ampliar su apoyo a los Estados Miembros para ayudarles en la preparación y respuesta eficaz ante amenazas y situaciones de emergencia alimentarias y agrarias. Lo hemos demostrado por ejemplo, recientemente ante la crisis de los precios de los alimentos. La FAO ha trabajado intensamente con el resto de Organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas y con el Banco Mundial para preparar y cooperar con la Comisión Europea en el Fondo para la respuesta ante la crisis de los alimentos de mil millones de euros.

La FAO ha sido una de las Agencias que más participación ha tenido y que ha podido disponer de la mayor parte de la financiación que este fondo ha canalizado a través de las Agencias de Naciones Unidas y del Banco Mundial, y esto ha sido posible por la capacidad operativa que nuestra división de emergencias tiene. De hecho en cuestión de muy pocos meses la FAO ha iniciado la puesta en práctica, la ejecución de proyectos financiados por este fondo de la Unión Europea como respuesta a la crisis de los precios de los alimentos en 25 pases simultáneamente, lo cual demuestra como digo una importante capacidad operativa.

Espero con interés las orientaciones de los Estados Miembros sobre como es la mejor manera de proporcionar nuestro apoyo y seguir trabajando en estrecha colaboración con todos sus países.

CHAIRPERSON

I have a couple of important announcements. I am going to repeat what I said before since there was no movement on the floor. If you are interested in taking part in the proceedings of Commission II, we ask that you go to the Red Room so that a quorum can be formed to begin the proceedings. That was my first important announcement.

My second important announcement is that it is time to give the floor to Heads of Delegations who have requested speaking time in advance. In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, I am going to appeal to you to respect the five-minute limit. I am going to appeal to you in the following way. There are lights. When the red light starts flashing that means that your five minutes are up. At six minutes, the Chair is going to give a little light gavel. At seven minutes, time ends.

This is not because I think your statements are unimportant, it is because that's my job as the Chair. And I have been doing this before in other places and I am known to be mean. You have the option if you are not able to go through your entire statement of submitting the remainder in writing for the official record. So, I apologize for my process here, but I will be fair. I have already warned my own Ambassador of my own country that I will gavel her off if need be. This is how we are going to run the proceedings today. And so, I beg your forgiveness.

I also apologize ahead of time for mispronouncing your names. I am terrible at that, I will do my best with good guidance up here, but I know I will make mistakes.

**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION
MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES**

Sweden, European Community, Germany, Indonesia, Chile, United States of America, Libya, Norway, Thailand, China, Brazil

Rolf ERICKSSON (Sweden)

This is indeed a momentous occasion after having approved the Summit Declaration; we now have the chance to reflect on the state of Food and Agriculture, and to focus on the measures we need to implement immediately in order to radically improve food security in the world. Small-holder farmers produce the vast majority of food in developing countries. For small-holders in developing countries, the issue of land tenure is fundamental. Farmers need secure long-term access to land. Such access is a prerequisite for developing and increasing production sustainably. Women farmers constitute a majority of small-holder farmers. Their task is more difficult than others - farming the land to provide food, nutrition and income to their families. They toil ceaselessly to achieve the seemingly impossible task made even more difficult due to women's rights not being recognized as banks and financial institutions often do not see the business opportunities and capacities of women. Such discriminatory practices must end, and women must receive rights and possibilities equal to those that are available to men.

At the same time, as we support small-holders, and particularly women, we must also focus on the role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in climate change. The agriculture sector constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity, which is why we need to intensify our efforts with regard to need for both adaptation, as well as for capturing the possibilities of mitigation in agriculture. Sustainable forestry managed locally has a key role to play in this regard. The onset of climate change makes it increasingly important to intensify our search for sustainable solutions to the ever-increasing global demand for energy. The demand for bio-fuels must be met while not jeopardizing food security. We must find sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. Agriculture must and can produce food, fuel and fibres, and is also an important carbon thing when used wisely. We need to use our resources without using them up. As was stressed by many at the Summit, among others by the Vice Prime Minister of Sweden, public as well as private investments in agriculture and rural development including from official development assistance needs to increase substantially.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of trade in order to address agricultural development in global food security issues. More trade, both within regions and globally has the potential to improve food availability and stability of food supply. Open trade flows and efficient markets constitute central tools for integrating developing countries in the global economy. Sweden strongly supports a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round of the WTO in 2010. With regard to preparedness and response to emergency situations, Sweden recognizes the importance of the task. Sweden appreciates the good track record of FAO in this area, especially with regard to transboundary threats and emergency for food and agriculture.

However, FAO needs to concentrate its efforts in areas where the Organization has clear comparative advantages. Furthermore, FAO also needs to recognize the work of its Sister Agencies in Rome, as well as that of many other organizations which are active and have important roles to play in this field.

Inter-agency cooperation and partnerships at all levels are essential for achieving our common objectives. We strongly support the timely and successful implementation of FAO Reform in all its aspects and look forward to continue working with all the Members within the framework of a reformed and modern organization. Reform of FAO is important. It will serve to improve efficiency to FAO's delivery against the Strategic Objectives. In the end, results are what matters, bringing people out of hunger and malnourishment, providing them with secure and safe access to food. This is the aim of our joint efforts.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Yves GAZZO (European Community)

Ms Chairperson, speaking on behalf of the European Committee and its 27 Member States, and also for the candidate countries to the EU, The Former Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, which associate themselves with the statement.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the State of Food and Agriculture, which is being discussed a few weeks after the High-Level Forum and a few days after the World Food Summit. Issues raised in this document broadly converge with the experts, especially with regard to the price volatility and the fact that certain countries even continue to dominate world food markets in the current economic environment. It is still too early to proclaim that we are experiencing the worst recovery period. The question raised about the efficiency of local, regional and global markets in transmitting price signals to producers and consumers and the precise impact of a recovery on food prices need to be closely monitored and assessed. Within the EU, the Commission has been working with stakeholders over the past 12 months to improve its understanding of major challenges faced by the food chain, and to define relevant and concrete policy actions.

While the food supply chain is very heterogeneous and challenges faced by stakeholders differ between sub-sectors and Member States, three crosscutting priorities relevant to the whole chain have been identified: firstly, to promote sustainable and market-based relationship between stakeholders in the food supply chain, secondly, to increase transparency along the chain to encourage competition, improve resilience to price relativity and thirdly to foster the integration and competitiveness of food supply chains across Member States.

We can share our experiences, including with demand and supply factors affecting the different agri-food sub-sectors with the broaden FAO Membership. The document notes that persistent high food prices continue to negatively affect access to food in low-income population groups. One can design price-monitoring tools across a number of regions provided resiliency of food price evolution, but if markets are not efficient and if the legal mechanisms are not in place then it would be difficult for us to take any remedial action or recourse to ban unfair contractual practices. In addition, one would need to address the inherent inefficiencies still existing in many countries: infrastructure, post-harvest facilities, processing capacity, etc.

Finally, while small could be beautiful, it is important for small operators and farm holders to seek and to create alliances by participating in agricultural producer associations.

Regarding, the supply response of the EU27 in 2009, the prediction in 2009 reached a record high of 312 million tonnes, cereal use for bio-fuels is estimated at almost 8 million tonnes for 2009 and 2010 and rapeseed used for bio-fuel at around 6 million tonnes. Meat production is expected to contract, and milk deliveries to dairies to remain largely constant.

With regard to longer-term opportunities and the question of whether supply potential lies in developing or in industrialized countries, while noticing the phenomenon of land-grabbing which is more concentrated in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Large-scale investment in farmland entails both risk and opportunities which have been analysed by many think tanks and have been the subject of many conferences and meetings in the past month. There is a clear need and urgency for the development and implementation of international guidelines and policies which would safeguard the right of access to land, water and natural resources and prevent the destabilization of food security of the local population. The EU will continue playing an active role in this debate and the delineation of concrete policy recommendations. The CFS could consider discussing this issue during one of its next sessions.

Concerning the policy responses to higher food prices, the issues now are how to avoid the situation of 2007-2008 once there is a sustained world economic recovery. Indeed, the recovery, which is still weak, will depend on factors beyond food and agriculture. The need to step up investment in agriculture is uncontested. The recommendation made during last month's High-Level Forum and the Summit last week is food for thought for policy-makers. The EC will continue playing its part in the international debate on how to reduce hunger and poverty by prioritizing a culture and policy coherence. The forecast structural food deficit situation of LDC countries, particularly those in Africa, remains of major concern. It is crucial to identify the underlying causes and policy measures necessary to address this bleak situation.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to call the Secretary of State, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Kurt Lindemann to the Podium.

Gert LINDEMANN (Germany)

I am delighted to present of the position of the Federal Republic of Germany on the global food and agricultural situation, the work of the FAO and the FAO Reform Process. My words follow on from the speech by the Swedish EU Presidency, whose views we share. We look back on an eventful year.

In November 2008, the Special Session of the FAO Conference adopted the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. This initiated the first phase of implementation of the recommendations presented by the Independent External Evaluation (IEE).

The Conference was heavily influenced by the food price crisis. We also feared that the global economic crisis would have a negative impact on the global food situation. Our fears have unfortunately been confirmed. The number of people suffering from hunger has risen to over 1 billion!

November 2008 saw the beginning of a great movement, a movement which has continued its momentum. The states of the world, scientists, farmers from all over the globe and numerous social groups have focused at all levels on the issue of how to feed a growing global population. I would like to mention in this regard the 1st Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit, the High-Level Conference in Madrid in January 2009, the G8 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Treviso, and the G8 and G20 Summits in L'Aquila and Pittsburgh. The World Food Summit is the culmination of all these meetings.

They all underline the fact that agriculture and food security are right at the top of the international political agenda.

Long-term and intensive political commitment is the only way in which it will be possible to feed a growing global population in conditions made even more difficult by climate change.

By establishing the "Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security," the World Food Summit has signalled the dawn of a new structure of international cooperation in global food security.

The Declaration adopted at the Summit states the central areas we must focus on. Germany welcomes the five guiding principles on food security given in the Summit Declaration, and above all, the express confirmation of the right to food. Now it is a matter of breathing life into this Global Partnership and developing a cooperation network.

To this end, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is essential for the international organisations to work closely together as partners. We need all of them. The FAO bears a particular responsibility in this regard. We agree that the FAO Reform Process must continue so that the FAO can perform its tasks effectively.

The new Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan have been presented. I am confident that we will adopt a sustainable Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011.

But we have not yet reached the end of the journey. The report by the Conference Committee for the Independent External Evaluation Follow-Up has been presented. A second phase of implementation awaits us. It is not just the FAO Management which is called upon to support this Process. The Reform is a task which we – the Member States – must all undertake. Only if we all continue to fully support the Reform Process will this Reform prove a lasting success. Germany therefore advocates distributing the cost of future implementation among all Member Nations. This will only succeed if we include all these costs in the Regular Budget, finance them all with funds from the Assessed Contributions and in this way create as much "ownership" of the Reform Process among the Members as possible.

The Federal Government of Germany is also lending its support to renewing the Governing Bodies. We will not be able to reach any conclusion at present. However, we must continue discussions, in particular regarding the size and role of the FAO Council, in accordance with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation.

The FAO Member Nations and the Management have done an enormous amount of work in the recent months. Many reform measures have already been implemented. The FAO and its Working Groups deserve our recognition for this. All of us owe the Chairman of the Conference Committee, Professor Noori, and his Deputies many thanks for chairing the Conference Committee superbly.

The Independent External Evaluation ended by stating that "If the FAO did not exist, it would need to be invented". The reforms adopted at this Conference, the reforms carried out to the CFS, and the Global Partnership established at this week's Summit mean that we have now begun to reinvent the global structures in the governance of world food security. The Member Nations have proved that they can work together in a spirit of partnership.

Germany is confident that the new structure will prove a success. The work we have achieved so far and the mutual trust we have shown are foundations we can build on.

SUSWONO (Indonesia)

First of all, allow me at the outset to express my highest appreciation to His Excellency the Director-General of the FAO and the Government of Italy for the excellent arrangements for this important meeting. I take this opportunity to also convey the warm greeting of the Indonesian people, especially farmers and fishermen, to all Conference participants.

We believe that this FAO Conference is very important to all Member Nations through which all of us will elect a new Independent Chair of the Council, and decide the Medium Term Plan for 2010-2013 and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011, which hopefully will provide a better political support to countries in the effort to combat hunger in the world and to continue the Reform Process of FAO.

Indonesia's agriculture and rural economy will remain one of its national development priorities. We believe, and have proven for years, that the agricultural sector has strategic growth to contribute to the sustainable economic development, by providing a source of capital, source of food supply, job opportunities, income generation opportunities, sources of raw material, foreign

exchange earnings and also natural conservation methods. Without strategic growth, the agriculture sector still faces fundamental problems which may hamper the sector. The fundamental problems, among others, are the increase of environmental degradation, negative impact of global climate change, insufficient availability and quality of infrastructure and facilities, such as small-scale farming, limited access to proper farming technology, including high-quality seeds, financial resources and limited market access for agricultural products. An efficient developing agriculture sector is to bring high quality sustainable industrial agriculture by optimizing diminishing domestic resources to increase food resiliencies, value-added export earnings and farmers' welfare. To achieve the vision, we will be required to implement a revitalization on several aspects, namely the development of agriculture land management, and high-quality seed production and distribution systems, the optimization of agriculture infrastructure, human resource development, agriculture finance, farmers' organizations and institutions and acceleration of agricultural technology innovation and dissemination.

Distinguished Members, for the last five years food security situation in Indonesia has shown a strong performance. The situation was achieved as the result of implementation of policies to increase productivity in conjunction with provision of incentives for farmers and favourable climate conditions. Production of some of our foodcrops has shown significant growth during the last three years. Such a condition generates stability in supply and price of food. However, in spite of the relatively stable domestic food prices, Indonesia still has to be more concerned regarding poor households that are the most vulnerable to food security. The number of poor is still quite significant, that is, 14 percent of the country's total population. Learning from the previous success mentioned above, Indonesia is confident to set an optimistic target on production of major food commodities for the next five-year period. Rice and corn production will be sustainably self-sufficient, sugar production is projected to be not only sufficient for human consumption but also to meet the industrial demand. And beef and soybean production shall reach self-sufficiency levels in the near future.

Meanwhile, in order to improve the quality food consumed and at the same time reduce the per capita consumption, the acceleration of the food diversification programme will be one of our priorities in food security development. Application of improved technologies in food production, food processing and marketing is aimed to develop a sustainable agricultural base industry that will improve competitiveness in the global market. Agricultural development in broader terms will therefore generate socio-economic benefits to society, increase export earnings, create the opportunities and generate income for farmers. Hopefully, these achievements will finally lead to an increase of farmers' welfare.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Indonesia is keen to share views and experiences in achieving its national food security with the global communities. Indonesia is very actively participating in cooperation within regional and even in the international level to achieve global food security. Indonesia already experienced food security development in the framework of South-South Cooperation such as profiling agricultural technical assistance to a number of Asian and African countries. So we have a priceless opportunity, I reiterate, because the global food crisis cannot be solved by each country, but can only be solved through collaboration among countries. Indonesia, therefore principally supports any initiative for developing a better and stronger global partnership. Before I close my remarks, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Professor Noori Naeini, the Independent Chair of Council, who has been guiding the whole Reform Process wisely and ably. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Marigen HORNSKOHLE (Chile)

Muchas gracias a la FAO, al Señor Jacques Diouf por su convocatoria, su acción y su personal compromiso con este encuentro y por los resultados que ya estamos alcanzando en el Proceso de Renovación de esta institución líder para la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo la FAO.

Para Chile esta Trigésima Sexta Conferencia de la FAO, es una nueva oportunidad a fin de seguir avanzando en la construcción de acuerdos sobre acciones de la FAO y del tipo de agricultura que queremos para seguir creciendo y desarrollándonos, contribuyendo así a sociedades más

democráticas que aborden los desafíos, las dificultades y las posibilidades a través del multilateralismo, sociedades en donde no solo importe el cuanto, sino que también y por sobretodo el como.

Los desafíos de la gobernanza sin duda resultan claves y en este sentido la reforma de la FAO constituye una expresión muy concreta y muy certera gracias a una acción coordinada de distintos gobiernos y de muchas instituciones internacionales.

Estamos comenzando a salir de la primera gran crisis económica y financiera de la globalización, una experiencia que nos alienta y nos convoca, nos convoca actuar no solo en lo económico sino que también en lo social, ¿qué significa esto?, ¿en que se traduce finalmente? La respuesta que vislumbramos a nuestro juicio es una sola debemos humanizar la globalización. Esto es poner a las personas al centro del proceso como eje de nuestro análisis y de nuestras políticas, esto es como hacemos para que cada persona pueda alcanzar su potencial en un mundo que cada vez va hacer más global, más competitivo y mas desafiante, esto es como somos capaces de asegurar a cada persona en el interior de nuestras sociedades.

Igualdad de oportunidades especialmente para las poblaciones rurales sin paternalismo, este es el sentido de urgencia que tenemos que es mayor a lo que ha sido en ocasiones anteriores, no es aceptable que hoy día con todo el avance tecnológico, la generación de conocimientos e innovación existente, hayan mas de mil millones de personas en situación de hambre, mil millones de las cuales mas de cincuenta millones viven en América Latina.

El escenario que nos dicen incluso los técnicos y que podría agudizarse si consideramos que menos de medio siglo mas, la demanda de alimentos podría duplicarse por este efecto, combinando el aumento de la población, los ingresos y la urbanización. Amén del impacto aquí también es motivo de discusión que puede tener esta inacción de la comunidad internacional ante la perdida de la bio-diversidad y la falta de adaptación y mitigación y los impactos del cambio climático.

A todo se suma también el proteccionismo, los subsidios que aplican los países ricos, lo que deprime los precios, limita los mercados y afecta directamente a los países mas pobres, la globalización sin embargo no es solo una condicionante externa, es también un estilo de desarrollo que nos obliga en lo interno.

Humanizar entonces la globalización implica asumir un conjunto de normas hacia fuera, pero también y por sobretodo implica, implementar un conjunto de políticas públicas eficaces y sostenibles en el tiempo dentro de cada uno de nuestros países. El proceso globalizador, es a nuestro juicio una parte de la ecuación, pero como parte de la ecuación esta también a partir de lo que nosotros mismos podamos hacer por nuestros países.

Como ha dicho el ex presidente Mandela del Sudáfrica, la globalización esta aquí para quedarse y hay que prepararse para ello y no pretender que no existe o combatirla, el tema entonces, Señora Presidenta, es como Chile, siendo un país pequeño alejado físicamente de todo con una economía basada en sus recursos naturales, se ha ido preparando con responsabilidad fiscal, apartada de medidas populistas y con un marcado sello social a lo que agregamos un énfasis especial en el emprendimiento basado en la tecnología y en la innovación.

Por mucho tiempo los académicos intelectuales han discutido a cerca de si un economía basada en los recursos naturales puede tener un crecimiento sostenido o si existe o no la llamada maldición de los recursos naturales, la experiencia, Señora Presidenta, nuestra propia nos dice que si es posible, que si se puede. La clave la constituye incorporar el conocimiento a los recursos naturales renovables incorporar en este proceso inclusivamente a todos quienes interactúan en ello. Esa es la senda en la que nuestro país esta transitando y en ello la agricultura y la producción de alimentos, constituyen las actividades fundamentales. Esto implica una fuerte componente de la ciencia y de la tecnología.

Investigación y desarrollo donde la innovación insisto, es un elemento clave, es así como hoy día nuestro país se ha fijado al desafío, algo impensado hace veinte años, de ser una potencia

alimentaría, generador y abastecedor de productos alimentarios confiables, sanos e inocuos para el mundo. De hecho en época de contestación ya está nuestro país proveyendo con cerca del 50 por ciento de los envíos de hortalizas y frutas frescas para el Hemisferio Norte. Esto es posible por un estrecho trabajo público y privado por la aplicación de políticas públicas que impulsan un desarrollo inclusivo, si buscamos ser una potencia alimentaría eso es haciendo parte del desafío y de los logros a la pequeña agricultura, de la agricultura familiar campesina.

Señora Presidenta nos importa el crecimiento, de hecho la agricultura en mi país ha crecido durante el 2009 en promedio mucho más que el resto de la economía nacional. Sin embargo, este crecimiento, a nuestro juicio, tiene que tener sentido y un propósito final, una mejor calidad de vida para toda nuestra población - no crecer por crecer así como la globalización al mercado, pero también hay que humanizarlo.

Concluyo diciendo que los desafíos que tenemos llaman a la acción, por ello como ha dicho hace unos días atrás en este mismo lugar la Presidenta de Chile Michelle Bachelet nos parece urgente alcanzar un acuerdo en la Ronda de Doha, en la Organización Mundial de Comercio.

Muchos son los países que ven en una globalización más justa y equilibrada una oportunidad para salir de la pobreza y el subdesarrollo. Por cierto, cada cual tiene que hacer sus propias tareas, impulsar una agenda de corto plazo y largo plazo contra la desigualdad. Pero esta tarea no está completa mientras se mantengan las asimetrías en un mundo todavía imperfecto. Por eso, ratificamos aquí nuestro compromiso adoptado en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, de erradicar el hambre en nuestra región para el año 2025, así como actuar y aportar a la tarea global de reducir a la mitad el número de personas con hambre en el 2015.

Queremos avanzar en la consolidación de la democracia en el mundo y para ello es impostergable combatir la desigualdad, las herramientas para ello a nuestro juicio las tenemos en las manos.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

It is an honour and pleasure to join my colleagues from all over the world at this Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I am pleased to join others in welcoming Madam Chair Kathleen Merrigan as the first woman to chair the FAO Conference. Welcome. It will be good to have a woman's picture hanging on that wall.

As we review the State of Food and Agriculture, the SOFA, and the document "Improved Preparedness for Effective Response to Food and Agricultural Threats and Emergencies," we must keep the future and mission of this vital organization in mind. Our actions at this Conference will set out both the current priorities, our vision for FAO and also demonstrate the will of this body to do its part in the global fight against hunger.

The United States believes that the SOFA Report provides an accurate assessment of the factors behind the increasing numbers of food-insecure people and clearly sets out our challenge. It is with dismay that we must acknowledge that over one billion people now suffer from hunger, the highest number we all know that we have seen in three to four decades.

Thus, the United States believes that FAO is correct in stressing the importance of investing in agriculture with the dual purpose of expanding supply and exploiting the potential of agriculture for contributing to economic development and poverty alleviation. Feeding the world over the long term will require investing broadly in national plans for agricultural development, including small and family farms and female farmers, and drawing upon a wide range of technologies and practices that best match conditions in local communities.

The US supports the SOFA Report's conclusion that sustainable, agricultural growth must be accompanied by investments in people, especially women, institutions, and infrastructures. We must promote income-generating activities for the poor and improve their ability to withstand change and challenging times, be those times weather phenomena, price-related disruptions, or other challenges.

Increased agricultural investments come not only because of pledges in a Declaration but because of the return agricultural growth can provide at country level for committed investments. While the task before us is daunting, the good news is the world is paying attention to our work and will support our initiatives when those initiatives create the results that deliver change on the ground.

In the last few days, we have collectively declared our commitment for a new way forward. Guided by the Rome Principles to generate food security, the United States proudly joins this consensus.

In this effort, we are committed to supporting the Global Partnership for Food Security including working with partners across government, multilateral, multilaterally and with NGOs and the private sector.

We especially welcome the Report of the recently-held Private Sector Forum and look forward to working with them to increase the number and value of partnerships as we go forward. We recognize the critical role of international organizations in the global effort to address food security. A reformed Committee on World Food Security, CFS, that respects and is led by all three Rome-based Agencies, FAO, WFP and IFAD, is essential to this work. Let me say very clearly, we are committed to the FAO. The United States is the single largest contributor and last year donated substantial funds and voluntary contributions for various projects and programmes.

The United States strongly supports the IPA and the integrated results-based framework, and we urge maximum transparency in budgets and spending. So we believe all the IPA costs must be included in the Assessed Budget. Indeed, one goal of this Conference is to ensure that the FAO funds are effectively and efficiently spent in a manner that best promotes global food security. We must work together over the coming days to find opportunities to streamline Management's budget proposals.

The US believes we should strive to create a budget that this body can adopt by consensus as we did with the CFS Reform document and the Summit Declaration.

Among the key reforms launched this year are the results-based Strategic Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. While we fully endorse the direction of this Reform, we believe we can and must streamline the Management's budget request.

Another priority is enhancing governance and oversight of FAO to ensure more responsive and well-managed body. Our goal, as is Management's, is to make FAO a more efficient and effective institution.

We remain committed to active cooperation with the Organization at the technical level in line with the conclusions of the SOFA Report. As a foremost technical organization in agriculture, it is important that FAO leverage the Organization's resources to maximize the impact of all FAO activities for the benefit of stakeholders.

Prioritization is essential to successful Reform and we encourage Management and Members to focus on areas where FAO's comparative advantages are greatest. FAO must avoid mission creep and expansion into areas better performed by other UN Organizations like WFP in emergencies.

In conclusion we have a common mission – to reduce food insecurity, and we have a unique opportunity, that if we commit to work together in this Organization and we perform the work in a manner we will earn the global respect this Organization deserves and establish a reputation for excellence not just in programmes but in our operations and coordination activities.

Abubaker AL-MANSOURI (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

Chair, Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen. On my behalf and that of the Jamahiriya Libyan Republic I am coming before you and the Director-General. I would to thank you for your efforts in mobilizing all these resources for the agricultural sector, in particular, given the current difficulties and threats regarding food security and the increase in the number of people suffering from hunger.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the food crisis which began in 2007 and 2008 led to instability in some countries and a large number of these states are still suffering from the crisis. This requires coordination of the efforts to provide urgent assistance to protect one sixth of the world's population from hunger and promote sustainable growth and coordination of efforts and in particular in developing countries. Seventy percent of the population hinges on agriculture and the role of agriculture. Ladies and Gentlemen, the downturn in investment in agriculture which is the main source of revenue for the poor in the world and the increase in the services activity omitting the importance of the agriculture sector has all led to a decline in subsidies to agriculture. Therefore, we call on all Nations to increase the proportion of their investments in infrastructure in agriculture, and we call on them to adopt policies strengthening agriculture in the developing countries, helping them to manage the huge potential of their natural resources, ensuring food stability, and containing the exodus from the rural areas towards the cities to ensure transparency of these investments to fight poverty, to achieve partnerships between the private and public sectors, and to enable a decent subsistence through agriculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen, since the foundation of the African Union in the city of Sirte in Libya and on the basis of my own country's conviction regarding the need to combat famine the Jamahiriya has participated in many projects regarding food security in Sudan, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad. My country has financed other projects, in conjunction with CNCEAD community, with a cap of over USD 500 million dollars to be invested in agricultural services in African countries.

I must draw your attention and that of the Conference to the problem of water and the infrastructure related to water, as well as Libya's efforts in the past in conjunction with FAO to resolve this problem. In particular, last year we recommended a study, a survey of 53 African countries for projects over the short, medium, and long-term on water use related to agriculture and energy. This survey is an essential tool for work regarding infrastructure development in the hydraulic sector in the developing countries, with policies aimed at increasing agricultural production, ensuring food security, identifying the relevant human resources, developing projects in agricultural research institutes and giving importance to local resources. All this will pave the way for local production using phytogenic local resources and will contribute to the success of sustainable development programmes in developing countries. My country is aware of the importance of natural resources and their management. In order to protect these phytogenic resources, Libya has thus applied the artificial river project which carries the water from the deserts to the coastal areas.

We have also given importance to the development of the seed industry and we have managed to ensure fulfilment of 80 percent of our grain and maize requirements. We have organized 18 projects with FAO regarding agricultural systems, livestock and plant health, and fish and fisheries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have major responsibilities in the international community and we cannot wait any longer because the number of hungry in the world is increasing. I would like to thank you for your welcome, and I would like to thank you for the very efficient organization of the Conference. I wish you every success in your work.

Lars Peder BREKK (Norway)

The number of people suffering from hunger is still increasing, thus a reformed FAO is more important than ever. Climate change in combination with lack of access to food and natural resources will place unprecedented pressures on our ability to provide the food we need for our growing world population. As pointed out by the Report of the Independent External Evaluation, the world needs FAO, but a reformed FAO. FAO will never justify its rightful place in the international architecture unless we see a real Reform. We find ourselves in the middle of the most comprehensive Reform Process any UN organization has ever seen. We thank staff and fellow colleagues for the immense work invested in the Reform Process so far. It is vital that we keep up the momentum for the Reform, and that we will not lose pace. Too little progress has been made, and practical results of the process need to be seen.

Madame Chair, a major concern from our delegation is that the financing of the Reform so far has been largely based on Voluntary Contributions and not Assessed Contributions. This financing mechanism does not provide predictable resources to the Reform Process at a critical point in time. The Reform cost must be met with Assessed Contributions to ensure joint responsibility and ownership of the Reform Process. Prioritization is a key word for the work ahead of us. It is imperative that the Technical Committees, as well as other Bodies of FAO, make concrete use of the new framework for results-based management and provide necessary prioritization within the respective areas.

Adapting agriculture to the future condition of climate change is crucial. There will be a need for crop varieties that can withstand the challenges of climate change, such as crops that can cope with heat, drought, flood and other extremes. Our ability to breed these new varieties cannot be taken for granted as it is also undermined by a loss of the biological basis of our food supply, the genetic diversity of crops. FAO, its Commission on Genetic Resources and its International Treaty, as well as the Global Crop Diversity Trust, are all central intergovernmental instruments from promoting conservation, sustainable use and a fair and equitable benefits-sharing. FAO must strengthen its interdisciplinary capacity to improve the output of its work. This applies particularly to the work that has been done to face climate change.

A key message from the Technical Committee is that climate change is a cross-sectoral challenge that must be dealt with accordingly. Our challenge ahead is to meet the global demand for food while at the same time preserving the natural resource base that is the foundation of agricultural production. Sustainable management on natural resources based on an eco-system approach will be central to all our efforts. FAO's normative work is of particular importance in this respect and especially for the international, regional, and national regimes on fisheries management. The contribution from fisheries and aquaculture to global food security is essential. Sustainable use of the world's living marine and fresh water aquatic resources is very important. The fight against IUU Fishing is an important aspect of this, as is also reflected in the International Agreement on Port State Measures negotiated under the auspices of the FAO.

While focusing on the areas where FAO is best placed to intervene, FAO must also put strong emphasis on partnerships with other development partners including through One UN. This is crucial for a more effective FAO. FAO must work so that the knowledge it possesses is multiplied through interaction with other partners with a stronger presence at FAO level. The outcome of the Reform discussed at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is promising. CFS should be the global hub for discussing policy advice on food security.

Madame Chair, agriculture and food security is on the top of the agenda internationally, as demonstrated by this Summit and by the L'Aquila Statement from the UN this year. I would like to stress the need for joint global action involving the UN System, international finance institutions, NGOs, CSOs and private actors. This is the international architecture on food security, and the FAO must play its rightful role in the Reform. Thank you for your attention.

Theera WONGSAMUT (Thailand)

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the great pleasure and honour to be here and address the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference today. I would also like to extend to you, Madame Chair, my sincere congratulations on your election as the Chairperson of this important meeting.

Madame Chair, we are all aware that, the number of undernourished people in the world is reaching one billion, of this, 53 billion live in Asia and the Pacific region and are increasing instead of decreasing as targeted in the MDG-1. Climate-related disasters affecting agricultural production and food security are one of the main causes which have kept the number high.

In recent years, Asia seems to be the most disaster-affected region. However, the extent of the damage caused in past disasters, like the Tsunami, has led us to set up a risk reduction and management mechanism in our region. The Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean is an example. The incident, due to its magnitude, has called attention, not only of the region but

also, of the whole world. Still, high priority needs to be placed at the national and local levels in order to mobilize more resources for disaster risk reduction programmes, which can eventually contribute to poverty reduction.

Recently, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has adopted the National Strategic Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction 2010-2019 aiming at improving disaster management, which includes prevention, preparedness, emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Madam Chair, effective disaster management requires active participation and ownership of all stakeholders, at local, national, regional and global levels. In this regard, FAO can play its vital role in addressing agricultural threats and emergencies. In order to protect and restore livelihoods and food security of the marginal farmers, emphasis should be put on capacity-building for disaster risk management, early warning, preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

Madame Chair, Thailand takes note with appreciation of the proposed budget allocation for the Strategic Objective I which is, among others, the highest one. However, only 2 percent of the set budget will be financed by Assessed Contributions. The rest is expected to come from extra-budgetary funding. Our concern is how the available 2 percent can improve effectively preparedness in response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies. Another concern remains on how to be ensured that such a big amount of Voluntary Contributions will fall timely in hand when emergencies arise.

We are moving on to a new programming and budgeting model at FAO, with integrated budgeting. We do hope that, in spite of the current global economic and financial crisis, generosity in terms of in-kind and in-cash contributions in times of emergencies or disasters will still be kept high in the policy priorities of donor countries.

We have just, again, committed ourselves during the Summit a few days ago to join hands in reversing an increasing trend of hunger and poverty. It is now time to pass from words to concrete actions. Thailand stands ready to be partner, both on a bilateral basis and in terms of South-South Cooperation, with any countries or international organizations to address emergencies and global crises affecting food security by sharing our experience and lessons learned in related areas.

WANG YING (China) (Original language Chinese)

I am delighted to be with you today so that we can review together the world situation regarding food and agriculture and to share with you our experience in the struggle against the food crisis, and especially to pull together the means to strengthen our capacity to face up to the threats and the urgent situation associated with agriculture and food security. In recent years, the food crisis, followed by the financial crisis, has aggravated food insecurity worldwide. In 2009, the number of people hungry rose and there is a strong regional imbalance apart from the traditional constraints linked to resources. New uncertainties regarding bio-energy, risk capital, and climate change have created new challenges for food security. The consequences are numerous - volatility in food prices, constant increase in the number of hungry persons, reduced access of vulnerable groups to food, frequent situations of food urgency and the increase in the phenomenon of the transformation of acute hunger to chronic malnutrition. Despite the fact that China has borne the full brunt of the financial crisis, through our efforts it is quite possible that our food production will record an increase for the sixth consecutive year and the food sector rural economy will continue to grow rapidly. China is the most populous country and the country which consumes the largest number of food products. With only 9 percent of arable land and 6.5 percent of resources of drinking water in the world, China has managed to feed 20 percent of the world population and it has implemented before the set timeframe.

Firstly, China has effectively responded to the food crisis.

Secondly, China has given absolute priority to questions linked to agriculture in the rural areas and to increasing production and the income of farmers.

Thirdly, China has strengthened the production capacity by protecting arable land, enhancing the role of science and technology and improving agricultural infrastructure.

Fourthly, China has improved the food supply mechanism in emergency situations by establishing a system for regulating stock, and combining the efforts of the central Government with those of local authorities and the government's efforts with those of companies.

Finally, China has stabilized the fundamental farming system, preserving the legitimate interests of the farmers and mobilizing farmers.

As a country aiming for sustainable development, China has offered its help to countries under the South-South Cooperation. China has created overseas 20 centres for demonstrating its intentions and it intends to organize training sessions in China. We have contributed USD 30 million to FAO to create a fiduciary trust for South-South Cooperation and through the World Food Programme we have provided food assistance to Tanzania and Bangladesh. At the Fourth Ministerial China-Africa Cooperation Meeting, the Chinese Government proposed eight new initiatives to help Africa, including sending 50 technical assistance teams to Africa in the three years ahead, sending 250 agricultural experts each year and training 2 000 technical staff for Africa.

I would like to emphasize that the nature of the agricultural aid offered by China is aimed at strengthening the capacity of food production in developing countries. South-South Cooperation in China has already maintained the principle that it is better to teach fishing techniques to people than to provide them with fish directly. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity.

I would like to make a final appeal. Countries should accord increasing importance to food security and agricultural development in order to set a solid base to face up to the financial crisis and facilitate economic recovery. We should also strengthen international cooperation in food and agriculture. Developed countries should honour their promises by strengthening their financial aid and technological transfer to developing countries. Developing countries should continue to pursue South-South Cooperation endeavour. We should establish a new order for food and agricultural trade to improve the international trade environment and to create greater opportunities for developing countries. We should strengthen the international governance system in agriculture, promote the Reform of FAO and other international organizations working in agriculture to establish an international cooperation mechanism with the United Nations and its core and create a new system to ensure food security.

I personally think our absolute priority is to implement the Summit Declaration on Food Security. We should be sincere and take specific measures to implement the commitments made by the Heads of State. The Chinese Government is ready to work.

Guilherme CASSEL (Brasil)

Quisiera saludar cordialmente a la Presidenta de esta Conferencia y en un modo muy especial al Profesor Noori, Presidente del Consejo, por todo el trabajo que ha hecho durante los cuatro años de su mandato. Muchas gracias por su dedicación y liderazgo.

Permítame felicitar a la FAO por la convocación y la organización de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria. Esta iniciativa tiene sobre todo el merito de dar visibilidad al tema de la seguridad alimentaria y de mantenerlo al mas alto nivel en la agenda mundial, como centro que gobierna la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo.

La FAO al igual que las demás Agencias con sede en Roma, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, ha siempre jugado un papel activo en la movilización de la comunidad internacional en la búsqueda de soluciones para la erradicación del hambre.

Los resultados de la Cumbre no son para nada modestos y ellos indican el verdadero camino para los compromisos asumidos por los líderes mundiales, para que éstos sigan adelante y se traduzcan en acciones concretas para la erradicación completa del hambre.

Para Brasil, esta 36ª Conferencia representa el punto de convergencia de importantes procesos de renovación y de fortalecimiento de la FAO, en la cual estuvimos enfrascados en el 2009. En esta

semana vamos a aprobar los nuevos documentos que orientarán el trabajo de la FAO, el Marco Estratégico del 2010-2019 y el Plan de Plazo Medio 2010 y 2013. Ellos serán el mapa y la guía de esta Organización para la próxima década.

La propuesta del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-2011 tendrá una forma innovadora con la introducción del enfoque basado en resultados, lo que dará más coherencia, eficiencia y eficacia a las actividades de la FAO. De la misma manera, vamos a concluir el proceso de revitalización del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, aprobando la composición amplia y participativa con la presencia indispensable de la sociedad civil.

Los nuevos procedimientos de establecer vínculos con las experiencias locales y creando el Panel de Especialistas de Alto Nivel, es decir un brazo técnico para apoyar sus deliberaciones. El Consejo de Seguridad Alimentaria (CSA) fue revitalizado para constituir la plataforma de monitoreo de la situación alimentaria mundial.

Brasil defiende el hecho que la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza son tareas impostergables. En este sentido Brasil está haciendo su parte. De hecho hemos adoptado políticas sociales internas consistentes que han mejorado la capacidad del pequeño agricultor para producir y proveer los mercados, asegurando la mayoría de los ingresos y el acceso a los alimentos.

Hemos apoyado con decisión la Reforma y fortalecimiento del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como un lugar democrático, legítimo y participativo de discusión de soluciones a las cuestiones comunes de nuestro tiempo. Estamos dedicados a introducir el derecho a la alimentación en nuestra constitución, en modo de tenerlo entre los derechos humanos fundamentales del hombre, en el ordenamiento jurídico nacional.

Hemos dedicado esfuerzos para el seguimiento de las conquistas de la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural, teniendo en cuenta su fuerte impacto para la seguridad alimentaria. Somos concientes de que nuestras conquistas internas de incremento de la producción agrícola, desarrollo de la agricultura familiar y su interacción con redes de protección sociales, son experiencias importantes que deben ser compartidas con los países que necesitan fortalecer su agricultura y garantizar alimentos a sus ciudadanos.

En mi país no hay duda que el desarrollo rural y la agricultura familiar son herramientas indispensables para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y combatir el hambre y la pobreza. Intentamos compartir nuestras experiencias y conocimientos por medio de la cooperación.

Este último día 15 de noviembre el Presidente Luis Ignazio Lula da Silva estuvo reunido aquí en Roma con diez Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, Ministros de Agricultura y otros Representantes de los países de África Sub-sahariana, durante la cual trajo el mensaje de la disposición de Brasil para compartir la tecnología y los conocimientos que hemos acumulado en beneficios de la agricultura familiar.

Tenemos que traducir en acciones concretas el compromiso político asumido por nuestros líderes en relación a la seguridad alimentaria. Las importantes decisiones que deberíamos tomar en esta conferencia sobre el crecimiento de la FAO deben garantizar el nivel de programas de trabajo, cuidar la salud financiera y actuar de manera responsable el presupuesto con relación a los pasivos financieros que no se pueden postergar indefinidamente. Nuestro compromiso presupuestario será la expresión visible del compromiso político que la Cumbre acaba de alcanzar.

The meeting rose at 12.38 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 38

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.38 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

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

19 November 2009

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:40 hours
Kathleen Merrigan,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de Kathleen Merrigan,
Présidente de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14:40 horas
bajo la presidencia de Kathleen Merrigan,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

**INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)

**INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACIÓN** (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Mali, Zimbabwe, Australia, Cape Verde, Maldives, Saint Lucia, Kenya, Haiti, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Niger, South Africa, Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, Guinea-Bissau, Swaziland, Panama, Viet Nam, Spain, Mexico, Iceland, Angola

CHAIRPERSON

I am going to call us to order.

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Third Plenary meeting to order. I hope you all had a pleasant lunch. I was advised that my pounding at that six-minute mark was a little too gentle and maybe our speakers are not always able to hear. So I'll pick up the volume a little bit, but keep up with the timekeeping and I really appreciate everyone's attention to that. We have done so very well at this point.

We will now continue with Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture, and I would like to call up to the Podium the Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Agatham Ag Alhassane.

Agatham Ag ALHASSANE (Mali)

Je voudrais au nom de ma délégation adresser mes salutations les plus cordiales à l'ensemble des participants de cette Trente-sixième Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Nous tenons également, Mesdames, Messieurs à féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO et l'ensemble des Membres et plus particulièrement le Président et Vice-Président ainsi que les Membres de la Conférence ici à Rome pour le travail colossal abattu en prévision de la présente session.

Il y a un an de cela, en plus de la flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires, la crise financière internationale venait ajouter à la liste déjà bien longue des maux qui minaient déjà les efforts des pays en développement dans leur lutte contre la pauvreté et pour asseoir les bases d'une sécurité alimentaire durable dans la perspective de l'atteinte des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

La Conférence de Haut Niveau sur la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale en juin 2008, les Sommets du G8 en 2008 et 2009 avaient suscité un grand élan d'espoir dans nombre de pays. Lors de cette Conférence de Haut Niveau, près de 11 milliards de dollars E.U. avaient été promis par différents donateurs pour faire face à la crise alimentaire mondiale. Par la suite, le total des annonces des contributions avait atteint un montant de 22 milliards de dollars E.U.

La FAO a certes agi au rythme du défi et nous pouvons ici lui rendre grâce mais à ce jour, on ne peut que se préoccuper du niveau encore très bas de la concrétisation des annonces des contributions.

Le Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire qui vient juste de s'achever a réanimé la flamme de l'espoir, encore faudra-t-il que les bonnes volontés et intentions manifestées soient concrétisées à hauteur des souhaits.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, force est de constater aujourd'hui que la sécurité alimentaire et l'agriculture dans nos pays sont confrontées à des menaces multiples et complexes aboutissant parfois à des situations d'urgence.

Les menaces les plus fréquentes ont pour nom la sécheresse, les inondations, les incendies, les feux de brousse, la déforestation et la désertification, l'érosion et la perte de fertilité des sols, les attaques des déprédateurs, menaces acridienne et aviaire, les maladies des plantes et des animaux.

A ces menaces, que l'on peut considérer comme classiques, se sont ajoutées de nouvelles menaces tels que le changement climatique, les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, l'utilisation des produits agricoles pour la production des bio-carburants.

Des menaces indirectes sont liées à la fluctuation des prix des denrées agricoles également et sur les marchés internationaux, en particulier, la concurrence déloyale des produits des pays développés fortement subventionnés, le non respect des règles et principes du commerce international édictés par l'OMC. Il convient de relever également les situations des conflits et des crises socio-politiques diverses qui impactent négativement l'agriculture et la situation alimentaire des populations déjà éprouvées et qui cherchent à survivre au quotidien. Cette situation ne saurait nous laisser indifférents au moment où le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde a franchi la barre du milliard.

Conscient de la situation que ces risques, ces menaces et ces situations d'urgence font peser sur la sécurité alimentaire des populations et le développement agricole, le Gouvernement de la République du Mali s'attache à mettre en œuvre divers programmes et initiatives visant à faire de notre pays une puissance agricole. Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de ce Programme de Développement et du Développement Économique et Social également initié par le Président de la République du Mali, notre pays s'est fixé l'objectif de produire 10 millions de tonnes de céréales par an à l'horizon de 2012 contre une production moyenne annuelle actuelle de 3,8 millions de tonnes.

Je voudrais vous informer que la production attendue cette année est de l'ordre de 6,5 millions de tonnes. Ces nouveaux chantiers, le Mali entend les ouvrir en se fondant sur l'affectation d'une part essentielle de ses ressources budgétaires qui auront besoin de l'accompagnement des opportunités venant de l'action des solidarités internationales. La part du budget national pour l'agriculture au Mali est de l'ordre de 13 pour cent.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme et d'espoir pour le futur de l'Organisation, nous avons adopté lors d'une autre conférence extraordinaire un Plan d'Action Immédiate et décidé de sa mise en œuvre diligente. Dans un élan de solidarité entre les Membres et mus par un esprit de consensus tout aussi remarquable, ce travail fut mené avec brio et les résultats qui en découlent aujourd'hui nous encourage à espérer en des lendemains porteurs pour la FAO.

Pour terminer, nous sommes heureux de constater que le travail réalisé par le Comité de la Conférence répond parfaitement à ses préoccupations, ce qui explique et justifie l'engagement et le dynamisme dont le Directeur Général et l'ensemble du personnel ont fait preuve pour la réussite de l'exercice.

Je souhaite donner notre approbation du nouveau Cadre stratégique 2010-2019, du Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 et du Programme de travail et budget 2010-2011 proposés par la Direction sur la base du Cadre intégré.

Enfin, il est lieu de féliciter le Président et les Membres du Comité de la Conférence pour l'énorme travail réalisé dans le cadre de l'élaboration de ces Plans d'Action.

Face au défi auquel le monde est confronté et particulièrement le monde en développement, nous avons encore besoin de la FAO réformée dans la croissance, revigorée et prête à relever les défis conformes à la vision d'un monde libéré de la faim et de la malnutrition dans lequel l'alimentation et l'agriculture contribuent à améliorer le niveau de vie des populations, notamment des plus pauvres et cela de manière durable en termes économiques, sociaux et environnementaux. Il ne

aurait y avoir de meilleure réponse à cela que la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires et l'engagement sans faille de l'ensemble des Membres pour y parvenir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mary MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

Madame Chair, my delegation wishes to welcome the outcome of the recent Summit on Food Security as it is encouraged by the commitment made by the Heads of State and Government on the following.

There are intentions to meet the 2015 targets to halve the number of hungry. The endorsement of the recent reforms in the CFS and on this matter, Madame Chair, it is our wish that we move ahead to ensure that Phase Two of the Reform of the Committee which emphasizes region-and country-led strategies is implemented soonest. We also welcome their commitment to seeing the strengthening of the relationship between farmer organizations, experts, research institutions and the work of the Rome-based Agencies, the further development of cooperation between FAO and other Rome-based Agencies and indeed the deployment of more resources to investment into the agriculture sector. However, we do realize that in the past the trend has been that the resources were decreasing.

Madame Chair, my delegation holds the view that since the threat of climate change in Africa is already a reality, the negative impact of this phenomenon is bound to increase. Adaptation strategies and programmes are in urgent need in the Sub-Saharan region. Mitigation is also critical if we are to ensure sustainability. Both adaptation and mitigation require knowledge, timely communication of information and technology, as well as financial resources. Good trade policy can also be an effective adaptation tool and it could stimulate production, encourage innovation and enable food production and distribution to needy areas. Good emergency aid practices are important, and for this we welcome the link between FAO and the WFP.

In Zimbabwe, we have tried to manipulate the tariffs to ensure that we encourage inflows of food into the country, particularly in those areas which are experiencing extreme drought. At the same time we have to be careful not to drown the local farmer, though it is proving to be difficult to protect him from incoming imports.

Madame Chair, the Government of Zimbabwe places great importance on research and development and the extension of support for farmers. We believe that these are the bedrock of all the efforts we are trying to make to solve food challenges, as well as the threat of climate. Knowledge, technology and bringing new seed varieties that can suit the changing climate, have to reach the small-scale farmer. Sustainable irrigation is at the heart of our ongoing irrigation and mechanization programme which emphasizes community irrigation schemes to reduce farmers' total reliance on rainfed agriculture, and to enable them to embrace affordable and sustainable irrigation schemes that they can manage at the village level. The Government has also been putting in place policies and programmes that enable commercial farmers to increase their capacity to irrigate crops. Rural development is the cornerstone of all efforts to address food challenge. My Government has always placed emphasis on rural development, and has put in place incentives to cause the private sector to invest in the rural areas. Recent and current rural development programmes include a rural electrification programme which has brought electricity to key points of the rural areas. The Government has also placed emphasis on other rural infrastructural support, including a grain storage facility which is very critical for food security. On this we are looking to embarking on a project with FAO to bring in technology that better suits the small-scale farmer. In direct support to farmers, Government has come up with a programme to provide subsidized inputs for the small-scale farmers, as well as to avail market support for them.

Madame Chair, on global governance, we observe that Member Nations have made significant progress in CFS but we would like to look at the reforms of the FAO in this respect. The IPA

should contribute to better programmes not to eat into the implementation of programmes because farmers have got to produce food, farmers have got to have the technology to produce food and the coming biennium should respond to this particular message. We have to produce food.

Allow me to welcome the FAO Recovery Programme in my country in which many players have played a role, including all the Rome-based Agencies and indeed the private sector through private foundations. Among other major players are the European Union and the People's Republic of China who have given some injection into this Programme. With that, I wish to thank the Heads of State who have recently brought more advocates to the issue of hunger solutions. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Tony BURKE (Australia)

I would like to share a few reflections on behalf of Australia on the FAO, on the region where my nation of Australia is situated and, finally, some comments on where we are headed within the world.

It is not that long ago that discussions at the FAO were all about the need for Reform. The discussions that we have heard over the last couple of days have moved on to people talking about the pace of Reform, and I think we need to take stock and acknowledge what a change in the dynamic of these conferences that is.

The reforms implemented through the Immediate Plan of Action have underpinned a tide of change within the Organization. The reforms have gone some way in establishing a revitalized Food and Agriculture Organization, ready to contribute to the huge challenges we face in feeding the world. We must keep up the momentum on these fundamental reforms, and we must acknowledge that when we talk about the Reform Process we are now talking about something which has commenced and is moving forward.

The FAO is in a very unique position at the moment, taking a lead role on some of the greatest challenges facing the world, particularly the food security challenge we have heard so much about over the last few days, and the pressures that climate change will bring in terms of extra pressures on world hunger. But it is not always easy. We all bring our own perspectives, our own experiences and our own ideas on the future direction of this Organization and how these ideas ought to be delivered. If we are to deliver on these challenges, we always need to act collectively and work as one, not letting our differences impede our progress, but rather finding a common ground on how to move together. A united organization will always be a strong organization. The impact that the Organization makes is often discussed in terms of the work done in Rome, but ultimately it is how we reach the hungry people across the world on which we deserve to be judged.

Australia is part of the South-West Pacific region. This region has full gamut of challenges facing the world on food security. From subsistence farming in the highlands of Papua New Guinea to the low-lying island states of the Pacific threatened by rising sea levels brought about by climate change, to the tracks of extensive farming through the wheat and sheep belt of my own country of Australia. Ours is a region throughout the South-West Pacific characterized by diversity. The challenges faced by this region mirror those faced in other parts of the world, and so there are opportunities to work together as well as sharing and learning from experiences across the globe.

In August this year Australia met in Cairns with Pacific island leaders, New Zealand and partners from the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Programme to find ways to lift the economic development performance of the Pacific region. All parties agreed to what we called the Cairns Compact which will coordinate resources to achieve progress against the Millennium Development Goals.

These examples in my region form part of the same set of problems which are being faced throughout the world and when Governments of the world first gathered in Kyoto, many governments then sent their environment ministers. When governments of the world gather in Copenhagen, many governments now will be sending their leaders along with their environment ministers and in some cases along with their agriculture ministers as well. Climate change is now every bit a part of the food security discussion throughout the world. We need to be part of the solution in mitigation. That is in our role where we can help fight the causes of climate change. We need to take account of the accounting systems. We need to try to make sure that we do not end up with accounting methods which create perverse outcomes in the field of food security. We need to be part of the research and development that needs to be done and the work of the Global Alliance discussed by many speakers at this forum, including those from New Zealand the United States of America, is going to be part of that answer. But then, importantly, we need to be sure that the best research makes it from the laboratory to the farm, whether that be a broad acre large-scale farm or whether it be a small-land holder to make sure that extension takes place and the work of farmers organizations and the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization will be part of that outcome in making the research delivered.

The adaptation challenge is massive. It is not simply changing our agricultural practices, but acknowledging the new demand for food to be able to move, for it to be able to move within national boundaries and for it to be able to move across national boundaries. This creates many discussions and changes the context of arguments which have happened within this room for decades and decades. The stakes now are different to how they were before. Climate change is the new player that changes the dynamic of many of the discussions we have had before. But the difference, as has been said, is this time we have been warned. We do know what is coming and we have the choice and the chance to be part of the solution.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

José Eduardo BARBOSA (Cape Verde) – (Langue originale Portugais)

Ma délégation vous félicite pour votre élection à la présidence ainsi que les Membres du bureau et les autres Organes de la Conférence. Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour le fait qu'encre une fois, il nous a soumis un excellent document qui, d'une façon succincte mais claire et précise, analyse la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, et ceci nous permet d'aborder un débat de qualité sur cette importante problématique.

Notre gratitude est encore plus grande car le Cap Vert, comme vous le savez, est un pays qui dépend à plus de 80 pour cent des importations d'aliments et d'autres produits agricoles et, à ce titre, il doit se préoccuper énormément des évolutions qui se passent dans ce domaine.

Nous savons tous que les crises violentes qui ont ravagées notre planète en 2006-2008 ont eu une dimension extrêmement négative et un impact désastreux.

Bien plus grave que ce que l'humanité avait connu en plusieurs décennies et la faim et la malnutrition ont atteint des niveaux sans précédent, des millions de personnes se sont retrouvées victimes de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Les données qui nous sont fournies dans ce document, et l'analyse de ces données montre que, malheureusement, la fin de la crise financière et la récession économique ne sont pas en vue. De même, le prix des produits agricoles qui ont connus une flambée pendant cette période récente vont se poursuivre et les pays en voie de développement, notamment, en Afrique auront beaucoup de difficultés pour réduire la pauvreté, et la faim et la malnutrition.

Alors que cela est une condition indispensable au développement durable de ce pays, chacun ayant le droit à une alimentation suffisante de qualité et nutritive.

Pour les auteurs de ce Rapport, malgré toutes les perspectives que je viens de mentionner sur les crises et les tendances de l'évolution des prix, la persistance des facteurs à l'origine de la flambée

des prix, nous met dans une situation pleine d'incertitude qui nous permet de pronostiquer que le prix des aliments dans les pays en développement et pour les pays particulièrement pauvres continueront d'être difficile à supporter, et de nouveaux des millions de personnes vont se retrouver dans la pauvreté sans que personne ne puisse rien faire pour leur venir en aide.

En vérité, l'effet cumulatif de la reprise de la croissance et de la persistance des prix élevés et de l'énergie exerce des pressions qui ont tendance à accélérer plus encore la hausse des prix des aliments.

À son tour, la demande de bio-carburant est stimulée par les programmes de subvention et par l'accroissement de la consommation. En fait, ce sont les pays pauvres et, en particulier, les populations pauvres des zones rurales et des centres urbains qui doivent utiliser toutes les ressources auxquelles ils ont accès pour tenter de minimiser l'impact des crises qui touchent le monde entier. Et encore une fois, ce sont eux qui payeront le prix des variations à contrôler des prix des produits alimentaires.

Cette situation insupportable ne met pas simplement en danger les populations de ces pays pauvres. Elle peut également avoir des retombées sur la paix et la sécurité internationale. Les changements climatiques sont également un autre facteur qui aura des répercussions négatives sur la situation de la culture, et, en conséquence, sur l'alimentation et la sécurité alimentaire et ce, tant qu'un accord n'existera pas permettant à la Communauté internationale de trouver des solutions aux graves problèmes auxquels nous faisons face aujourd'hui.

La politique de l'autruche est une fuite en avant dont les conséquences seront extrêmement lourdes pour toute l'humanité si les mesures appropriées ne seront pas prises à temps. La promotion à l'agriculture doit constituer, à notre avis, une des priorités de l'ordre du jour mondial multilatéral et des ressources nécessaires financières et en matière de technologie et de savoir doivent être mobiliser.

Les pays ont une responsabilité importante mais il faut que ce soit surtout les pays développés qui accroissent leur participation. Le continent africain mérite une attention particulière étant donné que malgré l'abondance des terres et de l'eau disponibles dans ce continent, quatre pour cent seulement des sols arables sont irrigués.

Je pense qu'il n'est pas constructif de ne faire allusion qu'à la responsabilité des africains. En fait, il y a également d'autres personnes et d'autres États qui sont responsables et je crois que l'inaction aura des effets catastrophiques qui toucheront la planète toute entière. La création de capacité dans les pays en développement représente un élément clé qui doit être au centre des priorités de toutes les institutions des Nations Unies dont le siège est à Rome et nous espérons que la poursuite de programmes menés en matière de coordination et de coopération et, notamment sur le terrain, permettront d'en arriver à une amélioration de la situation pour tous.

Le Cap Vert espère que le processus de réforme approfondi qui a été lancé par la FAO, permettra à cette organisation de mener peu et plus que jamais à la solution du problème.

La délégation du Cap Vert s'attend à ce que la FAO continue de jouer un rôle majeur dans l'approche qui va du bas vers le haut et nous pensons que la revitalisation du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui est un Organe intergouvernemental majeur de la FAO est un pas en avant fondamental. Nous pensons que, grâce à notre ami Noël De Luna des Philippines, nous pourrions faire de grands progrès et donner suite aux travaux entrepris par mon prédécesseur, Madame Maria del Carmen Squeff de l'Argentine, qui était l'ex-Présidente de ce Comité.

Ibrahim DIDI (Maldives)

The Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference comes at a critical juncture in our history. We have just concluded the World Summit on Food Security. The Summit sadly highlighted the significant ongoing and worsening humanitarian disasters, intensified by recent high food prices and the global economic crisis, and evidenced by the increasing numbers of people being forced into hunger and poverty. In the next few weeks, another seminal event takes place, the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Unfortunately, the prospects for a clear and definitive

outcome are getting dimmer. The close links between these two major global events are of vital concern to the Maldives, for food security, global warming and climate change are critical challenges which we are confronting head on and with urgency. And so, while I feel privileged to address this distinguished gathering today, I do so with some unease since I sense that the urgency with which we in the Maldives are attending to these issues is not necessarily shared by those whose actions matter most.

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Director-General and the FAO for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I congratulate and recognize the pivotal role played by Dr. Diouf and the leadership initiative he provides in keeping food security at the top of the global development agenda. The World Summit on Food Security is just one such initiative which has characterized his tenure as Director-General.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, with Copenhagen around the corner, I am fully convinced that the implications of global warming and climate variability are relevant to our agenda in this meeting. We know that both these phenomena will affect agriculture and that the impact will be disproportionately felt in many developing countries, particularly low-lying, coastal and Small Island Developing States like the Maldives. Our food security is being severely compromised and already the manifestation of a looming problem threatens. The issues and threats are real and acknowledged even by the most adamant of sceptics.

The Government of Maldives has just launched a Strategic Action Plan – a National Framework for Development from 2009-2013. The Plan, founded on a platform of good governance and social justice, addresses the issues of food security, rural employment and poverty alleviation. Significant focus is being placed on agricultural and land management. We seek to improve livelihoods through agriculture, crop diversification, livestock, forestry and marine resources.

But climate change could derail our most valiant efforts and notable achievements in all these areas.

My country is one of the most vulnerable of all nations to impacts of climate change. With icecaps melting, sea levels rising, coastal zones inundated and entire islands washed away, our very existence, our ways of life and food security are under threat.

We are adopting a holistic approach informed by a human development perspective to address the needs of the most vulnerable, for we believe this is fundamental to addressing climate change.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we cannot over-emphasize the real challenge climate change poses to world food security or overstate how acute and urgent a matter this is for a small vulnerable country like the Maldives. Global warming, sea level rise and the increased frequency of extreme weather events are already damaging the fragile ecological systems in our countries, resulting in outbreaks of alien pests and disease. The result is declining output and unpredictable fluctuations in food production. Small developing countries like ours have limited means to deal with climate change impacts.

My Government is not only concerned about these matters, but is very proactive in bringing them to the attention of the global community. We have initiated major programmes to achieve energy efficiency and have unilaterally declared the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2020. We know we can do very little to control the actions of larger countries, but we hope that such symbolic approaches will get the message across.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the time is now for being proactive in our efforts to protect the most vulnerable of nations. We cannot afford to be complacent, for we cannot address world food security issues without attention to climate change. The international community has a role to play in this regard.

Therefore, I propose that FAO launches a special programme addressing the future concerns and needs of small vulnerable island nations and coastal communities such as fisherfolk and farmers, with specific reference to climate change.

In conclusion, I wish once again to express our deep gratitude to FAO for the support it provides to fisheries and agriculture development in the Maldives. FAO programmes are crucial for prudent natural resource management, ensuring livelihoods in our outlying island communities, poverty alleviation and dealing with food security in the Maldives. We sincerely appreciate the technical and financial assistance in these areas.

We are working diligently to achieve our common and shared goals for a better tomorrow. We invite you to continue on this journey with us, small though we may be. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ezechiel JOSEPH (Saint Lucia)

Economic development in Saint Lucia in the last two years has been hampered by the rapid slowdown in the global economy. Saint Lucia in 2008 experienced the lowest real GDP growth since 2002, with tourism, the major economic activity, being constrained because of the global slowdown. This situation provided opportunities for the agricultural sector to expand. Records for 2008 reveal that the real outputs in that sector expanded by 20.5 percent when compared with growth of 2.3 percent in 2007. Despite this development, the agriculture sector is faced with many challenges. Our farmers are constrained in expanding their respective enterprises because of the following challenges.

The price of basic inputs has increased the cost of production. This situation has negative impact on farmers' net returns, the incidence of transboundary diseases, global warming and climate change. In fact, we have heard a lot with regards to the negative impact regarding global warming and climate change over the past few days. The use of agricultural products in the production of energy is negatively affecting agricultural output in Saint Lucia. The challenges of trade barriers imposed by the developed countries have affected our economic and social development. The above scenarios have had serious implications for most of our vulnerable families.

The new challenges we face call for a new approach in the development of this sector. So these challenges, Madame Chair, may not have short term solutions and the approach should be a collective joint, medium-to long-term commitment to overcoming them.

Nevertheless, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have to be serious in our approach if we have to achieve the advancement of each Member Nation's socio-economic development. There are challenges we can overcome at this Conference if we are serious in demonstrating universally our endeavour to eradicate hunger in the world. We need to discuss how developed countries can provide support to Small Island Developing States in their thrust to continue to trade in this global environment. There must be support to small Member Nations in obtaining reliable and affordable inputs supporting the area of technology and agro-processing.

If we are to achieve sustainable productivity among small farmers in developing countries like Saint Lucia, there must be a commitment to addressing the above challenges. We also need to provide support to a number of our institutions in the region, namely ECR, CARICOM, CARDI, and CRFM.

I would like to express my government's appreciation for the support we are receiving from FAO. Recently there are a number of initiatives geared towards supporting the development of the sector, which includes agro-process and development, promotion of domestic agriculture production and the strengthening of plant health services. While we have some concerns with regards to the timely intervention of these projects, we would like to express our appreciation to FAO and the EU for their support in the implementation of these projects.

Madam Chair, I thank you for the opportunity you give me to deliver these brief remarks.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Aden DUALE (Kenya)

We have just concluded the World Summit on Food Security. As Member Nations, we have singularly and jointly made the conditions to undertake all necessary actions to reduce significantly the number of people suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity and to sustainably eradicate hunger. Due to the under investment in agriculture and rural development, efforts have been made to address food insecurity and poverty alleviation. These have failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments made in various summits. The problem of food insecurity has been exaggerated by the recent soaring of prices, the fate of climate change, just to name a few.

Madam Chair, it is the hope of my delegation that from here we shall move with speed and commitment and put in place policies and necessary measures that will reverse the trend of food insecurity and hunger. The commitment calls for adequate investment and sole partnership among the developing partners, the private sector, government, farmers and other stakeholders in agriculture. We must also have in place an effective and efficient coordination and governance for food security.

In this regard, Madam Chair, my delegation supports the proposed reforms in the Committee on Food Security. A reformed CFS will serve as a platform for discussion and coordination and will foster collaborative action among various governments, regional, international organizations and agencies, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders in line with each country's needs.

Madam Chair, Kenya, like many other developing countries, especially in Africa, has an agricultural-based economy. Our agriculture is mainly rainfed with minimal irrigation, mechanization, commercialization and exports most of its produce in raw form and has very stringent conditions thus fetching low prices. To eradicate poverty and food insecurity from our people, agriculture must be transformed from subsistence to commercial farming. As a country, therefore, we have launched various programmes that are going to address agriculture development, not only in the short-term, but also in the long-term, and in a sustainable manner. Some of these measures include ensuring that farmers have access to affordable inputs and credit. We have also embarked on developing our market infrastructure and reforming our cooperative sector, so that our farmers have access to markets for their fresh produce. To reduce reliance on the rains and to mitigate the vagaries of weather, Kenya has committed itself to expand irrigated agriculture from the current 150 000 hectares to at least one million hectares by 2010. We also committed to strengthening our agriculture institutions for research and innovation extension for credit in agro-processing and marketing so as to achieve efficiency and effectiveness for the farming activity.

Madam Chair, turning now to the ongoing reforms at FAO. My delegation appreciates the FAO Management and the steps taken with regard to the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA). We note with concern the cost strain in the implementation of the IPA due to inadequacy of funding. We however believe that funding becomes constrained when what is to be funded is not very attractive to the funders. My delegation therefore feels that the issue of funding should be persuaded along with adjustment on the Reform Programme. This way Madam Chair, FAO support to poor countries through the Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, will not be jeopardised. It is for this reason that we ask all Members to honour and pay the Assessed Contributions to FAO. I wish to note that Kenya has paid all our obligation towards this Organization.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, it is the hope of my delegation that deliberations and decisions made in this session of the Conference will contribute to strengthening FAO so that it is more effective and efficient in serving Member Nations in their endeavour to reduce hunger and eradicate poverty.

Joanas GUE (Haïti)

Pour commencer, j'adresse mes remerciements les plus sincères à la FAO pour l'invitation à la Trente-sixième Conférence de l'institution dont le thème correspond tout à fait au processus en cours en Haïti. Je profite de l'occasion pour transmettre au Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, les salutations spéciales du Président de la République de Haïti, M. René Préval et du Premier Ministre Haïtien, M. Jean Max Bellerive.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la République d'Haïti appuie entièrement la Déclaration finale de ce Troisième Sommet de Rome sur l'alimentation et en particulier, les cinq principes du rôle adopté par les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement et qui font partie intégrale de cette Déclaration. Haïti espère que cette Déclaration et ses principes trouveront leur application au cours des années à venir et serviront de fil conducteur à tous les partenaires impliqués dans la lutte contre la sécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la faim dans le monde.

Je ne cesserai jamais de vous rappeler, chers amis et collègues, la tragédie vécue par mon pays en l'année 2008 suite aux émeutes de fin avril 2008 et surtout au passage des quatre cyclones en août et septembre 2008, qui en l'espace de moins d'un mois, a ravagé Haïti et causé des dégâts matériels importants et des pertes en vies humaines. Ces dégâts ont été exprimés à plus de neuf cent millions de dollars E.-U., évaluation conjointe réalisée par le Gouvernement haïtien et la Banque mondiale. Ainsi, l'économie haïtienne a régressé de quatorze pour cent de son PIB. Plus de huit cent mille personnes ont été affecté et ont dû survivre pendant plus de trois mois grâce à l'aide alimentaire apportée par le Gouvernement haïtien, le PAM et d'autres agences humanitaires. Pour répondre à cette situation catastrophique, le Gouvernement de mon pays a dû prendre des mesures extraordinaires, telles que l'injection dans l'économie de cent quatre-vingt dix-sept millions de dollars E.-U. pour la réhabilitation des infrastructures endommagées, le rétablissement de l'accès à certains services de base, la subvention des prix des produits alimentaires importés pendant quatre mois, l'acquisition et la distribution la plus subventionnée d'engrais, de semences et d'outils agricoles, et le renforcement de l'encadrement technique. Des résultats conformes à nos espérances ont été obtenus, l'augmentation de 25 pour cent de la production agricole du printemps 2008 au printemps 2009. Ce qui a entraîné, comme je l'avais déjà souligné, la réduction du nombre de personne en insécurité alimentaire de 3.3 millions à 1.9 millions en l'espace d'une année.

Il faut signaler l'apport appréciable de la communauté internationale pour l'atteinte de ces résultats en un si court laps de temps, qu'elle en soit remerciée.

Mesdames et Messieurs, sans le maintien d'un tel soutien de manière continue, tout au moins sur une période de cinq ans, Haïti ne pourra pas perpétuer de tels résultats. Aussi, sollicite-t-elle l'appui de la FAO pour l'obtention d'une part substantielle des vingt milliards de dollars promis à L'Aquila par le G8 en juillet 2009. Cet appui de la FAO et des partenaires d'Haïti nous permettra de mettre en place un système d'assurances agricoles pour la gestion des risques et des catastrophes naturelles. Être en phase avec notre engagement vis-à-vis de l'initiative ALCSH 2025 visant l'éradication de la faim en 2025 en Amérique Latine et aux Caraïbes; (i) créer un Fond de garantie accessible aux nouveaux entrepreneurs agricoles; (ii) finaliser et appliquer son Plan national de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnel 2010-2025; (iii) finaliser et appliquer la Politique de développement agricole 2010-2025 et (iv) arriver à élever de six pour cent actuellement à quinze pour cent la part du budget consacré à l'agriculture durant cette période. La mise en œuvre de ces actions nous permettra d'éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté dans notre pays à l'horizon 2025.

Mesdames et Messieurs, aidez-nous à appliquer ce fameux partenariat mondial en commençant par sa mise en œuvre dans nos programmes tant au niveau national, régional et mondial pour libérer le monde de la faim en 2025 afin de contempler 2050 avec sérénité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I am now going to depart for a bit and I am going to hand the gavel over to our Vice-Chair, Ambassador Muchada. We have done so well on time. We are ahead of schedule, it feels good. And I ask please for you to show restraint through the afternoon and help our Vice-Chair out in her time-keeping responsibilities.

Mary Muchada, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, takes the Chair
Mary Muchada, Vice-Présidente de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Mary Muchada, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Byung-Rin YOO (Republic of Korea)

Thank you Madam Chair. It is a great honour for me to address the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference of the FAO on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea. I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General of FAO and his staff for organizing this Conference. Also, I would like to congratulate Madam Chair on her appointment as the Conference Chair.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Since its foundation in 1945, FAO has made great strides despite various challenges. Now FAO is in a process of a Reform following the Report of the Independent External Evaluation. This Reform will not only improve services for Member Nations, but also increase the likelihood of success of the Reform Agenda. The Korean Government supports the recently-announced Immediate Plan of Action in particular. The Korean Government is confident that FAO will successfully tackle new challenges such as climate change and desertification, as well as long standing ones such as hunger and poverty, if it continues to focus on its basic mission and move forward with Reform.

The Korean Government agrees with the report made by the Director-General of FAO at the 137th Session of the FAO Council in September, and would like to make a few points. First, food aid should be made in close coordination among stakeholders such as international agencies, donors and NGOs, and it should be made in a way that meets the recipient countries' specific needs. I believe that the success story of Korea in resolving food shortages in the early 1970's by the Korean Revolution could be an example of this. Secondly, food issues require sustained attention from all nations and practical solutions. At the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, twenty Heads of State agreed to establish an international fund worth USD 20 billion to resolve food issues. Now is the time for us to mobilize the pledged amount and discuss how to effectively realise it.

Lastly, I would like to note on the auspicious of FAO we need to analyze regions for crop price volatility and decide how to respond to it.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Korean Government would like to express its concern regarding desertification. Almost two thirds of all desertification globally has occurred in Africa and Asia, where food shortages are already severe. In addition, excessive forestry development in the developing world and the resulting increase in greenhouse gas emissions have aggravated climate change. To deal with these issues, the international community is having negotiations with a view to reaching an agreement on a post-Kyoto mechanism in Copenhagen in December. The Korean Government believes that sustainable forestry measurement with minimum deforestation can help us enhance food security and mitigate climate change. Korea will host the Tenth United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Congress in 2011 to show its experience in reforestation, technology transfer and know-how. I hope I can count on your support for an interest in the Convention.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe we should build a network that accommodates regional characteristics and increase cooperation to achieve food security and safety around the world. Building on Korea's past experience in overcoming food shortages and in restoring forests in cooperation with international communities Korea will continue to work with FAO in the project that is required to obtain response from the international community.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Abdessalem MANSOUR (Tunisie) (Langue originale Arabe)

Tout d'abord, j'aimerais féliciter la Présidente élue à l'occasion de cette Trente-sixième Session de la Conférence de la FAO en lui souhaitant le plein succès dans sa direction des travaux de cette Conférence qui représente un rendez-vous important afin de faire le bilan des réalisations de l'Organisation et d'étudier les méthodes pour améliorer les programmes de travail dans l'avenir. Il s'agit également d'une occasion à saisir pour renforcer la coordination entre nous afin de garantir la durabilité de l'agriculture et d'éradiquer la pauvreté et la faim de par le monde. À cet égard, j'aimerais remercier la FAO, avec à sa tête M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général, et tous ses collaborateurs, pour les initiatives précieuses et les efforts importants qu'ils ont déployé afin de concrétiser les politiques de l'Organisation et ses programmes sur le terrain.

Notre réunion aujourd'hui revêt une importance toute particulière étant donné la nature cruciale des dossiers dont nous sommes saisis ainsi que les circonstances difficiles que traversent notre monde d'aujourd'hui suite à la crise économique et financière, ce qui a eu des répercussions directes et considérables sur le secteur agricole et la sécurité alimentaire de par le monde. Les conférences qui se sont succédées sous l'égide des Nations Unies ont permis de cristalliser certaines conceptions, procédures et démarches afin de freiner la dégradation de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. À cet égard, nous appuyons les recommandations du Sommet sur la Sécurité Alimentaire à Rome en novembre 2009 et plus particulièrement en ce qui concerne la création d'un partenariat international dans ce domaine, le fait de rehausser le niveau du Comité de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CSA) à niveau ministériel et la nécessité de trouver des mécanismes permettant de faire face aux crises alimentaires d'urgence. À cet égard, nous insistons sur la nécessité de garantir un suivi des résultats de ces conférences et d'entreprendre les démarches nécessaires qui permettent de concrétiser ces décisions sur le terrain. Les documents dont nous sommes saisis reflètent de manière très claire les efforts déployés et l'esprit d'initiative et d'innovation dont ont fait preuve les différents départements spécialisés de l'Organisation et qui visent à améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience dans leur méthode de travail. À cet égard, nous rendons hommage à l'Organisation par rapport au niveau de mise en œuvre des programmes pour la période précédente et nous exprimons notre appréciation quant aux nombreuses réalisations, ce dans le cadre de certaines crises auxquelles nous avons été confrontées, tels que la grippe aviaire, le criquet pèlerin et ainsi de suite. Tout cela malgré la stagnation économique que nous avons vécue récemment! Nous remercions également les Comités Techniques spécialisés pour les efforts déployés car ceux-ci ont tenu leurs réunions aux dates prévues, et ont préparé des recommandations très judicieuses dans leur rapport qui sont à même de contribuer au développement des secteurs des forêts de la pêche et de l'agriculture.

La Tunisie, grâce à la politique de développement global, dont a jeté les bases notre Président Monsieur Ben Ali, qui se base sur une intégration des aspects économiques, sociaux et environnementaux, nous avons pu garantir une croissance stable malgré les récentes difficultés économiques. Je cite à titre d'exemple le PIB qui a augmenté de plus de cinq pour cent dans la dernière décennie, le revenu moyen annuel par habitant qui est arrivé à 5 100 dinars actuellement, le taux de pauvreté de 3,8 pour cent par rapport à 12 pour cent dans les années 80 et la classe moyenne qui, de nos jours, représente plus des trois quarts de la population. Le secteur de l'agriculture bénéficie d'une attention très particulière de la part des autorités dans le cadre des programmes de développement. Il a bénéficié d'initiatives pilotes, de réformes structurelles, cela a touché les régimes fonciers, les systèmes de crédits et d'investissements, les recherches et la formation professionnelle pour les agriculteurs.

Afin de renforcer tous ces acquis, les objectifs stratégiques de notre pays pour les années à venir se concentrent sur les domaines suivants: (i) donc asseoir la sécurité alimentaire durable et la préservation de l'environnement et des ressources naturelles; (ii) une bonne utilisation des techniques modernes afin de promouvoir le secteur agricole et ses ressources humaines; (iii) des

études exploratrices dans le domaine de l'eau à l'horizon 2050, une promotion; (iv) une réhabilitation des exploitations agricoles en fonction des critères internationaux; et (v) la mise en place de nouveaux mécanismes de financement qui permettent de suivre l'évolution de la situation en général.

Pour conclure, je voudrais réaffirmer l'attachement de la Tunisie à la coordination et à la coopération internationale au service des Objectifs du Développement du Millénaire afin de concrétiser le droit fondamental de tout un chacun à une nourriture suffisante et saine afin que cela représente un des acquis du Vingt-et-Unième Siècle.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mahaman MOUSSA (Niger)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence. Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux autres membres du Bureau qui ont la responsabilité de vous assister tout au long de nos travaux.

Excellence, Madame la Présidente, distingués délégués, au Niger l'insécurité alimentaire revêt un caractère chronique et affecte plus de vingt-quatre pour cent de la population rurale. Cette situation est la conjonction des facteurs climatiques défavorables et de la pauvreté qui frappe environ soixante-trois pour cent de la population.

C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement, sous la conduite éclairée de Son Excellence Sem Mamadou Tandja, Président de la République, Chef de l'État, Chef du Gouvernement, a adopté en 2003 une Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté (SRP), révisée en Stratégie de Développement Accélérée de Réduction de la Pauvreté (SDRP) en octobre 2007. Cette Stratégie assigne au secteur rural le rôle moteur de la croissance économique à travers la stratégie du développement rural SDR adopté en 2003 dont l'objectif est de réduire l'incidence de la pauvreté en milieu rural de soixante-six à cinquante-deux pour cent à l'horizon de 2015.

La Stratégie de Développement Rural (SDR) a consacré tout un axe à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles. La traduction opérationnelle de cet axe est le programme: "Réduction de la vulnérabilité alimentaire des ménages" et le sous-programme: "Prévention et gestion des crises et catastrophes naturelles".

Une meilleure prévention des risques de catastrophes naturelles et leur gestion concertée lorsqu'elles surviennent, permettent assurément de réduire l'insécurité alimentaire et favoriser l'engagement des producteurs dans le processus d'intensification et de diversification de la production.

C'est ainsi que depuis 1998, le Gouvernement du Niger et ses principaux partenaires de la sécurité alimentaire gèrent en concertation un Dispositif national de prévention et de gestion des crises alimentaires (DNP-GCA).

La mission principale de ce dispositif est de contribuer à réduire la vulnérabilité alimentaire des populations par une gestion coordonnée des actions des différents intervenants à travers: i) la mise en œuvre de stratégies de prévention des crises alimentaires; ii) le renforcement des capacités des populations à se prémunir et à développer des stratégies face aux crises; et iii) l'amélioration de la cohérence et de l'efficacité de la réponse publique aux crises alimentaires.

Le dispositif dont les organes sont représentés jusqu'au niveau des communes, mobilise deux outils principaux:

- Le Fonds commun des donateurs, premier niveau de ressources mobilisables pour faire face à des crises alimentaires, même localisées. Sa vocation est de financer des actions de prévention en appui aux stratégies endogènes de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire ainsi que des actions d'assistance comme les ventes de céréales à prix modérés.

- Le Stock national de réserve, utilisé uniquement en cas de crise grave à l'échelle régionale ou nationale en attendant la mobilisation de la solidarité nationale et de l'aide internationale. Le volume total de ce stock est équivalent à 110 000 tonnes de céréales composé de: i) un stock physique de 80 000 tonnes de céréales nommé Stock national de sécurité, dont la maintenance est assurée par l'Office des produits vivriers du Niger (OPVN); et ii) un stock financier permettant d'acquérir 30 000 tonnes de céréales, nommé fonds de sécurité alimentaire.

En janvier 2006, notre pays a adopté le "Plan national de contingence alimentaire et nutritionnelle" qui est un plan d'organisation des secours aux populations qui connaissent des crises alimentaires et/ou nutritionnelles localisées et modérées, ou plus sévères et de plus grande ampleur.

Les décisions et les actions du dispositif s'appuient sur ce plan qui permet la qualification de la situation, la planification et la mise en œuvre rapide des actions ainsi que la répartition des rôles de chacun des acteurs publics ou privés.

De manière spécifique, le plan de contingence permet de:

- Définir le cadre d'intervention en matière de réponse aux urgences du Gouvernement et de ses partenaires.
- Déterminer les seuils de déclenchement des réponses en fonction de l'importance de la crise.
- Analyser les capacités de réponses et définir les actions à entreprendre.
- Prévoir les chaînes de décision/coordination en fonction des types de crise.
- Organiser le partenariat à mettre en place lors de la réponse.

Le Plan National de contingence a dégagé une situation de référence et trois scénarios de crise probables.

La situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle de référence qui doit être interprétée comme une situation conjoncturelle qui ne présente aucun signe d'alerte. Il s'agit de la situation vers laquelle les actions continues de développement doivent amener le pays à moyen et à long terme afin que tous les indicateurs soient en dessous des seuils de déclenchement des actions. C'est une situation où aucune intervention d'urgence n'est requise.

Le Scénario 1: "Situation d'insécurité alimentaire et/ou nutritionnelle modérée" qui traduit un premier niveau de détérioration de la situation alimentaire ou nutritionnelle. Il représente une situation de "crise modérée ou localisée" comme en 2001. Il nécessite la mise en œuvre d'actions d'atténuation des crises alimentaires localisées.

Le Scénario 2: "Situation d'insécurité alimentaire et/ou nutritionnelle critique" qui traduit un deuxième niveau de détérioration de la situation alimentaire ou nutritionnelle. Il représente une situation de "crise grave" comme celle vécue en 2005 où un grand nombre de personnes est affectée plus durement par l'insécurité alimentaire.

Le Scénario 3: "Situation d'insécurité alimentaire et/ou nutritionnelle extrême" traduit une situation conjoncturelle catastrophique qui nécessite la mise en œuvre d'actions humanitaires de très grande envergure dans le pays. Il représente une situation de crise majeure comme en 1984.

Le dispositif qui est relativement récent, n'a jusqu'ici géré qu'une crise moyenne en 2000-2001 et une crise majeure en 2005. Toutes les évaluations menées ont conclu que le rôle du Dispositif est important et essentiel dans la prévention et la gestion des crises alimentaires au Niger et que son impact est indiscutable. Le rôle majeur de coordination des moyens et des actions est notamment placé en première position des acquis à préserver et à renforcer.

Pour être encore plus efficace, notre plan de contingence sera renforcé en ressources et couplé à un mécanisme de prise de décision rapide.

Très souvent, les situations d'urgence alimentaire sont communes à plusieurs États en même temps dans la sous-région. De ce fait, "l'offensive pour la production alimentaire et contre la faim" adoptée par les autorités sous régionales en juin 2008 lors de la réunion pour une approche

commune en réponse à la "crise de la vie chère" nous paraît pertinente et conforme à la politique agricole commune de la CEDEAO.

Elle vise par "la réduction de la vulnérabilité alimentaire et la promotion de l'accès durable à l'alimentation," à assurer la couverture des besoins alimentaires des populations vulnérables et à réduire leur vulnérabilité à travers:

- la définition d'une approche régionale des filets de sécurité comprenant l'appui à la définition d'une approche commune et des instruments d'intervention en matière d'accès à l'alimentation des plus pauvres;
- l'adaptation du dispositif de suivi de la vulnérabilité et de prévention des crises alimentaires à l'évolution du contexte et des facteurs de risque alimentaire, le développement de la capacité d'aide à la décision pour la prévention des crises et le ciblage des interventions, le renforcement du dispositif de concertation et de coordination;
- la promotion des instruments régionaux de sécurité alimentaire (assurances, réserve stratégique régionale et stock financier).

Je voudrais, pour terminer, saisir cette occasion pour lancer un appel à tous nos partenaires et en particulier la FAO, pour soutenir cette initiative sous-régionale.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Honourable Minister.

Please, can we kindly stick to the format that we have set for ourselves for this Conference. One thing I wish to explain to the Membership. I am not trying to confuse you on this list, but you may see that I am jumping one or two countries at a time, it is because either there is no representation on the desk or the country has signalled an intention to delay making its statement.

So I will now call upon Dr Mogajane, Director-General for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for South Africa.

Emily MOGAJANE (South Africa)

A year ago this month a Special Session of the Conference gathered here in Rome and unanimously adopted the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for the FAO Renewal. At that time, the world had just two months earlier awoken to the crisis which was unfolding in the financial markets. The rest of the devastation is evidenced by the increased number of the hungry, in a very short space of time by 23 percent to 1 billion between 2007 and 2009. For this, South Africa therefore welcomes the newly-reformed and inclusive Committee on World Food Security. It can only work and achieve the results we all want if we all commit our efforts and energies to it. The hungry cannot wait, and therefore we have to act. The impact of the work of the Committee should reach a child in deep rural village in any corner of the universe.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in line with the theme of this Conference, which is to improve preparedness for the effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies, South Africa believes that in any crisis there are always lessons to be learned. From the food crisis there are lessons which have been learned. The determination, commitment and collective effort have borne fruit. Just one year later we see signs of recovery on the horizon. The establishment in South Africa of a national food price monitoring system which monitors prices of specific food items in rural and urban areas throughout the country will afford policy-makers the opportunity to gain first-hand qualitative and quantitative information on price trends and enable the department or the government to make better-informed decisions regarding food policy in the country. We have also established the Food Price Monitoring Committee which is also working with the Competition Commission in monitoring some of the collusion occurring within the sector along the value chain. In terms of how we look at the road ahead and how we deal with emergency food crises in the future, especially with regard to the establishment of the food reserves, South Africa

allies itself with the position taken by SADCC. In February 2007 SADCC developed modalities for establishing and managing a regional food reserve facility. A study was conducted and SADCC adopted the solution of establishing a financial reserve instead of physical reserves.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have seen outbreaks of diseases which occurred in South Africa and even in the region. Climate change is with us and we have recently seen outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever in South Africa ascribed to movement of vectors throughout the country. We believe that contingency measures have been put in place through the SADCC region to ensure that there is control of transboundary animal diseases which also need to be strengthened, especially when it comes to harmonization of import and export policies. We have seen that increased movement of people and goods have put lot of strain in our system to manage risk associated with plant and animal diseases. In managing this risk, South Africa is currently on the way to strengthen its port of entry requirements and strengthen its surveillance programme for outbreaks of both plant and animal diseases.

South Africa supports the position taken by the FAO to have agreement with other international organizations to strengthen capacity in dealing with international standard-setting bodies. More work still has to be done, particularly with regard to improving participation of developing countries in these bodies. We are requesting the FAO to look particularly into the participation of developing countries in the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention, the IPPC.

Let me conclude, Ladies and Gentlemen, by saying that together we can make it happen. South Africa, like any other developing country, will depend on the FAO to coordinate the collaboration among Member Nations.

South Africa looks forward to welcoming you all in South Africa, a beautiful country and a beautiful continent next year when we will welcome you for the World Soccer Cup. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Akram AL-HAKEEM (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I have the honour of representing my country, Iraq, at this Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I thank you for the opportunity you are giving me to address you from this rostrum to share our vision of the topics that will be discussed during this Conference. This Thirty-sixth Session is being held on the coattails of the World Summit on Food Security, a very important Summit in fighting hunger and poverty. It is also very important that the efforts of countries be successful and that the recommendations and decisions taken be implemented.

The reform of the CFS was the topic of many and lengthy debates to implement food security. Of course, this is something that attracted our attention and we are delighted that this remains at the heart of the FAO's work, including the work of all the UN Rome-based Agencies and all other organizations working on food security.

Madam President, while Iraq is an oil-producing country, agriculture is also very important and it is a stabilizing factor at a political and economic level. Agriculture is very important for food security and we have to renew agricultural structures. We also have to reform the structure of those organizations giving credit to small-holders. We also have to open up the doors to the private sector when it is working with the public sector. Measures concerning the agricultural sector have been stepped up despite the problems we face. We have also guaranteed inputs and we have made a step towards decentralization. We have eliminated entities and organizations that monopolize prices. We want to open agriculture to rebalance the agriculture market so that it can be fully restored in Iraq.

We know that the price of food is very high and we have not received the help that we had expected. We have programmes now underway to get through these stages. We are working with the Ministry of Agriculture under the circumstances known to all.

Let us also try to benefit from technology transfers and programmes aimed at enhancing efficiency of agricultural resources. Our resources are the driving force of activities and the three last decades have been a major challenge. We have undertaken major projects to collect water in partnership with some organizations. However, we have had to deal with climate change which has had an impact on both water and food, which means that the Government has to continue to ration its products in order to ensure that they will be fairly distributed among the population. We have to take into account that arable land has diminished and we have to face issues regarding drilling and agricultural land.

Agricultural issues are cross-border issues and they require concerted efforts and coordinated regional actions to face the challenges of climate change, adapt to them and limit their negative impacts. We also need to deal with cross-border diseases, and the need to strengthen markets and the flux of agricultural products.

We feel that food security for citizens is the top responsibility of Government, but today we cannot work on producing without taking into consideration the global dimension. That is why we have to have concerted action in fighting hunger and poverty, in assisting countries to become self-sufficient, and in improving people's access to what they need. This is a human right and I would like to conclude by saying that before coming to this Conference a resolution was adopted by the Council of Ministers with a view to paying all Iraq's debts to the FAO, even if the FAO had agreed to have us spread out these payments in the years to come. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Htay OO (Myanmar)

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation and on my own behalf, may I extend my warmest congratulations to the esteemed Chairperson for being unanimously elected to preside over this august Conference.

Madam Chairperson, we have also noted that the most important issue for the Conference is paving the way to meet the FAO's strategic objective of improving preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergency. It was rightly highlighted by the theme of this year World Food Day as "Food Security at the Time of Crisis".

Currently, global food security is being threatened by surging crises caused by high food prices, global economic recession, and climate change with controversial expansion of bio-fuel production. Amid these crises, women and children are the hardest hit. Unless we find the way to solve the problems, the situation will get worse and become irreversible.

Madam Chairperson, surging global crises have further pushed the number of world food needy and malnourished people to reach 1.02 billion during 2009. This situation is rather depressing unless we act on integrated approaches in maintaining preparedness, delivering effective responses and supporting the transition to development regarding food and agricultural production. I firmly believe that the FAO renewal process will provide significant forces and support to Member Nations suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in times of crisis. We also need to note that the past failure to meet the goal of halving the number of food insecure people by 2015 is largely due to lack of improved global governance and inadequate attention to the root causes of food insecurity.

Madam Chairperson, Myanmar, as a whole, is a food secure nation. However, chronic food insecurity hot spots tend to exist in remote areas of the country, and especially in the dryer regions. Myanmar has drawn lessons from last year's unprecedented devastation of cyclone Nargis coupled with the financial crisis and its market breakdowns. Thus, Myanmar has prepared to avoid a possible crisis situation.

Myanmar has adopted a twin-track approach to ensure food security countrywide. The first approach is the effective delivery of direct food supplies and short-term food and agriculture

production supports such as seeds, fertilizers and loans, thereby ensuring a social safety-net. The second approach is the increase of agricultural production by providing access to irrigation water, sustainable technology and agricultural diversification processes thereby promoting sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction endeavours through rural development. Efforts are also being made to develop urban agriculture and food production system.

In order to implement the twin-track approach, the Government of Myanmar has recently formed three important committees. These are the National Disaster Preparedness Committee, the National Committee for Food Security and the Rural Development Support Committee. Furthermore, the key strategies for food security in Myanmar are being prepared. These are 1) to improve agricultural financing, trade and marketing of food and agricultural commodities, 2) to foster integrated and sustainable natural resources management with emphasis on promoting efficient land and water utilization, 3) to improve risk management and risk spreading associated with natural and man-made disasters by diversifying livelihoods and developing safety-nets and support systems, 4) to encourage private sector participation and building partnerships with local, regional, and global development partners, 5) to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change by promoting good agricultural practices and technology, access to water and greening in dryer parts of the country, 6) to strengthen institutional capacity and develop overall human resources in promoting agricultural sector competitiveness, and 7) to strengthen agricultural research, education and extension systems.

Madam Chairperson, all in all, Myanmar has prepared to ensure food security in all aspects at all time. With its great potential, Myanmar pledges to cooperate with global and regional communities to feed the world in the future. I firmly believe that food security alliances among global communities and crisis-readiness strategies are important issues for today's world. We must prepare to meet all the challenges to arrest food insecurity and malnutrition in times of crisis.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that urgent global and regional action is required to improve short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategic policy frameworks in ensuring food security in the world. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Migendra Kumar Singh YADAV (Nepal)

I indeed feel very honoured and proud of having this historic opportunity to address this November Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal. On behalf of the Government of Nepal and myself, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the FAO Director-General and the people of Italy for their excellent reception and the warm hospitality extended to me and my team members.

Madam Chair, the world community undertook to set humanity free from hunger and poverty with the establishment of FAO some 64 years ago. Despite commitments made during previous FAO sessions and the goals set during the Millennium Summit, it is disappointing to note the current lack of progress since the latest food insecurity figures show, for the first time in human history, the number of people suffering from hunger exceeding 1 billion. This is happening in a world where there is ample technical knowledge and financial capacity to feed populations. There are still 31 countries in the world requiring emergency food assistance, including Nepal. Nepal is listed among the 15 countries with the world's most serious problems with food security, and the Food and Agriculture Organization describes Nepal as chronically-food insecure.

The agricultural sector in Nepal contributes over 32 percent in national GDP. Over 80 percent of the households and 66 percent of the labour force are engaged in this sector. Agriculture remains the fundamental instrument for economic growth, sustainable economic development and poverty reduction despite the alarming food security situation of the country.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the developing and the least developed countries like Nepal are more vulnerable to food insecurity and are placing high hopes on the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations regarding market competitiveness and technology transfers. Therefore we still hope that the Least Developed Countries enjoy duty-free and quota-free market access for all the tradeable products from all the major countries with more favourable rules regarding origin and support in enhancing their supply-side capacity. Likewise, landlocked countries' right of access from the sea and the freedom of countries by all means of transport needs to be reformed and a special programme needs to be developed to upgrade the facilities that ensure this right. Farmers also need to be provided with the adequate incentives and special privileges to increase their production and productivity to benefit from global trade opportunities.

Without the full integration of the landlocked and the least developed countries like ours into the global regime, this regime cannot be sustainable, equitable, or inclusive.

Madam Chair, now that the world climate has been changing at such an unprecedented rate, billions of flora and fauna are threatened, leading to dire consequences for farming, as well as human beings. Frequent floods, droughts, landslides and hard climate induced directly undermine agriculture sustainability. We need to work together to formulate the executive agriculture policies that deal with environmentally, economically and socially sustainable practices to cope with the negative impact of the climate change particularly in agricultural production and in the entire food chain. We must pay due attention to agriculture and food security at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for promoting Reform, for reforming the Committee on the Food Security and for amending the Constitution to accommodate these changes. We feel there is an urgent need to assist agriculture and rural infrastructure in Least Developed Countries like Nepal in rebuilding institutional capacity and in empowering farmers' associations. Therefore, I would like to request further assistance from our development partners, international communities, and private sector to enable us to fully realise the development goals that we have set for ourselves within the stipulated timeframe.

Madame Chair, last but not least, I would like to express my sincerest hope that we find a lasting political, economic, financial and technical solution so that all people in the world can enjoy the Right to Food, which is the most fundamental of all human rights.

I thank you all for your kind attention. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Carlos MUSSA BALDÉ (Guinée-Bissau) (Langue originale Portugais)

Je voudrais avant tout exprimer ma profonde gratitude et ma reconnaissance à la FAO et aux organisateurs qui nous ont permis de participer à cette Trente-sixième Session de la Conférence de la FAO qui intervient à un moment où l'humanité est confrontée à des défis sans précédents. Cet évènement remplit d'espoir à des millions d'êtres humains qui vivent dans la misère et la pauvreté extrême à l'échelle planétaire et plus particulièrement en Afrique, en Asie et en Amérique latine. Forts de ce constat, nous devons nous engager dans une analyse profonde de la situation afin d'élaborer des stratégies adéquates et bien coordonnées qui permettront, il faut l'espérer, d'atténuer les impacts négatifs de la pénurie de produits alimentaires et de la flambée des prix des produits alimentaires.

En Guinée Bissau, l'agriculture est la base de l'économie, elle représente la partie essentielle du PIB, elle occupe quatre-vingt pour cent de la population active et elle assure plus de quatre-vingt dix neuf pour cent des exploitations de notre pays. Au niveau national, les terres arables sont estimées à 1 400 000 hectares, et seuls 400 000 hectares sont cultivés. Avec une population de 1 325 000 habitants, les besoins en céréales de la Guinée Bissau s'élève à environ 228 000 tonnes.

Les précipitations moyennes annuelles varient de 1m 20 à 1m 50 par an et dix pour cent seulement du volume total de l'eau de pluie est utilisé. Les changements climatiques de ces dernières années au niveau mondial ont eu des incidences particulièrement graves dans les pays du Sahel et notamment sur la production agricole. L'irrégularité des pluies, la destruction des infrastructures hydrauliques, les inondations, les ravageurs et autres catastrophes naturelles n'ont pas permis de compléter le cycle des cultures de céréales, ce qui a entraîné une baisse des rendements.

La situation alimentaire représente 169 700 tonnes de céréales et notamment 129 000 tonnes de riz, le riz étant la base de l'alimentation de la population. Le pays connaît un déficit alimentaire d'environ 80 000 tonnes de riz. Il est donc essentiel d'importer des produits et notamment du riz mais aussi de recevoir des aides alimentaires. Le cajou et l'anacardier sont les cultures de rente les plus importantes du pays puisqu'on exporte entre 100 000 et 130 000 tonnes de noix chaque année. Le potentiel en matière d'élevage est estimé à 1 300 000 de têtes de bovins, 304 000 têtes d'ovins, 640 000 têtes de caprins, 330 000 têtes de porcins et qui est plus de 1 400 000 volailles. La pénurie alimentaire est un phénomène fréquent et qui s'aggrave du fait de la flambée des prix. D'autre part, les intrants agricoles et les produits agricoles ont été particulièrement touchés par la crise financière mondiale. Le pays dispose de 2 000 000 d'hectares de forêts, et ses réserves de bois sont estimées à 48 000 000 de m³. Le pays est confronté à la stagnation de la production, les petits producteurs étant particulièrement touchés par la crise alors que ce sont eux qui fournissent plus de soixante-dix pour cent de la production agricole du pays. Cette situation exige que des mesures urgentes soient prises et que des actions d'envergures soient adoptées pour garantir l'accès et la stabilité des prix des produits de base.

Conscient de ce problème, le Gouvernement a mis en place des mécanismes qui devraient garantir des investissements dans le secteur agricole, entraîner également l'essor économique et le développement du secteur privé. Le pays a notamment adopté un document stratégique national pour la réduction de la pauvreté et nous sommes convaincus que les objectifs préconisés pour améliorer la production alimentaire dans le pays ne seront pas atteints si on ne permet pas aux femmes et aux jeunes de participer à l'élaboration et au renforcement de ces secteurs productifs. Cela suppose qu'on leur accorde une formation appropriée, et leur permette d'accéder au crédit et aussi aux nouvelles technologies.

Il est nécessaire de mettre en place dans notre pays des mesures préventives et notamment de créer un système d'alerte précoce performant et un système de statistiques agricoles fiable. Il faut également permettre l'accès des institutions aux technologies d'information et améliorer la communication, en particulier, en matière de gestion de crise et des catastrophes naturelles. Il faut également mettre en place un programme de construction de micro-barrages et de réservoirs afin d'améliorer et de conserver l'eau de pluie et de l'utiliser pour l'irrigation et pour les cultures et les pâturages. Il faut en plus récupérer davantage de surfaces agricoles pour permettre d'accroître la culture des noix de cajou, améliorer les systèmes de production durables de semences de qualité, améliorer et augmenter les infrastructures et les routes rurales, augmenter les surfaces irriguées, construire également des silos pour le stockage et stimuler la mécanisation agricole.

La FAO plus que jamais doit jouer un rôle de premier plan pour améliorer la performance de l'agriculture africaine pour qu'elle devienne plus productive et plus compétitive. Il faut également appuyer le nucléo familial et le secteur privé doit jouer un rôle clé pour moderniser la culture africaine en lui offrant des services de transformation et de commercialisation des produits agricoles efficaces et durables en facilitant l'approvisionnement en intrants des zones rurales, lesquelles sont le plus souvent très difficiles d'accès. Nous exhortons tous nos partenaires et toutes les associations internationales à se mobiliser pour mettre en œuvre des politiques économiques sociales et agricoles favorables à l'élaboration de stratégie de lutte contre la pauvreté de manière à atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Clement DLAMINI (Swaziland)

Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Heads of United Nations Organizations, invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great honour to represent the Government of His Majesty King Mswati III in this very important Conference which is being held at a very crucial time in the whole world regarding food security.

The major task before us is to ensure that the growing population of the world has unlimited access to food. We have a challenge to develop a strategy of the agricultural sector that will lead to desired results, which are none other than producing enough quality and safe food for all the nations of the world, irrespective of gender, age and political affiliations.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we have just concluded the Third World Summit on Food Security which has painted a bleak future regarding progress achieved since the First Summit held in 1996. This is indeed a concern, Your Excellencies and Heads of Delegation. We have charted a way forward which we must ensure it leads us to the desired destination which is none other than attaining global food security. Each Government has a strong desire for the fulfilment of the aspiration of the Declaration which was adopted by the Summit. It is not going to be an easy task, but with commitment and will we should be able to overcome any obstacles and achieve desired goals that have eluded us for the past 13 years. It should be possible if the spirit of the Conference prevails in our approach.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Swaziland noted with appreciation the Report of the Director-General of ensuring implementation of the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation, and we need to give him the support he requires. The restructuring of the Committee on Food Security is commendable. I believe this has been done at an opportune time regarding any challenges facing food security across the globe. We hope that this approach will be employed for all Committees so that all services are improved.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Kingdom of Swaziland has placed agriculture high on its development agenda. We believe that improvement in the agriculture sector will lead us to improved food security, poverty alleviation and economic development. We will not rest until dreams become reality. We have committed to water harvesting and irrigation development. I request our cooperating partners to assist in this endeavour. Irrigation development should assist us mitigate the effects of climate change. We have also embarked on promoting conservation agriculture. We thank FAO for the support in this undertaking. We are encouraging our farmers to grow crops that are suitable. This progress should help us mitigate against climate change and should ensure that every household has access to food.

I also wish to inform that as a country we are developing a strategy which we believe will assist our farmers to produce the products that have a niche in the market. We want to tackle both local and foreign markets. We believe this will assist in generating income and in creating opportunities in rural areas. We can best achieve these objectives if we also enhance added value to agricultural products.

The drought we had in the southern region left our farmers in debt. They spent their last cents in purchasing farm inputs with no returns. They are caught in a vicious circle of poverty. They need a boost to get out of it. As a Government, we feel we should be able to bail them out so that they start their farming on a better footing. This can only be realised if they are supported to get the farming tools so dearly needed. As a Government, we can only do that and again we are pleading with our cooperation partners to assist in allowing us to grow our own food. We do have a Farming Food Support Programme which we need to implement soon and we are ready to commit some of our immediate resources to this noble cause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Víctor Manuel Pérez BATISTA (Panamá)

Nos corresponde hoy representar al nuevo Gobierno de la República de Panamá que preside el Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente Ricardo Martinelli Berrocal quien ha querido expresarles por nuestro conducto el mensaje de que dentro de las políticas de desarrollo que implementará para los próximos cinco años se prioriza el ataque frontal a la pobreza, sobretodo en las áreas rurales del país en donde la economía se sustenta principalmente en las actividades del sector agropecuario y del sector alimentario.

El Gobierno de Panamá aprovecha esta Cumbre para dejar sentada su posición a favor de la soberanía alimentaria mundial. Consideramos que los factores que llevaron a la crisis alimentaria del año pasado siguen estando presentes, las sequías no han desaparecido, tampoco los aumentos de los precios del petróleo y granos.

Las energías renovables continuarán siendo parte de la solución en la búsqueda de alternativas para el petróleo. Lo que estamos viendo no es un fenómeno de carácter temporal o de corto tiempo. Estamos viendo un cambio en la economía mundial, esta batalla no será ganada con las tradicionales armas de guerra sino por las armas livianas de la educación, el conocimiento, la aplicación de tecnología e inversión en el sector rural de nuestros países.

Panamá se ha caracterizado por mantener esta posición y ha dado señales para hacer del sector alimentario un sector capaz de producir su propio alimento y contribuir, a través de sus exportaciones, a alimentar a otras poblaciones. Tenemos un sector agropecuario cuyos trabajadores se han caracterizado por su tenacidad, por hacerles frente a los retos que les impone la naturaleza ya sea con técnicas rudimentarias o aplicando nuevos conocimientos adquiridos gracias a los avances de la ciencia en los diversos temas relacionados con el sector.

Hay que tener presente que se acercan tiempos difíciles debido al cambio climático producto del calentamiento global. Somos los hombres del planeta que nos hemos convertido en depredadores de la naturaleza con la quema y la deforestación de los bosques como una de las causas. Es preocupante ver como iniciativas a nivel global como el Protocolo de Kyoto, iniciativa destinada a lograr rebajar los gases de efecto invernadero, no han tenido los resultados esperados.

Desde que el Protocolo fue adoptado en 1997 las emisiones de monóxido de carbono han crecido el 25 por ciento, esto sucede en parte porque el tratado dejó por fuera grandes fuentes de emisiones tales como la deforestación y también potenciales participantes se excluyeron por temor a comprometerse rígidamente a obligaciones internacionales.

Actualmente las emisiones de monóxido de carbono por la deforestación y la quema representan el 18 por ciento del total de emisiones globales de efecto invernadero, más que todos los trenes, autos, camiones, aviones y barcos del mundo combinados. Hay una esperanza en la Conferencia de Cambio Climático que se realizará en Copenhague en Dinamarca en diciembre próximo.

Esperamos se maneje el concepto de reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación. Prevenir la deforestación es potencialmente una de las formas más simples para reducir las emisiones globales. En la reunión de Copenhague es muy probable que se introduzca el concepto en el cual se pagará para prevenir que los árboles sean talados. Esto significa que un productor campesino o una comunidad rural podrían recibir ingresos de fondos que vengan de países desarrollados donde los gobiernos y compañías que no puedan reducir sus propias emisiones en forma económica pagarán a otros para reducir emisiones a su favor.

No eliminar árboles indiscriminadamente ayudará a la captura de carbono lo que da a los bosques preservados un inmenso valor financiero y brindará a la gente que vive en el bosque un incentivo para preservarlo. Tenemos como misión recuperar la rentabilidad en el campo, garantizando así la seguridad alimentaria. Esto se logrará adecuando las actividades agrícolas y ganaderas a nuestra realidad como país.

Tenemos como meta del cambio la reorganización integral del sector agropecuario rural, por ello impulsaremos políticas públicas que permitan mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y la vida rural y para lograrlo primero, crearemos condiciones para favorecer la inversión en la producción agrícola; segundo promoveremos el desarrollo y la innovación agrícola; tercero fortaleceremos el papel del estado y mejoraremos las instituciones del sector para enfrentar los nuevos retos de la agricultura; cuarto, impulsaremos programas de producción de energías renovables que ofrezcan la posibilidad de diversificar las fuentes de ingreso de la población rural y, en general, dinamizar las economías rurales.

El gasto público en el sector agropecuario juega un papel importante en la ejecución de las políticas públicas para la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. Por ello, aumentaremos la eficiencia y eficacia de gasto para aumentar la productividad del sector, y promoveremos la inversión privada en el sector agropecuario tanto en procesos productivos como en investigación, desarrollo e innovación, tomando en consideración lo siguiente:

1. las posibles consecuencias sociales y ambientales de las producciones que se desarrollan con tales inversiones, tomando en consideración dos temas que son de particular importancia en el ámbito social y político, en primer lugar las consecuencias de grandes adquisiciones de tierras por parte de inversionistas pasivos y en segundo lugar las implicaciones ambientales de la producción sobretodo en sus efectos adversos en la biodiversidad y la preservación de los recursos hídricos;
2. promoveremos la inversión no sólo en cultivo comerciales y de exportación, sino también en cultivos tradicionales que son importantes para la seguridad alimentaria,
3. la inversión privada debe ser un mecanismo para la búsqueda de la competitividad en la agricultura e igualmente para la inclusión de un mayor número de pequeños agricultores en las cadenas globales de valor; y por último creemos que los retos que enfrenta el sector agropecuario hoy día se pueden superar promoviendo un sector agrícola multisectorial y eficiente.

Visto con este enfoque, la agricultura se convierte en un sector estratégico que puede contribuir a enfrentar muchos retos, tales como, reducir la pobreza, combatir el hambre y la desnutrición, garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, controlar las enfermedades transfronterizas, y disminuir la emigración rural y del área urbana.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Bui BA BONG (Viet Nam)

Madame Chairperson, Excellencies, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation I would like to congratulate Her Excellency Kathleen Merrigan for being elected as a Chairperson of the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I believe that under your able chairpersonship, the FAO Conference will be highly successful.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference takes place right after the World Summit on Food Security and it is very encouraging to see that the Summit was concluded with a new momentum to double the efforts to achieve a world free of hunger. After the Summit, the Government of Vietnam will consolidate the state of national food security with concrete actions. In the course of agricultural development, we in Vietnam feel that the farmers in rural areas should given high attention. Disparities in income from farming and that from other sectors will widen, if the Government does not have suitable policies to support farmers and rural development. Such disparities weaken farming activities and lead to food insecurity.

In recognizing this threat, the Government of Vietnam commits to double its partnership for agriculture and rural development after each five-year period. In Vietnam, we have already experienced the negative effects of climate change with higher frequencies of extreme weather conditions in recent years, colder or hotter climates, serious droughts or floods that cause heavy losses in agriculture and production. Vietnam was identified by the NGO, COFRI, as one of the

five countries to be seriously effected by the increase in the sea level. Because the country has many low-lying deltas, climate change is a real threat to Vietnamese agriculture and food security at present and will continue to be so in the future.

To tackle these challenges ahead, the Government of Vietnam wishes to receive the support from the international community. The support that Vietnam received from different countries and international organizations so far, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, was highly effective in contributing to its current success in fighting hunger and poverty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as a country going from food deficit to attaining food security, Vietnam wishes to participate in the world food security and poverty reduction programmes and is ready to share its lessons and experiences with other countries. To date, Vietnam has a technical cooperation programme in agriculture with several African countries in addition to other South-South Cooperation programmes with financial assistance from FAO and some developed nations. The outcome of these programmes have been considered a great success and highly appreciated by both African countries and FAO. Many African countries have shown their interest in undertaking similar programmes. Therefore South-South Cooperation is a good model to address food security and poverty reduction strategies in developing countries. We hope that FAO and the international community may give more resources to expand this programme. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Soraya RODRÍGUEZ (España)

España ha acudido a esta Conferencia con un mensaje muy claro, que quiere trasladar a la misma como Presidencia Entrante de la Unión Europea para el año 2010. Queremos hacer de la lucha contra el hambre una prioridad absoluta para la comunidad de donantes. El año 2002 como ustedes saben nos comprometimos a reducir el número de personas que padecen hambre y pobreza extrema.

Desde el año 2008, no hemos hecho otra cosa que incrementar el número de personas de hombres, mujeres y niños que viven en esta situación intolerable. Desde 1990 hasta mediados de la década pasada, habíamos conseguido reducir en 4 puntos porcentuales, el número de personas que pasaban hambre en el planeta. Ha bastado un solo año de crisis para que esta situación cambie, y en un solo año este número ha incrementado en un punto porcentual.

En los dos últimos años, el número de personas sometidas al hambre se ha incrementado en doscientos millones de personas, por lo tanto el compromiso de España con la seguridad alimentaria que ha venido ya marcado desde la pasada Cumbre de la FAO en 2008, pasando por la Reunión de Alto Nivel sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria que celebramos en Madrid en el 2009, así como los compromisos asumidos por el Presidente del Gobierno, tanto en la Cumbre del G8 en L'Aquila, como la del G20 en Pittsburg pasan por la acción.

Hemos comprometido 1 500 millones de Euros en los próximos cinco años dedicados a la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición. En el 2009 donde nos tocaría, cumpliendo el compromiso, haber contribuido con 300 millones de Euros a esta materia, les puedo decir que ya sin haber concluido el año, hemos superado los 400 millones de Euros. Estamos convencidos de que la seguridad alimentaria global es un proceso que debe estar totalmente ligado a la erradicación de la pobreza local, de los agricultores y de las agricultoras de los pequeños productores.

Tres de cada cuatro personas que padecen hambre son pequeños agricultores, campesinos sin tierra, pescadores artesanales o pastores personas que viven en el medio rural. Alrededor del 70 por ciento de los pobres del mundo son agricultores, viven en el medio rural, por lo tanto cualquier solución global sostenible de futuro que no se base en la erradicación de la pobreza rural en los países en desarrollo y menos avanzado, no va ser una solución eficaz.

Como muy bien saben, el problema del hambre en el mundo hoy, no es un problema de falta de alimentos, ni de falta de superficie agraria útil para producirlos, es un problema de derechos, de la falta de ejercicio, del Derecho a la Alimentación de millones y millones de hombres y mujeres. Es un problema, por lo tanto de inclusión.

No se accede a los alimentos no porque no existan, sino por el estigma de la exclusión de las minorías – minorías étnicas, en muchos casos mayoría el estigma de la exclusión por habitar en el medio rural marginado tradicionalmente, el estigma de la exclusión de las mujeres, el estigma de la exclusión de la edad, sobre todo menores, las mayores víctimas entre cero y cinco años. Por lo tanto es necesario hablar, cuando hablamos del hambre, del Derecho a la Alimentación y hay que implicar una política integral de desarrollo rural de arriba, de abajo a arriba, liderada por las comunidades agrarias que vinculen estrategias de políticas agrarias y de desarrollo rural de los países con los que trabajamos.

Hay que hablar de igualdad de acceso a los alimentos, de igualdad de acceso a los medios necesarios para producir, de titularidad de las tierras, de tecnología, de información, de semillas, de capacidad y formación agraria y también de acceso a mercados, a mercados internacionales, pero sobre todo a mercados locales.

Señoras y señores delegados, España en estos momentos es el primer donante de la FAO. Estamos entre los primeros contribuyentes financieros en todas las Agencias Especializadas en la materia de la alimentación. Estaremos este año entre los cinco primeros donantes del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y somos el octavo donante del FIDA.

Nuestro compromiso en esta cumbre y en esta asamblea general ha venido acompañado de la firma de proyectos importantes con la FAO en un proyecto de mejoramiento de semillas con Centroamérica, proyecto que acordamos en la pasada Cumbre en 2008, también para dejar un mensaje muy claro a nuestra ciudadanía. Las cumbres sirven no todo lo necesario, pero si sirven para avanzar en el esfuerzo de la comunidad internacional en la lucha contra el hambre.

España, también hoy, ha anunciado un compromiso de respuesta al llamamiento de emergencia que ha realizado el Programa Mundial de Alimentos el pasado 3 de noviembre, para llamar a la comunidad internacional a una acción rápida, para evitar una situación dramática humanitaria causada por el hambre en el Cuerno de África. España ha anunciado hoy en su respuesta 75 millones de Euros.

Finalizo, Sra. Presidenta, ratificando el compromiso de España como Presidencia Entrante en la Unión Europea a liderar con nuestros socios comunitarios la prioridad en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza. Tenemos señorías que evitar a nuestros hijos que deben este penoso *record* al que hoy hemos llegado. Somos la primera generación de la historia que convivimos con el mayor número de hambrientos que ha habido nunca en el planeta. Delegados y delegadas, frente a la lucha contra el hambre, ya hemos hablado mucho. Hace falta actuar, a partir de ahora, este mensaje acción es lo que queremos liderar en la comunidad internacional.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

México siempre ha sido un activo impulsor del multilateralismo y un claro promotor de las actividades de esta organización desde su nacimiento. Año tras año este compromiso ha sido renovado con indudable voluntad política.

El espíritu que anima a la FAO siempre ha coincidido con el conjunto de valores y principios que norman la política exterior de México, en particular, aquellos que se refieren tanto a la protección de los individuos como a los derechos sociales exigibles incorporados a la constitución como uno de los mayores logros de la primera revolución social del Siglo XX.

El Gobierno Mexicano ha desplegado un conjunto de iniciativas que involucran por igual la acción pública y el estímulo privado, el propósito esencial es transitar desde el asistencialismo hacia el rango superior de la solidaridad, la cooperación y la disciplina comunitaria en torno al objetivo de liberar de la pobreza y el hambre y la desigualdad a los sectores más vulnerables, en particular, a los niños, a las mujeres y a los ancianos.

El presupuesto de apoyo al campo mexicano para el 2009 alcanzó la cifra aproximada de seis mil millones de dólares, recursos que permitirán una cosecha estimada para el año en curso de doscientos millones de toneladas de alimentos. Esto coloca a México como el décimo segundo productor del mundo con un crecimiento del PIB agropecuario del orden de 1,3 por ciento durante el primer semestre de este año, a ello se agrega una asignación particular al programa especial concurrente que se destina el beneficio de 24 millones de personas que viven en comunidades menores de 2500 habitantes.

Como ya hemos manifestado durante la Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria que acaba de concluir, nos preocupa de manera subrayada las proyecciones de la FAO, en el sentido de que la tendencia del hambre, lejos de detenerse por la acción de los sectores involucrados mantiene un peligroso ascenso.

México cree firmemente que la responsabilidad de cada nación es insustituible. Ninguna acción colectiva o institucional podrá ser eficaz si los estados no actúan antes en su respectivo orden interno. Debemos adoptar medidas combinadas, oportunas y eficaces tanto en la tensión a cargo de cada país como en la articulación de programas y colaboración internacional para contraer el avance del hambre y de la pobreza.

Mi país considera indispensable el estímulo a la investigación, la innovación y el respeto de los compromisos internacionales ya en marcha a fin de sentar los fundamentos de una mejor concertación de acciones. Este es un punto de partida necesario ya que la innovación en la seguridad alimentaria significa colocar en su debida posición prioritaria el papel de la investigación agrícola fortaleciendo las sinergias de los esfuerzos internacionales.

El uso de formas de producción apropiadas, la valorización de los cultivos locales y el empleo de sistemas de irrigación compatibles con ellos, así como la adaptación de la agricultura y la ganadería al cambio climático representan líneas que hay que seguir con firmeza. Con la definición de reglas que favorezcan un nuevo orden global de la seguridad alimentaria basada en la justicia, la equidad y la eficiencia, todos los actores podrán aprovechar mejor las iniciativas y podrá conseguirse, en consecuencia, un uso más racional y previsible de los recursos.

Para México es esencial que la comunidad internacional adopte pasos concretos y verificables a efectos de avanzar en las estrategias de desarrollo agrícola y de estímulo a la productividad, elementos surgidos de la FAO y de los diversos foros multilaterales que han hecho llamados en este sentido.

Es oportuno recordar la importancia estratégica de hacer converger en un propósito de ordenar la racionalidad, los compromisos financieros convenidos en el seno de la FAO, la ayuda alimentaria de emergencia y la concreción de iniciativas emanadas de otros espacios de concertación de intereses que han venido ocupando la cuestión alimentaria como un elemento transversal de la crisis económica mundial.

Es necesario articular nuestros esfuerzos con iniciativas como la búsqueda de un acuerdo internacional para combatir el cambio climático, el calentamiento global puede generar procesos de desertificación, sequía, degradación de los terrenos, eventos meteorológicos como huracanes y ciclones, estos fenómenos influyen negativamente sobre la economía de los países y sobre su seguridad alimentaria.

En el mundo de la investigación se está movilizando conjuntamente con los esfuerzos internacionales para aumentar la efectividad de la cooperación, se está siguiendo la dirección correcta pero todavía hay mucho por hacer. En este ámbito, México está haciendo su parte al promover el diálogo entre los centros de investigación del país y las redes internacionales. Esta

relación aparentemente sencilla, aunque en realidad muy compleja, entre el clima y la producción de alimentos es determinante para la continuidad de proyectos y el desarrollo de mejores tecnologías.

México es uno de los diez principales contribuyentes de la FAO. Actuó siempre a partir del principio de que la responsabilidad de cada país en la atención de las necesidades internas es insustituible. La Regla de Oro es que nadie pueda pedir a la Organización aquello que no haga a favor de los requerimientos de su pueblo. Esto no es un precepto ético sino el fundamento del ejercicio de la soberanía que, por cierto, da razón de ser a los Países Miembros.

En este momento y circunstancia, los intereses de la nación se han mantenido en línea con los propósitos de la FAO. Esto no sólo se confirma en las materias sustantivas de la Organización sin el financiamiento de las actividades.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jon BJARNASON (Iceland)

Allow me, Madame Chair and Vice-Chairs, to congratulate you all upon your elections to chair this Conference.

Iceland regards the work of FAO in the field of fisheries and agriculture as crucial in the international arena as it provides a forum for both cooperation and coordination. I applaud the work of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, both in regard to food security and as an important source of knowledge in the field of fisheries. The central role of the Department was clearly demonstrated this year with the conclusion of the International Agreement on Port-State Measures to Combat Illegal Fishing, which will help to prevent illegally-caught fish from entering international markets.

I would also like to commend the FAO for organizing their World Summit on Food Security earlier this week. It is, after all, one of the main priorities of each nation to be able to secure food for its people. The Summit's Declaration, which pledges renewed commitment to abolish hunger, gives us important guidelines to reach Millennium Development Goal No. 1.

I am gravely concerned over the diminishing role of agriculture in development cooperation. To fight poverty and feed the growing human population, a more equitable distribution as well as an increase in food production is vital. It is therefore of utmost importance that agriculture and fisheries be restored to the central role they should have in development cooperation. We need a solid commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources on a local and global level.

Iceland has made efforts to contribute to sustainable food production, both by enhancing its fisheries management according to sustainable measures and by working towards soil conservation and land restoration.

I was encouraged by the interesting discussions at the Side-Event held yesterday by the Nordic Council of Ministers on "Genetic Diversity and Food Security in a Climate Changing World," where it was heavily stressed that conservation of bio-diversity and genetic resources are key issues in obtaining food security and in promoting mitigating measures for climate change.

Fish and other marine products are undoubtedly among the most valuable sources of nutrition and income for developing countries. Ninety-five percent of those who make their living from fisheries are situated in the developing world. Iceland has cooperated with many developing countries in capacity-building in fisheries on projects emphasizing the sustainable use of resources to benefit the local population.

All food production needs to be ecologically, economically and socially sustainable if it is to benefit local societies as well as the global population. It is our firm duty to commit ourselves to this cause.

Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Alfonso Pedro CANGA (Angola) (Langue originale Portugais)

Je voudrais saluer et féliciter les membres du Bureau et, en particulier, Madame la Présidente, pour votre élection à la présidence de nos travaux.

Après le Sommet sur la Sécurité alimentaire où nos Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement ont indiqué de façon toute à fait appropriée, la marche à suivre pour éradiquer la faim dès que possible, c'est à nous maintenant de créer les conditions matérielles nécessaires pour que ces décisions prises au cours de cet important évènement puisse être matérialisé. Pour cela, c'est à nous tous, au niveau régional, national et international de réaliser nos efforts avec engagement.

Le Gouvernement de l'Angola, par la voix de l'Honorable Premier Ministre, lors de son intervention au Sommet, s'est engagé à la matérialisation de la Stratégie et Programme de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition. Permettez-moi de mentionner quelques programmes qui sont liés à l'amélioration de la production alimentaire et du mode de vie des populations: réhabilitation des infrastructures productives, consolidation du Programme d'extension rurale, développement rural, éradication de la pauvreté, soutien aux pêcheurs, crédits financiers aux petits et moyens producteurs, promotion de la commercialisation, promotion des femmes rurales et programme eau pour tous. Comme résultat de ces investissements, la production alimentaire s'est améliorée, cependant, le pays rencontre toujours un déficit sur certains produits, tels que les céréales, les légumineuses, le lait, la viande et les fruits. C'est pour cela que nous en appelons et encourageons nos partenaires de la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale à joindre leurs efforts pour combattre les défis de la faim dans mon pays.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier les principaux bailleurs de fonds pour les engagements pris à fournir une assistance aux pays en déficit alimentaire et, en particulier, en Afrique.

Madame la Présidente, la lutte contre la faim doit également considérer le renforcement des institutions nationales liées au développement et, notamment, dans les domaines de la recherche scientifique, rural, formation et de l'organisation communautaire. Pour cela, la FAO et d'autres institutions peuvent et doivent jouer un rôle fondamental en soutenant les initiatives visant à améliorer la coopération entre les pays dans le cadre d'une Coopération Sud-Sud ou Sud-Nord. Pour ce qui est de la structure de la FAO, ma délégation soutient les réformes visant à améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de notre Organisation et notamment pour ce qui est des actions sur le terrain.

Enfin, je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour remercier la FAO et, en particulier, le Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour avoir attribué le nom de mon pays, l'Angola, au Centre de Radio et Télévision de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am being advised that maybe we can just take a five minute pause while we work out the logistics for the next speakers.

Thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 17:12 to 17.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 12 à 17 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.12 a las 17.20 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the five minutes for coffee are up. It looks like we've gone through our menu faster than we thought. There are colleagues who will not take the floor today, but will take their slots tomorrow. So, with that, I thought there is no point in keeping you hanging. I tried to do a bit of headhunting, but it was not successful. The only message I can pass on is that tomorrow our Plenary will recommence at 9:30. Before that, however, the General Committee will meet in the Lebanon Room at 8:30 am.

With that, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank you very much for your cooperation and for respecting the format that our Chair, Madame Kathleen Merrigan, had set for the conduct of this Conference.

For today, I will say good evening and have a bit of rest. Tomorrow is a long day.

Thank you.

The meeting rose at 17:21 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 21

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.21 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

20 November 2009

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:44 hours
C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 44
sous la présidence de C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 9.44 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Barbados, India, Somalia, Bahamas, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Mozambique, Yemen, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, New Zealand, Malaysia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), France, Lebanon, Russian Federation, Cuba, Ecuador, Ukraine, Malawi

Haynesley BENN (Barbados)

Thank you, Madam Chair, Assistant Secretary, General Secretary, Heads of Government and State, Excellencies, Ministers, Representatives of International Organizations, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to all. It is indeed an honour for me to be granted the privilege to address this distinguished audience on the issues of climate change. This is a matter that is not only of global significance, but is of particular concern to Small Island States, such as Barbados, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, Mauritius, which are very aware of the impact that rising sea levels and changing weather patterns can have on our ability to produce our own food.

Madam Chair, Barbados has long been and remains fully committed to the implementation of policies and programmes which provide for the eradication of hunger and which ensure that its citizens have access to safe and nutritious foods. It is within this context that Barbados joined the Member Nations at the World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996 to make commitments to continue efforts to eradicate hunger in all countries with the view of reducing the number of undernourished people globally by half by the year 2010, if possible; but no later than 2015.

During the 1996 World Food Summit, Member Nations committed themselves to undertake follow-up actions at the national, inter-governmental and inter-agency levels for this objective to be achieved. The implementation of the Plan of Action therefore became the sovereign right and responsibility of each state, through national laws and the formulation of strategies, policies, programmes and the development of priorities, in conformity with the human rights and fundamental freedoms to ensure food security for all.

Madam Chair, Barbados stands ready to reaffirm its commitment and support to ensuring that the basic right of every human being is achieved; the basic Right to Food. While Barbados does not experience hunger in the true sense of the word, there are challenges which it faces and will continue to face in ensuring that the food requirements of its people are met. Barbados' food requirements are met through a combination of local production and imports, and food is accessible to the majority of the population. However, Government remains concerned over the extremely high dependence on imports to meet domestic food requirements, which has placed Barbados in the category of net food-importing developing countries.

Approximately 74 percent of Barbados' food requirements are being sourced through imports. Given our high susceptibility to external shocks, the surge in prices of food staples and essential agricultural commodities on the international market in the years of 2007-2008, tended to exacerbate inflation and domestic food prices, which not only led to current account and balance

of payments challenges but also to livelihood concerns that affected consumers and agricultural producers alike.

As a Small Island Developing State, the surge in food prices continues to underscore our low level of agricultural export market share, due to high levels of subsistence farming, in commodities and general lack of competitiveness in agriculture.

The erosion of preferences in agricultural commodities such as sugar and bananas has also compounded the situation, confronting many of our economies as we seek to diversify our economies into other areas. The use of non-tariff barriers is also affecting the export potential in the products exported by our countries. While world trade has increased and tariffs have been declining, barriers to trade still exist, especially towards products that are of interest to many developing countries. This situation needs to be urgently addressed.

The effects of climate change can therefore not be ignored, especially in the light of the potential impact on our economies. The climate change phenomenon has resulted in temperature increases, sea level rises and changes in weather patterns which have implications for our land, and agricultural and fisheries resources.

Environmentalists assert that climate change, unless addressed, will continue to decline the world stock volume and undermine investor confidence, resulting in the reduction of investments in agriculture. It has been predicted by some analysts that global production will decline by as much as 16 percent as a result of climate change. It is becoming blatantly clear, that there is a need for Small Island Developing States, in particular, to develop and implement short-term strategies to support their economies through difficult periods.

The Government of Barbados has therefore accorded high priority to the implementation of agricultural sector policies and programmes which seek to enhance domestic production capabilities with a view to reducing the heavy dependence on imports.

In closing, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of Barbados to the principles enshrined in the 1996 World Food Summit Declaration and Action Plan. The Government of Barbados will continue to implement programmes to eradicate hunger and strive to ensure that all in society have access to safe and nutritious food. In so doing, we shall require the assistance of the international community in the form of technical and financial assistance to strengthen our food production, marketing, agricultural health and food safety systems.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

T. Nanda KUMAR (India)

All of us can probably take justifiable pride in the conclusion of a very successful Summit. The Summit Declaration is a very comprehensive one, and I do take particular note of paragraph 9 of the Declaration. The question that we need to ask now and answer is "how do we move from words to action. How do we do this individually, collectively?"

I would confine my remarks, therefore, to threats and emergencies, the theme of the General Debate. The biggest threat today appears to be the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Response and rehabilitation therefore must be effective, efficient and should address the specific needs of agriculture-based families, particularly small-holders, landless and farm workers. Emphasis needs to be given to food-insecure and nutritionally-vulnerable groups.

The frequency of plant and animal pests and diseases is the second biggest threat and which is on the rise as illustrated over the past years by outbreaks or spread of new pests and diseases, such as the Avian Influenza, locust infestations, UG99 wheat rust and other animal diseases.

Madam Chairperson, the main challenges the agriculture and food sector faces, as we all know, are the increasing demand for food and nutrition, particularly in Asia and Africa, declining agricultural productivity, limitations relating to major natural inputs such as land and water,

higher-than-long-term average frequency of floods and droughts and inadequate investments in agricultural research and development.

While response to these challenges may differ from country to country, the most effective strategy to address the problem is increasing investment in research and development in agriculture and rural infrastructure to give agriculture a renewed thrust. There is clear evidence that investment in agriculture and rural development is the most powerful engine for growth and in addressing poverty and hunger. In fact India's growth rate last year was due to additional investments made in agriculture and rural development. But, resources could be a constraint in developing countries. There is, therefore a need for policies and institutional frameworks conducive to increasing private investment to complement public investments.

The declining productivity of major cereals has been a cause of concern and climate change could further exacerbate this. What we need, therefore, is the development and implementation of appropriate National Adaptation Plans. Top priority, therefore, needs to be given to build the capacity of research and extension services of developing countries and enhance their preparedness to meet emergencies.

The international food crisis, the subsequent financial crisis and economic recession and the challenges referred to earlier have added to the risks and uncertainties of the agriculture sector. The negative impact of the crises on the poor and food insecure can be lessened through appropriate safety nets and social programmes. We need to give serious thought to some practical instruments such as the establishment of regional networks of physical reserves of food grains. Our experience of holding national reserves in the form of buffer stocks and the Regional Food Reserve under the SAARC umbrella have been helpful in not only ensuring adequate supplies of food grains for the people below poverty line, but also in avoiding speculative behaviour and ensuring stability in prices of essential commodities.

Madame Chairperson, the theme has special relevance to a country like India. We have witnessed more than our fair share of droughts and floods. This year, we faced a severe drought with a rainfall deficit of 23 percent covering almost half of India. This was followed by a flash flood in some parts. We have, by and large, managed this crisis thanks to our large network of public sector Agricultural Research Institutions, food buffer stocks, communication networks, the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme which ensures 100 days of employment per family on demand, a strong Disaster Management Mechanism and our resilient farmers.

We are also learning from this experience. We are trying to develop a seed bank of varieties which can be grown in such situations, strengthen the emergency response mechanism and buffer stocks of food and fodder. We will be happy to share our experience with the world community.

In this context, I would like to make the following few suggestions and conclude here. Let us try and do the following:

- Outline what we can do individually and as Nations and collectively as a group
- Create platforms for sharing technologies and best practices
- Improve early warning systems nationally, regionally and globally
- Invest, at every level, more in agriculture and in the poor
- Use natural resources in a sustainable manner at all levels

Let us also ensure that there is effective coordination between not only the Rome-based Agencies, but also all other UN Agencies, the international financial institutions and all other partners committed to ending global hunger and malnutrition.

Let us show to the poor and hungry of the world, that we can, collectively, deliver. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mohamud MOHAMED (Somalia)

Madam Chair, Heads of Delegations, States and different honoured participants, good morning. Somalia is a country devastated by civil war which caused the destruction of all infrastructures (software and hardware) of the country, and especially those of the agricultural sector.

The civil war started in late 1990s and ousted the existed government and it became difficult to restore peace and order since then. Therefore, Somalia will share with the delegations its problems, and we expect the international community, UN Agencies, donor countries and non-state actors to take seriously the problems and challenges of this presentation.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Somali economy. The Somali people derive their livelihoods directly or indirectly from agro-pastoral activities, and as such, the performance of the sector as a whole impacts the livelihood of the Somali society.

The development of crop production in Somalia is very crucial for poverty eradication. Large numbers of farmers and agro-pastoralists depend on the farming sector for employment and as a source of livelihood. Therefore the rehabilitation of the sector is necessary and will have a greater impact on a larger sector of the population than any other sector in the recovery of the economy. Statistics show that the incidence of poverty in Somalia is very high, on average 73 percent of the population lives under the poverty line of USD 2 purchasing power *per capita* per day, and 43 percent lives in absolute poverty, that is, under the poverty line of USD 1 *per capita* per day. The situation is even more staggering in rural areas where about 80 percent of the population lives in absolute poverty.

The climate changes engender droughts every 3 to 4 years and major droughts every 8 to 10 years. Droughts inflict heavy losses on agricultural sector and GDP.

The agricultural sector needs a rehabilitation and recovery programme because all physical infrastructures had been destroyed and have caused a loss of human resources through displacement and migration to seek peace and employment elsewhere. As a consequence of the present situation, the rebuilding of agricultural institutions will have to start from scratch, and will need technical assistance and financial support to activate agricultural institutions given the fact that the Somali Government will not be able to finance and reactivate programmes in the analysis we have supported.

There are immediate priorities in rehabilitation for the agriculture sector:

- Rehabilitation of irrigation canals and water reservoir in Middle Shebelle;
- Small-scale pump irrigations are mostly needed for Somali farmers to produce food for themselves and for the market;
- Creation of rural water supply by rehabilitating the shallow wells and boreholes in the rural areas;
- Reconstruction of the country's institutional memory (research and extension) through the collection and dissemination of pre-war data on agricultural production technology;
- Rehabilitation of fruit trees and nurseries;
- Implementation of institutional capacity-building and strengthening district and regional agricultural services;
- Provision of agricultural credit for small-scale farmers;
- Implementation of river silting;
- Creation of river embankments.

For the last twenty years, Madam Chair, in Somalia there has been no government to elicit producer services for the farmers, and this resulted in no embankments for rivers and no silting for the sands in the field. As once the rain came, the farmers were first subject to flooding and then to drought.

Irrigated agriculture is the country's goal to produce food for the Somali population by generating much needed foreign exchange and satisfying the growing expectations of an increasing

population. Reactivating and improving the irrigation network will also play a very important role for employment, restoring peace and order in the regions where the irrigated crops grow.

Madam Chairperson, I repeatedly use the word 'peace' and 'restoring peace and order'. There are no jobs in the rural area of Somalia. People swarm to towns where they are employed for USD 1, USD 2 a day.

Capacity-building is an essential component for sustainable agricultural development and water resource management. In order to enhance the national capacity in crop production, water management and land development are necessary. Training programmes must be put in place to improve the quality of services that will be extended to the farmers. I say these words, Madam Chairperson, because few people have graduated from universities or agricultural schools during these last 20 years, and there is a real need to rebuild capacity.

Crop production in Somalia suffers from a number of constraints which include inadequate transport networks; lack of markets for the products; lack of working capitals; inadequate agricultural inputs, like high-yielding seed varieties, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and absence of credits.

In conclusion, the purpose of this paper is to explain the historical contents of the Somali agriculture, water and land development problems to FAO, to donor countries, concerned UN Agencies and international organizations to assist to break the vicious circle Somalia is in now. Without assistance, we cannot break out of it. We are in a circle, and unless we are assisted we cannot get out of it. So we appeal for assistance to break the vicious circle we are in.

With the newly-established TFG, peace and order will be restored, then Somalia will have the potential to produce enough food and surpluses to export.

For the time being there is no role of agriculture in the Somali economy due to the prolonged civil war that paralyzed farmer production and productivity, and that has hampered by the use of poor farming technologies, and inadequate supply of inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, pumps, seeds, tractors and fuels.

Somalia has a very large undeveloped fertile land, and more than 77 550 hectares of former government development projects are ready for agricultural purposes and need only to receive external investment. Anybody and any nation will be welcome. Absence of capital and know-how prevented the country to move ahead, to exploit its natural resources, and to provide jobs for the young people.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Lawrence. S. CARTWRIGHT (Bahamas)

It is a pleasure, indeed, a singular honour, for me to address the Thirty-Sixth Session of the FAO Conference and to bring greetings on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

The Bahama Islands have been the beneficiary of the enormous interest and capability of the outgoing Director-General Jacques Diouf. The Bahamas commends the Director-General for his unstinting efforts and outstanding leadership in efforts at alleviating global poverty and hunger and congratulates him in mounting the recent World Summit on Food Security, which may be deemed the capstone of an illustrious tenure. We look forward to similar cooperation and support from his successors.

Against the backdrop of the world economic crisis that has affected The Bahamas as equally as other countries, the relationship between The Bahamas and FAO has indeed been activity-filled and intense. The awareness of the scope, relevance and necessity of FAO has increased acutely in the country and tangible benefits have accrued to the farming and rural communities in my country in 2009.

In this time of economic downturn in The Bahamas, which is heavily dependent on tourism and foreign direct investment inflows, the need for increased domestic food production and the capacity for the country to do so have assumed a dominant position in the surrounding discussions.

First of all, I would like to comment on the real value and profound and lasting impact that the Initiative for Soaring Food Prices has had on food production in The Bahamas.

Under this programme, new cultivars of sweet potato and cassava have been introduced, tested for efficacy in the local environment and distributed to farmers throughout our islands. This has brought a shift in production from highly-perishable vegetable crops to the production of basic foodstuffs which are less perishable. As these crops mature and are harvested in the coming months, there will be the challenge of formulating marketing strategies to cope with the increased production resulting from the Initiative.

An intensive crop forecasting and food distribution mechanism would need to be implemented so as to efficiently dispose of the increased production in both the rural and urban markets. In this regard, it is hoped that FAO would be able to assist in this critical follow-up action.

FAO has also been intimately involved with our Government this year in reviewing the whole question of an insurance scheme for farmers and fishermen to indemnify against losses caused by windstorms, flooding and sea surges. This is a difficult and challenging issue for us; but we are convinced that by keeping it on the table and engaging the expertise that FAO has to offer in this regard, we could eventually come up with a formula that leads to mitigation against weather-related losses suffered periodically by farmers and fishermen in The Bahamas.

During the latter part of this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources secured technical cooperation assistance from FAO to conduct a rapid assessment of all elements and aspects of agriculture and marine resources with a view to mapping out a development strategy for the next five years.

The assessment is regarded as being absolutely necessary for effective medium-term planning in the sector and comes at a propitious time, as the conditions call for the effective management of the resources available for maintaining and expanding food production in the country.

Given the details, the definite role of agriculture in national development, there is a pressing need for the harmonization of policies, strategies and resources to achieve this end.

At this point, I would like to refer to a matter that is of paramount concern to us in The Bahamas and that is the consideration that the Programme Committee of FAO has given to removing The Bahamas and other countries of the Caribbean region from the list of countries that are eligible for full grant technical assistance, based on the World Bank's classification of The Bahamas as a high-income country.

On behalf of my Government and the Caribbean Region, I would proffer the view that the classification of The Bahamas and the region by the World Bank as "high-income economies" should not be the yard-stick for evaluating our agricultural sector or comparing it with that of other Small Island Developing States. For example, the rural population in The Bahamas has only in recent decades moved from a predominantly subsistence agriculture to a developing commercial production system. In The Bahamas, the amount of arable land currently under production as a percentage of the total national acreage with agricultural potential, is small in consideration to the agricultural sectors of other Small Island Developing States.

The assumption of the classical theory of agricultural and economic development that high-income countries have well-developed agricultural sectors does not adequately suit The Bahamas.

The nascent agricultural sector of The Bahamas requires a tremendous amount of technological input; prolonged and intensive training of farmers to create a culture of modern agricultural practices and significant capital investment for agricultural infrastructure, such as cleared acreage; farm roads; marketing systems; and processing facilities.

At this critical point in the development of agriculture in The Bahamas, the denial by FAO of “technical cooperation programme assistance on a full grant basis”, which has been one of the main drivers of agricultural development in recent decades, would deal a mortal blow to the sector.

FAO has done a tremendous work in rural Bahamas in recent decades, in exposing the agricultural sector to world influences in terms of best farming practices, the expertise of world-renowned consultants and the introduction of new concepts and techniques. It is hoped that this positive impact will continue and be enhanced in the years ahead.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Honourable Haja Afsatu O. E. Kabba. You have the floor, Sir.

Haja Afsatu O. E. KABBA (Sierra Leone)

It is indeed an opportunity for Sierra Leone, under the leadership of His Excellency the President, Dr Ernest Bai Konoma, to make a presentation on the food security drive in Sierra Leone.

The Government of Sierra Leone has prioritized agriculture, which includes fisheries and aquaculture, as a growth sector in the Government Agenda for Change, that is the second poverty reduction strategy paper. Agriculture provides employment for more than three-quarters of the population. Sierra Leone has demonstrated its commitment by increasing the budget allocation supports to the agricultural sector from one percent at the time we took office, to 10 percent in line with the Maputo Declaration. The Government has taken positive steps towards agricultural productivity by promoting large-scale mechanization in cultivation and processing technologies. In recognition of the commitment of Government, my President has earned the title 'Champion of Agriculture' by CAADP, that is the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme. Distinguished delegates, I am bold to say that food security is within sight of being achieved.

In the forestry sub-sector, the Sierra Leone Government has embarked on a massive forestation in Sheti as a medium to long-term strategy to mitigate natural disasters.

In my sector, that is fisheries and marine resources, though we have recognized the potential of food security and economic growth, the Government has not realized the anticipated full economic returns from exploitation of fish resources. The nation's waters are rich in valuable fish resources. As a strategy to mitigate unforeseen threats and also in readiness for emergencies, we have identified programmes and activities that focused on the following:

1. Promoting sustainable fisheries surveillance systems and elimination of illegal fishing activities.

The Government is putting measures in place that would deter illegal fishing operations. One of the measures taken is the establishment of the Joint Maritime Committee with the mandate for fisheries surveillance and coastal security. The major challenge is to secure requisite funding for its effective operation.

2. Promoting fish export for economic enhancement.

The Government has put in place facilities and procedures that would ensure accreditation to official certification control systems consistent with the EU requirements. I am pleased to inform you that the EU inspection team has recently completed an evaluation of capacity of the country's featured regulation and the final report of their findings shall be available within the next few weeks.

With your permission, Madam Chair, let me take this opportunity to thank the European Union for their commitment and support to the fisheries sector in Sierra Leone. To re-echo the statement of my President during the State Opening of Parliament in October 2009, it is painful that Sierra Leone cannot export directly to Europe, but yet still, our fish resources

are being fished illegally, packaged and taken to overseas markets to third countries. The Government has also placed emphasis on value addition to fisheries projects in order to stimulate growth return from this sector.

3. Promoting sustainable aquaculture and inland fisheries development.

The Government has recently developed, through support from FAO, the National Aquaculture Strategy, which sets the blueprint for sustained aquaculture development. I wish to thank the Director-General of FAO for this sustainable fisheries development in Sierra Leone.

4. Fisheries Infrastructure.

To reduce post-harvest losses and create the environment for artisanal fisheries, the Government has put measures in place for prototype fish landing centres, each of which shall act as an integrated cluster for adjacent fish landing sites. I am confident that this centre scheduled for completion next month will enhance the livelihoods of the fisheries sector.

The World Bank fisheries regional project also is working in terms of a fish harvesting in the mechanized fisheries sector. The complex, besides these facilities, will also facilitate the application of Port-State Measures to combat IUU and to promote agricultural productivity in major coastal areas.

5. The commissioning of the Bumbuna hydro-electric dam in my country recently.

This is a giant step towards increasing fisheries productivity, preservation and enhancing export supplies.

6. Adoption of Fish Port States Measures to combat IUU.

I am just arriving from ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna), in Brazil. We were able to see clear manifestations and evidence of IUU fishing across nations. Coming home, the evidence of IUU in Sierra Leone in recent times, underscores the importance of the proposed Chairperson's adoption of Port States Measures. The meeting provided an opportunity to establish responsibility in the management of fisheries. The flag states of Sierra Leone must be done in the port states of Sierra Leone. This was in response of Sierra Leone's flag vessel that was observed, committing illegal fishing without authorization from the Fisheries Ministry. The Environmental Justice Foundation has documented new regulations for Sierra Leone and by external sectors. This must stop. Sierra Leone has demonstrated its commitment to join this and the very recent arrest of a Taiwanese vessel YUFENG 102, caught fishing in an EE zone. The adoption of Port States Measures and the application of these measures is a solid move in minimizing illegalities associated with this. IUU fishing is a global issue. It is my belief that the successful adoption of the Port States Measures would depend on the collaboration between neighbouring countries. In this vein, I will passionately appeal to my colleagues in the sub-region for cooperation in this direction. I appeal to the delegates, especially development partners. It is evident that the application of Port States Measures would require capacities and that assistance would be of utmost necessity for the successful application of these measures.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call to the podium the Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Republic of Zambia, the Honourable Brian Chituwo.

Brian CHITUWO (Zambia)

Let me join those who have spoken before me in congratulating you, Madam Chairperson, and your bureau on your election. Let me also take this opportunity to commend the outgoing Independent Chairman of the Council, Professor Noori, for the excellent work he has undertaken as Chairman of the FAO reform process and of the Committee on World Food Security.

It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to be accorded this opportunity to address the Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference on the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

We are all aware that this Conference is taking place at a time when the world is facing numerous challenges of climate change, economic and financial crises and food insecurity. The combined effects of these challenges have caused a lot of suffering among people, especially in developing countries, with a figure of the hungry rising to one billion. The resultant impact of these challenges has been loss of jobs, low household income, diseases and drought, which in turn have led to an upsurge in the poverty situation. This has seriously compromised the ability of households to break the cycle of poverty.

The adoption of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security on Monday this week, defining the five principles for ensuring food security, therefore demonstrates a collective commitment by Member Nations of FAO to address the question of hunger and poverty in a more sustainable manner. The ongoing Reform Process of FAO, including that of the Committee on Food Security (CFS), also recognizes the need to have governing structures that will, in a comprehensive way and involving all relevant stakeholders, respond to hunger, poverty and food insecurity challenges of today.

Low productivity, poor rural infrastructure, high dependency on rainfed agriculture, limited use of irrigation, high post-harvest losses, limited access to credit facilities and markets, crop and livestock diseases as well as environmental degradation due to unsustainable agricultural practices, continue to undermine the achievement of food security in many of our countries, especially among small-scale farmers.

Despite the fact that Zambia has one of Africa's largest freshwater endowments, large tracts of arable land suitable for agricultural, livestock and fish production, this potential is far from being harnessed due to the challenges outlined above. It is almost impossible for a country like Zambia to single-handedly overcome these challenges in the face of multiple crises that the world has experienced in the recent past. Concerted efforts are, therefore, required from all stakeholders at country, regional and international levels to ensure that these resources are yielding benefits in terms of food and income for the present and future generations.

We are convinced that increased allocation of resources to agricultural development by national governments and international cooperating partners may enable increased agricultural production and productivity, especially among the small-scale farmers.

Zambia recognizes the role that the livestock and fisheries sectors play in improving food security. To underscore the importance of these sectors, Zambia has created the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, whose main function is to promote the development of livestock and fisheries. Zambia, therefore, fully welcomes a reformed FAO that strengthens these sectors as key components in ensuring food security.

I would like, in this regard, to recommend that animal identification, traceability, as well as approaches to disease surveillance should be at the top of FAO's agenda. This is because some of the major constraints to the development of the livestock sector in countries like Zambia and the surrounding region include, among others, transboundary and vector-borne animal diseases.

The Sub-Saharan region is prone to food losses due to poor and insufficient storage facilities. This has resulted in many countries in the regional failing to meet their food demands. Zambia has, for instance, already undertaken several measures to build storage facilities for use in the country. However, Zambia would like to appeal for partners in the international community to augment these efforts to ensure sufficient facilities can be used for food storage and food reserves in readiness for emergencies.

Climate change is one of the threats posing a challenge to our country. Crop losses due to increased flooding and drought situations are some of the effects of climate change that have hit the region. To mitigate these effects, Zambia, with the support from cooperating partners,

especially, for example, Norway, is adopting conservation agriculture which is slowly reversing these effects.

In conclusion I would like to commend the good work FAO is doing in providing support to its Member Nations in addressing issues of agricultural development, food security and the eradication of hunger and poverty at all levels.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much.

I now call to the floor, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Soares Bonhaza Nhaca.

Soares Bonhaza NHACA (Mozambique)

It is an honour for Mozambique, and for me in particular, to be present here at the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference, among dignitaries united with a strong commitment to ensure food security for all at the moment when the world is confronted with increased numbers facing food insecurity and extreme poverty, particularly in developing countries such as Mozambique, reaching now one billion people.

I would like to express our thanks for the invitation extended to us by Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, and congratulate him on the organization of this important conference, which follows after the World Food Summit on Food Security in which Heads of State and Government renewed, once again, their commitment to halve the number of undernourished people in 2015.

To fight against hunger, the Government of Mozambique approved in 2007 the Green Revolution Strategy with the objective to increase agricultural production and productivity and generate more job opportunities in the rural areas, where about 70 percent of our population lives.

In order to materialize this strategy, the Government of Mozambique approved in 2008 an Action Plan to Food Production for 2008-2011, which sets priorities and goals to eliminate the deficit of the main agricultural products in which the country is competitive. In this context, the Government of Mozambique is providing financial resources for strengthening agricultural research and extension, provision of seeds, fertilizer, animal traction, agricultural mechanization, pest and disease control, agricultural markets, as well as construction of irrigation systems, silos and tertiary roads.

In order to improve small-scale farmers' access to financing, the Government of Mozambique created a Local Initiative Investment Budget allocated to all 128 districts with the objective to enhance food production and generate more job opportunities in the districts. As a result of this initiative, about 20 000 projects and 120 000 jobs have been created.

Mozambique has increased the budget for the agricultural sector from 4 to 8 percent, and we hope to reach 10 percent in the next two years, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration.

As mentioned by our Prime Minister during the Summit, the implementation of the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy, the Green Revolution Strategy and other relevant Government strategies have resulted in the improvement of the quality of life of the Mozambican people, namely:

- reduction of absolute poverty from 54 percent in 2003 to less than 45 percent in 2009;
- reduction of the number of people in extreme food insecurity from 800 000 in 2005 to about 267 000 in 2009;
- increase in the cereal production from 1.9 million tonnes in 2005 to 2.6 million tonnes in 2009.

Despite the progress that I mentioned above, 35 percent of the Mozambican population still suffers from chronic food insecurity. In addition to having limited resources, other challenges that

Mozambique has to take into consideration in addressing food insecurity are climate changes, which are associated with cyclic natural disasters such as drought, floods and cyclones, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other endemic diseases.

FAO is an important platform for coordination of interventions and spreading good experiences in food security. In this context, we support the ongoing Reform, translated into the Immediate Plan of Action, aiming to strengthen the Organization to fulfill its noble role. We also welcome the L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security, through which USD 20 billion will be made available for global food security.

We would like to express our commitment to the implementation of the reforms of the Committee on Food Security, convinced of the fact that the results will contribute positively to accelerate the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security.

To conclude, our expectation is that the Thirty-sixth Conference will contribute towards materialization of the decisions of the Summit and will accelerate the ongoing initiatives.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this time I am going to ask our Ambassador from Germany and our very able Vice-Chair to take over the gavel and proceed with this morning's statements.

Thank you.

Hans-Heinrich Wrede, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, takes the Chair

Hans-Heinrich Wrede, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Hans-Heinrich Wrede, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Mohamed A. AL HAWSHABY (Yemen)

In the name of God most compassionate, most merciful.

Madam Chair, your Excellencies. Peace be upon you.

Allow me at the outset to address my gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed to the preparations of the Thirty-sixth Session of our Conference – a Conference where the participants discuss important issues confronting millions – hunger, poverty and unemployment. Indicators show that increasing numbers are joining the ranks of the poor, hungry, and unemployed and this is due to a number of reasons including climate change, the rise in food staple prices, immigration from rural to urban centres, reduction in investments in the agricultural sector, youth moving away from agriculture and reduced allocations to research and development in the field of agriculture, especially in developing countries, in addition to the fact that school curricula and training programmes are not keeping up with the scientific developments and the needs of the agricultural sector.

The recent financial and economic crises at the global level have negatively impacted the conditions of agricultural production which has led to the incapacity of to provide for their food. In the Yemeni Republic, under the guidance of His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh, the President of the Republic, we have devoted attention to the agricultural sector, particularly in the production of grains, and the provision of improved seeds to increase productivity fivefold within a specific time limit. We have also provided soft loans to farmers and small farms, and have activated extension programmes and increased research in the field of agriculture to come up with new adapted crops.

The drought suffered by Yemen during the last two years was compounded by destructive floods and led to the erosion of soil, the uprooting of trees and the destruction of large quantities of livestock and apiculture. This has affected the lives of our population.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our Republic devotes particular attention to the agricultural sector. We have set up dams and reservoirs and built modern irrigation networks. We have also exerted all efforts to contribute to combat diseases and pests. Yemen, as is the case with many other developing countries, needs support from the Food and Agriculture Organization and other organizations because over 70 percent of our population live in rural areas, and the agricultural sector involves more than 50 percent of the workforce. We need to reduce the food gap and to cut down on the number of poor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are looking forward to the implementation of the important measures that have been adopted by the FAO after reviewing its strategy and its programmes, and we hope that these will be effective and achieve the objectives and hopes of all those in need in the world. We hope that these policies will be closer to the needs of those who should be targeted. We hope that those who need the services of the FAO and other international, regional and local organizations will be receiving them in the field. We hope that there will be greater cooperation and coordination with all partners in international, regional and local organizations, as well as the governmental and private sectors. We hope that work will take place in the field in order to address the suffering of the poor, the hungry and the unemployed, and we hope that we will do what our conscience dictates. We hope that we shall be able to overcome poverty and unemployment and hunger, and may God help us in these steps.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I may now give the floor to the distinguished Minister, Mr. Mustafa Imir from Turkey, the Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Turkey.

Sir, you have the floor.

Mustafa IMIR (Turkey)

I have the pleasure to address you on this occasion to express Turkey's views on the theme of this Conference. I promise to save time for all, although we have prepared a text of our Conference speech.

At the very outset, I would like to underline that Turkey sees the World Food Summit and this Conference as an opportunity to reformulate the well-known facts and figures to succeed in the overall objective of ensuring world food security for all. That is a global issue and should be, therefore, responded to globally. The cause and effect relationship of food security is well-documented, but the text to accomplish the overall objective still seems to be complex. We believe agriculture, food security and, of course, quality, should be specifically addressed in local and national policies. Science, technology, finance and all resources available should be reallocated to meet the immediate needs for sustaining food security.

Through partnerships, countries having technical and financial resources should assist local, national and, to some extent, regional programmes to give impetus to build up the capacity they need. Thus promoting investment in agriculture and involvement of the private sector is essential. The small-holder farmers should be supported and given incentives through commercial contract-farming. In this context, the World Food Summit held just a few days ago has been and should be an opportunity and a turning point.

In line with this understanding, we fully support the Reform Process taking place at FAO, and we are pleased to see that many actions have already started to take place. Similarly, the Reform of

CFS is considered to be a significant step forward for achieving an integrated and inclusive partnership for production and delivery of sufficient food for all.

The Members appreciate the efforts of the Governing Bodies regarding IFAD and World Food Programme to develop a stronger partnership. Their collaboration with other organizations and with the national authorities is much appreciated. We also believe that their stronger decentralized presence would help to solve the problems that are threatening food production and delivery more quickly and effectively.

In this respect, we support the Strategic Objectives that have been developed for 2011-2019, Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. It's good to see that a lot of emphasis is given to adaptation and mitigation efforts of climate change issues. Indeed, international cooperation and actions are essential to minimize the effects of climate change on food production and maximize the contribution of agriculture towards its mitigation.

Turkey has attributed a great deal of importance to contribute positively to food security domestically and globally. Turkey would like to restate that she is ready to work with the international community, as stated by the Prime Minister, His Excellency Erdogan.

In light of recent developments and on both national and global levels, we have identified a number of structural and strategic measures, which include establishment of a Coordination Council with the participation of all related institutions to monitor and develop strategies to minimize the effects of drought, high emphasis on research for drought and water use efficiency, especially for the development of drought-resistant varieties and agronomic research; designation of and capacity development for research institutes for research on drought bio-energy and irrigation; financial incentives for the extending the use of more efficient irrigation systems; financial and technical support for those affected by drought; support schemes for the development of agri-business for small-holder farms; establishment of a geographical information system and centre for monitoring prediction and evaluation of crop production; establishment of an agricultural zoning programme to facilitate the planning of production based on changing conditions.

Finally, we appreciate and support the initiatives taken by FAO and other UN Agencies and the international institutions, to tackle the present challenges affecting food security. Turkey attributes great importance to protection of national resources and climate systems, taking into consideration requirements and conditions of developing countries. We are prepared to take part and contribute to international efforts to assist sustainable development and provide supplies of adequate food for all.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now have the honour to give the floor to the Honourable Stephen Wasira, the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security of the United Republic of Tanzania. Sir, you have the floor.

Stephen M WASIR (United Republic of Tanzania)

Madam Chair, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me first of all congratulate you on your election of the Chair of this meeting. It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. My delegation is grateful to the Director-General, Dr. Diouf, for the good arrangements made for this Conference and the recently-concluded World Summit on Food Security. We also applaud the Government of Italy for supporting the whole process and for their hospitality.

Madam Chairperson, on behalf of the Government and the People of the United Republic of Tanzania, we present our gratitude and tribute to FAO in assisting Sub-Saharan Africa, and my country in particular, in its efforts towards improving preparedness, and for effective response to

food and agriculture threats and emergencies. We are happy to note that this challenging area is now one of the Strategic Objectives of the new FAO Strategic Framework. Madam Chairperson, indeed we commend the FAO Strategic Framework with the eleven Strategic Objectives which reflect the assessment of challenges and opportunities facing food, agriculture and rural development. Tanzania will continue to participate and translate FAO Strategic Objectives by implementing them nationally through our nationally-designed Agriculture Sector Development Programme which FAO and other development partners contributed to it during its formulation.

Madam Chairperson, Tanzania is one of the countries with the majority of its people depending on agriculture for their livelihood and sustainable economic development. Agriculture provides about 95 percent of food consumed in the country in normal seasons, and it provides employment for over 70 percent of the people. However, following the drought which has been the most persistent threat in Tanzania, in 2009-2010 we are facing a shortage of 1.3 million tonnes of food against 10.58 million tonnes required for this year. The drought has also badly affected pasture for livestock.

Madam Chairperson, we have accorded agriculture the importance it deserves and reflected in our national budget, and we aim, for the 2010-2011 biennium to accord it 10 percent of the national budget. While these strategies and programmes are mostly government- and community-supported, the public-private initiative in the name of "Agriculture First" or "Kilimo Kwanza" has been launched to catalyze implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development (ASDP) by putting more focus on private investment and mobilization of additional resources.

Madam Chairperson, the national early warning system continues to play a significant role in sending out signals on performance of weather, of impending food shortages, identification of people and areas affected by food shortages, and emergency prevention system for transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases. The information provided is useful for our awareness and preparedness, and for mitigating the effects of disasters, including food shortages through food assistance and support for affected families with emergency seed supplies to help them sustain production. However, more support is called for in the strengthening of this system, particularly at district level.

Madam Chairperson, wherever threats strike agriculture, we know those who suffer most are the highly-vulnerable groups of society. Therefore, Tanzania is building up a national grain reserve and placing food at strategic locations to be able to respond effectively in emergency situations.

Madam Chairperson, we are looking forward to the effective, practical and progressive implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Reform. We commend the momentum and the immediate positive changes we are beginning to see. In this respect, we urge the need to accelerate the capacity-building and resource allocation for the Decentralized FAO Offices. Strengthened Regional, Sub-Regional and Country Offices will enhance the effectiveness in working with our governments and other partners in food, agriculture and nutrition issues and in strengthening our preparedness against agriculture threats.

Madam Chairperson, FAO will be an active partner, if it is well supported by Members. We have given tasks to FAO as elaborated in the Strategic Objectives. Therefore, it is our duty to sufficiently fund the desired results. Thus, timely payment of the Assessed Contributions by the Members becomes very important. Further, we have noted the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011, and I appreciate the increases over the current biennium as being real necessary and inevitable.

Madam Chairperson, in concluding, I want to thank the outgoing Independent Chairperson of the Council, Professor Noori, for his full dedication and efforts accorded to the work of FAO in the fight against hunger. My delegation wishes him good health so that he continues to be the FAO Ambassador wherever he will be.

I thank you very much for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I shall now give the floor to His Excellency Norbert Basengezi Kantintima, the Minister for Agriculture of the Democratic Republic of Congo. You have the floor, Sir.

Norbert Bansegezi KANTINTIMA (République démocratique du Congo)

Notre Conférence s'est ouverte tout de suite après la clôture du Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire. Nos chefs d'État et de Gouvernement ont eu lieu l'occasion d'exprimer leurs remerciements au Gouvernement et au peuple d'Italie et au Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf pour l'accueil généreux et l'hospitalité qu'ils ont réservée à nous tous et qu'ils continuent à nous réserver. Nous leur sommes très reconnaissants.

Par cette même occasion, notre délégation voudrait joindre sa voix à celle de tous ceux qui nous ont précédés à cette tribune pour présenter à vous-même, M. le Président, nos sincères et chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante.

Monsieur le Président, notre thème est améliorer la préparation et la réaction aux menaces et situations d'urgence alimentaires agricoles.

Ce thème est très proche de celui de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui a été célébrée dans le monde entier le 16 octobre dernier. Il s'agit d'une interpellation adressée à tous les Pays Membres pour que nous soyons prêts face aux menaces et aux situations alimentaires d'urgence.

M. le Président et chers collègues Ministres, la République démocratique du Congo est en situation de post-conflit. La paix étant revenue au pays, il faudrait une sorte de Plan Marshall pour le Congo en vue de lutter contre la crise alimentaire. Ce Plan Marshall c'est l'augmentation de l'aide au développement pour la stabilisation et la reconstruction de la République démocratique du Congo dont l'agriculture constitue le socle.

M. le Président, l'agriculture de mon pays est encore entièrement entre les mains de petits exploitants qui utilisent des outils rudimentaires et qui n'ont pas accès aux intrants améliorés. L'agriculture a donc grand besoin d'être modernisée afin d'accroître la productivité et de réduire la vulnérabilité des exploitants agricoles face aux menaces des changements climatiques sur le système agraire et le système pluvial.

Pour y arriver, nous proposons trois pistes. Une serait de redynamiser les centres de recherche agronomique et de production de matériel génétique amélioré pour les principales cultures vivrières du pays, notamment le manioc, le maïs, le riz et les produits d'élevage et de la pêche. Tanganyika est le lac le plus riche en poissons du monde et il faut l'exploiter, il faut exploiter également nos 80 millions d'hectares et tous nos pâturages. La deuxième piste serait de recourir aux fertilisants dont les phosphates se trouvent dans les grands gisements de la République démocratique du Congo, au Sud-Kivu, à Nituri et au Bas-Congo. La troisième serait de réhabiliter et entretenir les voies de desserte agricole et organiser la filière agricole de commercialisation de produits en passant par la production, le stockage, l'évacuation, la transformation et la conservation.

Pour terminer, la République démocratique du Congo a besoin d'aide et invite les investisseurs à venir opérer dans la production agricole. Ils bénéficieront de nos exonérations, de notre code des investissements et bientôt, du code agricole qui leur offrira beaucoup d'avantages douaniers et fiscaux.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Minister, for your statement.

I have now the honour to pass the floor to Mr Murray Sherwin, the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of New Zealand. You have the floor, Sir.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I would note that I am not the Chief Executive or Director-General. I am speaking on his behalf because he had to depart from Rome early.

My speech starts, "Madam Chair". I notice that it is not Madam Chair, but I wanted to acknowledge that this is the first time in FAO's 64-year history that a woman has chaired this Conference and I just wanted to acknowledge that, so you could pass that to her, so I will restart my speech.

Vice-Chair, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1999, Conference adopted FAO's first ever long-term Strategic Framework, covering the period 2000-2015. New Zealand judged that to be a reasonable first effort, but as we know, that initial Strategic Framework did not make its expected impact in the work and governance of the FAO.

A new Strategic Framework for 2010-2019 has been submitted to this Session of Conference for approval. We recognize it as an advance on the earlier effort, particularly since it has a strong results-based orientation. We expect it will have a real impact where the previous Strategic Framework did not. Firm targets and timelines and, close monitoring of progress will be key to its success.

Taking such a strategic approach is vitally important. Like all organizations, FAO needs to achieve the maximum impact from limited funding, which is certainly the environment in which most of us are operating.

Most countries represented here will have felt the shock of the global financial crisis and, will be facing real fiscal restraint. My own organization faces reduced budgets and consequent reductions in staff numbers, so any increase in the FAO funding that my Chief Executive must provide for in our own budget then impacts on the number of job cuts that he must make.

There is no credibility in the FAO seeking additional funding at this point. There is no credibility in seeking additional funding until genuine gains in efficiency and effectiveness can be demonstrated by the Organization. Like the rest of us, the FAO must earn its right to funding in the face of real competition from competing demands.

One key area in which the Organization can deliver real value to Members lies in assisting with the sustainable development of their agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

We would like to congratulate FAO for the important role it played in the recent World Forestry Congress in Argentina. The nine findings and 27 Strategic Actions provide a sound basis for the work of FAO, regional forest commissions and Members.

On fisheries matters, New Zealand seeks continued progress on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. As a member of the Expert Group which prepared the initial text for the Agreement on Port-State Measures, New Zealand welcomes the finalization of this Agreement, which we look forward to signing very soon.

The Doha Development Round offered hope for those who suffer from the gross inequities and distortions of the world agricultural trading system. We appreciate FAO efforts to encourage trade in agricultural products, its advocacy of further trade liberalization, and its normative and field work in areas that facilitate trade.

We sincerely hope that the necessary political will can be mobilized very soon to bring a conclusion to the Doha Round as a powerful engine for development and greater food and environmental security.

Concerning climate change, we are acutely aware of the need to take action, regarding both mitigation and adaptation. There is a lot we do not yet know about mitigation, and an intensive and coherent research effort is required. Two years ago, New Zealand launched an international research network focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock and this initiative, called LEARN (Livestock Emissions Abatement Research Network), has been so successful that it is to be ambitiously expanded and launched as a Global Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Research. My Minister mentioned this in the Summit a few days ago. We expect a full and formal launch of this Global Alliance at Copenhagen next month, and we have been very gratified by the enthusiastic support received to date from a significant number of countries.

New Zealand has always been willing to engage in big issues of concern to developing countries and global agriculture in general. We have worked with FAO on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, at a global level and in the South-West Pacific. In technical areas, we have common interests. We wholeheartedly support the work on standards and contribute to harmonization in that area, and development also of phytosanitary standards through the IPPC.

This is the time for FAO to shine. The issues facing us globally call for a fully effective multilateral organization with a mandate to work in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry productivity, sustainability and trade. The FAO has that mandate. It needs to earn the support of its Members and make the most of that crucial mandate. But the world will not sit by and wait for the FAO to perform. If the progress required cannot be made in this Organization, the attention will shift elsewhere.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Sir, for your statement. I might also say that I am especially proud, I feel privileged to serve under the first woman Chairperson of this Conference. Also we have a Vice Chairperson, the distinguished Ambassador of Zimbabwe, also a woman, so this is a good record for this Conference. Thank you very much. I shall now give the floor to Mr Dató Mohammed Moktar Ismail, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia.

Dató Mohd Moktar ISMAIL (Malaysia)

I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairperson for giving me the opportunity to address the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate FAO for the successful completion of the World Summit on Food Security 2009. In ensuring success in achieving our goal to eradicate hunger, it is our wish to see the full implementation of the commitments in the Declaration.

Malaysia supports FAO on the ongoing Reform Process especially for the effort to reform the Committee on Food Security (CFS). We believe the renewed CFS will be able to make sound recommendations and coordinate all efforts on food security. With the new mandate, we have great expectations that the CFS will function as an effective global forum to monitor progress in order to strengthen global food security.

I would also like to thank FAO for the assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture of the world. We note with concern the sharp increase in the absolute number and the share of people suffering from hunger and undernourishment, resulting from the food and financial crises.

To address the problem of the food-insecure in the agricultural sector, it is necessary to ensure that the poor have access to agricultural inputs and resources. In January of this year, the D-8

countries under the chairmanship of Malaysia initiated a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture to strengthen collaborative action in sharing resources for the production of quality seeds, fertilizers and animal feed. This is to ensure that D-8 countries have access to these inputs. Although these initiatives are at the early stages of implementation, we are optimistic of their success.

Many experts agree that climate change is a real threat to the world's agricultural production. As the polar ice caps and the Himalayan glaciers melt, there will be shortages of water in some parts of the world, and severe weather changes in others. The major challenge for agriculture in the near future is to supply enough food for the growing population with less water. Climate change will have serious impacts on food security, particularly in terms of accessibility, utilization and system stability.

To increase resilience to this challenging environment, we must protect our bio-diversity, especially crop and livestock genetic diversity. Biological diversity is very crucial in providing new crop varieties that can withstand the changing environmental conditions. Every country should build its capacities to identify and to conserve its own diversity for future use. In addition, sharing and access to other agro-bio-diversity is also important in our efforts to adapt to this changing environment.

Our natural resources need to be managed more efficiently. A sustainable soil, land, forest and water management system can reduce the degradation of natural resources as well as the risk from natural hazards. We should promote good agricultural practices like low tillage and maintenance of permanent soil cover to reduce soil organic matter loss, which are vital in maintaining the soil structure. In this respect, Malaysia has introduced farm accreditation schemes to encourage farmers to practice good farming methods.

Malaysia is fully committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate hunger and poverty. We have invested much to improve the infrastructure in the agricultural sector. The Malaysian agriculture sector is being revitalized under the "Agriculture is Business" environment. We are giving special priority to increase the incomes of small-holders, farmers and fishermen. To increase national food production, large-scale production and precision farming systems are being implemented in production zones for fruits, vegetables, aquaculture and livestock, with the involvement of the private sector.

Malaysia's budget for 2010 has also allocated resources to upgrade agricultural infrastructure, develop agro-entrepreneurs and support best practices in agriculture. Our major thrust is to increase food productivity and production. In this respect, key institutions are urged to establish consortiums to implement high-impact projects through technology sharing, plantation management and business partnerships to supply and process agricultural products.

Although the food price increases that we experienced in 2008 have somewhat stabilized, we should be vigilant to prevent future food price crises. Proper policies must be implemented to ensure food sufficiency. We also believe that there should be a coordinated crisis and emergency response mechanism that addresses all dimensions of food security.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate FAO for the successful completion by the CoC-IEE of its Report to the Conference. Malaysia considers the Report as vital in taking FAO into its Reform Process.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I have now the honour to pass the floor His Excellency Jafar Khalghani, Deputy Minister for Planning, Economic and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. You have the floor, Sir.

Jafar KHALGHANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Let me first express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the host, the honourable government of Italy, FAO and all organizers for taking this initiative for a global dialogue among the world policy-makers of agriculture toward achieving food security and alleviation of poverty.

The tragedy of hunger and malnutrition has not only affected the destiny of hundreds of millions of human beings, but has also threatened the dignity of humanity as a whole.

Countries that suffer from malnutrition, hunger, food insecurity are, in fact, afflicted by an acute disease called "underdevelopment," characterized by symptoms such as rapid population growth, shortage of food, backward subsistence agriculture, lack of trade balance and the dominance of import-oriented markets over productive agriculture.

In such circumstances, agricultural development and food security are closely linked to political, economic and social developments.

These countries should be committed to bring about changes and introduce fundamental reforms in the distribution of opportunities and services at the rural level, otherwise the desired agricultural development will not be attained.

To eradicate hunger, we need to change our approach towards poor and agriculture-based countries. In addition to humanitarian assistance and emergency aids, the hard-working farmers of these countries need capital, investment for infrastructure, technical assistance and access to new scientific and innovative achievements, as well as the market opportunities at the global level.

We must act and this action should be planned in such a way as to secure farmers' sources of revenues. We must devise a mechanism conducive to the sustainable development of these countries.

Such reforms should start primarily from the global economy itself. For instance, the existing imposed mechanisms for market regulation cannot be viable for the livelihoods of poor farmers in the above-mentioned countries. We should address and resolve the problems of destructive interference of some political influences in economic and market relations of the world.

Here, I would like to refer to some points on the Agenda of the Conference.

The Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports the new FAO Strategic Framework, and the timely and proper Implementation of the IPA. In line with FAO's Strategic and Functional Objectives, the National Medium-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF) of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been prepared, which defines the medium-term priorities of the country's agriculture sector for FAO technical cooperation in 2010-2014.

Revitalization of the Committee on Food Security is another issue which should be carefully dealt with, and I should say that my Government fully supports this important action.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers agriculture as the axis of food security, social equality and poverty alleviation.

Considering existing high-level scientific potentials in Iran, we are prepared for any cooperation on further advances of FAO Objectives in the region.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to express my appreciation to Professor Noori-Naeini for his industrious efforts and sincere commitment in his capacities as the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and the Chair of CoC-IEE.

It is my sincere wish that the Conference will attain its lofty humanitarian objectives.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I have now the honour, the particular pleasure to pass the floor to our distinguished colleague from France, Her Excellency Mireille Guigaz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the French Republic. You have the floor, Madam.

Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

La France a démontré tant par l'expression et l'engagement politique du Président de la République M. Nicolas Sarkozy, en juin 2008, ici même à Rome, que par la mobilisation de ses financements, à travers ses canaux multilatéraux européens et bilatéraux ou encore par la mise à disposition d'une assistance technique de haut niveau, l'intérêt et l'attachement résolu qu'elle porte à la FAO.

La France dit clairement qu'en ces temps de crise systémique majeure et d'incertitude profonde, si nous voulons éradiquer la faim et assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, nous avons plus que jamais besoin de la FAO. Mais la France a dit, tout aussi clairement, qu'elle ne voulait pas n'importe quelle FAO. Ce sont les deux termes de cette équation qui nous ont guidés sur la réforme et que nous avons toujours fait valoir dans toutes les négociations qui nous ont mobilisées depuis seize mois.

La FAO que nous voulons c'est une FAO en ordre de marche, substantiellement réformée, plus efficace et concentrée sur des résultats, plus reconnue, plus innovante, résolument ouverte au dialogue et à la collaboration effective avec tous les acteurs qui comptent dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition; en particulier, le secteur privé et la société civile.

Permettez-moi de mentionner à ce propos que l'ouverture à la société civile et la reconnaissance des compétences et de l'expérience de terrain dans le domaine agricole ont guidé la décision de mon pays de présenter la candidature de M. Luc Guyau à la présidence indépendante du Conseil.

En effet, pourquoi devrions nous attendre pour passer à l'acte, je vous le demande?

Enfin, nous voulons une FAO tout simplement mieux gérée, plus efficiente et plus transparente dans ses allocations budgétaires où le lien direct et visible est créé entre les contributions obligatoires et les contributions volontaires. Tout cela doit donner plus de cohérence. Les décisions que nous avons prises en la matière constituent un progrès substantiel. Nous ne sommes, néanmoins pas parvenus au bout du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) et de la Réforme. Il nous reste encore des progrès décisifs à accomplir en particulier sur certains thèmes de gouvernance comme la décentralisation et sur celui des ressources humaines pour lesquelles, à notre avis, les solutions intermédiaires retenues à ce stade, nous paraissent manquer de rigueur et ne pas correspondre à nos demandes répétées.

Nous sommes convenus de rouvrir ces réflexions sur ces chantiers importants dès 2010 et de préparer 2012. C'est bien, mais pour l'heure nous avons quelques raisons de dire que le bilan de ce biennium est positif. Le processus de réforme est largement en marche et de nombreuses mesures sont déjà effectives: c'est un bon signe!

Il faut savoir dire que l'on est content. J'ajoute que la France, quant à elle, s'est acquittée de son engagement de contribuer pour 900 000 Euros au Trust Fund pour le financement du PAI, et j'émets le souhait que ce Trust Fund puisse être bientôt complété comme prévu.

Cette Conférence doit se prononcer également sur la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (CSA). Voilà un autre sujet de très grande substance, un sujet déterminant pour l'avenir. La France souhaite que le CSA réformé soit la plateforme de dialogue et d'examen des politiques dont nous avons besoin. Mon pays espère que la réforme du CSA sera adoptée en bloc. Nous souhaitons également que le CSA ne reste pas un Comité sous le Conseil mais devienne un Comité de la Conférence. Il gagnera en légitimité, en expression démocratique et en visibilité. Maintenant, si nous prenons un peu de recul, nous constatons que toutes les pièces essentielles de

la nouvelle gouvernance mondiale de la sécurité alimentaire sont en place. Il y a quatre éléments: le premier c'est le CSA, pilier politique, le deuxième c'est le pilier des savoirs et de la connaissance scientifique au service de tous, le troisième c'est le pilier des mécanismes de coordination sur le terrain piloté par M. Nabarro, dont l'équipe est actuellement logée au Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) et le quatrième c'est le pilier financier et de l'investissement.

Il faut, en effet, se rappeler qu'au Sommet des G-20 de Pittsburgh, la Banque mondiale a été chargée de définir le modèle d'un Fonds multi-donneurs permettant d'assurer le financement. Nous soutenons ce Fonds. Ces quatre éléments sont cohérents entre eux. Ils sont alignés avec les principes de Rome. On ne crée aucune structure nouvelle et coûteuse, on utilise les canaux existants, on se projette sur le terrain en mettant en avant la responsabilité des gouvernements et, en associant la société civile, on s'engage sur un pilier financier.

Mes chers amis, ce que nous avons décidé ici ensemble à Rome pourrait être totalement vain, affreusement vide de sens si par irresponsabilité politique, par insuffisance de conscience humaine, au sens où l'a dit dans son message S.S. Benoît XVI: "par mépris pour les plus pauvres qui meurent toujours sans faire de bruit", nous n'étions pas vraiment déterminés à le mettre en œuvre avec pragmatisme sur le terrain, dans les pays, avec les populations concernées. L'horizon est ouvert, mettons nous en route.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRÉSIDENT

Merci beaucoup, Madame l'Ambassadeur pour votre intervention. J'ai maintenant l'honneur de passer la parole à Son Excellence Hussein Haji-Hassan, le Ministre pour l'agriculture de la République du Liban. Vous avez la parole, Monsieur le Ministre.

Hussein HAJI-HASSAN (Liban) (Langue originale Arabe)

J'ai le plaisir de me trouver ici parmi vous aujourd'hui pour prononcer le discours de mon pays, le Liban, ce petit pays de par sa superficie, grand par sa détermination, par sa volonté à relever les défis, à faire face aux guerres qui lui sont imposées. Je souhaite que cette conférence donnera lieu à des décisions et à des recommandations susceptibles d'être mises en place et que ce ne sera pas seulement une tribune pour de vains mots et des discours en l'air.

Je voudrais souligner la coopération fructueuse entre le Liban et votre Organisation à travers la Représentation permanente au Liban, à Beyrouth, capitale de mon pays. Cette coopération a pour fruits de bons nombres de projets de développement dans de nombreuses régions libanaises qui souffrent de privation et du développement. Je voudrais souligner l'évolution méthodique qui a eu lieu récemment en terme de projets et mis en place par votre Organisation dans mon pays, des projets ordinaires et de développement et je souhaite que le Liban gardera son droit au titre de ses projets de développement locaux et régionaux à l'avenir également.

Je ne peux à cet égard, que saluer l'Organisation pour s'être tenue au côté du Liban et des libanais dans toutes les régions libanaises, notamment les régions qui ont dû faire face à l'agression israélienne en juillet 2006, agression barbare qui a causée des dégâts énormes au secteur agricole notamment dans les régions du sud de la Békaa, deux régions agricoles par excellence dont les habitants dépendent de l'agriculture et de l'élevage.

L'assistance de la FAO est venue panser leurs blessures et compenser ce qu'ils ont perdu au cours de cette guerre barbare et injuste. Encore que cette aide a été réduite à comparer avec la dimension des dégâts encourus.

Parmi ces projets, nous citons le projet de modernisation, de réhabilitation du secteur de l'élevage dans le sud, qui a été particulièrement atteint par cette agression. Le projet de plantes aromatiques et médicinales dans les régions exposées aux bombes à fragmentation qui, au quotidien tuent des

millions de citoyens, le projet de développement de ressources animales dans la Békaa, dans les régions éloignées du Ermel et du Hakar.

La coopération entre votre Organisation et le Liban n'est pas récente mais remonte à une époque lointaine. Parmi les principaux projets mis en place par votre Organisation au Liban qui ont joué et qui continuent à jouer un rôle important dans l'accroissement des capacités à faire face aux menaces, aux situations d'urgences alimentaires, agricoles et à les affronter de manière efficace, figure le projet de recensement ou de statistique agricole compréhensif mis en place en 1998 et complété par la création de l'observatoire national agricole qui renforcera les capacités du Liban face aux situations d'urgences agricoles alimentaires.

La crise alimentaire mondiale actuelle est aggravée par la vague de désertification qui fait des ravages dans le monde par le réchauffement climatique, qui se répercute négativement sur la capacité des pays du monde à affronter la pénurie d'aliments qui fait des ravages dans le monde actuellement. Ainsi, le Ministère de l'Agriculture au Liban participe de manière efficace à des activités visant à faire face à cette vague de désertification, et ce, à travers la signature de la Convention des Nations Unies de lutte contre la désertification de septembre 2005. Le Gouvernement libanais entreprend, à travers des projets ciblés, la création de nombre de digues, de lacs de montagnes qui permettront d'enrailler la vague de désertification et de réduire les dangers affrontés par l'agriculture et ce, à travers des aides apportées par le Gouvernement libanais et des aides étrangères et internationales.

Le Liban, ce petit pays en développement, fait face annuellement en outre, aux agressions israéliennes répétées contre son territoire, son peuple et ses agriculteurs. Et il fait aussi face à des ravages en raison des catastrophes naturelles représentées par les précipitations, par le gel dans différentes régions, les vents violents qui ravagent ses serres, les arrachent et les détruisent.

Cela dit, nous appelons votre Organisation à accorder au Liban une attention particulière comme cela s'est passé autrefois, en mettant en place de nombreux projets qui permettront de renforcer ses capacités face à ces menaces et à ses difficultés alimentaires et agricoles.

Nous avons pleine confiance et espérons vivement être entendus favorablement par vous, ce qui nous permettra de renforcer notre confiance en l'activité de votre Organisation, notamment en mettant l'accent sur des projets de récolte des eaux de pluie, l'optimisation de la gestion des eaux d'irrigation, d'autres projets qui sont en accord avec le développement technologique et scientifique.

Excellence Docteur Jacques Diouf, nous espérons que vous tiendrez compte également du document arabe sur les recommandations des États Arabes sur le projet de Déclaration du Sommet alimentaire mondial que Son Excellence Docteur Tarek Ben Moussa Al Djai, Directeur général de l'Organisation Arabe pour le développement agricole vous a soumis en date 4 novembre 2009, notamment après l'absence remarquée des Chefs d'États développés et riches au cours du Sommet qui s'est tenu, et en l'absence de définition d'objectifs ou de calendrier permettant d'augmenter les aides ou également des recommandations pour améliorer l'augmentation des aides pour plus de 44 milliards de dollars par an.

Le monde entier souligne l'importance d'enrailler la faim dans le monde et, bien que l'année 2025 a été délimitée comme une année butoir, pour lutter contre la faim, il n'en demeure pas moins que cela a été annulé dans le cadre du projet original.

Il nous faut définir des chiffres pour les investissements agricoles nécessaires afin d'accroître la production et nous ne pouvons qu'être d'accord avec l'avis avancé par le Pape Benoît XVI quant à l'importance pour les pays riches de déployer davantage d'efforts vis-à-vis des pays pauvres en vue d'éliminer la faim dans le monde.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

You understand we want to keep the rule because the other colleagues are waiting and we have a long list of speakers this afternoon.

I may now give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation. Mr. Dmitry Maksimytchev, Deputy Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, you have the floor, Sir.

Dmitry MAKSIMYTCHEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The topic which has been brought to the fore for our discussion is a very topical one indeed. It is precisely in combining measures to overcome food security emergencies and in making efforts to reach long-term solutions to solve food problems that are our joint work must focus.

We indeed are very, very seriously concerned by the situation prevailing which has indeed threatened the implementation of the MDGs. In this context, we would like to welcome the conclusion of the World Summit on Food Security and the Declaration that was adopted as an important stage in mobilizing international efforts in fighting hunger. We are making our contribution in joining the efforts of the international community to assist people in producing food and in seeking sustainable solutions to the development of the agrarian sector and rural areas. We, indeed, last year through multilateral and bilateral channels contributed 133 million USD to the WFP Fund and the World Bank Trust Fund. In future years, we intend to contribute more in supporting the World Food Programme.

This year, Russia is the Chairman of the WFP Executive Board, actively facilitated the mobilization of resources and sought to draw attention to the world food security issues. Especially, we would like to refer to the July meeting of the World Grain Forum that was held in St. Petersburg which was very important in seeking to reach consensus on approaches by the world community in stabilizing the world grain market and in solving problems of the sustainable assurance of food to mankind. Indeed, we are undertaking many effective measures to increase our own production and export of grain. Despite the world financial crisis, this year our exports totalled 22.4 billion tonnes. Over and above this, we would like to say that we are taking measures to develop small agro-enterprises and cooperatives, and making it possible for them to get accessible credit.

We in Russia are positive about the Reform Process in FAO. The effectiveness of the Organization should be enhanced and its mandate strengthened. We believe that the implementation of the IPA should certainly be continued. In this context, we would like to express our great appreciation of the work done by Jacques Diouf as Director-General of the FAO, and welcome his energetic efforts to reform the Organization.

We believe that the decisions on reforming the CFS should be implemented. We believe that this Committee will be an essential component and forum for dialogue on the global partnership that is being set up. In line, finally, with the general principles of UN Reform and the corresponding recommendations of the UNGA/ECOSOC, we believe it is important to implement the coordination among the leading Agencies of the UN system, especially its three Rome-based Agencies.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now have so far, I say so far, the last speaker on our list which is, and I ask him to take the floor now, His Excellency Enrique Moret Echeverría, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba to FAO. You have the floor, Sir.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRIA (Cuba)

La FAO arribó en este año 2009 a sus 65 años de existencia.

Cuba desea felicitar a esta Organización y a su personal por tan significativo acontecimiento. Reiteramos el apoyo de nuestro país a la FAO y a su Director General en la tarea de luchar contra el hambre en el mundo.

Desde la creación de la FAO, en mayor o menor medida, el entorno económico internacional ha sido adverso. Las condiciones desfavorables en la economía mundial, se han agravado durante finales del pasado siglo y más profundamente al comienzo del actual. Todo ello, no sólo ha significado desafíos, en especial para las naciones en desarrollo, sino también para la FAO que se ha visto golpeada por estas realidades, las cuales ha tenido que enfrentar para poder cumplir con su mandato.

Los esfuerzos y la labor realizadas por la FAO en el apoyo de los Países Miembros han sido de gran valor. Hace sólo unos días y respondiendo a la convocatoria impulsada por el Director General, muchos de nosotros asistimos a una nueva Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria en un nuevo intento de la FAO por recabar los esfuerzos necesarios para acabar definitivamente con el hambre en el mundo.

Sin embargo, y como en varias oportunidades, su Director General ha reconocido, lamentablemente la FAO no ha conseguido responder en la forma que se necesita y espera, a las demandas de ayuda y a las amenazas que se ciernen a más largo plazo sobre la seguridad alimentaria en el planeta. Tampoco ha podido afrontar con el éxito esperado los desafíos de un mundo actual en plena evolución.

Con ese espíritu, Cuba concibe y apoya el Proceso de Reforma en el cual la FAO se encuentra envuelta. Como hemos manifestado en otras oportunidades, el Proceso de Reforma de la FAO es tan necesario como urgente para adecuar el funcionamiento de esta Organización a los retos y necesidades actuales del mundo en desarrollo. Son muchos los retos que enfrenta hoy la humanidad.

Entre otros podemos mencionar: la persistencia de la pobreza, el aumento del hambre y la malnutrición, el cambio climático y sus adversas consecuencias sobre la vida en el planeta y particularmente sobre el sector agrícola, la ocurrencia de catástrofes naturales cada día más recurrentes, la profundización de la crisis económica, financiera y energética internacional y sus consecuencias sobre los precios de los alimentos y la reducción de los fondos destinados a la ayuda al desarrollo y en especial a la agricultura.

En respuesta a estos retos, los Estados Miembros hemos emprendido una amplia reforma de esta Organización. Cuba ha apoyado activamente y trabajado de forma mancomunada con el resto de los Países Miembros en la concepción y la aplicación de las medidas de Reforma aprobadas. Reiteramos que la misma debe permitir que la FAO se fortalezca como agencia especializada del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas en el tratamiento de los temas relativos a la seguridad alimentaria en el planeta.

El resultado final y supremo de esta Reforma debe ser dotar a la FAO de mecanismos e instrumentos que le permitan responder mejor y más rápidamente a las necesidades de sus Miembros, en especial de los países en desarrollo en un contexto internacional necesitamos mucho más de la acción de FAO.

Cuba considera que varios aspectos de la Reforma de la FAO son particularmente importantes. El mandato de la Organización debe ser preservado de forma tal que la FAO continúe en el centro del debate internacional sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial, en consonancia con el mandato otorgado a ésta por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la Declaración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación de 1996 y ratificada más tarde en el 2002 en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación Más Cinco.

Los programas de la FAO, fundamentalmente el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, deben ser protegidos como la vía fundamental de cooperación con los Países Miembros, en cuestiones relativas a la asistencia técnica y la creación de capacidades, entre otras. El apoyo que la FAO ha estado prestando a los programas nacionales y regionales de seguridad alimentaria, debe ser preservado y los mecanismos de Cooperación Sur-Sur deben potenciarse para permitir una efectiva transferencia de conocimiento y tecnología adecuadas y adaptadas a las condiciones de los pequeños productores de los países en desarrollo.

De particular importancia resulta la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Cuba apoya los acuerdos alcanzados en la Reforma de ese Comité. El nuevo CSA se mantiene dentro de la FAO como un órgano a carácter intergubernamental donde los Países Miembros conservan sus prerrogativas en la toma de decisiones. Se establece una participación amplia de otros actores internacionales en los debates y análisis que se sostengan, lo cual podrá servir de importante complemento para las decisiones que deban tomar los Países Miembros y se crea un Grupo de Expertos en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición con el objetivo de apoyar el proceso de toma de decisiones mediante el aporte de insumos técnicos y científicos. La participación de las tres Agencias en Roma en su Secretaría contribuirá a una mayor coordinación en sus acciones.

La FAO es patrimonio de todos sus Miembros, ya sean países ricos o pobres. Sus objetivos también deben ser propiedad de todos sus Miembros. Sólo con la Reforma de la Organización no nos será posible alcanzar soluciones viables y duraderas al problema del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Es de particular importancia que todos los Países Miembros se abstengan de utilizar los alimentos como arma de presión política y de aplicar medidas que dificulten el logro de la seguridad alimentaria en otros estados, así como que limiten la capacidad de acción de la FAO para llevar a cabo con éxito los programas acordados para luchar contra el hambre en el mundo.

Para finalizar, permítame reiterar que la existencia de una gran masa de personas que sufren hambre en el mundo es moralmente inaceptable. En sus más recientes publicaciones, la FAO informa que el número de personas subnutridas en el mundo en 2008 era de 915 millones, la cifra más elevada en las últimas tres o cuatro décadas, estimándose un aumento del número de personas subnutridas hasta los 1020 millones durante 2009. Estas cifras no por conocidas y repetidas dejan de ser verdaderamente escalofriantes.

La lucha por erradicar el flagelo del hambre y la pobreza es una tarea de especial urgencia. Ella es incompatible con la promoción del consumismo, con el gasto de miles de millones de dólares en publicidad comercial, con el derroche de recursos naturales y energéticos y con el crecimiento de los presupuestos militares para la promoción de guerras injustas e innecesarias, con la utilización de grandes cantidades de alimentos para producir energía, con la permanencia de medidas y políticas comerciales injustas por parte de los países ricos que impiden el normal acceso a los mercados internacionales de productos agrícolas.

Al igual que la seguridad alimentaria, estos problemas nos constituyen cuestiones de índole técnica. Su solución sólo se podrá lograr con voluntad política.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

María Isabel JIMÉNEZ (Ecuador)

Las realidades resumidas sobre el problema alimentario que el planeta vive nos crea la imperiosa necesidad de buscar un modelo de desarrollo humano, sostenible y generalizado en cada una de las naciones, especialmente los considerados no desarrollados, priorizando las acciones que posesionen a la soberanía y seguridad alimentaria como eje transversal de las políticas de la sociedad y el estado, en su conjunto.

Es además indispensable, que por el respeto al derecho de los pueblos, se permita el involucramiento en la definición de políticas sustentables. Políticas, que deberán ser propuestas y

ejecutadas a nivel de territorio, entendiéndose como territorio a los espacios geográficos con características propias, ya sea por su localización, o por los grupos humanos que en ella viven.

En Ecuador, gobiernos anteriores promocionaron a la micro-empresa rural como único sistema de desarrollo y fomento agropecuario, logrando individualizar al productor, lo que ocasionó competencia y no desarrollo; permitió el fortalecimiento de intermediarios y por supuesto de monopolios a lo largo de la cadena de producción y comercialización. Esto trajo como consecuencia un retroceso en el desarrollo rural familiar y ahondó los problemas de pobreza, mala distribución de alimentos y por ende inseguridad alimentaria.

Toda la gestión de los cambio que el Gobierno nacional a través del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuicultura y Pesca está realizando, considera como base a la pequeña y mediana producción, respetando la diversidad de los modelos campesinos, pesqueros e indígenas de producción y comercialización, así como la de gestión de los espacios rurales, en los cuales la mujer desempeña un papel fundamental y esto, Señoras y Señores, nos ha convocado a trabajar arduamente para que las acciones que convergen en garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de nuestro pueblo no sean tomadas solo como un objetivo de la política social, sino priorizadas en la política económica, la planificación nacional, el ordenamiento de los recursos naturales, así como de las políticas ambientales y de investigación.

Reconocemos que es difícil alinear a todas las instituciones públicas y privadas hacia el desarrollo rural, sin embargo, es la herramienta principal para consolidar los fines en discusión. Por otro lado es vital que para todo plan de fortalecimiento contemple acciones a corto-, mediano- y largo-plazo que garantice el enfrentamiento de situaciones de emergencias tanto agropecuarias como alimentarias, internas y externas.

Es basado en todo lo expuesto, que el MAGAP del Ecuador en directa relación con los ministerios coordinadores y los organismos estratégicos del estado, esté implementando planes concretos que legalicen las tierras en producción basados en principios de equidad y favoreciendo a más de 400,000 familias campesinas tanto a nivel de costa, sierra y oriente. Acciones complementarias fortalecen las estructuras asociativas preparándolas para que cuenten con capacidad social para gestionar sus recursos de producción y defender sus derechos como productoras y productores.

Entiendo que la producción familiar campesina debe ser favorecida, se está transformando en plataforma base para el suministro de alimentos a nivel nacional, estamos convencidos que esas medias fortalecerán la capacidad adquisitiva y con ésta su nivel de vida de los pequeños productores, además de reducir la dependencia de importaciones de productos que pueden ser cultivados en las diversas áreas productivas del país, y que por planes irresponsables de importaciones anulaban la capacidad del pequeño y/o mediano productor.

Paralelamente se coordinan programas crediticios innovadores para pequeños y medianos productores, así como seguros agro-alimentarios que se efectivicen frente a catástrofes climáticas.

Lo expuesto hasta aquí, va acompañado de programas de productividad que han iniciado con cultivos priorizados principalmente, por el número de familias que viven directa e indirectamente de la producción del rubro y de la importancia que tienen para el desarrollo de cada zona territorialmente delimitada en nuestro país. Así es, como se ahondan relaciones entre empresas públicas y privadas para la producción de semillas de alta calidad, que será distribuida a las productoras y productores del rubro bajo el modelo de co-pago entre estado y productor. Al mismo tiempo se controlan los precios de los insumos mayormente utilizados, se mantienen planes de revisión de insumos agrícolas caducados; se actualizan, tanto técnicos como productores, en las buenas prácticas para el uso de productos sintéticos, entre otros.

La implementación de tecnologías apropiadas por áreas y cultivos es parte central de los programas de productividad. Esta va desarrollada por programas de extensión tecnológica participativa que permitan tener productoras y productores reconocidos como especialistas y líderes en la capacitación. Las compras asociadas de insumos y maquinaria así como el trabajo comunitario están siendo generalizados. Los trabajos complementarios entre áreas como por ejemplo la instalación de riego parcelario es una de las principales estrategias que se están

ejecutando para cumplir la meta propuesta, y poder afectar positivamente a más de 500,000 hectáreas que producen un promedio de 10 cultivos, no contando en esta estadística los programas de granjas integrales que se desarrollan.

En el cumplimiento de los objetivos de producción expuestos, y con el afán de no permitir que nuestros productores sufran de cadenas de comercialización largas y pesadas, se trabaja en la expansión del almacenamiento, las compras estatales de los excedentes de producción, así como, la coparticipación en el desarrollo de sistemas de mercados rurales inclusivos, basado en la comercialización directa de productor a consumidor.

Programas a mediano- y largo-plazo establecerán paquetes tecnológicos para la producción de cultivos a un nivel multi-funcional dentro en a bio-diversidad, y la implementación de bancos de germoplasmas agrícolas y pecuarios a nivel nacional para el fortalecimiento de nuestra soberanía alimentaria.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ivan DEMCHAK (Ukraine) (Original language Russian)

We welcome all the participants of this Session and hope that we will do good work together.

We have an ongoing world financial crisis and a spiralling food commodity crisis, and these have made the situation extremely difficult in terms of food security. So it is very important for us to join our efforts and to broaden our cooperative base in addressing these problems. We would like to say that it is important for the UN as a whole and FAO to concentrate and focus its efforts on addressing and implementing the MDGs in this respect. The Trust Fund which was established in April 2008 has recommended special actions for overcoming the world food crisis situation and we have five new principles lodged in those recommendations. We do, indeed, believe that they must be implemented.

We would like to support the recommendations of the World Food Programme and the Committee on Food Security must play a key role coordinating the efforts of all parties in addressing this problem nationally and globally. We must also bear in mind the impact of the ongoing climate change which will necessarily have an impact on food security in the world. We believe that it is important indeed to bear this in mind. We have certainly done this, integrating these considerations in our national plans.

The main challenges before us, given the backdrop of the world food crisis, must force us to note that we must seek to maintain stability to the extent possible. We must possibly implement new taxation policies and motivate enterprises involved in food and animal production.

Ukraine has been able to increase our export of world foodgrains and sunflower oil. We also stepped up their production. By the end of this year, we intend to produce 20-22 million units of this. We will be able to export wheat, rapeseed oil, etc. We would also like to support the views already expressed that it is important to coordinate the efforts of producers and buyers of these commodities.

I would like to point out that this year, Ukraine joined the national laboratory certification scheme for high-quality seeds. As from this year, we are thus will be able to export high-quality Ukrainian seeds. The agriculture sector of our country is producing high volumes of commodities to satisfy our own national and export requirements. We are contributing to the fight against the world food crisis and we are ready to participate in FAO's efforts. We are ready to contribute Ukrainian grain for this effort. We are ready to engage in cooperation and to effectively respond to global challenges in terms of food security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Margaret MAUWA (Malawi)

I hope we are all aware that the discussion under this Conference is on improving preparedness for, and effective responses to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

I would like to thank the Director-General for organizing the World Food Summit and the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. Indeed, with all the technical, professional capacities we have and resources available, hunger must be eliminated during our time.

Over decades of intensive cultivation in the absence of significant fertilizer use, soils in small-holder fields in Malawi and, indeed, many parts of Africa have been depleted of nutrients, particularly nitrogen. This, in addition to high farm input prices on the market, led to food deficits in our country, Malawi. In 2005, the Government of Malawi implemented the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity and improving food security at both household and national levels. The Programme avails seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the resource-poor farmers at a subsidized price. The 2009-2010 agricultural year marks the fifth year of implementation of this Programme, and since its implementation, Malawi has managed to produce a food surplus. Our maize surplus for this year is 1.3 million metric tonnes.

In order to sustain and consolidate our achievements in food security in Malawi, the following programmes are in place for the future. The Government of Malawi has developed a country-owned Agriculture Sector-wide Approach (ASWAp) Programme, in compliance with the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The Agriculture Sector-wide approach is a prioritised investment framework in terms of providing a focused and coordinated response to the food crisis. The Programme is organized in relation to three focus areas, namely: Food Security and Risk Management; Agri-business and Market Development, and Sustainable Land and Water Management. The Farm Input Subsidy Programme falls under the first component of the Food Security and Risk Management. Here we also have many programmes on risk management to ensure that our farmers are food-secure in the event of natural disasters.

We have instituted a Macro Weather Crop Insurance Programme for the national maize crop from 2008 with funding from DFID. In the event of a major catastrophe due to drought, we would place claims with our maize crop insurers and be compensated by the insurance company. The insurance covers droughts only.

Currently, the Government of Malawi is also in the process of purchasing modern weather forecasting equipment to improve the quality and timeliness of rainfall data necessary for the rainfall index-based early-warning models and also to support a major upgrade in the national network of rainfall stations. At national level, we are in the process of enhancing implementation of rainfall index-based micro-weather insurance policy with the local banks and insurers.

The country also has pest forecasting and control structures to control pests such as red locust and army worms. In addition, work has started on breeding drought-resistant or tolerant maize varieties. Currently two early-maturing varieties of maize seed have been released and will be planted this year.

All these programmes on risk management are in place because agriculture in Malawi is mainly rainfed. With climate change, the future of the sector will mainly depend on irrigated farming. To this effect, the Government of Malawi has developed the 'Greenbelt Initiative' which aims at intensifying irrigation farming in different localities along the Lake Malawi and other perennial rivers. The Initiative will ensure that we get good crop harvest under irrigation and the possibility of getting two or four harvests in a year.

The definition of food security should not stop at increasing productivity only, but also food storage and food distribution. I am pleased to announce that we have strategies aimed at reducing post-harvest losses due to the effect of Larger Grain Borer and other storage pests. With funding

from FAO, the Government has introduced the use of metallic silos, and plans are underway for further discussions to test and use portable hermetically-sealed plastic bags.

In addition, to ensure that the nation is food-secure in the event of natural calamities, the Malawi Government plans to develop and maintain a Strategic Grain Reserve of a maximum of 200 000 metric tonnes from the current Strategic Grain Reserve of 60 000 metric tonnes. Currently, we have stored up to 140 000 metric tonnes of maize.

In addition, to ensure that future planting is guaranteed, we intend to increase seed production and storage of the seeds for about two to three seasons. You may wish to know that in the past, many Malawians only relied on maize for food. Now the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has introduced programmes to diversify eating habits to accommodate other food commodities that include rice, cassava, sweet potatoes and bananas.

The Government has expanded livestock, fisheries, vegetable and fruit production programmes for nutritional purposes.

I want, at this juncture, to convey my appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for the important work which the Organization is doing in Malawi. FAO is implementing a number of rural development programmes in different parts of the country which are making a positive contribution to food security in Malawi.

In conclusion, I want to assure the meeting that our country would commit itself to developing programmes which can actualize the principles of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security.

In Malawi we have experienced the pangs of hunger. Our President, Bingu wa Mutharika, decided that by investing in agriculture, today we can report to the meeting that we have surplus food. We urge FAO and indeed everyone in this meeting that it is possible to end hunger, if only we can work together towards this noble goal.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Minister, for your statement. We have now come to the end of our list of speakers this morning. Before concluding, we first have a request for the floor from the Management, our ADG for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Sumpsi, is going to respond to questions made this morning by the delegation of The Bahamas, by the Minister of Agriculture of the Bahamas. So, I give the floor to Mr. Sumpsi

José María SUMPSSI VIÑAS (Assistant Director General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Just to clarify very briefly an important question that was raised this morning by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources of The Bahamas.

He mentioned the question of the Programme Committee's decision to exclude The Bahamas from FAO technical assistance on a grant basis. I would like to clarify that this is not the case. The question is that there are six countries in the world that are not clearly fulfilling the criteria from TCP on grant basis. And now the Programme Committee requests the Secretariat to analyze with these six countries what the actual situation is, and what problems they could face if they are not supported through TCP's Regular Programme monies.

I would like to say clearly that no decision was taken yet. When we get comments and suggestions from these six countries, these will be presented to the next session of the Programme Committee. It is a very sensitive question and, of course, I would like to clarify that it is not a decision. It is just a process of discussion and analysis in the Programme Committee supported by

the information and the feedback that the six countries provide to the Secretariat, and that the Secretariat will present to the Programme Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sir, for your precise clarification. Before concluding our meeting this morning, of course, I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of The Bahamas. You have the floor, Sir.

Lawrence S. CARTWRIGHT (Bahamas)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Bahamas would just like to thank the Gentleman for the clarification.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your comment. Before closing the meeting, I have the pleasure to make a few announcements for our work. First of all, just to reiterate that some statements by delegations are not to be delivered, but they will be included in the Verbatim Records of this Conference. These are the delegations of Philippines, Egypt, Laos, and Georgia. In addition the International Federation of Agricultural Producers is also having a statement included in the Verbatim Records.

This afternoon, when we resume our Conference at our meeting at 2:30, the Staff Representative of FAO will address us. This has been agreed by the General Committee this morning. There is a further announcement which is very important for delegations. Tomorrow morning there will be no general debate, because we hope to conclude the General Debate this afternoon. So, if some delegations still want to speak, they should do so this afternoon or if they so desire, make use of the possibility to get their statements included in the Verbatim Records.

The final thing which is also in our agenda this morning is a very interesting and important Side Event, which is at 1:00pm in the Iran Room. It may be useful and interesting for delegations to attend. That really means that I come to the conclusion of this meeting. I would like to thank you for your excellent cooperation, for your splendid self-discipline so that we could cover the ground as planned, and we have a shorter list of speakers this afternoon because of the delegations who were so flexible and kind to already take the floor this morning. Thank you very much. The meeting will resume at 2:30 pm, and once I can use the gavel to say the meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 12:13 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 13

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.13 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

20 November 2009

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:42 hours
Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 42
sous la présidence de Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Présidente de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 14:42 horas
bajo la presidencia de Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Presidenta de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. May I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order. I trust you had a good lunch break. Now we can get down to business.

Second Report of the General Committee (C 2009/LIM/15)

Deuxième rapport du Comité général (C 2009/LIM/15)

Segundo Informe del Comité General (C 2009/LIM/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We will begin with the approval of the Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee. I would like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure they have a copy of this document and the reference number is C 2009/LIM/15. That is the Second Report of the General Committee and we will consider it section by section.

So I will table before you section A.

A. Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and Other Expenses arising out of its Membership in the Organization

I would like to pose it to the Membership whether there are any comments on this section? I will just give you one or two minutes to look at the section and then I will repeat the question. Kindly look at Section A, paragraph 1 to 7.

So, may I repeat my earlier statement? I would like to request the Members if there are any comments on this Item.

There being no comments, I take it we have approved it.

B. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

Kindly look at this document, Section B. It is for three items. Are there any comments the Membership would like to make on this Item?

Are there none? I take it we have approved it.

We now proceed to Section C. The title of Section C is:

C. Request by the Staff Bodies to address the Conference

In our document Section C is number 9, paragraph 9, Request by the Staff Bodies to address the Conference.

Any comments by the Membership? I take it we have accepted. Approved.

We now proceed to Section D. Section D is entitled:

D. Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status

In our document these are paragraphs 10 and 11. Kindly look at paragraphs 10 and 11.

Any comments on these paragraphs? Approved.

We will now proceed to Section E.

E. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters

In the document these are paragraphs 12 and 13, Other Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Any comments on these two paragraphs? Agreed.

Lastly, Section F:

F. Resolutions Committee

Paragraph 14. Any comments on paragraph 14? Adopted.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

With that, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have adopted the Second Report of the General Committee and I wish to thank you for this speedy resolution of this Item.

Statement of Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies

Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Declaración del representante de los órganos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Now we revert back to our item 30.6: Statement by the Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies.

In approving this Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee, the Conference has agreed to reschedule the Statement by the Staff Representative to a slot that would offer the staff a greater opportunity to interact with Members in a meaningful way. The Statement was therefore moved to this meeting. I call upon Mr Mark Smulders, Member of the Interim Executive Committee of the Association of Professionals in FAO, to deliver the statement on behalf of the FAO General Services and Professional Staff.

Mark SMULDERS (Staff Representative Bodies)

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour and a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the Staff of FAO in all locations, including Staff at Headquarters, Regional Offices, Country and Liaison Offices. We express our appreciation to the Director-General, FAO's Member Nations and yourselves for your support throughout a year of intensive technical and operational work at all levels of the Organization, all geared to addressing the enormous challenges in the global struggle against food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.

Only a few days ago, FAO's Member Nations declared the need for increased investment in agriculture and food security and nutrition, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the Rome-based Agencies to enable them to fulfil their role in fighting hunger and malnutrition.

As staff representatives, we assure you that FAO employees are ready to do their part towards achieving the objectives that you have set out for yourselves during the Summit and now during this Conference. We are keen to contribute our skills, our talents, our knowledge and energy in a way that will have a real impact in bettering the lives of the one billion hungry in the world.

Many staff have been engaged in the far-reaching FAO Reform Process. In the next biennium 2010-2011, a number of major reforms that directly affect FAO staff will be implemented. These include the introduction of results-based management, a new performance evaluation and management system (PEMS), the restructuring of the Organization itself, including delayering and further decentralization. As staff representatives, we have had the opportunity to speak directly with many staff about their views on the Reform Process, which, as you know, has been very intense.

To enable staff to work effectively and efficiently with a reformed FAO, staff have a number of aspirations that we wish to bring to your attention and to share with you.

Firstly, as we embark upon a results-based programme of work and budget, and a new performance evaluation and management system, one of the major risks identified by staff relates to the question of adequate availability of resources to carry out the work and to deliver the

expected results. Staff feel very strongly that the necessary financial resources must be made available for the FAO renewal process and for our Programme of Work and Budget to have the desired outcomes and to have real impact at country level.

Secondly, we look forward to improvements in human resource management (HRM) policies and procedures, as already discussed with our Management. This should ensure that both the staff and Member Nations themselves will benefit from a work environment at FAO that promotes excellence, develops staff competencies and aims at a workforce fully able to address the daily challenges faced by the Organization. The human resource management policies should comprise a well-articulated career development strategy and provide opportunities for advancement, despite delayering and downsizing, and that includes a mobility policy for both General Service and Professional staff in all locations.

Thirdly, we welcome further strengthening of the consultation process with the recognised staff representative bodies to ensure open dialogue between FAO's Management and staff. This requires the inclusion of General Service staff in duty stations at Regional and Country Levels in the consultative process through recognition of their right to representation. FAO is currently the only UN organization where this category of staff is still excluded from formal consultation processes. With the emphasis on further Decentralisation of FAO, the need to address this question becomes more pressing.

Finally, as the Organization's complex Reform agenda is rolled out, it is inevitable that there will be questions and different interpretations of how the changes should be implemented. Also here, transparency, continuous dialogue and good communication are paramount to successful Reform. To build consensus and minimise the potential for misunderstanding and unnecessary discord, there is a need for flexibility and appropriate instruments to be in place, as action plans are fine-tuned and adjusted.

This is why we seek your support for the establishment of mechanisms designed to address issues as they arise during the implementation of Reform, including the creation of a means for conflict resolution. In particular, we seek the creation of the position of Ombudsman. In our view this is not a dispensable luxury, but is a key element for Culture Change and the strengthening of trust in the Organization.

In conclusion, as staff representatives, we have greatly appreciated the opportunities we had earlier this year to interact directly with FAO's Members through the Permanent Representatives in informal and candid exchanges, in addition to the ongoing dialogue in the Joint Advisory Committee on FAO Reform with Senior Management of FAO about the many processes ongoing and related to the Reform Process.

Finally, on behalf of the FAO staff worldwide, we look forward to a continued dialogue and success in the implementation of FAO's mandate, with the result that we will be able to say with conviction that we are proud to work for FAO.

Thank you very much for your attention today.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Smulders, for your statement.

I now put this statement to the Membership. Does any delegation wish to make any comments on what we have just heard?

I take it we are all satisfied with the information that we have been given by our representative of the staff. With that, I thank you and we conclude this Item.

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)**INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE** (suite)**INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN** (continuación)**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS** (continued)**DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION** (suite)**MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES** (continuación)

Chad, Lesotho, Japan, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Poland, Uganda, Uruguay, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, United Kingdom, Morocco, Afghanistan, Canada, Mongolia, Denmark, Albania, Egypt, World Federation of Trade Unions, Foodfirst Information & Action Network International

CHAIRPERSON

Now we go back to Item 5: Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

On my list I would like to call to the podium, His Excellency Mbailadu Nainbaye Lossimian, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Chad.

Honourable Minister, you have the Floor.

Mbailadu Nainbaye LOSSIMIAN (Tchad)

Permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celles qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune, pour féliciter Madame la Présidente et les Membres du Bureau pour leur élection afin de conduire les travaux de nos assises.

Je voudrais aussi exprimer nos remerciements à la FAO et, singulièrement, à son Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour les appuis multiformes qu'ils ne cessent de nous apporter dans notre quête de la sécurité alimentaire.

Il me plaît également de réitérer la satisfaction et les remerciements du Gouvernement du Tchad, pour le choix porté par le Comité de sélection du prix Edouard Saouma, sur le projet intitulé: "Renforcement des capacités nationales en inspection sanitaire et amélioration de la qualité des produits halieutiques du lac Tchad et des fleuves Chari et Logone" financé par la FAO.

Après des années de sous-investissement, voire de désintérêt, dans le secteur du développement rural, nous assistons à un retour de l'agriculture sur le devant de la scène. Nous en voulons pour preuve la tenue des différents forums de haut niveau notamment, la Conférence de Haut Niveau, de juin 2008 à Rome, la Réunion de Haut Niveau de janvier 2009 à Madrid; le Sommet du G8 de L'Aquila de juillet 2009; la Réunion sur le Partenariat Mondial pour l'Agriculture et la Sécurité Alimentaire de septembre 2009 à New York, et enfin, le récent Sommet Mondial sur la Sécurité Alimentaire de Rome. Au moment où nous tenons ces assises, comme l'a relevé le Président de la République du Tchad, son Excellence Idriss Deby Itno, dans son discours au Sommet, je cite: "des millions d'hommes, de femmes, petits producteurs agricoles, pasteurs, pêcheurs et d'autres catégories sociales, cherchent avec courage et dignité à assurer des conditions de vie décentes à leurs familles. Ces millions d'hommes et de femmes, ne peuvent se satisfaire, ni de déclarations d'intention, ni d'engagements sans lendemain, mais d'actions immédiates et concrètes en réponse à leurs attentes".

Le Tchad, mon pays, malgré son important potentiel en ressources naturelles et sa population vivant directement à 80 pour cent de l'agriculture, continue de souffrir d'une insécurité alimentaire récurrente et de malnutrition.

D'ores et déjà, les prévisions de production agricole de la campagne en cours annoncent une baisse de l'ordre de 34 pour cent par rapport à la campagne précédente, ce qui augure une situation alimentaire à venir très difficile.

Eu égard à cette situation, le Gouvernement du Tchad a pris l'initiative de formuler, avec l'appui technique de la FAO, un Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire (PNSA) dont l'un des principaux axes d'intervention est la maîtrise de l'eau pour sécuriser et intensifier la production agro-pastorale. Ce concept de maîtrise de l'eau pour nous, prend en compte la mobilisation des eaux de surface, des eaux souterraines mais aussi les pluies provoquées par l'ensemencement des nuages. A ce propos, je saisis l'opportunité qui m'est offerte, pour annoncer que nous organiserons très prochainement une Table Ronde pour permettre de boucler le financement de ce programme.

Ma délégation a lu avec satisfaction et beaucoup d'intérêt les conclusions du Forum des Experts de Haut Niveau sur le thème: "Nourrir le monde en 2050". J'adresse à cette équipe nos félicitations et nos encouragements.

Je suis convaincu que nous pouvons libérer la planète de la faim comme stipulé dans le préambule de l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation. Pour cela, nous devons passer des paroles aux actes. Faisons-le rapidement, les pauvres et les affamés ne peuvent pas attendre.

Vive la coopération et la solidarité internationale

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Honourable Minister. I now call upon Honourable Minister Mokoma of Lesotho, Minister for Agriculture and Food Security of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Lesole MOKOMA (Lesotho)

Chairperson of the Conference, Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. At this Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference we are to advise ourselves on the ways and means of improving preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies. This is very necessary, since agriculture forms the backbone of the livelihoods of so many of the poor people in the world.

The majority of these people live in the rural areas, many of them as small-holder farmers, and they are frequently confronted by many challenges. We are all aware that climate change affects the resources on which agriculture depends, consequently exposing it to numerous threats. In Lesotho, we have developed a National Adaptation Programme of Action on Climate Change, whose financing we have proposed under the Global Environment Facility. Projects intended to address urgent and immediate priority adaptation needs are aimed at minimizing the impacts of climate change while enhancing adaptive capacity of the communities. We also have to identify interventions to improve resilience of livestock and crop production systems, and to improve our early warning systems in regard to climate change – induced disasters and hazards.

Madam Chair, we note the many challenges facing us in our endeavour to attain food security, but we also know that we have ample opportunities in the rural areas to explore in both crops and livestock production to provide food and nutrition for the households. However, to achieve all this sustainable natural resource management, mitigation of risks associated with climatic conditions and adaptive mechanisms need to be well planned.

Many developing countries may have good plans and strategies, but there are limited financial resources to affect them, hence a need for financial support. Due consideration of financial

viability of our strategies is highly necessary. Our strategies must be sustainable, and must be able to help farmers to reasonably absorb shocks such as those brought on by markets, high input prices and unreliable climatic conditions. These strategies also need to be aligned to the Declaration that was adopted at the World Summit on Food Security that preceded this Conference.

In Lesotho, we believe that agriculture can contribute to economic growth. There is high possibility of achieving growth and poverty reduction if appropriate policies, institutions and basic infrastructures are developed to support agriculture and rural development.

Strategic potential exists that can be exploited in agriculture to augment agricultural productivity and output and employment opportunities by harnessing available agricultural technology to increase productivity in the sector.

We wish to reiterate the sentiment raised in our presentation during the Summit that ended on Wednesday. We have taken note of the offer that FAO can extend to Member Nations to access expertise to support their needs related to improved prevention, preparedness and effective response to food and agricultural threats and emergencies. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Minister. I now call upon Mr Hidenori Murakami, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

Hidenori MURAKAMI (Japan)

Thank you Madam Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great honour for me to be here at the Thirty-sixth Session of Conference and present the view on current global food and agriculture on behalf of the Japanese Government.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the honourable Madam Kathleen Merrigan for being elected as Chairperson and express gratitude to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO and the Secretariat for organizing this Conference Session.

Madam Chairperson, today we face a sobering fact. Soaring food prices and subsequent financial crisis and economic slowdown elevated the hurdle in our efforts to reduce the number of people who suffer from poverty and malnutrition to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Due to its relation with financial and energy markets and the impact of climate change, the food security problem is getting more complicated and exacerbated. In addressing this problem, the international community, at this World Summit on Food Security, shared the grave concern about the current status of the problem and reaffirmed its strong determination to deal with it successfully.

To solve the worldwide problem of food security and malnourishment of the people in developing countries, we believe that the key is sustainable increase in global agricultural production.

Japan has advocated the concept of the coexistence of various types of agriculture in innumerable occasions. Japan strongly believes that it is important to increase agricultural production and productivity in a sustainable manner taking into account the diverse conditions of each country.

In this context, Japan has assisted developing countries in their efforts in such areas as the farmers' organizations, capacity-building, and development of rural infrastructure so that they can effectively increase production in the agricultural sector.

In particular, in order to double rice production in Africa, Japan will place greater emphasis on support for research and development and extension under the CARD, the Coalition for African Rice Development, whose launch Japan announced at TICAD IV in 2008.

With regard to climate change, we need the adaptation strategies to manage the possible risks in agricultural production to offset the potential negative impacts of climate change. In this regard, we have been supporting the development of drought-resistant varieties of rice, the construction and improvement of irrigation systems to secure ample use of water for agriculture, and other production-related activities.

Prime Minister Hatoyama has stated that Japan aims at 25 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020. In contributing to the mitigation effort for offsetting greenhouse gas emission, REDD, the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, plays an important role in light of the fact that about 20 percent of greenhouse gas emission is attributed to the reduction of forest land. In this regard, we should take more notice of the role of farmland. There is substantial scientific evidence that farmland can sequester significant amounts of carbon, offsetting emissions from other sources.

We also believe that the potential of second generation bio-energy made from such materials as cellulose based materials will greatly contribute not only to mitigation of greenhouse gas but to the achievement of food security. This is an inclusive and balanced approach between the use of food, feed and fuel.

Research and development of technology is indispensable for addressing the challenges of climate change, and in this regard, we strongly advocate the advancement enhancement of R&Ds in agricultural area in parallel with the development of international dialogue on climate change.

Madam Chairperson, Japan expects the FAO will continue to play an important role to address many challenges in agriculture and food security. We highly value the contribution and achievement by FAO in such areas as the international standard-setting for Codex Alimentarius and IPPC, development of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and development of statistics and databases.

In the course of FAO Reform, resources should be allocated to such areas as FAO has the comparative competitiveness. In the areas where IFAD, WFP and other organizations have their comparative competitiveness, we encourage FAO to have more effective collaboration and coordination with those organizations. Reform of the Decentralized Offices remains an important issue to be addressed.

Bearing this in mind and giving due consideration in severe fiscal conditions of many nations, including Japan, it is important not to increase the FAO budget easily. We would like to underline that our discussion on the Programme Work and Budget for next biennium should be based on the principle of Zero Nominal Growth.

Regarding the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security, Japan welcomes the fact that relevant stakeholders agreed to its Reform Plan. We sincerely hope that the reformed CFS, as a platform for policy convergence, will substantially contribute to the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security and together we will come up with tangible outcomes in tackling issues we jointly face.

Finally Madam Chairperson, I hope FAO will continue the Reform Process through close collaboration with its Member Nations in the next biennium. We believe these efforts of FAO will surely pave the way to our final objective of eradication of poverty and hunger and ensuring food security for all humankind. Japan is firmly committed to working closely and vigorously with other Member Nations to this end. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. Next I would like to call Her Excellency Gladys Urbaneja Durán, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela to FAO.

Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

A nombre de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y de nuestro Gobierno queremos expresar a todos un saludo caluroso y desear el mejor de los éxitos para la realización y conclusiones de esta Conferencia.

Garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en época de crisis parece ser uno de los retos más difíciles a los que se enfrenta la humanidad en los últimos años. A la crisis causada por la escalada de los precios de los alimentos en el 2007-2008 le siguió inmediatamente la crisis financiera y económica mundial, la más grave en estos últimos años. Estas crisis han afectado a distintas partes del mundo simultáneamente y han empujado adicionalmente a 100 millones de personas al hambre entre los años 2008-2009.

Como indica el Informe sobre el Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, el número de personas en situación de hambre asciende a la intolerable cifra de más de mil millones de personas. Asimismo el documento C 2009/2-Add. 1 que titula el tema central del debate que se ha dado en esta Plenaria de esta Conferencia nos confirma que las catástrofes naturales han causado el 45 por ciento de las muertes y el 80 por ciento de todas las pérdidas económicas durante el período 1988-2007. Más del 75 por ciento de estas catástrofes naturales son de origen hidrológico, meteorológico o climático.

Las emergencias provocadas por el hombre están a menudo relacionadas con los conflictos bélicos, crisis financieras o económicas así como por la propagación de plagas y enfermedades transfronterizas de las plantas y los animales. En este sentido, el Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela ha venido apoyando el Fondo Especial para la Adaptación al Cambio Climático del Convenio Marco y las Naciones Unidas para el cambio climático, como un mecanismo financiero que apoye a los países en desarrollo para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales para hacer frente a los desequilibrios climáticos y a los desastres naturales derivados de estos mediante mecanismos de funcionamiento democráticos y transparentes.

Como hemos señalado en diferentes foros internacionales, la crisis financiera y alimentaria se solucionarán sólo si se enmarca en el G-192 como auténtico foro para todos los países que integran el Sistema de Naciones Unidas quienes tienen voz y voto en igualdad de condiciones y que permita asegurar una adecuada movilización de recursos, mejorando la coordinación nacional e internacional entre los gobiernos y estos organismos, en especial referencia la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA, los cuáles con un enfoque de alianza en el terreno deben facilitar el desplazamiento de la asistencia, de las operaciones de socorro para permitir a las comunidades afectadas prepararse y responder mejor a la crisis, pero a la vez estableciendo vínculos entre la respuesta de emergencia, la rehabilitación y el desarrollo a más largo plazo.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya decididamente el Proceso de Reforma de la FAO y la aplicación del Plan Inmediato de Acción, el Objetivo Estratégico I, titulado mejora de la preparación y respuesta eficaz ante las amenazas y las emergencias alimentarias y agrícolas en el Marco Estratégico, no debe verse desde la perspectiva de la posible creación de un fondo donde los aportes que hagan los Estados Miembros puedan condicionar la asistencia humanitaria a los países en situación de emergencia, ya que estas catástrofes naturales perturban la agricultura, el sector forestal y la pesca y, por ende, afectan la seguridad alimentaria de sus poblaciones.

La perspectiva de género debe dirigirse a favorecer un entorno que facilite el papel de las mujeres en la agricultura con acceso a tierras y créditos en condiciones preferenciales y que estas medidas permitan que las agricultoras puedan participar en igualdad de condiciones en el desarrollo integral rural.

Sra. Presidenta, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela cuenta con la dirección nacional de protección civil y administración de desastres adscrita al Ministerio de Poder Popular para las Relaciones Interiores, así como la Brigada Internacional Simón Bolívar adscrita al Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Defensa, ambas tienen entre sus competencias fortalecer las acciones preventivas ante la ocurrencia de desastres, pasar de la administración de desastres a la gestión del

riesgo cambiando el paradigma. Desde la visión atenta, o sea, administración de desastres hacia una visión preventiva que significa gestión del riesgo.

Las políticas sociales de carácter educativo y de capacitación en salud, alimentación, hábitat y energía están dirigidas a incrementar la participación de los grupos históricamente incluidos con el objetivo de reducir los niveles de pobreza y de exclusión que han existido históricamente en nuestro país y que agravan, a su vez, la ocurrencia de desastres.

En el plano internacional, Venezuela promueve la cooperación bilateral y triangular para facilitar la asistencia humanitaria ante los desastres naturales y como ejemplo, el Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Agricultura y Tierras, que ha puesto en práctica un total de 99 proyectos, como parte de un Plan de Emergencia Agro-alimentaria en la República de Haití entre los años 2008-2011 para la rehabilitación y recuperación y para el fortalecimiento de la infraestructura del desarrollo rural integral de la producción vegetal, animal y de semillas, además de suministros de insumos y fertilizantes, entre otros, por el orden de 120 millones de dólares americanos.

Por otra parte la Brigada Internacional Cívico-Militar de Rescate y Asistencia Humanitaria Simón Bolívar despliega importantes acciones en África, principalmente en Malí y Benín.

Reiteramos nuestro respaldo a la labor de la FAO, confiamos que el Proceso de Reforma que ha tenido lugar en estos dos años fortalezca a esta Organización para que cumpla los objetivos que le han sido encomendados desde su fundación.

Creemos que el apoyo de recursos, dotación y mejoramiento suficientes para la red de Oficinas Descentralizadas permitirá brindar una asistencia oportuna y efectiva en el terreno a los países en desarrollo en el marco de sus programas nacionales de seguridad alimentaria.

La reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial lanzado en la pasada Cumbre debe conllevar a una mejor gobernanza y coordinación a los niveles nacional y regional cumpliendo su papel vital, para ayudar a los países en la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza y para el logro progresivo de la realización del derecho a la alimentación.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Madam. I now call upon Mr Sirisena Amarasekara, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Sirisena AMARASEKARA (Sri Lanka)

Good afternoon everybody. Madam Chairperson, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

In the first instance let me congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure that under your able guidance, the deliberations of this Conference will be most fruitful.

Nowadays, for any country, the security in food is very important and essential and therefore the food security is the most common, popular and hottest topic being discussed at almost all the fora where agriculture is discussed as a subject. Self-sufficiency in food production, especially the staple food crops, is necessary in achieving food security for each and every country.

According to the FAO figures, the world food price index was 122, 154 and 191 in 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively. The increase of the food index was 26 percent in 2007 against 2006, and 24 percent in 2008, as against 2007. Despite the fact it came down to 144 in January 2009, it again rose to 158 in October 2009.

The continuous fluctuations in the demand and supply of food caused changes in the food prices at the international market. Factors such as energy crisis, population growth, changes in food

habits and variations in weather conditions highly influenced the recent fluctuations in the demand and supply of food.

The high price of energy was the most emerging factor behind rising of food prices. Some countries are encouraging farmers to grow crops for bio-fuel. Therefore, those farmers have massively shifted their cultivation towards bio-fuel at the expense of food crops. About 30 percent of maize production was estimated to go into ethanol in 2008, rather than into the world food and feed markets.

Simultaneously, the growing world population is demanding more and more different kinds of food. The rapid economic growth in some countries has pushed up consumer purchasing power, generating increasing demand for food and shifted the consumer behaviour from traditional staple foods to higher valued food like meat and milk. These factors are also contributing to the increasing demand for food.

Besides, adverse weather conditions also contribute to the crisis. When the food prices record an upward trend, the consumers, farmers, distributors, traders and the government tend to stock foods which action thus also contributes to the price increase.

The Government of Sri Lanka had predicted this disastrous situation very early and embarked on a national agriculture campaign in 2007 called "Let's Cultivate and Uplift the Nation". This programme is to improve the food security while strengthening the farming community in terms of economic and livelihood development.

Our wishes are that FAO will play a greater role in the uplifting of the economies and well-being of the small farmers, particularly in the developing world.

As you may be aware, after successfully overcoming the internal conflict which lasted for more than thirty years in the north and east, Sri Lanka emerged into a peaceful era which paves the way for the economic and agriculture development in that part of the country. Soon after the eradication of terrorism, the Government of Sri Lanka has hurriedly taken the positive steps to develop agriculture in those areas.

Many areas of the north and east are highly potential to invest in agriculture as commercial ventures. In this regard, the Government of Sri Lanka encourages the private sector to work closely with the public sector and intends to introduce new technology in agriculture.

I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the Director-General and FAO for the continuous support and assistance rendered to Sri Lanka in the field of agriculture.

Assistance extended by FAO to facilitate the internally-displaced people in the north and east to recommence their farming activities is highly appreciated.

We expect further technical support and financial assistance from the FAO for interventions in the areas of

- a) agricultural extension;
- b) private/public partnership in agricultural research and development;
- c) agricultural commodity supply value chain;
- d) agricultural market information systems, etc.

Finally, on behalf of the Government and the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Services of Sri Lanka, I express our sincere gratitude to the Director-General of FAO and his staff for inviting Sri Lanka to the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

François PITHOUD (Switzerland)

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues. The status document prepared by the FAO gives an accurate assessment of the situation and set out the challenges we have to meet to achieve global food security.

The positive outcome of the Food Summit and the adoption by consensus of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security on which we should base our commitments and action is a promising step to face those challenges.

When it comes to the central role of the FAO, Switzerland would like to insist on the three following aspects.

Firstly, we need a strong and efficient FAO. We note with satisfaction the progress made during 2009 in the Reform Process and implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action despite insufficient Voluntary Contributions. These efforts should be continued and strengthened over the next four years. This implies in our view, that the cost of the IPA should be covered under the Assessed Contributions of the Regular Budget.

Switzerland also welcomes the FAO Strategic Framework, as well the Medium-Term Plan as good basis for going ahead with prioritization.

Secondly, better cooperation with the Private Sector. We welcome the Milan Resolution as a positive signal of the commitment of the private sector. We would therefore like to again reemphasize the need for FAO to strengthen cooperation with private sector through the establishment of partnerships.

Thirdly, the Reform of the Committee on Food Security (CFS). We hope that the revitalized CFS under the common guidance of FAO, WFP and IFAD will prove a useful instrument for promoting cooperation and coordination within the many and varied food security actors in Rome and outside of Rome.

I would like now to move to the special issues for today. We welcome first the initiative to focus our discussion on one specific issue. Switzerland is committed to the provision of the emergency humanitarian assistance and to humanitarian activities that protect the most vulnerable populations, in a spirit of complementary and subsidiary among the relevant actors involved.

We would like therefore, to make the following three remarks.

Firstly, FAO has a role to play in humanitarian emergencies resulting from conflicts, natural and technological disasters. It has the expertise, the operational capacity to do so and can bring added value. Switzerland is indeed already supporting these activities, led by the Technical Cooperation Department.

In the spirit of Principle 4 of the World Summit on Food Security Declaration, we welcome the establishment of the tripartite group between WFP, IFAD and FAO, that will produce an Action Plan before the end of this year.

We suggest the following. This Action Plan should define a clear division of labour and responsibilities among the Rome-based Agencies on certain thematic issues, in particular response to climate change, but also on preparedness, early warning, and prevention activities. They should also be specific and quantifiable and include relevant policy recommendations, benchmarks, a framework for regular reviews and a calendar for implementation.

Secondly, we welcome FAO's priority to focus more on transition. It is complex indeed to judge when humanitarian efforts should transition to development programmes. We need to establish partnerships and frameworks among the Rome-based Agencies, but also within the whole UN family, and we can certainly make this move simpler, faster and provide a stronger continuity of assistance to beneficiaries. This being said, the efforts at identifying venues to cover the gap should be made globally, including UN actors, relevant international organizations, governmental

agencies and the NGO community. Attempts at revising the scope and shape of transition in isolation should be avoided.

Finally, the number of natural technological disasters has greatly increased over the last few years, though the number of conflicts has slightly decreased. At the same time the overall impact of crisis has become bigger, while financial resources remained steady, if not actually decreased following the recent economic and financial crisis. This means that more output must be achieved with less input. Multilateral actors involved in emergencies must therefore improve relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.

Coming back now to the FAO contribution. We look forward to the rapid publication of the 2009 State of the Food and Agriculture Report.

Madam Chairperson, to conclude, I would like to recall that on Monday we were able to adopt the Rome Declaration on Food Security by consensus. Switzerland hopes very much that by Sunday we will also be able to approve the Programme of Work and Budget of 2010-2011 of FAO by consensus on the same positive spirit. Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Marian ZALEWSKI (Poland)

Over a billion people in the world suffer from malnutrition. What experiences can we and should we share in our global community, a community of positive reforms, new ideas, putting nutrition over malnutrition and help over selfishness.

Poland is a country with clear environment and sustainable agriculture. Poland belongs to those countries which have significant production capacity in food safety, both implementing the energy and environmental goals of the European Union by 2020. The traditional character of agriculture allows Poland to produce healthy and tasty products, from dairy, cereal and meat products to fruit and vegetables, which are appreciated around the world. The value of export of Polish agricultural products and foodstuffs had increased over the last years and amounted to above EUR 11 billion in 2008.

We also have vast experience in sharing our output with those in need on all continents.

Madame Chairwoman, speaking of food safety, we also put emphasis on climate issues and the protection of the Earth's natural resources, in particular the access to drinking water. We would like to stress the importance of the protection of bio-diversity and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We are interested in the implementation of innovations which offer wide possibilities in the area of climate and environmental protection. What I have in mind are state-of-the-art technologies, bio-energy and green energy.

Agriculture is an economic activity on a global scale. It may be improved by raising worldwide awareness by constantly exchanging information by sharing difficulties, failures and successes. This is the subject for scientists and the media but also for politicians. This is a subject for our Organization.

Global agriculture, also agriculture in my country, experiences the consequences of climatic changes. Farmers from poorer countries face the greatest problems. Therefore, motivated by solidarity, Poland is an active partner in the international cooperation aimed at combating poverty in the most affected regions. The world now faces a challenge of ensuring food safety to an ever growing number of people. This is a serious task of developing and adopting a long-term strategy to be accepted and implemented by all countries in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, delegates, I would like to emphasize the Polish experience of the last fifty years, its transition from a centrally-planned economy to a market economy, and the crucial role of agriculture, particularly family-run farmer states. Such family-run holdings turned out to be best suited for the transformation process. Strong farmer families survived difficult times and

enriched the market economy with dynamics and creativity, as they strove for development and preservation of national traditions. We successfully combined the attachment to the land and culture with the needs of tomorrow in a sustainable way. The Polish regions which developed traditions in the areas of education and culture of farmer families achieved positive results in improving agriculture and rural areas, which take into account climate security. We believe that planned changes in agriculture and rural areas should place more emphasis on the very important educational and cultural aspect of life of farmer families' lives. Such an approach should be inherent in FAO projects.

The rural community is our primary breadwinner. Global economy based on electronics and bio-technology and broadband internet are here to support the development of rural areas. Family-run holdings should constitute the basis of the agrarian system in both prosperous and countries that are not so well-off. Let us all be traditionally modern. As Polish Pope John Paul II once said: "Humans become great not for what they own but for who they are; not for what they have but for what they share with others."

Ladies and Gentlemen, Delegates, we can and we must reform the FAO. We must reform our Organization. Bearing the above in mind and remembering the Polish representatives who used to work for FAO in many countries of the world, we are ready for further cooperation, ready to support those in need and to share the experience we have gained so far, the experience of Poland, the homeland of Copernicus, Sklodowska-Curie, Chopin, John Paul II and Lech Walesa. Let us be united by our sense of freedom, democracy, and first of all our social solidarity. Thank you, Madame Chairperson. Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I now call upon Mr Okansai Opolot, Director of Agriculture and Crop Resources of the Republic of Uganda. Over to you, Sir.

Okansai OPOLOT (Uganda)

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A threat to food security and malnutrition globally is real today, especially following the recent skyrocketing food prices and the financial crisis.

To avert this trend, interventions that need to increase agricultural production should be adopted. In the case of Uganda, agriculture grew only at 2.7 percent during 2007-2008, well below the targeted level of 6 percent during that time.

The major causes of this low performance are elucidated in the interventions that were delivered by the Ugandan delegate to the Summit on 16 November 2009.

To spur agricultural production, focus should be on small-holder farmers who are a majority, especially in developing countries. This can be achieved through:

- Increased interventions in agriculture to address the last-mile challenges such as provision of water for agricultural production, increased availability of agricultural inputs, value addition and development of value chains.
- Ensuring that agricultural interventions are in line with and in support of country laid and home grown plans, projects and programmes.

The question of agricultural marketing is important for food production and agricultural development, especially in developing countries.

For Uganda, we consider the following to be critical factors:

- Value addition and value chain development to improve shelf life and derive the multiplier effect of agricultural commodities.

- Quality compliance for the different market demands on the domestic, regional and global arena.
- Market and marketing infrastructure development.

In conclusion, Uganda believes the state of food and agriculture can be greatly improved by:

- Ensuring full implementation of the 2009 Summit Declaration on Global Food Security;
- Having effective partnerships and
- Commitments by States to play their rightful roles.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for setting such an example for all of us.

I now call upon His Excellency, Alberto Breccia Guzzo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to FAO.

Alberto BRECCIA GUZZO (Uruguay)

Hemos sido convocados a esta Plenaria con el objeto de examinar "el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación" e intentaremos en estos pocos minutos exponer nuestra posición en la forma más sintética posible acerca de estos temas.

Acabamos de hacer apenas medio minuto de silencio. Pues bien, en ese medio minuto, en tan sólo ese medio minuto transcurrido en el confort de esta sala, cinco niños han muerto de hambre acá, a nuestro lado, en este nuestro pequeño mundo. Creemos con sinceridad que nada es más elocuente para exponer con crudeza insuperable el "Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación" y hemos escuchado establecer como causas últimas de esta situación horrenda, que interpela nuestra dignidad como seres humanos, a la pobreza, a los conflictos, a los desplazamientos forzados.

Por otra parte, sabemos que la producción de alimentos en el mundo ha ido y va constantemente en aumento y el potencial de incremento resulta, aún hoy, inconmensurable. Tecnología inteligente, adelantos sorprendentes en el área de la genética, fertilizantes que compatibilizan un mayor rendimiento con el cuidado del medio ambiente, todo ello demuestra la notable capacidad de innovación tecnológica de nuestra sociedad.

Pero paradójicamente, esa notable capacidad tecnológica deja más en evidencia nuestro absoluto y completo fracaso político como sociedad, nuestra total incapacidad para lograr una sociedad más justa en la distribución de esa riqueza que se incrementa exponencialmente.

Nuestro país viene abogando en todos los foros internacionales por la abolición de las prácticas proteccionistas. Hemos dicho hace pocos días, en la Cumbre Mundial, que el proteccionismo es al comercio, lo que el autoritarismo a la democracia, y lo reiteramos hoy. Es por ello que reiteramos nuestro anhelo de una conclusión satisfactoria de la Ronda de Doha, pues estamos seguros que ello representará otro hito para la agricultura, casi tan importante como lo fue la "revolución verde".

Hemos escuchado al Presidente de Brasil interpelar a un orden económico mundial que ha gastado cientos de miles de millones de dólares en intentar salvar un sistema financiero carente de todo control, cuyo descalabro ha provocado consecuencias desastrosas. Nosotros pretendemos especificar aún más esa afirmación.

Ocho billones de dólares ya se han dedicado en todo el mundo a salvar grandes bancos, aseguradoras, entidades financieras y compañías multinacionales. Estamos hablando de ocho millones de millones de dólares. En consecuencia, y más allá de apreciarlo como un gesto simbólico, nos preguntamos cómo se puede anunciar con satisfacción la disposición de 20.000 millones de dólares, o sea cuatrocientas veces menos, en tres años, a cuyo aporte se han comprometido las naciones más poderosas del planeta para aliviar este flagelo insoportable.

No podemos aceptar sin reaccionar, no debemos hacerlo, que se afirme que el problema de la alimentación se trata, entre otras cosas, de un problema de inclusión y que resulta imprescindible la inclusión de los niños y de las mujeres, cuando esa afirmación viene de países que al mismo tiempo elaboran políticas inmigratorias restrictivas, que fomentan el rechazo, diríamos el segundo rechazo, de aquellos que, habiendo quedado por fuera del reparto dispuesto por un orden económico internacional injusto, vuelven a ser rechazadas a la hora de intentar, más que legítimamente, integrarse al menos a las migajas del mismo.

No podemos aceptar sin reaccionar, no debemos hacerlo, que se hable elogiosamente de generosas "donaciones," cuando en realidad las mismas no suponen otra cosa que disimular, aunque no afirmamos en manera alguna esa sea su intención, las inequidades en los términos de intercambio y el proteccionismo que informan por doquier ese mismo orden económico internacional.

Es la modificación de ese orden económico internacional, es la consecución de términos de intercambio más justos, es el cese del proteccionismo, es una economía guiada por el principio de solidaridad entre naciones y no por el principio de dominación de unos sobre otros, lo que contribuirá sin dudas, junto con el vertiginoso progreso tecnológico, a mejorar sustancialmente "el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación". Desconocer esta realidad sólo nos llevará, como lo ha hecho hasta el momento, a una sucesión de frustraciones.

Sin perjuicio de todo lo antedicho, encomiamos la respuesta de la Administración en la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción (PIA) y reconocemos los ingentes esfuerzos hechos por el Sr. Director General y el Sr. Director General Adjunto, y todo el personal de la FAO, que ha visto en éste una oportunidad inmejorable para demostrar a la comunidad internacional que la organización tiene un importante papel que desarrollar, en cumplimiento de su mandato.

Hemos leído también atentamente los documentos relativos al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-2011, herramienta fundamental para proveer a la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción, en particular de los costos y las modalidades de financiación del mismo. Mi país considera que no es oportuno que los dineros resultantes de economías por eficiencia o cualquier otro ahorro adicional del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto se destinen a la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción. Estas sumas deberían volcarse al fortalecimiento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica o a la reposición de reservas de la FAO.

Creemos asimismo firmemente en el concepto de Reforma con Crecimiento como objetivo fundamental del proceso, por la vía de un análisis de las metas específicas de Reforma y de Crecimiento, recogiendo la esencia del mandato de la FAO en cuanto a la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza.

En este sentido, creemos firmemente que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es uno de los principales depositarios de esta capacidad y su trabajo debe privilegiarse.

Como lo expresáramos al principio de nuestra intervención, Uruguay se conmueve profundamente con la magnitud del impacto de la inseguridad alimentaria, que afecta a millones de personas en diversas regiones del mundo. Es por ello que mi país ha apoyado firmemente la iniciativa "América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre en 2025".

Con este mismo propósito, creemos que resulta fundamental que la FAO redoble su esfuerzo por fomentar la transferencia de tecnologías agrícolas apropiadas hacia los países en desarrollo, así como propender al fortalecimiento de la Cooperación Sur-Sur en esta materia. Estamos convencidos que un marco jurídico y de gobernanza adecuado puede favorecer, en el marco de la señalada modificación del orden económico internacional, las capacidades de muchos de nuestros países para alcanzar la meta de alimentar a todos, en el más breve plazo posible, aún sin necesidad de ayudas externas.

En este sentido, consideramos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial es uno de los ejecutores principales del mandato citado y su trabajo debe privilegiarse. Es por ello que mi país ha contribuido activamente al Proceso de Reforma de dicho Comité en un esfuerzo en el que colaboramos todos los Países Miembros, pero en especial los países en desarrollo.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

HAN TAE SONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

Madam Chairperson, Dear delegates,

This Session will discuss the immediate problems to eradicate global hunger once and for all at the earliest possible date, following the adoption of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security a few days ago.

In recent years, FAO is providing its emergency assistance to developing countries to overcome the food crisis, while exerting a great deal of efforts to speed up the Decentralization of the Organization.

A number of measures were taken to overcome the food crisis in the recent World Summit on Food Security and the World High-Level Conference on Food Security in 2008, as well as in the Special Session of the FAO Conference. This shows that FAO is displaying its leadership true to its mission in coping with the challenges that pose a threat to human existence.

The DPRK delegation recognizes that the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2011 and Programme of Work and Budget, which will be adopted at the current Session, are appropriately crafted in a way that ensures global food security and assists global agricultural development of the Member Nations. In particular, the DPRK delegation would like to give credit to the fact that action plans in several fields such as the intensification of crop production, livestock development, sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture resources are further strengthened as compared with the past.

The world is swept over with food crisis, as well as with financial and economic crises. All this is setting off a record increase in the unemployment rate and inflicting impoverishment upon developing countries.

First of all, FAO should remain focused in its effort to create an international environment which stands in favour of achieving sustainable development of agriculture to challenge the food crisis, as well as financial and economic crises.

It is important that the Reform of the FAO be intensified in such a manner as to establish an international environment for sustainable development of agriculture and enhance its profitability. Such project activities as TCP and the Special Programme for Food Security on agricultural development of the developing countries should be further strengthened.

Next, FAO will have to pay due attention to create a socio-economic atmosphere to help the Member Nations to formulate the agricultural strategies and policies suited to their realities and to boost agricultural productivity.

The FAO ought to enhance its efforts to increase governmental investment on agricultural and rural development. On the other hand, it is recommended to take substantial measures to solve the scientific and technical problems necessary for seed improvement, effective use of water resources, management of soil and crop nutrition and prevention of blight.

The FAO should also create an environment for the agricultural products of developing countries to find their markets abroad without any hindrance. At the same time, it is desirable to take positive measures so that the developed countries follow through on their international commitments to assistance.

It is important for the developed countries to immediately increase the level of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the agricultural sector up to 19 percent in the 1980s, and write off the external debt of developing countries within a possible reach.

The developed countries should also faithfully implement the commitments they made for agricultural assistance at several international gatherings including the world High-Level Conference on Soaring Food Prices last year.

The DPRK entered a phase of turning-point in building a prosperous country under the wise leadership of General Kim Jong Il.

To build a great, prosperous and powerful nation, which has a strong state power, where everything is thriving and people live happily. It was the lifetime wish of President Kim Il Sung, the Great Leader of our people. It is also the unshakable will of the Government and people of the DPRK to open the gate to a great, prosperous and powerful nation in 2012, the year marking the centennial of the birth of President Kim Il Sung.

In its economic construction, the DPRK Government is not only exerting its primary efforts on prior sectors of the national economy, but also concentrating all-out efforts to reach the target of grain production to be self-sufficient in food.

We are steadily improving management methods in the rural economy as required by reality, and fully carrying out the policies of seed revolution, double-cropping, potato farming, soya bean farming and consolidating further the material and technical assistance to rural areas.

In the future, too, the DPRK Government will further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative ties with all FAO Member Nations under its consistent external ideals of independence, peace and friendship and make a positive contribution to international efforts ensuring global good security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Mr Veli-Pekka Talvela, Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Finland. Over to you, Sir.

Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I want to take the opportunity to thank from the bottom of my heart the Independent Chair of the Council, Professor Noori Naeni, for his work, compassion and skilful leadership as he steps down from his post after this Conference. I have personally enjoyed working with him on many occasions and I wish him blessings and good luck also in the future. As a member of the European Union, Finland fully agrees with the statement delivered by the European Commission.

The recent food and financial crises have led to a dramatic increase in both the absolute number and the share of undernourished people – for the first time in decades. On Monday this week, we unanimously adopted the Declaration of the World Food Summit on Food Security with the aim to put an end to this unacceptable development, where now over one billion people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

Even if the world prices for agricultural commodities have now decreased significantly from the level they were one year ago, uncertainty and volatility of prices still prevail on the global food markets. It is the urban poor and net food-buyers in rural areas that are the most seriously affected, but the situation of small-scale farmers is not getting any better, either. There is an urgent need to strengthen the social safety-nets to prevent people from falling to chronic poverty and exclusion.

Finland has actively supported the ongoing reform of FAO, and the full implementation of the Reform Process is our overarching priority. This is why it is most important that in the on going discussions on the FAO budget for the next biennium we reach an agreement on the future funding of the Reform Process.

The share of food crises that are attributable to natural disasters is growing. The link between prices of agricultural products, climate change and food insecurity is alarming. Extreme weather conditions and events associated with climate change are a serious threat to agricultural production, and they will push more and more people to poverty.

In climate issues we are also concerned with justice for all. The poorest countries and the poorest people within these are the most seriously affected by climate warming. The role and potential of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation should be fully recognized as in many developing countries it is mainly women who take care of food production, water acquisition and household energy.

When talking about food and agricultural threats and emergencies, we have to keep in mind the plant and animal pests and diseases. These are becoming increasingly frequent and spreading to new regions, partly due to climate change.

Sustainable use and management of natural resources must be a high priority in our efforts to prevent the growing threats to food security and respond to these. Issues relating to access to land are among the fundamental preconditions for achieving positive development. Secure land tenure rights encourage the owners to make long-term investments with the aim to improve productivity, as well as to sustainable use of natural resources, such as forests. Finland fully supports the FAO's initiative concerning Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure to Land.

To properly deal with the food-related threats and emergencies, a comprehensive and coherent approach is needed. FAO needs to work in close collaboration with the governments concerned, other UN and other international organizations and partners. The ongoing UN Reform Process, as well as the humanitarian reform, provides a good opportunity to improve the coordination and leadership.

Finland welcomes FAO's analysis of the requirements of improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies. Reducing hunger is a multi-faceted task that requires cooperation and joint effort between development and humanitarian actors and sustained commitment paying special attention to transition from humanitarian assistance to development.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Kathleen MERRIGAN, Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Kathleen MERRIGAN, Présidente de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Kathleen MERRIGAN, Presidenta de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

I would like now to call to the Podium Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to FAO, His Excellency James Alexander Harvey.

James Alexander HARVEY (United Kingdom)

Thank you Chair. It's Friday afternoon at the end of a very long week. But what a week it has been.

Countless speakers before me have talked about the deplorable hunger that exists in the world today. About the challenges of climate change, of resource scarcity and of markets that still don't work for poor people and poor farmers.

But we've also heard something else this week. We have achieved something remarkable: a Declaration by 192 Member Nations based on five principles – the Rome Principles – to take a comprehensive approach to tackling hunger and malnutrition. So we need to ask ourselves what this Declaration means for FAO, the other Rome-based Agencies and the rest of the multilateral system.

Two years ago, the IEE said that the world needs FAO. Last year, we said we needed an FAO fit for the Twenty-first Century. With this week's Declaration, we need an effective FAO more than ever.

FAO has a key role to play in the global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition.

It was great on Wednesday evening to see and hear about the awards that were handed out to a number of people. For example, to the Honourable Abraham Iyambo, Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia for work on responsible fisheries based on FAO's capacity and knowledge, to Javier Escobedo from the Emergency and Rehabilitation Operations Division, who has coordinated food security efforts in Haiti, and to Kevin Gallagher, FAO Country Representative in Freetown, where FAO has helped Sierra Leone become the fourth country to sign a CAADP (Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme) compact. And there are many other examples of the excellent work of this Organization. Yesterday we heard about FAO's work in emergencies – absolutely vital when half of the world's poorest people by next year will live in countries at risk of or recovering from conflict.

This is the future, a consistently high-performing FAO, coordinating effectively with others, delivering results, catalysing policy decisions and providing technical options to implement. This is what we will see in the future we hope.

So we'd like to offer our thanks to the many people in this Organization who do such a fantastic job.

We now have the building blocks of Reform that began with the IEE. In October, we agreed how to renew the CFS. This week, our Summit Declaration united us in commitment. Yesterday, we heard about increasing cooperation between FAO, WFP and IFAD. And in FAO, as part of our agreed Immediate Plan of Action, we are looking for the first time at an integrated work programme and budget that brings together assessed and voluntary contributions allocated by Strategic Objectives, each defined by monitorable results indicators.

FAO is the first UN Agency to prepare a budget in this way. We welcome such accountability and look forward to the Management's leadership in reporting results. This gives us a great opportunity. Now is the time to use it. Now is the time for action.

The United Kingdom is committed to ending poverty. We are committed to ending hunger. We are committed to an effective multilateral system. We are committed to working with the Membership, with FAO, with the other Rome-based Agencies, and with the CFS.

Leadership is vital – that is why we want to see transparent appointment processes based on merit. We have a chance to put that into action on Sunday.

The United Kingdom has always been – and continues to be – a strong supporter of FAO. We are committed to the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action – this is why we contributed GBP 350 000 to the IPA Trust Fund this year.

We have come a long way in developing consensus within and across all regional groups. We now need to build on that to take forward the Reform that we have all agreed to, here in Rome, working together.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to call upon the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to FAO, Mr Mohamed Ait Hmid.

Mohamed Ait HMID (Maroc) (Original language Arabic)

J'ai le plaisir de féliciter de tout cœur Monsieur Jacques Diouf, le Directeur général de la FAO. Je voudrais également féliciter tous ceux qui l'ont aidé afin de préparer la tenue de cette Conférence.

Cette Conférence, la session actuelle, est une session spéciale à plusieurs égards. En effet, notre Organisation prouve par son action qu'elle occupe une place de haut rang dans le concert des organisations internationales.

Nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui sur fond d'aggravation de l'insécurité alimentaire. Cette réunion est une occasion propice pour passer en revue nos objectifs en matière d'alimentation. C'est également une opportunité pour évaluer la mise en œuvre et le progrès réalisé envers la mise en œuvre des décisions précédentes.

Madame la Présidente, le Maroc a choisi d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et ce en développant l'agriculture. Nous considérons que l'agriculture est le moteur principal du développement économique de notre pays. Cette orientation s'est traduite par l'adoption du Plan Vert et ce sous l'égide de Sa Majesté Mohamed VI.

Il s'agit là d'une nouvelle politique nationale visant à réaliser un développement agricole ambitieux. Il s'agit d'un projet volontariste qui est porté par l'investissement du secteur public et privé. Ce projet accorde une importance particulière aux petits agriculteurs. Ce projet est bâti sur des programmes concrets qui seront mis en œuvre grâce à un partenariat, un partenariat qui sera établi entre, d'un côté les investisseurs, et d'un autre côté les agriculteurs des exploitations de petites et moyennes tailles et ce dans toutes les étapes de la production agricole.

Un autre secteur a vu une nouvelle stratégie, il s'agit du secteur des pêches. Nous avons adopté une nouvelle stratégie, Héliotes. Il s'agit de renforcer les capacités de production et la compétitivité du secteur et de préserver les ressources halieutiques pour assurer leur durabilité. Tous ces programmes ont eu un impact positif sur les plans économique et social, car grâce à ces programmes, nous avons pu créer des richesses et des emplois et ce en faveur des groupes et des zones les plus défavorisées et les plus vulnérables.

Pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire au Maroc, nous promouvons le développement agricole les échanges commerciaux, la recherche scientifique et également les programmes de nutrition. Grâce à ces programmes, nous pouvons aider les agriculteurs à augmenter leurs revenus en produisant les aliments adaptés aux habitudes alimentaires locales. Madame la Présidente, la situation mondiale actuelle et son impact sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire ont paradoxalement favorisé le développement du secteur agricole car grâce à cette crise toutes les réunions internationales comme la Conférence de haut niveau qu'avait tenue la FAO en juin 2008, toutes les réunions donc et toutes les conférences n'ont eu de cesse de confirmer que l'agriculture doit être la priorité des priorités. L'agriculture doit être le premier secteur en matière de coopération et de coordination et ce afin de promouvoir la recherche et la gestion des ressources financières en faveur du secteur agricole. Nous appelons donc les pays et les bailleurs de fonds à convertir leurs promesses précédentes en programmes et projets réalistes et concrets. Notre pays, le Maroc, a adopté des stratégies nationales de développement. Ces stratégies requièrent la mise en œuvre d'une structure de financement et une structure technique adéquate pour la mise en place des différents projets.

Nous avons, donc, besoin d'une coopération au niveau international, bilatéral ou multi latéral et ce pour favoriser les financements nécessaires. Nous savons que plusieurs pays membres ont adopté des stratégies, des politiques et des programmes d'action qui respectent leurs spécificités. Nous pensons, donc, qu'il serait utile de profiter de différentes expériences grâce à un échange entre les différents pays membres. Au Maroc, nous voulons voir le jour d'une sorte de mutation positive de notre secteur agricole et pour ce faire beaucoup d'efforts sont mobilisés aux différents plans national, régional et international. Notre réunion d'aujourd'hui s'inscrit dans cette lignée.

Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'une occasion pertinente pour étudier les possibilités de complémentarité entre les différentes agences et organisations afin d'aboutir à la sécurité alimentaire pour la population du monde qui atteindra neuf milliards d'ici 2050. La garantie de la sécurité alimentaire se fera grâce à des stratégies, grâce à une bonne coordination et à un soutien contenu. Il nous faut une coopération continue, une coopération tripartite Sud-Sud. Le Maroc est tout à fait d'accord avec la vision de la FAO concernant tous les sujets qui sont à l'ordre du jour. A plusieurs niveaux, le Maroc n'a pas hésité à apporter le soutien nécessaire en matière de sécurité alimentaire à ses

voisins en Afrique saharienne. Nous espérons la continuité de cette coopération et je souhaite à tous plein succès de vos travaux.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you and before I call upon the next speaker, I just want to thank the interpreters for their continuing hard work and very good jobs they are doing for all of us.

I would next like to call on the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Italy, His Excellency Muhammed Musa Maroofi.

You have the Floor, Sir.

Muhammed Musa MAROOFI (Afghanistan)

Chairperson of the Conference, Mr Director-General, Excellencies the Ministers of Agriculture, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I express my sincere thanks to your Excellencies and consider it an honour to address the Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

A few days ago, we Member Nations adopted a Summit Declaration that sets out a roadmap for eradicating hunger and malnutrition from our planet in the near future; and also to put in motion the strategic elements required for the development of world agriculture that can feed a population of 9.1 billion by 2050. No doubt, the task ahead is huge, complex and challenging but we have to face it, otherwise we will not be able to fulfil our mission as spelled out in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security.

The task of economic recovery from prolonged conflict in Afghanistan is enormous. Although progress has been made over the past five years, much more needs to be done for the recovery of agriculture and other sectors of our national economy.

Since 1999, Afghanistan has faced recurring droughts, which have resulted in the deficit of cereals, mainly wheat, ranging from half a million to one and half million metric tonnes annually. The deficit has been met by commercial imports and food aid from WFP and friendly nations. Fortunately, this year Afghanistan is having a very good harvest of cereals amounting to 6.2 million metric tonnes, thanks to good weather and the accelerated distribution programme of improved seeds and other inputs now reaching most farmers in Afghanistan.

A year ago, Afghanistan had no comprehensive plan for agriculture. Today our National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF) has the backing of the entire Government and all donors. The objective of the National Agriculture Development Framework, economic growth and food security, depends on natural resources management, increasing agricultural production and productivity, improving physical infrastructure and developing markets. This is the path to poverty eradication, elimination of illicit crops and promotion of national security.

The Afghan Delegation welcomes the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) as a follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (IEE). The IEE Report was comprehensive and touched on many areas of FAO's work including its four major outstanding conclusions, namely: Reform with Growth; Result-based Management, Culture Change, that is that FAO must carry out its operations to meet the challenges facing the world's agriculture in the Twenty-first Century with greater efficiency and effectiveness; and strengthening the Decentralization of FAO to be able to provide more effective country support. We greatly appreciate the work of the Conference Committee on the Follow-up of the IEE under the wise leadership of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Professor Noori Naeini.

The Immediate Plan of Action submitted to this Conference for endorsement is comprehensive, transparent and feasible to implement in three years. We support the IPA, including its budget of USD 38.6 million for 2010-2011. We give special importance to the following features of the IPA:

- The introduction of the Results-Based Management covering all FAO programmes and the concept of the unified budget;
- The three fundamental goals of Membership;
- The eleven Strategic Objectives, the two Functional Objectives and the seven Impact-Focused Areas for attracting extra-budgetary resources;
- Strengthening the Decentralization of FAO with emphasis on supporting FAO Country Offices;
- Stronger partnership, especially with WFP and IFAD;
- Culture Change in FAO, and the strengthening of the oversight functions.

We support the Resolution related to the assessed budget of USD 995.9 million for 2010-2011, including cost increases, as proposed by the Director-General. In presenting the assessed budget, the Director-General has taken into consideration the economic difficulties facing all Member Nations, particularly the big contributors. What he has proposed is a reasonable compromise for pushing forward the process of FAO's Reform, a work in progress, and giving cognizance to the financial difficulties that the world is facing at the present time. We hope the Budget Resolution will be approved by consensus. We also subscribe to the changes proposed to the Organizational Structure of FAO's Headquarters, though we realize that this is still a work in progress.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to FAO, His Excellency James Fox. Sir, you have the Floor.

James FOX (Canada)

Thank you very much Madam Chair. Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I welcome this opportunity to address the Conference on behalf of the Government of Canada.

We all recognize the seriousness of the global food security situation. This recognition has led to action. At L'Aquila earlier this year, G8 countries and many others committed to spend USD 20 billion over three years to address some of the major causes of food insecurity around the world. Canada was proud to be a part of this consensus, and we are already implementing the commitments that we made there.

The Honourable Bev Oda, our Minister for International Cooperation, has enunciated our strategy, based on three pillars: food aid and nutrition; sustainable agricultural development; and research and development. Canada is allocating USD 600 million in new money to sustainable agriculture development. This includes a doubling of funding for the International Fund for Agriculture Development, which will make us IFAD's fifth largest contributor.

Canada is also making strategic research and development investments through the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, and with the creation of a CAD 62 million Canadian International Food Security Research Fund.

Canada is already among the top five contributors to the World Food Programme, and has raised its base funding for food aid while supporting increased local purchase and "Purchase for Progress". We think there is more that can and should be done, both by national governments and by international organizations such as the FAO, to improve the global food security situation.

Trade is critical in this regard. In simple terms, few if any countries can supply all of the food, or all of the types of food, their people need. Even Canada, which is a net food-exporting country, must import key food types that we cannot produce ourselves. Canada is thus a major importer of food and a major exporter of food, and among the most open and food secure countries in the world. For these reasons, we believe that a comprehensive approach to food security must include trade – and trade liberalization – as a key component.

I was struck by the number of developing countries at the World Summit on Food Security which called for a rapid and ambitious conclusion to the Doha Round. But just as trade brings uncontested benefits to food and agriculture, it also brings challenges. And this brings me to the theme of this debate – improving preparedness for food and agricultural threats and emergencies.

One of the costs that we bear in international trade of food and agriculture is the risk of transmission of food and animal-borne diseases. This is an area where the FAO has repeatedly shown its value, using its capacity as an expert, knowledge management organization to help us to work together. Work that FAO has done to help developing countries manage both Avian Influenza, and the more recent H1N1 Influenza, was critically important in minimizing the potential impact of these diseases both within the animal population and on humans as well. We believe that this kind of emergency preparedness work is an area of comparative advantage for the FAO, an area towards which the FAO should seek to reallocate funds from lower priorities and to improve its performance.

Canada believes strongly that additional improvements in FAO performance are, in fact, achievable – and we believe strongly that the FAO Reform – via the full implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action – is key in this regard. It is equally important that budgetary resources be allocated in a manner that reflects the priority of the Reform agenda. We all share in this responsibility.

A more efficient and effective FAO will, we are confident, attract more resources. Additional large regular budget increases however, we believe, would only dampen the drive to achieve focus on comparative advantage and excellence in programme delivery. Canada has rewarded other international organizations that have demonstrated that they can make good use of our funds. The FAO, we believe, should focus on delivering and demonstrating real impact.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Ambassador of Mongolia and Permanent Representative to FAO His Excellency Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan. Sir, you have the Floor.

Jargalsaikhan ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

Thank you Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, allow me first of all to thank the Director-General and his staff for the comprehensive report on the "State of Food and Agriculture". This Report, together with the outcomes of the High-Level Forum and the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, provide an agreed roadmap to address the challenges of food security and poverty.

Madam Chair, Mongolia has an agriculture-based economy, mainly livestock breeding and some farming. It is highly dependent on the climate. With climate change and increasing desertification, it is facing daunting challenges in this vital sector of its economy. Hence, it is placing high hope on the productive outcome of the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change next month. To address this challenge and at the same time reduce and eradicate poverty, agriculture needs to be transformed into a viable and thriving commercial sector.

To this end, a number of important programmes have been launched recently. Thus, last month the Government of Mongolia has launched a National Programme for Food Security with the

technical assistance of the FAO. It is a concrete, time-bound programme with an overarching goal to provide the nation with secure supplies of accessible, nutritious and safe food. It has four pillars: enhancing the enabling environment, promoting commercial and household food security, improving food safety and promoting nutrition and public health. This seven-year programme is expected to be implemented with investments from the private sector, the Government, the local government and NGOs, as well as development partners.

One of the important components of the programme is attaining self-sufficiency in basic farming produce. With this in mind, Crop-III National Campaign is being successfully implemented. Thus, weather allowing, this year Mongolia was able to harvest about 80 percent of its wheat needs, 60 percent of vegetable needs and the country's entire potato needs, reducing thus to a certain extent its dependence on import of farming products.

In the long term, we are convinced that reversing desertification, introducing modern technology and successfully implementing the National Programme for Food Security can radically change the food situation. The reason is that with a population of 2.6 million, the country has 50 million heads of livestock and still yet untapped land resources suitable for farming. As of today, only seven percent of livestock products and less than four percent of milk are industrially processed. If these natural resources are fully processed, as envisaged in the Programme, the country will be able not only to satisfy its national needs, but also contribute to world food production and food security with healthy and safe, organic food. We believe that with the right technology, proper organization and management and international support Mongolia can become an important producer of natural and safe food products. With this objective in mind, Mongolia is prepared to work with other countries, the FAO and other partners.

Thank you for the attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Denmark to FAO, Mr Soren Skafte. You have the Floor, Sir.

Soren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Thank you, Madam Chair, and allow me to congratulate the very nice gender balance you have achieved at the Podium this afternoon.

Let me from the outset underline that Denmark, as a Member of the European Union, fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Commission, and by the Sweden Presidency of the European Union.

Since 2007, the alarmingly increasing numbers of people suffering from hunger and poverty have led to a growing sense of urgency and commitment to take actions towards eradicating hunger at the earliest possible date. And indeed, many have reacted at the national, regional and global level.

This Organization has, from the very beginning, contributed – not only by raising awareness of the dire situation, but also with concrete actions during the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices and through the active participation in the implementation of the EUR One Billion Initiative of the European Community - the European Food Facility.

Allow me also to thank FAO for taking the initiative to the World Summit on Food Security and for all the preparatory work in close collaboration with all stakeholders. Let me stress that we consider the Summit a success – attended by more than 180 states, many Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Delegates, as well as representatives from multilateral organizations, civil society, private sector and research institutions.

The Summit delivered an important Declaration and a number of important outcomes as already highlighted by Director-General Jacques Diouf in his communications to the press and in his statement in this Hall yesterday. I will not address all the important elements in the Declaration, but as Denmark in just two weeks in Copenhagen will host the COP15, the very important connection between food security and climate change should not be forgotten. As very clearly stated by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon during the Summit; if we do not succeed in curbing the emissions of greenhouse gasses and limit the increase in temperature, we will probably never really be able to eradicate hunger.

During the last two years, many have contributed – international organizations, the private sector, private charity organizations, and most important in our view, several developing countries have demonstrated the necessary political will and leadership and produced very positive results in addressing food security. These examples demonstrate that it is possible to eradicate hunger. What is required, as also clearly stated by the Director-General, is commitment from developing country governments themselves and strong support from the international community.

At the global level, we especially recognize the substantial contribution by the G8 countries under the Italian Presidency to the formulation of a comprehensive strategy emphasizing the role of agriculture in providing food security and in dealing with Climate Change. My Prime Minister participated in the L’Aquila Meeting and only his obligations to the COP15 preparations prevented him from participating in the Summit. Nevertheless, we reckon that our - as well as your - commitments and actions from now on will be based on the five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security at first presented in the L’Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security.

These principles are all reflected in the many commitments and actions contained in the Declaration from the Summit. I sincerely hope that everybody recognizes that in this situation the developed countries organized in G8 have also made important contributions. We especially note the substantial contributions from the United States, not only in the form of political commitment from the highest level in addressing food security issues, but also in the concrete and much-needed form of financial pledges.

Let me finish my intervention by mentioning that my country contributes with 0.82 percent of its BNP to development assistance and we will, of course, continue to honour all our commitments and we strongly urge all other rich countries to do the same.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Minister for Agriculture and Food Consumers Protection of the Republic of Albania. His Excellency, Genc Ruli. You have the Floor, Sir.

Genc RULI (Albania)

Honorable Madam Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I highly estimate the important proceedings of this Conference for the fact that it deals with significant issues that concern our Organization regarding the world food and agriculture situation as well as development trends on agricultural production and food security in its Member Nations. I would like to also address my sincere thanks to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, appreciating his commitment to cope with the challenges of our Organization, challenges which our Organization encounters, particularly during the recent crisis of the world economy. And above all, for the contribution given by FAO to support the development of agriculture in Albania.

Agriculture in Albania remains of vital importance, and despite the gradual decrease in its contribution to the national GDP, Albania continues to, and still reflects a strong rural profile. Our main agricultural policies have been focused in overcoming key development constraints, such as

the extreme agricultural land fragmentation, lack of input availability, and poor irrigation and drainage systems.

Smaller-scale policies have responded to the immediate needs of transformation from small farm self-sufficiency to market-oriented farming. Our past and present efforts have continued to push further and facilitate the process of rehabilitation of agro-industries and establishment of a pro-business environment for small and medium-sized enterprises. However, we did not hesitate to invest in big public projects, and substantial investments are oriented now in the establishment of key marketing infrastructures, building several new wholesale markets for fruits and vegetables throughout the country.

We have almost doubled the public investments in improving the national irrigation and drainage system. Recently, our attention and efforts have been focused on integration policies and programmes.

The Albania of today is not the country which was obliged to design and implement critical import programmes, as occurred in the early 1990s. It has asked for and accepted the European challenge for integration. Figures indicate that there have been progressive increases in yields of fresh vegetables and fruit trees. The national agricultural sector today supplies approximately 80 percent of the domestic demand for basic agricultural products. We are closely observing and supporting the regional specialization of our agricultural production.

In the livestock sector, the annual growth is bigger. The number of poultry per farmer's family has increased. Our industry saw a boom during the period 2004-2008. The Albanian exports, mainly those of agricultural products and processed vegetables, have experienced a significant and systematic increase from 2000-2008.

The level of rural poverty has therefore decreased by 6 percent from 2005 to 2008. Our agriculture economy still suffers from land fragmentation and small farm domination. Little is done to protect agricultural land, abused by natural and human factors. Despite the consolidation of supply for agricultural inputs, Albanian farmers still face a high cost for those inputs available. The weak performance in the agricultural land consolidation process represents a serious obstacle. Only 35 percent of our agricultural outputs are commercialized.

The import-export balance primarily favours imports, and it is worsened by the present global crisis. The low competitiveness of the Albanian agriculture and the relatively low level of food safety make us struggle.

Albania has signed a Stabilization Association Process agreement with the EU, which entered into force in April 2009. We have accepted the European integration challenge, cognizant of the importance of the agriculture sector in reaching such an important objective. The efficiency of this sector, as well as the increase of agricultural production, is now at the centre of our efforts.

The food safety situation is drastically improving through investments in laboratories, equipment and know-how, and only last month the Albanian government approved a decree for the establishment of the National Food Authority. The drafting of our sectoral policies has been made in full coherence with the Millennium Development objectives, the final objective being the sustainable development of the agricultural sector.

Our engagement in the reduction of poverty is a vital part of our policies, with the aim of reducing the rural unemployment rate through the professional education of farmers, and the diversification of economic activities in rural areas, mainly seeking tourism and agritourism opportunities, processing activities, etc. We believe that the creation of small enterprises based on comparative advantages of the rural areas will be the way to reach these objectives.

The Albanian Government joins the concerns and the appeal of FAO addressed to the Heads of State during the proceedings of the last World Summit for the engagement of Governments of FAO Member Nations in their fight against poverty, and for the increase of investment and funding in agriculture. The Albanian Government agrees and approves the documents presented

in this Session, and appreciates the FAO contribution to the accomplishment of these objectives of food security and poverty alleviation.

Please allow me to express our commitment in support of FAO initiatives and actions for the development in agriculture and food security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon the Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt. His Excellency Amin Abaza. You have the Floor, Sir.

Amin ABAZA (Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation) (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Madam Chair of the Conference, Excellencies, Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating you, Madam, on your election to the post of Chairperson of the FAO Conference, and wish you all success in leading this session's deliberations. I am confident that with your wisdom you will lead our conference to success.

I take pleasure also in thanking the FAO Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for his role in improving FAO performance and for the important initiative he has launched at such a critical period of food insecurity.

Madam Chair of the Conference, the Heads of States and Governments have met a few days ago on the occasion of the World Summit on Food Security, and adopted an important document, including a comprehensive analysis of the present situation, set guidelines for responding to the crisis we are currently facing, and put forward a set of proposals to implement the agreed strategy for the development of the agricultural sector. This is in addition to promoting the Right to Food in order to eliminate hunger and reduce the number of hungry which have now exceeded one billion people for the first time in history.

Madam Chair of the Conference, food security is, first and foremost, a matter of national commitment. As such, Egypt has adopted policies to respond to the food crisis, particularly as the higher food prices have contributed to raising the cost of living by two-thirds. Measures were taken, including widening the coverage of social security nets, improving agricultural productivity, while giving priority to small producers. National development plans have given priority to rural development, thus providing employment opportunities to small-scale farmers and generating equitable income to enable them overcome poverty and hunger. Concurrently, greater attention was given to policies that promote capacity-building, development of human resources, increasing investments in rural infrastructure and supporting services, including improving roads, storage facilities, irrigation systems, technical education and extension, as well as giving greater attention to scientific research and technology.

The Government of Egypt is also supporting agricultural investments in order to provide additional funds for investing in agricultural infrastructure. This calls for the reallocation of budgetary resources in order to strike a balance between agriculture and other vital sectors such as health and education, in addition to enacting legislation that would encourage the private sector to increase its investments in such a vital sector. In this context, I would like to stress the need for donors to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) for agriculture. I also welcome L' Aquila Joint Statement which stressed the need for supporting the agricultural sector in developing countries.

Madam Chair of the Conference, achieving agricultural prosperity calls for strengthened international cooperation, for no country would be able individually to deal with the many

interrelated challenges facing developing countries; hence the importance attached by Egypt to promoting cooperation in the agricultural sector with developing countries, particularly in Africa.

On the other hand, an enabling international environment is needed to help achieve the above goals. In this connection, I would like to underline the need for the following:

1. Accelerating the implementation of the agreed strategies and guidelines for promoting the Right to Food in order to reduce the food security gap. In addition to the political will, coordination is also needed at both the national and international levels. It is very important to complete the Reform Process of FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The CFS represents the platform where global food security policies are reviewed and monitored. It is also the central element of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN). Given that supporting national plans and initiatives are the major functions of the CFS, I would like to stress the importance of coordination between the CFS and national authorities through national official channels and with their consent.

I would also like to stress the importance of building a coherent and efficient governance system in order to build an enabling environment for achieving comprehensive agricultural development.

2. It is well recognized that effective and safe modern technology plays a significant role in increasing agricultural production and in optimizing the use of the limited natural resources, in particular land and water. This would require the use of effective mechanisms for reducing barriers to the transfer of technology to developing countries, particularly to increase agricultural productivity and provide incentives, while safeguarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).
3. Water is an essential resource for sustainable agricultural development, while sound water management is fundamental for human survival. Therefore, urgent measures are needed to optimize the use of available water resources, in addition to using non-conventional water resources, such as desalinated sea water and treated wastewater, and promoting their use in agriculture. This would require supporting research to develop cost-effective technologies for the use of non-conventional water resources at affordable prices for agriculture, as well as strengthening international cooperation for the transfer of modern technology developed by industrialized countries to developing countries suffering from water shortages.
4. In our view, a proper response from the international community to reduce the negative impact of climate change has not been forthcoming. Climate change resulted in fluctuations in rainfall, desertification, widespread drought negatively affecting agricultural production, particularly in the countries mostly threatened by this phenomenon.

Responding to this phenomenon calls for proper action towards climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and food security, through the use of adequate technology for increasing flexibility and facilitating the adaptation of agricultural systems. Measures need to be taken to effectively assist small farmers in areas most vulnerable to climate change, facilitating their access to technologies that would contribute to alleviating the adverse effects of climate change.

5. We need now, more than ever, to conclude the Doha Round trade negotiations in order to establish a fair trade system that would allow developing countries to compete in the global commodity market, and ensure the access of their products to international markets, thus enabling those countries to fully use their agricultural potential.
6. The international community's increased dependence on the use of agricultural crops to produce bio-fuel, thus reducing the area of fertile agricultural land used for the

production of food crops, needs to be urgently reviewed. The production of second generation bio-fuels from agricultural residues – still under development – could represent the proper balance between reducing harmful emissions and relieving the pressure on natural resources.

7. Priority should be given to agricultural research at the national and international levels, including knowledge and expert training through bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

In this context, the importance of the various cooperation frameworks, not only in the field of agricultural scientific research but also in other fields, should be stressed. The importance of North/South, South/South cooperation, and trilateral cooperation is increasing day after day. Strong regional and multilateral organizations could undoubtedly play a major role in sustaining such forms of cooperation.

Lastly, Madam Chair, I hope that our meeting will put forward clear proposals and recommendations for enhancing our collective capabilities to overcome these obstacles, strengthen our cooperation mechanisms, and adopt common views in developing policies that would help us find sustainable solutions to the food security issue.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, that concludes my list of Member Nations who have requested time to speak. We will have two statements from observers, but before that time I want to do a last call. Last request of anyone from a Member Nation who has not had yet an opportunity to address the Floor, this would be your opportunity. And, if you are so desiring, please raise your hand.

Seeing none, I will call upon the World Federation of Trade Union's representative, Ms Sofia Tselemarkou.

Sofia TSELEMARKOU (World Federation of Trade Unions)

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions, we welcome the leadership of FAO and all the people present. The WFTU, from the first day of its establishment in 1945, has always shown attention to the food deficiency. Also, our Members in approximately 100 countries on five continents are greatly concerned about the contemporary problems of nutrition.

We are in the era of capitalist globalization. The basic characteristics of this era are big economic inequality, huge poverty for the many and enormous wealth accumulation for the few. The developed countries are trying to keep the entire Third World under economic, political and military control. The current economic crisis, perhaps the biggest since the great depression of 1929, has resulted in soaring unemployment and dramatic deterioration of workers' living standards.

This situation has already exacerbated the global nutritional crisis. According to the newest review of the UN's World Food Programme, over the last two years the number of people suffering from hunger has internationally increased by 200 million people. Hunger is not a natural phenomenon, as many non-governmental organizations wish to present it. It is a profound social and political phenomenon. The causes of hunger are the result of many factors. The exploitation of the developing world by the developed capitalist countries, the removal of millions of farmers from their land, the replacement of traditional crops with bio-fuel crops, the drought created by climate changes, are some of them. Price speculation by the uncontrolled multinationals further aggravates the problem.

In recent years, prices of basic foodstuffs soared, creating humanitarian crises and insurrections of starving people. In developing countries, 80 percent of the goods are affected by high prices. Consequently, the nations of the developing world have access to only one-third of the food they

had access to three years ago. What's more, two-thirds of the centres of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide food programmes in Europe, a clear indication that the problem of hunger appears for the first time in the developed world. In Spain, for example, the Red Cross has distributed food to 500 000 people, while in Iceland, every household has been affected in one way or another and people who have never contacted the Red Cross are now seeking food and clothing.

In the dawn of the Twenty-first Century, 800 million people suffer from starvation and 200 million children live in conditions of complete penury. Every three seconds, somewhere on Earth, a child dies from hunger. Every year, over 30 million people die from starvation. More than 10 million children worldwide will face hunger because of the current economic crisis. The biggest problem is in Sub-Saharan Africa where, according to United Nation figures, 236 million Africans are undernourished.

The insensitivity of the rich countries and their political leaderships is criminal. Immediate and drastic action must be taken to solve the problem. In such an international environment, the role of trade unions is even more important. We must raise our voices.

The direct and specific proposals of WFTU are:

- Prohibition of prices' rise to the basic foodstuffs (rice, sugar, potatoes, water, wheat, corn, etc.).
- Cancellation of Third World debt.
- Immediate reduction of 50 percent of military spending in all countries and use of the saved money for food and water.
- Termination of wars and conflicts.
- Financial support from the eight wealthiest countries on Earth to the developing world.

We believe that the role of the UN and FAO is determining in order to solve the problem. That means action and not words. These are the proposals of the World Federation of Trade Unions. We consider that under these adverse conditions, the need for concerted action by all of us is indispensable for the removal of the food crisis.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I next call on the General Secretary of Foodfirst Information and Action Network, Mr Flavio Valente. Sir, you have the Floor.

Flavio VALENTE (Foodfirst Information & Action Network International)

Good afternoon Madam Chair and good afternoon to all Representatives.

I will present a statement of the civil society organizations that participated in the parallel forum.

Earlier this week, 642 people gathered in a Civil Society Forum in Rome, united in our determination to work for food sovereignty at a moment when the growing numbers of people living in constant hunger have surpassed the one billion mark. We came from 93 countries and represented 450 organizations of peasant and family farmers, small-scale fisher folk, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, youth, women, the urban people, agricultural workers, local and international NGOs and other social actors. As participants in this Civil Society Forum and in light of the Forum decisions, we wish to make this intervention.

Food sovereignty entails transforming the current food system to ensure that those who produce food have equitable access to, and control over, land, water, seeds, fisheries and agricultural biodiversity. All people have a right and responsibility to participate in deciding how food is produced and distributed.

As the Conference of the FAO, we look to you to affirm and facilitate the good initiatives that have come from Commission 1.

The Right to Food is fundamental to food sovereignty. While it is a basic responsibility of governments to respect, protect and fulfil the Right to Food, it is important to support governments in their efforts to achieve this. The FAO has provided key guidance in the form of the Voluntary Guidelines. However, it is also vital for financial support to be available for implementation of the Guidelines.

We declare our strong support for the renewed Committee on World Food Security:

We take particular note of the commitment which Member Nations expressed in their Summit Declaration to the CFS. It is essential that the renewed CFS is provided with the resources that will enable it to effectively take up its role as the leader in international coordination and governance for food security. We, therefore, look forward to seeing Member Nations allocate a budget to the CFS commensurate with their declared commitment.

We are concerned that Member Nations have not yet made clear the mechanism by which the CFS will provide policy guidance to the new Multi-donor Trust Fund for Agriculture which is being established at the World Bank. We understand that many governments share our concern that the Bank facility is not appropriate for the management of this Fund. For two decades, the World Bank has ignored agriculture, and it lacks the expertise to manage this Fund correctly. We believe the Fund would be better established in Rome with the expanded support of IFAD and the other Rome-based Agencies. In either case, the CFS should provide the policy guidance and the monitoring for the Fund.

We welcome the recognition expressed by Member Nations in their Summit Declaration of the importance of ensuring that the voices of those most affected by food insecurity are heard in the CFS. As civil society, we express our commitment to continue to engage and participate in the CFS in a responsible and effective manner. We look forward to contributing to the development of the CFS and to the establishment of an inclusive High-Level Panel of Experts.

We emphasise the importance within the Medium-Term Plan of follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and we look forward to working with governments and other participants in the reformed CFS as it takes up its new work, with special attention to the proposed second phase.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any registered Observers who have not yet had the chance to speak who would like to address the Floor? If so raise your hand.

Seeing none, Ladies and Gentlemen, that means we have gone through our Speakers List in the Plenary. I found the statements very informative, very passionate, very important. I thank everybody for their kind attention to the speakers and to our time management. We are now at the point where we are at the conclusion of Item 5, Review of the State of food and Agriculture. There have been no requests for speaking time tomorrow morning, so the Conference will reconvene then in the afternoon at 14:30 hours with Item 22: Audited Accounts 2006-2007 (Draft Resolution). Plenary, again, will not reconvene tomorrow morning, as we have completed the list of speakers.

That is very good news. I wish you all a good evening.

We are adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17:10 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:10 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

21 November 2009

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:44 hours
C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 44
sous la présidence de C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14:44 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.Q.K. Mustaq Ahmed

Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

**LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS**

**B. Administrative and Financial Matters
B. Questions administratives et financiers
B. Cuestiones administrativas y financieras**

22. Audited Accounts 2006-2007 (Draft Resolution) (C 2009/5A; C 2009/5B;
C 2009/LIM/3)

22. Comptes vérifiés 2006-2007 (Projet de résolution) (C 2009/5A; C 2009/5B;
C 2009/LIM/3)

22. Cuentas comprobadas de 2006-07 (proyecto de resolución) (C 2009/5A; C 2009/5B;
C 2009/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the Seventh Plenary meeting to order.

The first item on our Agenda this afternoon is Item 22: Audited Accounts 2006-2007. The documents before the Conference are C 2009/5A, C 2009/5B and C 2009/LIM/3. The latter contains a Draft Resolution forwarded to the Conference by the Council.

I invite Mr Juneja as Assistant Director-General of the Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources to introduce the item.

Mr Juneja.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

The document C 2009/5 A contains the official financial statements of the Organization for the 2006-2007 biennium, with the opinion of the External Auditor on the financial statements.

I am pleased to inform the Conference that, as in previous biennia, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2006-2007 Financial Statements of the Organization. The results and official accounts of the 2006-2007 biennium were examined by the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Twenty-third Session in October 2008, and by the Council at its Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session in June 2009.

The Audited Accounts of the previous biennium are now before you for adoption through your approval of a Draft Resolution submitted by Council in document C 2009/LIM/3.

Part B of document 2009/5 is the Report of the External Auditor that's typically referred to as the Long-Form Report. The recommendations in the Report of the External Auditor are in large part already implemented, and progress has been regularly reported to the Finance Committee.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor on this Item?

Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the Audited Accounts for 2006-2007?

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

This concludes Item 22.

We will now pass on to Item 23: Scale of Contributions 2010-2011. Document C 2009/LIM/4 contains the proposed Scale of Contributions and the Draft Resolution which has been forwarded to the Conference by the Council.

I call on Mr Juneja to introduce this item.

23. Scale of Contributions 2010-2011 (Draft Resolution) (C 2009/INF/11;
C 2009/LIM/4)

23. Barème des contributions 2010-2011 (Projet de résolution) (C 2009/INF/11;
C 2009/LIM/4)

23. Escala de cuotas para 2010-11 (proyecto de resolución) (C 2009/INF/11;
C 2009/LIM/4)

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO Scale of Contributions for the years 2010-2011. This has been derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments adopted for the years 2007 through 2009 as established by General Assembly Resolution 61/237 which was adopted on 22 December 2006. The previous 2008-09 FAO Scale is also set out for comparison purposes. Assessment rates of some Members in the UN Scale are slightly lower than those in the FAO Scale since there is a difference in Membership which requires a *pro rata* increase in UN Assessment Rates to arrive at the FAO Scale.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed 2010-2011 Scale of Contributions for FAO at its May session this year, and submitted it to Council in June of this year for endorsement. The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council regarding the Scale of Contributions for the 2010-2011 biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you.

Would any delegate like to speak on this matter, on this item?

Japan please.

Shuichi AKAMATSU (Japan)

It is my delegation's understanding that FAO's share of contributions from 2010-2011 is calculated based on the United Nations Scale of Assessments adopted at the end of 2006 which was almost three years ago. As all the Member Nations are aware, the United Nations Scale of Assessments will be reviewed at the end of next month in New York, and a new United Nations Scale of Assessments will be applied from 2010-2011 in three years. My delegation believes that FAO's Scale of Contributions must be clear and equitable for all Member Nations based on their respective real economic ability. In this respect, I would like to draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, that the FAO Scale of Contributions allocated to Japan from 2010-2011 is about 17 percent. However, the Japanese share of GDP in the world will become around 10 percent, as a result of the economic growth of other countries.

Until today, Japan has steadily extended its annual contributions every year, backed by the strong support of Japanese people. However, I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, that the ratio Scale of Contributions allocated to Japan, which is about 17 percent, is excessive compared to its recent

GDP share in the world. This wide discrepancy might erode the Japanese people's support towards FAO.

Now I list the Japanese case as an example, but this not an isolated case.

Mr Chairman, I fully understand that we don't have enough time to discuss this matter this time, but if there exists real support from the Member Nations, my delegation is ready to propose an amendment to the Draft Resolution in which once a new Scale of Assessments is adopted in the United Nations next month, the FAO immediately reviews its Scale of Contributions based on the new United Nations Scale of Assessments imposed during 2010, 2011 and 2012. In addition, I would like to point out there was such a precedent in the history of the FAO in the past.

My delegation would appreciate if I could hear the views on this matter from the Secretariat as well as distinguished Member Nations.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Guo HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chinese delegation cannot agree to the objection put forward by some Member Nations. FAO is always in line with the calculation of the United Nations, so over the years there won't be any problems in this regard. The Scale of Contributions currently in FAO has already been assessed and discussed by the Finance Committee, and agreed upon by the Council. So now we will deliver the Draft Resolution to the Conference for the vote. We should not and won't be able to approve the Scale of Contributions on the basis of the unapproved UN Scale of Contributions. In the past, we have never done that before, and this will distort our necessary calculation of the Scale of Assessments. I hope that the Conference will take notice of that, in order to ensure the success of the Conference and also the healthy development of the Organization's finance, and also the smooth work of FAO. I hope that, and also require the Conference to be in line with the Scale of Assessments agreed to by the Council and the Finance Committee.

Renato MOSCA (Brazil)

On behalf of the delegation of Brazil, I would like to express our wholehearted support for what has been expressed by China. Because we, too, do not think we should be taking the decision here which runs counter to the traditional decision taken by the United Nations. So we understand that this proposal is not the best, but we should be acting in keeping with what is being decided by our colleagues in the appropriate forum at the General Assembly of the United Nations. So I would like to support what has just been said by China.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

The Organization derives its Scale of Contributions from the United Nations Scale of Assessments. This follows a decision of the FAO Conference in 1955. Both on the occasion of the FAO Conference in November 1975 and the FAO Conference in November 1983, the FAO Conference confirmed that it would be appropriate to continue to derive the FAO Scale directly from that of the United Nations which was in force during the FAO Conference. The Scale before you reflects the methodology approved by previous Conference decisions. The Report of the UN's Committee on Contributions, to be discussed by the General Assembly next month, provides the Committee's calculations of a proposed Scale for 2010, 2011 and 2012. Compared with the current scale, it includes increases and decreases for many Members. According to the information we have available, it includes a substantial decrease for Japan.

Based on the current rule, established by the FAO Conference, any such changes would be reflected by the Organization when a new Scale of Contributions is proposed to the next Conference in 2011, to be therefore applied to the 2012-2013 biennium.

The timing of FAO's adoption of a new Scale of Assessments has been a matter of debate over the years because of two competing factors. On the one hand, there is a need for certainty on the

Scale of Assessments to be applied when Members approve the budget, while on the other hand, Members also wish to be assessed at rates which reflect their most recent economic circumstances, as mentioned by Japan.

Management appreciates the desire of those countries which seek to have applied the most current Scale of Assessments. In response to a question put by Japan, in 1997 and 1999, there were, in fact, two exceptions to the established rule, when both the Finance Committee and Council discussed at various sessions the expectation of imminent changes to the UN Scale. In those instances, before the Conference, the Council submitted Draft Resolutions to the Conference, which modified the established criteria for the application of the UN Scale to FAO's Scale of Contributions.

In conclusion, the proposed Scale before you is based on the UN Scale in force at this time. We recognize that a new Scale may be approved at the UN in coming weeks, and wish to underline that the determination of the applicable Scale is a matter for Conference decision.

CHAIRPERSON

So, can I take it that the Conference adopts the Resolution concerning the Scale of Contributions 2010-2011?

Japan wants to respond to that.

Please.

Shuichi AKAMATSU (Japan)

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I carefully listened to the views expressed by distinguished Member Nations and the Secretariat.

My delegation recognizes that our observation is legitimate and has rationale. However, because of time constraints and from the procedural point of view, my delegation decides to abstain from proposing an amendment this time. But I would like to request the Secretariat that the views, especially expressed by the Secretariat, are duly-reflected in the Report.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you.

Your points are noted.

So, I propose that the Conference adopts the Resolution concerning the Scale of Contributions for 2010-2011.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

**PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET
CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS**

19. Incentives and other Measures to encourage Timely Payment of Contributions
(C 2009/INF/20; C 2009/INF/20-Add.1)

19. Incitations et autres mesures destinées à encourager le paiement rapide des contributions (C 2009/INF/20; C 2009/INF/20-Add.1)

19. Incentivos y otras medidas para fomentar la puntualidad en el pago de las cuotas
(C 2009/INF/20; C 2009/INF/20-Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 19: Incentives and other Measures to Encourage Timely Payment of Contributions. The background document is C 2009/INF/20.

I invite Mr Juneja to introduce this item.

Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director General, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources)

At its Thirty-fourth Session in November 2007, the Conference discussed measures to Encourage Timely Payment of Assessed Contributions by Member Nations. It requested Council to present, at its next Regular Session a comprehensive package of incentives and other measures aimed at ensuring payment in full and on time by all Member Nations of their Assessed Contributions.

The Finance Committee's recommendations on this matter were transmitted for consideration by Council at its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session. At its Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session in July 2009, the Finance Committee recommended to Council that all measures currently in place to encourage timely payment should be continued and that existing rules, in particular regarding Voting Rights, should be strictly enforced. The Finance Committee further proposed that the restrictions regarding eligibility for Council election and loss of seats in Council for Member Nations in arrears of more than the total of contributions due for the two preceding calendar years should be extended to eligibility for election and loss of seats in the Finance and Programme Committees and in the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. At its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, the Council took note of the Committee's recommendation that all measures currently in place to encourage timely payment of contributions should be continued. While there was support for the measures proposed, certain Members cautioned that the application of these measures for the loss of seats on the Council Committees would mainly impact developing countries in difficulty. The Council requested that the Finance Committee continue to explore other means to encourage timely and full payment of contributions.

Finally, as a signal to Members regarding the need for prompt payment of contributions, that is those considered as being contributions paid in full by the 31 March 2009, the Council agreed that the discount rate to be applied should be set at 0.03 percent for US dollar Contributions and 0.43 percent for Euro Contributions to be credited in 2010.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, the floor is now open for delegates who wish to speak on the item.

Ok, distinguished delegate from Sweden, please.

Petter NILLSON (Sweden)

Thank you Mr Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-seven Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement. The EC is highly concerned about the recurrent problem of cash shortages that are due to high levels of arrears of contributions from previous years, delays in payments of current assessments and insufficient cash reserves. It is not acceptable that late payments by some countries continuously jeopardize the financial health of the Organization.

The consequence of late payments and arrears is that FAO has to recourse to statutory reserves and external borrowing on the international financial market, thereby further weakening the financial situation of the Organization.

With a view to remedying this problem, the EC strongly supports the recommendations of the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee to encourage timely payment of contributions, in particular concerning the Incentive Scheme for prompt payment of contributions, whose efficacy has been proven in other international organizations.

The EC also supports the recommendation of the Finance Committee of the necessity to enforce the existing rules, in particular regarding Voting Rights.

The EC would also recommend that the Finance Committee continues to positively examine further measures that can be taken in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

First there is no other request for intervention, so Sweden actually pointed out about the EC's position regarding cash shortages and late payments by other Members. This should be discouraged and they also accept the recommendation regarding the Incentive Scheme. As regard Voting Rights, they have also supported the recommendations. So, if there are no other comments from any delegates, we conclude our work on Item 19.

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued) QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite) CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS (continuación)

B. Administrative and Financial Matters (continued)

B. Questions administratives et financiers (suite)

B. Cuestiones administrativas y financieras (continuación)

24. Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization (C 2009/LIM/15)

24. Paiement par la Communauté européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2009/LIM/15)

24. Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización (C 2009/LIM/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We will proceed with Item 24, Payment by the European Community to cover Administrative and Other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization.

By adopting the Second Report of the General Committee yesterday afternoon, Conference decided that the lump sum payment due for the European Community be set at Euro 539 093 for the 2010-2011 biennium.

25. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
25. Autres questions administratives et financiers
25. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

CHAIRPERSON

I therefore propose that we move on to Item 25.

Item 25 covers Other Administrative and Financial Matters. I have been informed by the Secretariat that there are no matters to be taken under this Item, so we can move forward.

Third Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2009/LIM/14)
Troisième rapport du Comité des pouvoirs (C 2009/LIM/14)
Tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2009/LIM/14)

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on to the next Item on our Agenda, we shall have to adopt the Third Report of the Credentials Committee.

I should like to give the floor to Ms Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Declarations Committee, who will make an oral report on the work of the Committee.

Ms Rotondaro, please.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson of the Credentials Committee)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Credentials Committee held four meetings on 6, 12, 18 and 21 November to examine the credentials received for this Session of the Conference. A Second Report was issued as document C 2009/LIM/13, a Third Report was issued as C 2009/LIM/14 and is now before you. Members are listed in List A and B. The Lists reflect the situation as of this morning, Saturday 21 November. The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials or information on the composition of delegations on both Lists be accepted, and recommended that all delegations be authorized to participate in the Conference Session. I would invite the Conference to approve the Third Report of the Credentials Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Are there any comments on the Report? If there are none, I declare the Report adopted.

My thanks to the Chairperson and others Members of the Credentials Committee for the work carried out before and during this Session of the Conference.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES**

28. Appointments

28. Nominations

28. Nombramientos

28.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 2009/6)

28.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pension du personnel de la FAO (C 2009/6)

28.2 Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 2009/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Sub-Item 28.2: Appointment of the Representatives of the FAO Conference of the Staff Pension Committee. You have before you document C 2009/6 entitled "Appointment of the Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee". I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General to inform the meeting of the candidatures. Ms. Williams, you have the Floor.

SECRETARY GENERAL

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations Organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member Organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose Members and Alternate Members are chosen by the Governing Bodies, the Executive Heads of the Organizations and the participating staff of each Organization.

In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine Members and three of the nine Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. Only the Conference has the authority to appoint Members and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the Staff Pension Committee:

Mr Keith Lee Heffern, Alternate and Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO, to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Leslie de Graffenried, whose term of office ends on 31 December 2010;

Mr Don Carlos Betancour, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to FAO, to replace and complete the term of office of Mr Mario Gustavo Mottin, whose term of office ends on 31 December 2011.

For the period starting 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012, the following appointments are being proposed:

Ms Sultana Afroz, Alternate Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to FAO;

His Excellency Zohrab Malek, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to FAO.

Additionally, for the period starting 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013, the following appointments are being proposed:

Ms Natalie Feistritz, Alternate Permanent Representative of Austria to FAO;

Mr Keith Lee Heffern, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Madam Secretary-General.

The Conference is requested to consider these candidatures and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become Members and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Can I take it that Conference has no objections to the list of candidates that has just been read out?

It is so decided. That completes Item 28.2

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

30. Any Other Matters (continued)

30. Autres questions (suite)

30. Asuntos varios (continuación)

30.7 In Memoriam

30.7 In Memoriam

30.7 In memórium

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Conference has traditionally paid tribute to those staff members who died while in service since the preceding Session.

May I ask the Secretary-General to read the names of the staff members whom we shall be honouring with a minute of silence today?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the last Session of Conference, the following staff members died while in service:

Mr C. Kinyua Mugo

Mr Yassin J. Wehelie

Ms Isabella Liberto-Giovagnorio

Ms Paloma Rancho Martin

Mr Yacob Gougsa

Mr Alain Bonzon

Ms Francesca Gentile

CHAIRPERSON

May I request the assembly to stand for one minute of silent tribute to those staff members who died since the last ordinary Session of the Conference in 2007?

Minute of silence
Minute de silence
Minuto de silencio

- 29. Date and Place of the Thirty-seventh Conference Session**
29. Date et lieu de la trente-septième session de la Conférence
29. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. Let's move on to the next item. Item 29, Date and Place of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference. They call the Conference to set dates for its next session. May I ask the Secretary-General to let us have a proposal.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Mr Chairman. In line with the sequence of Government Body meetings, called for in the Immediate Plan of Action, the dates proposed for the next Session of Conference are from Saturday 25 June to Saturday 2 July 2011.

CHAIRPERSON

Does the Conference agree to this proposal?

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

- 30. Any Other Matters (continued)**
30. Autres questions (suite)
30. Asuntos varios (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 30, Any Other Matters. May I ask if any delegates wish to take the Floor? All right. It would seem no one wishes to take the Floor.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have come to the end of our work for today. Before closing this meeting, I would like to remind you of the importance of ensuring a high attendance at tomorrow's Plenary Meeting, given that we should be voting, and we need to ensure that we will reach the required numbers for the roll call votes and the ballots which will be taking place. I wish you all a very good evening.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 15:25 hours
La séance est levée à 15 h 25
Se levanta la sesión a las 15:25 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième session
36° periodo de sesiones**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

22 November 2009

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:15 hours
Kathleen Merrigan,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de Kathleen Merrigan,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 10:15 horas
bajo la presidencia de Kathleen Merrigan,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2009/LIM/16)
Troisième rapport du Comité général (C 2009/LIM/16)
Tercer Informe del Comité General (C 2009/LIM/16)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

I call the Eighth Plenary meeting of the Thirty-sixth FAO Conference to order.

I understand some of our colleagues had a very late night, so I appreciate everyone being here in a timely manner. For those of you who may be wondering, Commission II will be meeting here in Plenary so there is no need to depart this room this morning. All our business will be conducted here.

I would now like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure that they have the Report of the Third meeting of the General Committee before them. The Report is set out in Document C 2009/LIM/16 and I will proceed to read each title of the section and ask for comments and adoption. I will give you a moment to find that.

The first title of this paper is Section A: Election of Council Members. Are there any comments on this section or questions of clarification?

Do people feel they have had sufficient time to review this section? If not, raise your hand.

Hearing no comments or objections, I declare the section adopted.

Before moving on to section B, I want to explain a change. I do not know if you have the paper in front of you. It is somewhat editorial but the paper in front of you does not fully reflect the decisions by the General Committee last night in terms of paragraphs, if you could turn to paragraph 13.

We had broken things up a little bit differently than is represented by this paper. It does not change the essential decisions before you that the General Committee is asking you to adopt, but I will read the revised text as adopted by the General Committee last night.

Paragraph 13 reads:

"After using these criteria for a case by case evaluation of the petitions, the General Committee recommends that the Conference accept the request by Iraq and Georgia to repay their arrears through instalment plans and therefore restore their Voting Rights."

Then as a new paragraph 14, paragraph 14 reads:

"The General Committee also found the letters of explanation for arrears from Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone to provide sufficient grounds to recommend restoration of their Voting Rights."

A new paragraph 15:

"The General Committee furthermore recommends that Voting Rights be restored to Somalia in view of the prevailing circumstances faced by the country."

And finally a new paragraph 16:

"The Committee noted that the 11 Member Nations which had not written a letter requesting special consideration Antigua and Barbuda, Comoros, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Palau, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have effectively lost their Voting Rights."

So the same list that is there in the document you have in your paper.

As a result of these changes, the subsequent paragraph number will be 17. So essentially it is just the same result for the countries in your list but further delineation of categories.

Is the information I am sharing with you sufficiently clear?

Are there any points of clarification requested? Yes, my colleague from Iraq.

Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Iraq greatly appreciates the restoration of its Voting Rights after its commitment to rescheduling of its payment, but I would like to inform the Conference that the Iraqi Cabinet had just decided last week that Iraq would be able to pay its entire due within a matter of weeks. I would like to thank you all for the restoration of our Voting Rights, but at the same time tell you Iraq's commitment towards the obligations on its shoulder and the international community.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference greatly appreciates the commitment by your country, and we thank you for that important information.

So, assuming there are no other points of clarification, I will now read the title of that section and open it up for any comments that people would like to make.

The section is Section B: Voting Rights.

Are there any comments on the text as amended?

My colleague from Sierra Leone.

Afsatu KABBA (Sierra Leone)

Can you please clarify if Sierra Leone's Voting Rights have been restored.

CHAIRPERSON

The proposal from the General Committee is that your Voting Rights would be restored.

Any other comments on this section?

Hearing none, this section is adopted.

Section C: Election Procedures

Are there any comments on this section?

Hearing none, the section is adopted. Thank you.

I take it that the Conference endorses the Third Report of the General Committee.

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS (continuación)

A. Constitutional and Legal Matters
A. Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
A. Asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

20. Amendments to the Basic Texts (C 2009/LIM/8)
20. Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux (C 2009/LIM/8)
20. Modificaciones de los Textos Fundamentales (C 2009/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

At its Special Session in November 2008, the Conference decided that proposed amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization, which are required to implement the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, should be submitted to this session for approval.

I wish to draw your attention to document C 2009/LIM/8 which contains a series of IPA-related Resolutions which have been under review throughout the year. These will now be put to the Conference for approval.

I should like to give the floor to Mr Fiol, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, who will introduce Section A of the document, which contains a Draft Resolution proposing amendments to the FAO Constitution as a result of the implementation of the IPA.

Julio FIOL ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Señora Presidente, como usted ha señalado, la Sección A del documento C 2009/LIM/8, contiene un Proyecto de Resolución con Enmiendas a la Constitución y con la Implementación de un Plan de Acción Inmediato para la Renovación de la FAO.

Como usted también señalara, este Proyecto de Resolución, fue revisado durante este año por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Legales y por el Consejo de la FAO, que refleja el total consenso de la Membresía de la Organización. Así mismo puedo señalarle, que esta propuesta de enmienda a la Constitución, fue notificada a los Miembros de FAO con al menos 120 días de antelación a la apertura de este Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia, tal como lo dispone el Artículo XX, párrafo 4 de la Constitución.

El Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia contiene enmiendas a la Constitución referidas entre otras materias, al Estatus de las Conferencias Regionales, a los Comités de las Conferencias, al Consejo, y al mandato del Director General. También imparte instrucciones a la Secretaría para que realice algunas tareas de naturaleza editorial.

Presento ahora a la Conferencia este Proyecto de Resolución, que contiene Enmiendas a la Constitución, las que se presentan para aprobación de la Conferencia, y que se incluyen en la sección A del documento C 2009/LIM/8.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Fiol Zúñiga. If there are no comments from the floor on this Draft Resolution, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an explanation of the voting procedure. Are there comments on this Resolution?

Hearing none, the Secretary-General has the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In the case of amendments to the Constitution, as is the case at present, Article XX, paragraph 1, of the Constitution requires the amendments to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that such a majority is more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. As there are 191 Member Nations of the Organization, it is necessary that at least 96 Members should vote in favour of the amendments.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote - that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that explanation, Ms Williams. Are there questions from the floor?

Hearing none, we will proceed with the vote.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Please press the green button on your desk.

Have all delegates pressed the green button?

Thank you very much.

We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in section A of document C 2009/LIM/8 containing amendments to the Constitution of FAO for the Implementation of the IPA. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green, if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green to vote in favour, red to vote against, and yellow to abstain.

Please vote now.

CHAIRPERSON

Ms Williams then, could you just go through the record declare the final vote of the Conference on this measure.

SECRETARY -GENERAL

I will read it out.

Number of votes cast: 114

Majority required: 76

Votes for: 114

Votes against: none

Abstentions: 1



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22/11/2009
10:34:42

- Vote on:** Proposed Conference Resolution on Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.
Amendments to the Constitution
- Vote sur:** Proposition de Résolution de la Conférence relative à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO.
Amendements à l'Acte constitutif
- Votación para:** Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia sobre la aplicación del Plan inmediato de acción para la renovación de la FAO
Enmiendas a la Constitución

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	114
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	76
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	114
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	49

Votes for:
Votes pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. LUCIA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, U.K., U.S.A, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, VIETNAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

NAMIBIA

No Reply:
Aucune Réponse:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHAD, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, FIJI, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALTA, MICRONESIA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, NEPAL, NIGER, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, POLAND, RWANDA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVENIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SYRIA, TOGO, TONGA, TURKEY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral / El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd *Stephen Dowd*

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to section B of the document C 2009/IN/8 Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal and Members to the General Rules of the Organization and to the Financial Regulations and once again, pass the floor to Mr Fiol Zúñiga who will give us some background information on this Draft Resolution which contains a series of proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization related to the implementation of the IPA.

Julio FIOI ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

La sección B del documento C 2009/LIM/8 contiene un proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia bastante extenso que se refiere a enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización y al Reglamento Financiero para la puesta en práctica del Plan Inmediato de Acción para la Renovación de la FAO.

El borrador de estas enmiendas fue revisado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos durante el presente año a lo largo de seis Períodos de Sesiones. Estas enmiendas también fueron revisadas por el Comité de la Conferencia para el Seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente y por el Consejo de la FAO en sus sesiones de junio, y septiembre/octubre del presente año.

El Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia se refiere a una variedad de asuntos relativos a la Reforma de la Gobernanza de la Organización y a los procedimientos de los Órganos Rectores. Tanto en su sesión de junio, como en su sesión de septiembre/octubre del presente año, el Consejo de la FAO aprobó la Resolución que, según entiendo, cuenta con el consenso de los Miembros.

Presento ahora este Proyecto de Resolución a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there comments on this document from the floor?

I then hand the floor to Ms Williams for some explanations on the vote.

SECRETARY GENERAL

We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in Section B of document C 2009/LIM/8 Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and to the Financial Regulations.

In the case of Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and to the Financial Regulations, Regulation 48, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization and Financial Regulation 15.2 require the amendments be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

This is under Rule 12, Sub-paragraph 3 (c) where the two-thirds of the votes cast is required. The total number of formative and negative votes cast must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

Under Rule 12, paragraph 7 (e) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations shall be taken from a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. Votes cast means formative and negatives votes and does not include abstentions.

Delegates, once again, are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them; green if they wish to vote in favour; red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green to vote in favour; red to vote against and yellow to abstain.

Please vote now.

CHAIRPERSON

Ms Williams, could you declare the final vote of the Conference on this measure?

SECRETARY GENERAL

The results are as follows:

Number of votes cast: 119

Majority required: 79

Votes for: 119

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0



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22/11/2009
10:43:47

Vote on: Proposed Conference Resolution on Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal.
Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization and to the Financial Regulations

Vote sur: Proposition de Résolution de la Conférence relative à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate pour le renouveau de la FAO.
Amendements au Règlement général de l'Organisation et au Règlement financier

Votación para: Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia sobre la aplicación del Plan inmediato de acción para la renovación de la FAO.
Enmiendas al Reglamento General y al Reglamento Financiero de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	119
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	119
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	45

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. LUCIA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, U.K., U.S.A., UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIETNAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHAD, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, FIJI, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALTA, MICRONESIA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, OMAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, POLAND, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RWANDA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVENIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, TOGO, TONGA, TURKEY, UZBEKISTAN, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to the other sections of document C 2009/LIM/8 containing a number of other Conference resolutions.

Once again, I pass the floor to the Chairperson of the CCLM who will give us some background on these sections of the report.

Julio FIOL ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

La Conferencia acaba de adoptar dos Resoluciones que requerían ser aprobadas de manera individual y separada. La primera era la Resolución de la Conferencia sobre Enmiendas a la Constitución para la Implementación del PIA. Esta Resolución requería ser objeto de un procedimiento específico en términos de la mayoría requerida para su aprobación. Luego la Conferencia aprobó una Resolución que contiene numerosas Enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización y al Reglamento Financiero para la Implementación del PIA. Esta Resolución también requería ser objeto de un procedimiento específico y distinto en términos de la mayoría requerida para su aprobación.

En el curso del presente año, el CCLM y el Consejo también revisaron los borradores de una serie de Resoluciones de la Conferencia que aclaran diversas materias referidas al funcionamiento de los Órganos Rectores en el contexto de la Reforma del Gobierno de la FAO. Estas resoluciones se refieren a una serie de materias para la implementación de varias acciones del PIA relativas a las futuras funciones de la Conferencia, del Consejo, del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a la Reforma del Sistema de Programación, Presupuestación y Seguimiento basado en resultados y a las Reuniones Ministeriales. Adicionalmente, se propone una definición de Órganos Rectores.

Estos borradores de Resoluciones de la Conferencia y la definición propuesta fueron revisados por el CCLM y por el Comité de la Conferencia para el Seguimiento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente de la FAO y aprobados por el Consejo, quien decidió remitirlos a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

Estos instrumentos serán incluidos en las secciones pertinentes de los Textos Fundamentales.

Estas Resoluciones no requieren ser aprobadas por votación, sino que pueden ser aprobadas por consenso. Por lo tanto, dado que ellas reflejan discusiones exhaustivas llevadas a cabo a lo largo del presente año, sugeriría que sean aprobadas por consenso y todas en conjunto. En consecuencia, invito a la Conferencia a aprobar las Secciones C a H del documento C 2009/LIM/8.

CHAIRPERSON

Having been here this week, I understand very well the concept of exhausted discussions.

Are there comments from the Floor on these Resolutions?

Hearing none, I propose that the Conference resolutions and the proposed definition of the Governing Bodies set out from Section C to Section 8 of H of document C 2009/LIM/8 be approved by consensus.

Can I take it that the Conference adopts the document set out in document C 2009/LIM/8?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

All resolutions have been adopted by the Conference as a result of the votes taken this morning.

As recommended by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and by the Council, is proposed that the Secretariat should perform such tasks of an editorial nature as would be required for the organization of the Basic Texts as indicated in Section I of document C 2009/LIM/8.

I wish to acknowledge that the Conference has just adopted the main amendments to the Basic Texts and a number of Resolutions regarding the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal and for Governance Reform of FAO.

It is an important step in the life of the Organization. I am aware that Governance Reform is an ongoing process and that the amendment of the Basic Texts is only a first step and the process of Governance Reform. I am also aware that a number of initiatives are still to be taken in the course of the next biennium. I express our gratitude to Mr Fiol Zúñiga, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters and through you to all Members of the Committee for their work accomplished throughout this year in connection with the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal. Thank you, Sir.

- 21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters** (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
21. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
21. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1, C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 21 – Other Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Under this Item, the Conference will examine two matters. First, the Conference will be asked to approve through a Resolution the Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This is set out in document C 2009/LIM/11-Rev. 1.

I am going to take a pause for a moment please.

We appreciate the Conference's indulgence here, we are seeking some paperwork that we had been asked to distribute on this measure, and I think that is in process now, so if you could give us a few more moments, we would appreciate that.

Julio FIOLE ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

De hecho no hay mucho que pueda añadir dado que este asunto ha sido objeto de negociaciones que han sido llevadas a cabo durante varios años. El documento C 2009/LIM/11- Rev. 1 contiene un extracto del informe del 137º Período de Sesiones del Consejo así como un borrador de Resolución de la Conferencia y el Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada. Como se destaca en el documento C 2009/LIM/11- Rev. 1, dicho Acuerdo es el resultado de un muy largo proceso de negociaciones que requirió, la convocatoria de una Consulta Técnica para elaborar un Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto jurídicamente vinculante, la que sesionó en varias ocasiones.

El Acuerdo fue revisado por el CCLM y por el Consejo, siendo que éste decidió remitirlo a la Conferencia para consideración y aprobación conforme a lo dispuesto en el Artículo XIV, párrafo 1 de la Constitución.

Sólo desearía agregar que, luego de algunas consultas, se propone que el Artículo 25 disponga que el Acuerdo esté abierto para la firma en la FAO por el lapso de un año desde el día de la fecha, 22 de noviembre de 2009, hasta el 21 de noviembre de 2010. Similares disposiciones se establecen en una serie de Acuerdos de este tipo, tales como el Acuerdo de las Naciones Unidas sobre Poblaciones de Peces que también estuvo abierto a la firma por el lapso de un año. La apertura a la firma por el lapso de un año corresponde a una práctica ampliamente seguida, incluyendo en la FAO, donde el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura ha sido abierto para la firma por periodo similar de un año.

El Borrador de Resolución de la Conferencia junto con el Borrador del Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada se encuentran ahora ante la Conferencia para aprobación conforme a lo dispuesto en el Artículo XIV, párrafo 1 de la Constitución de la FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Fiol Zúñiga. I now will invite people for comments and statements, and I have a request from our colleague from Costa Rica to take the floor.

Luis París CHAVERRI (Costa Rica)

Varios Países Miembros hemos presentado una propuesta de enmienda al proyecto de resolución que se refiere al Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto para Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada, en la que se plantea la solicitud de instruir al Consejo para que convoque a un Período Extraordinario de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca para que considere dicho instrumento jurídico.

La propuesta presentada por Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua y República Bolivariana de Venezuela, es una enmienda al Proyecto de Resolución contenido en el documento C 2009/LIM/11-Rev. 1 y lo que propone es incluir un nuevo párrafo en el preámbulo para que se lea lo siguiente: "Tomando en cuenta que este proyecto de acuerdo no ha sido considerado por el Comité de Pesca (COFI)" y a la vez para que sustituyan los párrafos operativos 1, 2, 3 y 4 del Proyecto de Resolución por un único párrafo operativo 1 y que diría lo siguiente: "1. Decide de instruir al Consejo a que en su 138º Período de Sesiones convoque a un Período Extraordinario de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca para considerar el proyecto de Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

Cabe señalar y dejar claramente establecido, en el seno de esta Conferencia, que los Países Miembros firmantes de esta propuesta de enmienda estamos totalmente de acuerdo con la necesidad de contar con este instrumento, pero el texto actual plantea algunas dudas a nuestras autoridades nacionales que hace que nuestros países no se sientan satisfechos con el mismo y no estén listos para votar por su aprobación. Lo que estamos planteando es la necesidad de que sea en el seno especializado del Comité de Pesca, que se considere el resultado del trabajo efectuado por las reuniones de la Consulta Técnica, como es el procedimiento establecido constitucional y reglamentariamente.

La utilización de un procedimiento extraordinario de obviar la aprobación del proyecto de acuerdo por parte del COFI, en cuyo seno se dio el mandato de su elaboración en aras de hacer más rápida su aprobación y puesta en ejecución, es una práctica que atenta contra el espíritu de universalidad en el debate que inspira y sustenta el trabajo y la acción de esta organización y de todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y que, por lo tanto, limita la participación de los Países Miembros.

Conciente de la importancia, necesidad y utilidad de este Acuerdo, apelamos para que el mismo pueda ser considerado en el seno del COFI, que es la instancia adecuada y apropiada y que permite una participación más amplia y técnica de los Miembros de la Organización.

Una decisión favorable a nuestra petición permitirá a su vez que el Acuerdo pueda recibir la adhesión de una cantidad mayor de Países Miembros, garantizando así el éxito y la concreción de los objetivos de este importante instrumento. Respetuosamente le solicitamos apoyo a nuestra propuesta de enmienda.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank our colleague from Costa Rica. I have a bit of a queue now of people requesting the Floor. I will first turn to our colleague from Norway.

Terje LOBACH (Norway)

Thank you, Chair. This Agreement has been negotiated in good faith, between more than 100 states participating in the negotiations. And it represents a compromise between various interests, and also safeguards the sovereign rights of the poor states. During the process of negotiations there was a discussion as to whether the Agreement should be inside or outside of FAO. As a part of that deal to have it inside of FAO, it was agreed to engage in a speedy process. That was an element for the compromise. The speedy process was actually to have this Agreement adopted at the Conference this year.

So, Madam Chair, Norway urges FAO Members present here today to adopt this milestone instrument, which will make a major contribution to our fight against IUU Fishing. So, I request now that we go for a vote. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

I understand and hear the request from our colleague from Norway, though I do have a number of people in the queue, I will allow them to speak. I would now call upon our colleague from Mexico.

J. E. CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Junto con Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua y la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, México presenta en este proyecto de enmiendas, cuyo único objetivo es que el Proyecto de Acuerdo sobre las medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada, sea considerada en un Período Extraordinario de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca.

Las razones que nos animan son las siguientes: el Proyecto de Acuerdo que hoy tenemos frente a nosotros: 1) no cumple el objetivo de ser un Acuerdo sólido y efectivo que alcance la universalidad; 2) pretende reglamentar el ejercicio de la soberanía del Estado sobre sus puertos; 3) modifica la definición de pesca INN establecido en el Plan de Acción adoptado en el marco de la FAO en 2001; 4) resuelve temas que debieron quedar exentos de interpretación tales como la relación entre las legislaciones nacionales y las obligaciones de los Estados de Puerto; 5) ofrece soluciones iguales a problemas distintos; 6) puede entrar en contradicción con Acuerdos adoptados en el marco de la SOROPS; 7) y se suma a todo esto que el Proyecto conforme su Artículo 30 no acepta reservas, lo que sin lugar a dudas va a limitar seriamente la adhesión a este instrumento que se pone a consideración de esta Conferencia.

Con ello, se corre el gravísimo riesgo de que se haya puesto en marcha un Acuerdo jurídicamente vinculante que tenga un número muy limitado de Países Miembros que son parte y, por tanto, resulta incapaz de prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

Desde nuestra perspectiva, este Proyecto de Acuerdo es muy importante como para correr el grave riesgo de dejarlo inutilizado desde su nacimiento.

La trascendencia de un Acuerdo en esta materia debe estar por encima de consideraciones de carácter coyuntural. Los puntos específicos que son motivos de diferencia en el texto actual están localizados, y estamos seguros que en una Sesión Extraordinaria del COFI permitiría a un número importante de Países Miembros ser partes en el acuerdo .

Hacemos un llamado a esta Conferencia para que no cierre esta posibilidad, solicitamos que esta intervención quede registrada en el Informe de la Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I will make the Conference aware that I have now 15 people, 16 people, and 17 people in the queue, I am like an auctioneer, 18 people in the queue to speak. I ask the delegates to try to make their remarks brief, so we can proceed with the voting as has been requested by our

colleague from Norway. I now call upon our delegate from Venezuela. Ecuador is raising a Point of Order. You have the floor, delegate from Ecuador.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. MARTÍNEZ MENDUIÑO (Ecuador)

De acuerdo con las reglas de procedimiento, tendríamos que proceder primeramente a la votación de la enmienda propuesta por Costa Rica, por ser el País Miembro que primero presentó una moción.

Me gustaría conocer cuál va a ser el procedimiento a seguir, porque mi delegación entiende que aquí se trata de seguir en orden las propuestas. La primera propuesta vino de Costa Rica y se refiere a una enmienda a la Resolución que habilita del Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto, mientras que la propuesta de Noruega era una propuesta indefinida, solamente un llamado a voto.

Mi pregunta es: ¿qué vamos a votar? Mi delegación entiende que debemos votar las enmiendas propuestas por Costa Rica.

CHAIRPERSON

We have received a clarification on the question that has been asked by our colleague from Ecuador, and the response is that this is the appropriate period to hear statements from the Members on the issue in its entirety. Then we would go to the vote on the proposed emolument as submitted and read by our colleague from Costa Rica, then proceed depending on how that goes, to the vote on the Resolution.

I apologize for the confusion that I added to the process. I now call upon my colleague from Venezuela.

Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Gracias por esta decisión de permitir que los Países Miembros que hemos presentado esta enmienda podamos exponer nuestras razones. Quisiera previamente señalar que en esta oportunidad estoy hablando como Venezuela, tal como lo expresó el Embajador de Costa Rica, quien hizo la introducción al tema y, seguidamente, el Embajador de México. Estamos hablando como Países ya que toda la comunidad de Miembros de la FAO saben que presidimos el Órgano de Dirección del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. En esta circunstancia estoy representando a mi país.

Quisiera también decir que en las distintas Plenarias de la Consulta Técnica, los Países de América Latina que estuvieron presentes hicieron todo un encomiable labor para llegar a término de la redacción de este Acuerdo que debía ser traído a esta Conferencia. En esa oportunidad, y tengo aquí en mis manos los diferentes planteamientos que hacía en esas reuniones, señalábamos que debería ser adoptado y aprobado definitivamente bajo el amparo de un próximo período del Comité de Pesca, y que el mandato a esta Consulta, a la Consulta que lo redactó, estaba limitado exclusivamente a eso, a la redacción del instrumento quedando a las instancias y Órganos Rectores de la FAO, es decir, COFI y Conferencia, para su aprobación y adopción definitiva.

Finalmente, en aras de lograr el consenso para que el instrumento llegara hasta las instancias en las que se encuentra ahora, cuatro Países expresamos consideraciones respecto a que lo hacíamos en términos de no pretender obstaculizar la conclusión de su redacción pero que nos reservábamos el derecho a que posteriormente, tanto en el Consejo como en la Conferencia, se encargaran de tomar en consideración nuestros planteamientos.

Señalamos lo siguiente a nombre de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela que ha considerado de vital importancia su participación en iniciativas conjuntas para controlar la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y no Reglamentada, y así son los aportes que realizamos bajo la óptica nacional para el

diseño del instrumento jurídicamente vinculante sobre estas medidas en las Consultas Técnicas que se llevaron a cabo.

Asimismo, nuestro País, en su ley de pesca y acuicultura, establece medidas sancionatorias en el caso de los buques de bandera nacional que realizan actividades ilegales de extracción de recursos sin la debida autorización del Estado. Así como para aquellos que incursionan en aguas bajo nuestra jurisdicción, sin presentar la documentación que los acredite a ello, en cuya situación se le reporta a su Estado del Pabellón.

Con respecto a las especies altamente migratorias, se cuenta además con un registro de buques el cual es remitido periódicamente a las Organizaciones Regionales de Ordenación Pesquera para su conformación y seguimiento, a fin de cumplir con sus regulaciones y como muestra de transparencia, es por ello que nuestro País plantea a esta Conferencia, y a todos sus distinguidos representantes y delegaciones, que este documento debe ser tramitado previamente, para darle el carácter de universalidad, de mayor participación y de mayor democracia ante el COFI, ya que el 27º Período de Sesiones del COFI instruyó al Consejo para que se estableciera esta Comisión Especial Técnica que solamente redactara este Acuerdo.

En el caso de Venezuela, como no somos parte de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar (CONVEMAR) ni del acuerdo sobre la aplicación de las disposiciones de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas relativas a la conservación y ordenación de las poblaciones de peces transzonales y las poblaciones de peces altamente migratorios de 1995, ni tampoco son aplicables las normas de dichos instrumentos internacionales a título de derecho internacional consuetudinario, salvo aquello que expresamente la República Bolivariana hubiese reconocido o reconociera en el futuro mediante la incorporación de éstas a la legislación interna – las razones que han impedido a Venezuela de hacer parte de estos instrumentos y que aún persisten en el tiempo. En este sentido, reiteramos nuestra posición en respecto a esa no pertenencia por lo que la convención CONVEMAR establece.

Finalmente, pensamos que el documento, tal como está presentado, impide lo establecido en el Artículo 30, imposibilita la negociación y la adopción por parte de otros Países al no preservar, tal como todos los tratados internacionales deben hacerlo, la formulación de reservas o de excepciones por parte de esos Países.

Igualmente, tenemos algunas observaciones respecto a la definición de Pesca Ilegal, al ámbito de aplicación y a las enmiendas, tal como lo establece el Artículo 33, de tal manera que hacemos un llamado para que acojamos lo que hace unos minutos hemos aprobado, hemos aprobado el documento C 2009/LIM/8 en el cual se establece como parte de este camino a la Reforma de la FAO, que la Conferencia tome en consideración lo que los Comités Técnicos recomienden en términos de que ellos son capaces de expresar, políticas globales y marcos reguladores internacionales que estas conferencias pueden acoger y que se proceda a través del Consejo a transferir a la Conferencia estas opiniones importantes más universales que pueden expresar los Comités. En este caso somos partidarios de que esta enmienda se incluya a la Resolución de este Acuerdo.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank my colleague from Venezuela. I now wish to inform the Conference that I have twenty countries in the queue to speak, therefore, as Chair, I am going to take the prerogative to put a formal time limit on people's remarks of three minutes, at which time I will gavel in a hard gavel. I think that we need to proceed through many matters today, and I do not want us to lose too much time. These are important issues that people feel very passionate about and I respect that, but we need to get through the matters of the day. So we will put the lights on as we did for the General Statements by the delegates, and when that red light comes on at three minutes I will give you a gavel if you are not actually watching the light and you will know that you had better wrap it up, as we say in my country. I appreciate that, and we are now at twenty-one countries. I will call upon my colleagues from Guatemala, then Sierra Leone and then Uruguay.

Alfredo Trinidad VELÁSQUEZ (Guatemala)

Quisiera reiterar la solicitud de enmienda presentada por Costa Rica en nombre de Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua y República Dominicana en el sentido de someter a votación la propuesta de enmienda.

Haja Afsatu O. E. KABBA (Sierra Leone)

I firstly want to say thank you to the Conference for this good presentation of the Report and also to express that immediacy is of importance so this document is timely and relevant, since progress involves risks and sacrifices.

As we see, this sector on what we call the World Bank, they did a study for which my country, Sierra Leone, is losing USD 29 million on IUU Fishing. There is the Environmental Foundation for Justice which gives the reports – they call them datafish. The amount of fish we are losing from the world is one billion, so there is a need to get on with this particular Resolution and formally adopt it because – and I will give you an example – we call it the 'ufang'. Very recently it was in the pot with assistance from the United States Coast Guard. So I see this as very, very important. I see why we should not be dragging this issue out, because this has been going on for years now, and it has reached the stage that we should formally adopt it.

My country, Sierra Leone, is positive on this adoption and I want it to be clearly recorded because even from the SCP Conference in Brussels, we took the decision that if the fish stocks are not depleted they are near depletion. Regarding flags of convenience, once they are given, the IUU fishing takes place, even that we are delinked when we are in Brussels in the ICAT meeting. So I see the need for us to stop this Illegal Fishing so that when fish move around, you will know your fish will be validated and certified from Port States. You will be able to move around everywhere and indicate where you catch the fish. So I see the relevance, timeliness and importance of this measure.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Now before I call upon my colleague from Uruguay, I would like to read through the queue of speakers because there is some anxiety that flags were not seen. So let me read through the queue as we have seen them – Uruguay, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, the European Commission, Japan, the United States of America, Ecuador, El Salvador, Egypt, Indonesia, Australia, Maldives, Colombia, Iceland, Somalia and New Zealand. There are some more flags I see, but we will now call upon my colleague from Uruguay. You have the floor.

Carlos BENTANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)

En aras de la brevedad es obvio que nuestra delegación ha expresado durante el tratamiento del Informe del 28° Período de Sesiones del COFI, la importancia que le adjudica el Acuerdo jurídicamente vinculantes para las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

Decíamos en esa oportunidad que entendíamos que este instrumento contiene las normas mínimas y aceptables para regular sobre las medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto.

Sentimos la necesidad de decir hoy que a mi País le hubiera satisfecho un régimen aún más estricto siempre dentro del marco del derecho internacional. Reconocemos sin embargo, que como resultado de toda buena negociación, de buena fe, ninguno de nosotros hemos satisfecho la totalidad de nuestras aspiraciones. El texto que logramos al final de un largo proceso y fruto de recíprocas concepciones es sino el mejor, al cual podíamos aspirar, satisfactorio de las aspiraciones básicas, en este caso, de mi País.

El Acuerdo obviamente sería la primera señal concreta de la comunidad internacional hacia quienes violan las normas de conservación y regulación de las pesquerías en el mundo. Mi País quiere justamente estar entre aquellos que contribuirían a dar esta clara señal. Ello le permitiría a la comunidad internacional de contar con la primera herramienta jurídica para combatir la Pesca INDNR que legislará a escala mundial sobre la materia.

El compromiso de los Países Miembros en el marco de este Acuerdo les permitiría disponer de una serie de medidas de aceptación internacional para dificultar la entrada en sus puertos a los buques que se dedican a esa pesca. Nosotros entendemos, sin embargo, que este régimen previsto no es su objetivo penalizar, sino por el contrario está dirigido a motivar las prácticas de Pesca Responsable. Un acuerdo de esta naturaleza es deseable para mi país, no solamente por su significación intrínseca, sino porque reforzaría ya su firme compromiso jurídico internacional.

Somos signatarios de la de CONMEMAR, también del acuerdo de Nueva York, de la Medida de Ordenación por los buques pesqueros en alta mar. Esto nos daría una mejor posición para aprobar y, eventualmente, aplicar las disposiciones de este Acuerdo. Por otra parte, mi País aplica estos controles similares a este texto, lo que significaría una mera adaptación.

Por lo expuesto mi delegación, no solamente entiende conveniente y necesario adherir a este Acuerdo, sino que lo apoya en su totalidad sin condiciones y con la redacción aprobada oportunamente, recomendamos, en consecuencia, vivamente su adopción por parte de la Conferencia y adelantamos que estamos dispuestos a suscribirlos en forma inmediata en caso de ser aprobada.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Namibia.

Panduleni – Kaino SHINGENGE (Namibia)

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

Namibia fully subscribes to sustainable and responsible fisheries. In line with the afore-said, Namibia fully participated in the process of consultation which lead to the finalization of the Draft now under consideration. We have been in agreement with the document since its initial stages and gave our views and comments that were meant to upgrade the substance and content of the document to the best of our ability.

During the Consultation we expressed our views with regard to the compensation of the vessel owners and operators as provided for in Article 19 of the document. We held the view that such provision could weaken the effectiveness of a number of countries to take appropriate action on vessels suspected to have been involved in IUU. For this purpose, Namibia is of the opinion that the Article could have been omitted from this document. Our views were accommodated.

We remain prepared to join other states that support the adoption of the draft legally-binding instruments on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you and I now call upon our colleague from the Russian Federation.

Oleg Yu KOPYAKOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation is decisively in favour of the adoption of this Agreement. Looking at the text and taking into consideration that there were lengthy discussions and consultations, we can see that this document is a timely and appropriate compromise. We believe that this Agreement will be a significant contribution to the development of international Law of the Sea.

Illegal fishing causes great damage to the sustainable development of coastal regions of entire states, and I am speaking on behalf of tens of thousands of workers in the fishery industry in my country whose livelihoods are threatened by such illegal fishing.

Let us not forget that the Council of our Organization, at its Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, urged that this agreement be adopted. Let us then make the decision, which millions of fishermen are expecting of us, as are the members of their families.

Now on the formal issues, allow me to draw your attention to Article 11 (iii) of the General Regulations where it says clearly that amendments to agreements that are to be voted upon must be introduced no less than 24 hours before any such voting. So let us follow the rules. We are, therefore, in opposition to the amendment that was put forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I now call upon our colleague from Canada.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada commends FAO and its Member Nations for completing the negotiations in a timely manner to develop an agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter, Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Combating IUU Fishing has been a major Canadian priority for decades. The Draft International Treaty is an important milestone in the global fight against IUU Fishing.

Canada supports the Treaty and stresses the need to adopt the Treaty today, as passionately mentioned by many colleagues before me. It is imperative that we ensure timely entry into force of the Agreement so that Port-States can work cooperatively to reduce Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing which threatens the sustainability of fisheries worldwide. Canada is surprised and, to be very blunt, disappointed that some states have found it necessary to open the debate at this time. The Technical Consultation finalized and completed a delicate balanced package to Council and to Conference. This balance was achieved after four negotiating sessions, over almost two years, and reopening it now will unravel the entire Agreement.

Let me be clear, Canada cannot support the amendment being discussed today. Failing to approve the Treaty at Conference would undermine the credibility of this Organization, the FAO, as an effective forum for helping Member Nations combat IUU Fishing globally. Let me remind delegates the negative implications of not ratifying this Agreement today. The Agreement establishes minimum standards for all Port-States to apply to vessels seeking entry into their ports or those already in port for follow-up action by Flag States. If reservation to the Agreement is allowed, or amendments made, Port-States and Flag States will continue to avoid imposing these minimum standards. IUU Fishing and fishing-related vessels will gravitate toward ports with no minimum standards, diminishing or eliminating the deterrent effect of this agreement on the IUU Fishing activities.

Once again, Canada would like to stress that we are strongly against the amendment made by various parties highlighted in the amendment today. Deleting the reservation clause as mentioned, I believe, by Venezuela and a few other colleagues, undermines the effectiveness of the entire Agreement and we do not support this. Delegates should consider very carefully the impacts of any future delays or changes to this Treaty, and whether this is the action they what this Conference to remembered for.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank my colleague from Canada. I do want to make one clarification that under Rule 11, paragraph 3, the Chairman of the Conference of the Commission Committee concerned may permit voting on amendments even though those amendments have not been circulated or have been circulated less than 24 hours before the vote. I believe we are in compliance with the Rules of the Conference. I now call upon my colleague from Brazil.

J. A. MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

For the sake of expediency I will be submitting our formal statement in writing, but at this juncture, I would like to raise four points:

1) my delegation would like to commend the Committee on Fisheries for the efforts to combat IUU Fishing, placing FAO as the main international forum to discuss this theme. For a few years now, FAO has placed the combat of IUU Fishing among its high priorities, and in this context the completion of the legally-binding instrument on Port-State Measures is very much welcomed by Brazil since it is viewed as a milestone in international efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing;

2) the draft document of the legally-binding instrument on Port-State Measures has reached, in our opinion, as we also noticed by the statements of others, a delicate balance. But the concerns of the developing countries must be fully taken into consideration without, at the same time, losing its power as a tool to effectively prevent, deter, and ultimately eliminate IUU Fishing:

It is also noteworthy, that this negotiation has occurred in a very open, transparent and results-orientated process which took four sessions of the Technical Consultations to complete. We are pleased with the results of those negotiations of the Technical Consultations, as we have reached a consensus text that includes this Agreement under Article 14 of the FAO Constitution.

3) my delegation thinks it is important to recall that such a decision, and I mean to put this instrument under the FAO umbrella, was a decision that was made only after very complex negotiations that resulted in the trade-off to accelerate the process and have the draft instrument for direct consideration by Council which, in turn, recommended that it be considered directly by Conference:

4) having said all of this, my delegation is not in the position to agree with the amendment just being presented by some delegations. We invite the proponents to reconsider their position and join the consensus. Finally, my delegation has already been empowered to sign this Agreement once it is open for signature.

CHAIRPERSON

Before calling upon our colleague from Argentina, I wish to ask our colleague from Costa Rica if there would be reconsideration on offering the amendment at this time. Would our colleague from Costa Rica advise us, please?

Luis París CHAVERRI (Costa Rica)

En consulta con otros Países firmantes de la propuesta de enmienda, hemos decidido mantener la misma para conocer la voluntad de esta Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Argentina.

A. ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Ante todo la delegación argentina quisiera manifestar su compromiso con la lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada. En este sentido, estimamos de una importancia fundamental las negociaciones que han derivado en el Acuerdo que ha sido presentado para aprobación de esta Conferencia. Queremos agradecer a la FAO por iniciar dicho proceso negociador, al Presidente de la Consulta Técnica, el Profesor Fabio Hazin, y a todos los Países que han participado activamente en la negociación del presente Acuerdo.

La delegación argentina manifiesta ante todo su aprobación integral al texto del Acuerdo tal cual consta en el documento C 2009/LIM/11-Rev. 1. Asimismo, y como ya lo hiciera en el marco de la última sesión de la Consulta Técnica, quisiéramos manifestar los siguientes puntos sobre cuestiones interpretativas del texto del Acuerdo:

En primer lugar, la delegación argentina interpreta el término "entidades" empleado en el Artículo 3.5 del Proyecto de Acuerdo en el mismo sentido con que dicho término es utilizado en el Artículo 305 de la Convención sobre Derecho del Mar de las Naciones Unidas.

En segundo lugar, la delegación argentina entiende que el Acuerdo se ajustará a lo dispuesto por el Artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO y, en ese sentido, entiende que los órganos

competentes de la organización, en particular el Comité de Pesca, participarán activamente en el proceso de seguimiento y examen del Acuerdo.

En tercer lugar, consideramos que las referencias al Acuerdo de Nueva York de 1995 sobre especies transzonales y altamente migratorias contenidas en el presente Acuerdo no son aplicables a los Países que no son parte del mencionado Acuerdo.

Por último, la delegación argentina quisiera señalar que la definición sobre Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada contenida en el Artículo 1 (e) del Acuerdo remite claramente al párrafo 3 del Plan de Acción Internacional de la FAO para Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada de 2001.

Con estos comentarios, la delegación argentina reitera su apoyo a la adopción del presente instrumento por parte de la Conferencia de la FAO, y solicita que el mismo permanezca abierto para su firma durante el período de un año.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to call upon our colleague from the European Community.

Renaud-François MOULINIER (European Community)

Thank you, Madam Chairman. You will be relieved to know that although I speak on behalf the 27 Member States of the European Community, I will be very brief. We recommend the immediate adoption of the Report, and I would urge you to go to a vote either on the amendment or on the Draft Agreement, but let us finish with this process. Thank you

CHAIRPERSON

We appreciate the brevity and the Chair was not prepared. I call upon my colleague from Japan.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I will be very brief. We spent a lot of time and energy for the negotiation of this Agreement and I believe this is a final result of compromise. Japan will support the text transmitted from the Council without any amendment, and ask for a vote on this issue under your guidance.

CHAIRPERSON

Sir, I appreciate the brevity. I now call upon my colleague from the United States.

Suzanne HEINEN (United States)

Like Brazil, the United States is prepared to sign the Port-State Measures Agreement today. As has been mentioned, this Agreement is the result of arduous negotiation, an important compromise which included the understanding that the Agreement would be able to go through the necessary process to be put forward to the Conference at this Session. My understanding is that COFI itself, noting the urgency of the issues, asks that a Technical Group be convened so that this could be accomplished.

We have heard over and over again about the severe problems of small-fisher people. Sustainable fisheries are critical to many people's livelihoods, and this is a step that can really do something to help them. Accepting this amendment proposed by a few countries would effectively delay the process of this agreement being binding for almost two years, because it would have to again go back to the Conference for approval. The Agreement itself has a process for amending it among its Members, so I think this would be a more proper place to reopen the agreement should it be necessary.

The Agreement is about responsible fisheries management, and that is about food security. I urge everyone to please reject this amendment. I ask kindly that Costa Rica and the other countries consider again the option of withdrawing this amendment, and I urge the Conference to approve the current Resolution unchanged today.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now call upon my colleague from El Salvador, followed by my colleagues from Egypt, Indonesia and Australia.

J.R. ANDINO SALAZAR (El Salvador)

Mi delegación apoya la enmienda presentada por Costa Rica en nombre de Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, República Dominicana, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y de Colombia, de que esta Conferencia remita al Consejo y lo instruya para que su Periodo Extraordinario de Sesiones convoque un Periodo Extraordinario de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca para considerar el proyecto de Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

El objetivo es que busquemos que el mayor número de Países podamos ser parte de este acuerdo.

El Salvador apoya el principio de utilizar medidas de Estado para la eliminación de la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada. Sin embargo, considera que existen elementos que al momento imposibilitan que podamos unirnos al Acuerdo sobre Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto.

En especial porque invoca la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar y el Acuerdo sobre la Aplicación de las Disposiciones de CONVEMAR relativas a la Conservación y Ordenación de las Poblaciones de Peces Transzonales y las Poblaciones de Peces Altamente Migratorios de las cuales, El Salvador no es Miembro y no es parte.

Muchas gracias y pedimos que esta declaración sea incluida en su Informe.

CHAIRPERSON

Your comments will be included in the Verbatim Records. I call upon our colleague from Egypt.

Alaa ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I will be concise. Simply, I would like to agree with my colleague from Mexico. This Agreement is a great insurance of substance. However, we need to talk about the processes of this Agreement that are technical, texts that require approval on the political and economical levels. This is what is happening in many countries and, in order to ensure the largest number of signatures, we need much more time.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Indonesia, followed by Australia, Maldives and Colombia.

SUSWONO (Indonesia)

For Indonesia, the Agreement on policy measures which is the result of long process of consultation and negotiations is very important to us, and we are ready to sign the Draft Agreement today.

With regard to some concerns from some countries, we would to appeal to let other countries fulfill their obligations. We do believe that all efforts must be used to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal fishing practices globally. Indonesia also believes that the acknowledgement of this Agreement will not only solve the need to eliminate the illegal fishing practices, but more importantly, this Agreement will save our environment for the future generations.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Australia.

Travis POWER (Australia)

As many colleagues have said, this text is a result of exhaustive discussions over a number of years involving more than 100 interested delegations as well as interested organizations. Australia was a significant contributor to these discussions, both financially and in our participation. This

Treaty is a major step forward on Illegal Fishing. It is the first Treaty-level document to be concluded within the auspices of the FAO in more than a decade. It establishes, for the first time, binding measures for Port-States and it is an essential plank in our efforts to control Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. This Treaty was negotiated in good faith and represents a true compromise between the interests of all participating parties.

As many colleagues have already mentioned, this agreement was reached after difficult and protracted negotiations. Agreement was reached on the basis that this Treaty would be completed within FAO, but also on the basis that it would be advanced quickly. Sending it back to a lower-level Committee of the FAO, which would then require it come back to this Conference, would mandate, in our view, an unacceptable delay of almost two years.

In reaching a decision on this issue, my delegation urges all countries to recall the reason we have gathered early this week which is to address global food security. Sustainable fisheries is a vital link in food security and we run the risk of undermining the tremendous progress we have made by not pushing to address one of the major risks to the long-term contribution of fisheries to feeding an increasing world population.

This is an issue of real substance for the FAO and an issue of credibility for the FAO. We have here an opportunity, as its Members, to show leadership on this issue. My delegation cannot support this new Resolution and urge the Member Nations concerned to consider withdrawing the amendment. If not, if they are not prepared to do this, we urge all Member Nations to show their support for combating IUU Fishing and a commitment to addressing global food security by approving the Resolution and the text as originally submitted.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now call upon my colleague from Maldives, followed by Colombia, Iceland, Somalia, New Zealand, Samoa, Peru, Cuba. You have the Floor.

Ibrahim DIDI (Maldives)

Maldives is a very small country but has a large interest in Indian Ocean Fishery Management. We have to face a number of problems relating to illegal fishing in our EEZ. Maldives fully support the Port-State Measures Agreement to stop illegal fishing. We are fully committed to endorse this Agreement.

I think each and every person in this Conference knows what Illegal Fishing means or what Unreported Fishing means or what Unregulated Fishing means, but I cannot understand why some of our colleagues are not willing to endorse this Agreement. I think we have been talking about IUU regulation for the past two years and, therefore, I do not see any point of delaying this and we, the Maldives delegation, humbly request to adopt the Resolution without any delay or without any amendment.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Colombia.

Sabas PRETELT DE LA VEGA (Colombia)

Como representante de Colombia apoyamos plenamente el proyecto de enmienda a la Resolución referente al Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada, presentada por Costa Rica.

Como se sabe, la delegación de mi país suscribió con otros cuatro países la Declaración incluida en el Anexo E al Informe de la última Consulta Técnica, cuando en aras de permitir el consenso anunciamos nuestra decisión de reservar nuestra posición sobre algunos puntos del borrador que todavía causan preocupación a nuestro Gobierno y a otros Países Miembros.

Colombia considera de mayor importancia combatir contra la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada, por lo que considera que la única posibilidad de que un acuerdo de este tipo tenga

la efectividad que se desea, depende de que tenga una aplicación universal y que el mayor número posible de Países Miembros puedan suscribirlo.

Desafortunadamente consideramos que el proceso que llevó a la redacción del texto en mención no fue lo suficientemente incluyente y el tiempo transcurrido entre la finalización del trabajo técnico y esta Conferencia ha sido insuficiente para que la totalidad de los Países Miembros de la FAO puedan comprometerse plenamente con su cumplimiento.

De aprobarse hoy el Acuerdo, quedará virtualmente cerrado a acomodar las preocupaciones que muchos Países Miembros tienen. El rígido sistema de enmiendas y la prohibición para establecer reservas se cuentan entre las principales razones para no estar de acuerdo con el texto actual.

Es muy importante resaltar que apenas una cantidad de estados cercana a la mitad de los Países Miembros de esta Organización participaron durante el proceso, algunos de ellos únicamente en las últimas etapas de Consulta Técnica que dio origen al documento.

Consideramos en consecuencia que una Reunión Extraordinaria del Comité es necesaria y será la oportunidad para que los Países Miembros que no han podido participar plenamente en este proceso expresen sus preocupaciones y contribuyan a la construcción de un instrumento más fuerte, más efectivo y con mayor consenso internacional. Esto se lograría en muy pocos meses.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our delegate from Iceland.

Gudni BRAGASON (Iceland)

I would like to urge the Conference to adopt the Agreement as it stands. This agreement is a result of lengthy and complicated negotiations and is a significant step in the fight against IUU Fishing and thus an important step within the framework of our work for responsible fisheries. It is also very important not to lose this momentum. I, therefore, urge the Conference to adopt the text as it has been negotiated and the delegation of Iceland has full powers to sign the Agreement this afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen I now have five more countries in the queue. Somalia, New Zealand, Samoa, Peru and Cuba. At that point my intention is to, once again, ask the delegate from Costa Rica if the intention is still to offer up the amendment. I will get a confirmation at that point, and then we will proceed to vote on the amendment.

I hand the floor to our colleague from Somalia.

Omar Adbirashid ALI SHERMARKE (Somalia)

Somalia is supporting fully this Agreement and we are the most affected country, the most in need as for a long time our seas have seen Illegal Fishing and the point that was not mentioned here was the waste of chemicals deposited and what I call the Sanoon tug blaze. We are surprised at how many drums of wasted chemicals there are exposed in our water so we really agree today and wish for the Agreement to be implemented tomorrow so we will at least have the right to be protected.

The Illegal Fishing, according to the FAO Report, means that hundreds of millions of fish are taken from our waters yearly, and we do not benefit from this. So we fully support and we are very thankful to have such an Agreement of this scope to be implemented.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

My colleague from New Zealand.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

New Zealand was actively involved in the preparation and negotiation of this Port-State Agreement, and we are happy with this text and we are ready for its adoption. We do not wish to see any delays and we are looking for an early opportunity to sign. Therefore, we do not support the amendment.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sir. I now call upon our colleague from Samoa.

Taua Tavaga KITIONA SEUALA (Samoa)

I am speaking as one of the nations in the Pacific Region and thinking backwards to many years, we discussed and negotiated all single issues of this Region. Today, I believe we have come to a very successful solution for each country. Just to remind you, Samoa has already conveyed our endorsement at the last World Summit on Food Security and I wish to reconfirm Samoa's position to adopt the treaty today.

CHAIRPERSON

Calling our colleague from Peru.

Manuel Antonio ÁLVAREZ ESPINAL (Perú)

Muy brevemente, el Perú reitera su compromiso con la lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada, es por ello que las instituciones pertinentes de mi país han evaluado a conciencia y han participado a la negociación del presente Acuerdo y lo aceptan. Entendiendo que además es fruto de un delicado y arduo proceso de regradación y consultas que refleja un delicado consenso sumamente equilibrado sobre las herramientas necesarias para luchar en este proceso.

El Perú apoya el presente Proyecto de Acuerdo que se nos presenta y procederá a su firma una vez que nos lo imponga la Conferencia.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación apoya la enmienda presentada por Costa Rica. Cuba está en contra de la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada. Sin embargo, considera que un instrumento de este tipo hubiera requerido un análisis más exhaustivo en el 138º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca, como lo fuera una Reunión Extraordinaria del mismo.

Tal como se propuso en el Proyecto, desde un punto de vista jurídico, vemos con preocupación el Artículo 30 sobre reservas y excepciones. Pues no permite la formulación de reservas nacionales, lo cual es una limitación importante en un Acuerdo Internacional de esta magnitud que tiene objetivos muy ambiciosos. Acuerdos similares estuvieron bajo análisis por años en los Órganos de Gobierno de esta Organización y ello permitió un adecuado estudio por parte de los Países Miembros y permitieron consultas, y finalmente lograr una proyección universal del mismo.

Por tanto consideramos que este Acuerdo bien requiere un examen exhaustivo dado que su amplitud y repercusiones son de largo alcance.

CHAIRPERSON

I have now had two more requests for speaking time, and I think that is it, from Oman and Chile. I will call upon these two Members to address the floor and then I will again call on Costa Rica to see if they intend to pursue the amendment. But before asking that, I will ask that they also recognize and consider that one alternative to address their concerns is that the Conference Report fully reflect their concerns and include their interests about convening an Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Fisheries. But if that is not a sufficient action for the colleague from Costa Rica, we will proceed to a vote. I now call upon my colleague from Oman.

Saud AL-BADDAIE (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

My country's delegation supports the Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. This Agreement was discussed exhaustively in the relevant Technical Committees and we believe it is our duty to place our entire trust in these Committees. We must ensure that we strengthen food security, and if we want the FAO to see its efforts crowned with success after so many negotiations we must make a commitment to adopt this Agreement and support the work of this Committee to put an end to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our last speaker on this topic, our colleague from Chile.

Cristian BARROS (Chile)

Los Países Miembros firmantes de la propuesta de enmienda solicitamos que se vote. Este es un foro democrático en que las cosas deben resolverse por votación.

CHAIRPERSON

That theme of long and exhaustive discussions comes up repeatedly, does it not? I will now call upon our colleague from Costa Rica to advise us on how he would choose to proceed. Are you asking that we take this amendment up? My colleague from Costa Rica.

Luis París CHAVERRI (Costa Rica)

Los Países Miembros firmantes de la propuesta de enmienda solicitamos que se vote.

CHAIRPERSON

I now propose that we take a decision on the amendment proposed by the delegate from Costa Rica. I propose therefore that we take a decision on the proposed amendment. I would ask that Member Nations indicate whether they are in favour of or against the proposed amendment. If the proposed amendment is not approved, if the amendment is rejected, then we will proceed with the voting on the agreement. A Point of Order has been raised by the European Community.

Renaud François MOULINER (European Community)

It is not a Point of Order, but just an explanation that I cast one vote but it should be counted as 27 votes.

CHAIRPERSON

The European Commission has requested a point of clarification and I will request Legal Counsel to explain the situation as it relates to their voting. Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

This is an issue within the exclusive competence of the European Community.

The Conference is invited to indicate, through a vote, whether the Conference is for this amendment, or against this amendment. Insofar as the European Community exercises exclusive competence in respect of this Agreement and its Members are not competent, the European Community, as will be the case later on if you decide to approve the Agreement, will cast 27 votes. So we would ask the Members of the European Community not to vote on this motion, the individual Members of the European Community would not cast any vote on this amendment. The Members of the European Community would not vote; it would be the European Community casting one vote to which we will add 26 votes in respect of its Members. I am sorry this procedure is a bit complex, but you have in front of you a proposed amendment on which there is a need to vote.

The Conference is going to be invited to say whether the Members wish to vote for this amendment, those who are against the amendment, those who wish to abstain. We would invite

the Members of the European Community not to cast any votes, the vote will be cast by the European Community which should therefore be counted as 27.

CHAIRPERSON

Is this a question of clarification? Yes, so I call upon my colleague from Sierra Leone with a question.

Haja Afsatu O. E. KABBA (Sierra Leone)

I notice the Legal Counsel has provided the legal advice as officers have spoken, but I am just concerned about the precedent for the future. Suppose we have two/three proposals on the floor coming at the time for decision? Could we be doing this type of voting? You understand, now it is only one from various countries. Suppose other groups say "yes, this is what we want", then where do we stand? It is the precedent I am a bit worried about because what if a different proposal comes forward? From experience, we cannot look at it and get it recorded. What we vote on is the substantive proposal. That is what I was just looking at for the future.

Luis París CHAVERRY (Costa Rica)

Tengo una consulta para el distinguido señor jurídico. Yo no soy especialista en materia reglamentaria de la Conferencia, pero me ha sorprendido y de alguna manera me preocupa la posición asumida por la asociación jurídica en cuanto a habilitar el voto del representante de la Comunidad Europea, es decir por la delegación de los 27 países. Le consulto si esto está efectivamente previsto en el reglamento de la Conferencia y si esto no implica de alguna manera, alterar las cuestiones de quórum de esta Conferencia. Ello implicaría que un representante de la Comunidad Europea presente en sala, estuviera así modificando, o incidiendo en el quórum ya que los otros 26 representantes podrían no encontrarse presentes en momento de la votación.

Adelanto desde ya que nuestro país ha votado en contra de la enmienda, por lo tanto se excluye cualquier motivación de dilación en esta consulta, simplemente a los efectos de asegurar la validez de la votación que efectuemos.

CHAIRPERSON

I call upon the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I am just replying to Sierra Leone.

We are not establishing any precedent. Under Rule XII of our General Rules, there is a possibility for Members to present amendments or proposals, and if you have 20 proposals, we will start from the proposal which is most far away from the original proposal and go on with all. And this is provided for in our General Rules, so we are not establishing any precedent whatsoever.

CHAIRPERSON

A question of clarification from our colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim Abu ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

With respect to the validity of a meeting, we count Member Nations, we don't count regions, and therefore Member Nations must vote, but nobody can vote on behalf of a group, because if a representative of a group is there but the countries are not, how do we count? Can he count for everyone else?

CHAIRPERSON

I call upon Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Article II, paragraph 10, of the FAO Constitution provides that a Member Organization may exercise on matters within its competence in any meeting of the Organization in which it is

entitled to participate, a number of votes equal to the number of its Member Nations which are entitled to vote in such a meeting.

Whenever a Member Organization exercises its right to vote, its Members shall not exercise theirs, and conversely.

In the Declaration of Competence submitted at the beginning of the Conference, the European Community said that, in this Agreement, the European Community has exclusive competence. Therefore, its Member States disappear and we have ascertained that all the 27 Member States of the European Community have registered in this Conference, and therefore the European Community has 27 votes.

Of course, the Member States of the European Community should not vote.

CHAIRPERSON

My colleague from El Salvador.

J. R. ANDINO SALAZAR (El Salvador)

Mi delegación no pretende dilatar esto pero considero que al inicio se habría debido verificar el estado del quórum para proceder luego a la votación, y poder así establecer lo que estamos discutiendo y tener los votos necesarios para su aprobación o lo contrario.

Por otra parte, me preocupa el hecho de que debería ser un país-un voto y resulta que hay un miembro que tiene 29 votos. Me gustaría que la Secretaría me clarificara el por qué podría un estado no estar presente y sin embargo estar votando, o que otro vote en nombre de ellos, entonces quisiera que me aclarara este procedimiento que en este tipo de votaciones: si serían votaciones por región y no votación por país.

Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I think this, the entire discussions, are drifting towards a feeling that the European Community proposal is not in order. My understanding is that when we go to vote, the discussion is closed. Once the Floor goes to the vote, no discussion should be allowed during the vote. And what happens when we do vote, or a great number of Members vote – whether it is green or yellow or red, is confusing. The European delegate or representative will then take the Floor and this is leading us to this current situation.

So I think – I'm not quite sure if the FAO Constitution allows for this, but in all other meetings that I have attended in my lifetime, when we go to vote, then there is no intervention allowed. Going to the vote is the last step on that topic.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you and that is why, when I have called on people to make their comments, I stress this is a question of clarification and maybe some people's comments have drifted a little. But please, this is the time, as our colleague from Iraq has noted, for raising questions of clarification.

I have one last request to speak. Namibia.

Panduleni Kaino SHINGENGE (Namibia)

I think my point was overtaken by events, and I just wanted to find out because the Chairperson has already given the chance for the delegates to vote and the voting has been done; unless the Chairperson again calls for another vote then I think that would be procedural.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I would just like Legal Counsel to make one last declarative statement about our voting procedure. About how the European Community vote is handled and then I would like our Secretary-General to provide one last declarative statement about how we are going to proceed on this vote, what kind of vote is necessary on the amendment that has been offered by our colleague from Costa Rica? Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Well, I don't know whether we want to re-open the question of the Membership of the European Community in FAO here. But this has been applied for about eighteen years since the European Community became a Member of FAO in 1991. We have been applying this rule since then.

The Constitution is very clear. On matters within the exclusive competence of the European Community, the European Community has a number of votes of equal to the number of its Member States which are entitled to vote in that meeting. "Entitled" means that the Member States should have registered for that particular meeting, and that is why I say that we have ascertained that 27 Member States have registered for this meeting. This has been applied for 18 years.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have had some clarification, some questions of clarification, that may be relevant to this vote and so I would ask that the delegates recast their vote since there has been clarification that may have aided some delegates. I assume the vote will be exactly the same, but just because I didn't say "now we shall vote" I am officially saying as the Chair, we shall vote.

My colleague from Ecuador.

Mónica MARTÍNEZ MENDUIÑO (Ecuador)

Lo siento mucho, señora, por interrumpirle, pero en el Artículo II.10 de la Constitución al que se refería el Asesor Legal, dice claramente: "Salvo disposición contrario a la prevista en esta Constitución o en las normas establecidas por la Conferencia" y se refiere a que una Organización pueda o no pueda emitir votos.

Ahora, esta salvedad se aplica en el caso de las Convenciones y Acuerdos específicamente al Artículo XIV que claramente dice que la Conferencia, por una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos y de conformidad con las normas, puede aprobar y someter a los Estados Miembros, no dice a los Miembros. Por Estados Miembros se entiende únicamente a los Estados, no los Miembros en general. En este caso, la Comunidad Europea es un Miembro pero no un Estado Miembro y el Artículo XIV.1 habla solo de Estados Miembros. Esto es con relación a la parte sustantiva.

En cuanto a procedimientos, como efectivamente lo solicitaron el requerimiento de quórum, mi delegación pide se consulte cuántos Estados Miembros Asociados como Comunidad Europea se encuentran presentes, porque estamos confundiendo Estados Miembros con Miembros.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I just wanted to clarify that in Article II of the FAO Constitution it is stated that regional economic integration organizations, meeting some criteria, may become Members of FAO. The European Community was admitted in 1991 as a Member of this Organization. The European Community does not represent a region. It is a Member of this Organization. The Constitution also provides that a Member Organization exercises alternative voting rights with its Members and, therefore, either the European Community votes, or the Member States vote. For the time being we have only the European Community as a Member Organization of FAO. The Constitution is also clear that where the competence is exclusively within that Member, not a region, that Member would have a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States who are entitled to vote in that meeting. That is what is said in the Constitution, and this has been applied consistently for 18 years.

CHAIRPERSON

I have succeeded in creating chaos as Chairperson here. This is how I suggest we proceed. I accept that you allow us to retake the vote on the amendment offered by our colleague from Costa Rica. That vote will be a simple majority vote and the European Community, their light will show

up as red. Their button has been deactivated and then the Community will tell us what their vote is. And after that time, Ms Williams will provide the results of the vote to the Conference.

Secretary-General, will you proceed with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them as usual. Green if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. I repeat, green to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow to abstain.

Please vote now.

CHAIRPERSON

This is a recasting of the vote on the amendment offered by our colleague from Costa Rica.

I ask that the European Community indicate their vote, please.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The results are as follows:

Number of votes cast: 99

Majority required: 50

Votes for: 22

Votes against: 104

Abstentions: 6

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The amendment was not approved, as was read out in the results which I have just presented.

We shall now move on to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in document C 2009/LIM/11, Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Under Article XIV.1 of the Constitution, the Agreement must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII.3c, when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one-half of the Member States of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected. Under Rule XII.7a and Rule XII.8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations, shall be taken from a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast as required.

Votes cast means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions. I would like to add that the Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing is within the exclusive competence of the European Community. According to Article II.10, of the Constitution of FAO, a Member Organization may exercise in any meeting of the Organization in which it is entitled to participate, a number of votes equal to the number of its Member States which are entitled to vote in such meeting. Twenty seven Member States of the European Community are entitled to vote. The European Community will, therefore, exercise twenty-seven votes.

Renaud Francois MOULINER (European Community)

The European Community votes in favour.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. Green if they wish to vote in favour; red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat again green to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

I will now read the results.

Number of votes cast: 116

Majority required: 78

Votes for: 114

Votes against: 2

Abstentions: 12

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



FOOD AND
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ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

22/11/2009
12:48:22

Vote on: Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
Vote sur: Accord sur les mesures du ressort de l'état du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illécite, non déclarée et non réglementée
Votación para: Acuerdo sobre las medidas del estado rector del puerto destinadas a prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	116
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	78
Votes for/ Votos pour/ Votos favorables	114 (including the 27 votes of the European Community)
Votes against/ Votos contre/ Votos en contra	2
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	12
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	63

Votes for: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BRAZIL, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GAMBIA, GHANA, ICELAND, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, JAPAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALDIVES, MALI, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SRI LANKA, ST. LUCIA, SWITZERLAND, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, U.S.A, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against: COLOMBIA, JORDAN
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: ALGERIA, BELARUS, COSTA RICA, CUBA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, PANAMA, THAILAND,
Abstentions: VENEZUELA, VIETNAM
Abstenciones:

No Reply: ANDORRA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CHAD, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., DP.R KOREA, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, LATVIA, LEBANON, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MICRONESIA, MONGOLIA, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SPAIN, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SYRIA, TOGO, TONGA, U.K., YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral / El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

Sabas PRETELT DE LA VEGA (Colombia)

Colombia quiere aclarar aquí su voto, esto es por la abstención, pero tocarles el corazón a todos los participantes. No fue cosa de pequeña monta cuando se presentaron 22 votos pidiendo que se aprobara la enmienda y 6 abstenciones. Son ventiocho países que consideraron que sería bueno hacer una meditación más profunda sobre el particular. Pero como somos buenos demócratas, aceptamos la decisión, nos abstenemos de acompañarlos y espero que el día de mañana se pueda hacer alguna revisión al texto.

Que Dios los bendiga.

CHAIRPERSON

I call on my colleague from Mexico.

J.E. CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Yo había pedido la palabra antes de la votación para hacer una explicación del voto de México en esta ocasión. Dado que no se me otorgó antes la palabra, no la voy a leer ahora que no tiene caso sin embargo quisiera pedir que dicha explicación de nuestro voto fuera incluida en las actas, para que quede registro de ellas.

También tengo una pregunta sobre cómo se considera la mayoría de los dos tercios, o el 50 por ciento más uno. Me pareció escuchar que la mayoría requerida era de 60 o de 120. No es más que una duda pero quisiera ser claro en el informe que tengo que hacer.

CHAIRPERSON

The Council is preparing their response to your question. Let me first say that we will take your statement for the record. Thank you.

And, we will call, in the interim, our colleague from Costa Rica.

Luis París CHAVARRI (Costa Rica)

Una breve declaración en representación de la República de Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua, Países Miembros de la Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano que forman parte del Sistema de Integración Centroamericano para hacer evidente nuestra abstención en esta votación.

Sin embargo deseamos expresar con vehemencia que nuestros países entienden y apoyan la necesidad de la existencia de un instrumento jurídico que establezca medidas del Estado rector del puerto para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada pero estimaron que el documento que se sometió a votación debió ser objeto de consideraciones de fondo y forma en el seno especializado del Comité de Pesca para armonizarlo con las capacidades, posibilidades y compromisos de los países logrando de esta manera un instrumento de mayor universalidad en su aplicación y de mayor consistencia en la lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

Advertimos asimismo que nuestra abstención de ningún modo significa una posición de indolencia frente a las debilidades del Acuerdo que se acaba de aprobar.

Solicitamos respetuosamente que esta declaración sea incluida en el Informe de esta Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

Certainly, we will include your statement. Thank you and I will call upon our colleague from Venezuela and then ask the Legal Counsel to respond to the question raised by our colleague from Mexico.

G.F. URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Al igual que lo han expresado los países que han intervenido, centroamericanos y Colombia, aspiramos a que este instrumento que ha sido aprobado (nuestra votación y nuestra actitud fue con

esta motivación) permita la posibilidad que pueda ser revisado, para que los países tengan instrumentación, apoyo, recursos financieros y generación de capacidades, para que puedan acceder a reunir las condiciones para proseguir en esta lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada.

En mi intervención dije que nuestro país se compromete a luchar contra este flagelo que agota los recursos naturales de nuestros países, y que Venezuela lo hace no solo porque tenemos una fachada caribeña como todos ustedes lo saben, sino porque a nosotros nos unen grandes lazos de amistad, solidaridad y de cooperación con los países centroamericanos que tienen amplias fachadas sobre el Pacífico y el Atlántico.

Lamentablemente estos países durante siglos han sido diezmados sus recursos y forman parte de aquellos más pobres de nuestra región.

Quisiera dejar eso como constancia, que nosotros trabajaremos en ese mismo sentido de cooperación para ayudar a los países de nuestra región para que se incorporen y tengan mayores posibilidades de formar parte y en definitiva en el futuro poder asumir este acuerdo que ha sido aprobado, en el cual Venezuela participó en las cuatro comisiones realizadas en junio de 2008, enero de 2009, mayo de 2009 y agosto de 2009.

Agradeceríamos que nuestra declaración quede registrada como parte del informe de esta Conferencia.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Article II, paragraph 3 of the FAO Constitution says very clearly. "Reference to Member Nations under this Constitution shall include Member Organizations except as otherwise expressly provided". Therefore, the European Community is a Member Nation in that respect for the interpretation of Article XIV. You may be in agreement or not, but that is what the Constitution says.

Then the other question was whether the Member Nations should be present or not in order for the European Community to be able to cast votes in respect of them. Again, if the Conference would like to establish new rules, it is the prerogative of the Conference, but at that point I think we need a document and we need to start to discuss about this. For 18 years, the interpretation that Member Nations who have the right to participate in a meeting, and in respect of which it may exercise Voting Rights, has been that these are the Member States having registered for that meeting. It has never been requested that Member States should be present at the time of the vote. If the Conference wants to change this, the Conference is the supreme body of this Organization and may do so, the point is taken. But I think we need a discussion on that before doing that.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Legal Counsel for that clarification. I now call upon my colleague from Cuba and then El Salvador.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación votó abstención y quedará constancia ya que enviaré la posición de mi delegación sobre el particular.

Por otra parte, también quiero manifestar la preocupación de mi país sobre este precedente que hemos establecido en la votación. No compartimos la interpretación jurídica que se ha hecho sobre la Unión Europea para que pueda votar por 27 países, ya que si bien aquí podemos considerar que están de acuerdo todos, no se cumple el requisito que exige que los Estados Miembros votantes estén presentes, por tanto me parece que este es un precedente nuevo, al que nuestra delegación manifiesta sus reservas.

CHAIRPERSON

I believe Council has addressed that issue. I call upon my colleague from El Salvador.

J.R. ANDINO SALAZAR (El Salvador)

Mi país apoya lo que ha expresado Costa Rica en nombre del Grupo de Países Centroamericanos.

El Salvador reitera su apoyo al principio de utilizar Medidas de Estado-Rector Puerto para la Eliminación de la Pesca Ilegal, no Declarada y no Reglamentada. Sin embargo, considera que existen elementos que al momento nos imposibilitan que podamos unirnos al Acuerdo sobre medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto. En especial porque invoca la convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar y el Acuerdo sobre la Aplicación de las Disposiciones de CONVEMAR relativas a la conservación y ordenación de las poblaciones de peces altamente migratorios de las cuales mi país, El Salvador, no es miembro ni forma parte.

El acuerdo además modifica la definición de Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada y en su Artículo 30 no permite formular reservas ni excepciones.

Es por ello que el Salvador votó abstención. Esperamos que este acuerdo pueda ser perfeccionado, a fin de que el mayor número de países sea parte del mismo.

CHAIRPERSON

That concludes our discussion here on this Resolution. I wish to express satisfaction on the adoption of this important legal instrument which will contribute significantly to improve management of the world's fisheries. So, our time is fleeing and I am concerned about how to proceed, but I hope that we will move on to the next matter, and hopefully move quickly through our Agenda.

Now we will move to the relevant documents C 2009/LIM/12-Rev. 1 and C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1. These documents reproduce the report of the Eighty-ninth Session of the CCLM which was held on 27 and 28 October 2009, and its deliberations on the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization regarding the reform of the Committee on World Food Security. I should like to give the floor to Mr. Fiol Zúñiga to introduce this item.

Julio FIOI ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

Como todos sabemos, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria aprobó, durante su 35° Período de Sesiones efectuado en octubre recién pasado, el documento CFS 2009/2-Rev. 1 titulado "Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial", que había sido objeto de negociaciones durante los meses precedentes.

La implementación de las propuestas de reforma contenidas en dicho documento, requiere de una serie de enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales, en particular a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la Organización, las que deben ser adoptadas por esta Conferencia. Por otra parte es importante señalar que el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria deberá revisar posteriormente una versión de su reglamento.

Las propuestas de reforma fueron examinadas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y las deliberaciones del Comité se encuentran disponibles en su totalidad en el documento C 2009/LIM/12-Rev. 1. Sin embargo, para mayor claridad, se han extraído del Informe del Comité los dos Proyectos de Resoluciones que la Conferencia está llamada a pronunciarse. Estos dos proyectos se encuentran en el documento C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1. Por tanto reitero que el documento que consideraremos es el que ya he señalado.

El primer Proyecto de Resolución prevé una enmienda al Artículo III.9 de la Constitución y al Artículo V.6, letra B, de la misma. La segunda, es un Proyecto de Resolución que enmienda el Artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización.

Sugeriría que la Conferencia apruebe primero el proyecto de resolución que se encuentra en el Apéndice 1 del documento C 2009/LIM/12-Add. 1, que contiene enmiendas a la Constitución. Estas enmiendas se refieren básicamente al futuro status del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que, tal como lo requiere el Artículo XX.4 de la Constitución, fue notificado a todos los

Miembros con por lo menos 120 días de anticipación a la apertura del actual Período de Sesiones de esta Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

I will advise the Members and I will ask if there are comments from the Floor regarding this Draft Resolution.

I then pass the Floor to the Secretary-General for an explanation of the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In the situation of amendments to the Constitution, as is the case at present, Article XX.1 of the Constitution requires the amendments to be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that such a majority is more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. As there are 191 Member Nations of the Organization, it is necessary that at least 96 Members should vote in favour of the amendments.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 7(a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote - that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "*Votes cast*" means affirmative and negative votes, and does not include abstentions.

Delegates are once again requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. Green, if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat green - in favour, red - against and yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The results are as follows:
number of votes cast: 118;
majority required: 79;
votes for: 117;
votes against: 1;
abstentions: 0

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos



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Y LA ALIMENTACION

22/11/2009
13:08:22

Vote on: Proposed Conference Resolution on Reform of the Committee on World Food Security. Amendments to the Constitution
Vote sur: Proposition de Résolution de la Conférence relative à la Réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Amendements à l'Acte constitutif
Votación para: Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia sobre la reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Enmiendas a la Constitución

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	118
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	117
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	46

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, JAPAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MALI, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, U.K., U.S.A., UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

SENEGAL

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHAD, COSTA RICA, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, INDIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, JORDAN, LATVIA, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MICRONESIA, MONGOLIA, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NIGER, NIGERIA, PERU, RWANDA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVENIA, SRI LANKA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, SUDAN, TOGO, TONGA, VIETNAM, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

20. Amendments to the Basic Texts (C 2009/LIM/8) (continued)

20. Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux (C 2009/LIM/8) (suite)

20. Modificaciones de los Textos Fundamentales (C 2009/LIM/8) (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to the Second Draft Conference Resolution regarding the Reform of the Committee on World Food Security. I give the floor to Mr. Fiol Zúñiga to explain it to me and everybody else.

Julio FIOI ZÚÑIGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

El Segundo Borrador de Resolución de la Conferencia contenido en el Apéndice II del documento C 2009/LIM/12-Add. 1 contiene propuestas de enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización para la implementación de la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Específicamente, esta Resolución contiene un extensivo número de enmiendas al Artículo XXXIII del Reglamento General de la Organización relativas a la Reforma del CFS. Esta Resolución refleja las modificaciones aprobadas por dicho Comité en su última sesión. Este Borrador de Resolución de la Conferencia fue revisado por el CCLM y se encuentra ahora ante la Conferencia para aprobación.

Adicionalmente, esta Resolución se refiere a otros asuntos relativos a la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. En particular, solicita a la Secretaría que armonice las enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización para la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria con aquellas enmiendas relativas al propio Comité que están vinculadas al Plan Inmediato de Acción. Asimismo invita a la Mesa del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria a revisar y proponer enmiendas a su propio Reglamento a ser aprobadas por el Comité mismo, y solicita que el documento sobre la Reforma del CFS sea incorporado en el Volumen II de los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO. Por lo tanto invitaría a la Conferencia a aprobar esta Resolución.

CHAIRPERSON

I would invite Ms Williams to provide some information about the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In the case of amendments to the General Rules of the Organization, Rule XLVIII.2 requires that the amendments be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII.3(c), when a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

Under Rule XII.7(a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote - that is, a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "*Votes cast*" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments or questions about the vote that we are about to take? Please proceed, Ms. Williams.

SECRETARY GENERAL

I will now read the results sheet.

number of votes cast: 129;

majority required: 87;

votes for: 128;

votes against: 1;

abstentions: 0.

The resolution is therefore passed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



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22/11/2009
13:14:57

Vote on: Proposed Conference Resolution on Reform of the Committee on World Food Security.
Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Proposition de Résolution de la Conférence relative à la Réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.
Amendements au Règlement général de l'Organisation
Votación para: Proyecto de Resolución de la Conferencia sobre la reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.
Enmiendas al Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	129
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	87
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	128
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	35

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MALI, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. LUCIA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, U.K., U.S.A., UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, VIETNAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

GEORGIA

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

AZERBAIJAN, BELIZE, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHAD, COSTA RICA, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, FIJI, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, INDIA, ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MICRONESIA, MONGOLIA, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVENIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SUDAN, TOGO, TONGA, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(continued)

21. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(suite)

21. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed with the last matter to be addressed under Item 21, the issue of the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and to the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Increased Membership of the Council. This is reference to document C 2009/LIM/17, and the First and Second Reports of the Resolutions Committee containing Draft Resolutions under Proposed Increase in Membership.

Is there anyone who would like to take the Floor? I am calling my colleague from Canada.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

This is a decisive moment for FAO's future. We need to reflect on how far we have come in the last years by consensus. We have a budget vote upcoming, in which Canada hopes there will be a larger measure of consensus than was the case in 2007. But before I continue on the substance of this proposal, let me address a thought that may be going through the minds of some. But some may say that Canada has a permanent seat. To this I would note three points. First off, governance matters are question for all Member Nations. Secondly, there are many *de facto* permanent seats, so Canada is not so exceptional. Thirdly, Canada has been willing to put its permanent seat on the line if, I repeat if, it was to be part of a major improvement in the governance arrangements of the FAO. Many here will recall that in the CoC-IEE, Canada advocated a move to an Executive Board Model. At the time, this was misunderstood as a cut rather than as an increase to the Membership in the key Programme and Finance Committees, which would have been subsumed into an Executive Body. In fact, it would have been more Member Nations having a say where it really counts.

Canada stands ready to discuss governance matters as we have been doing for the last couple of years, and as we have been doing with some success. I would note just one example, and that is the size and configurations of the Committees on which we will be voting this afternoon. There is unfinished Governance business in this Organization, we all agree. So, let us take the time, the next couple of years to continue building consensus on these issues.

The alternative of vote on the fundamental governance matter would be ill-advised. It would divide, and it would call into question the very basis for decision-making in this Organization. If Governance questions are to be decided by tyranny of the majority – what state does the minority have left in such an Organization? There have been past expansions to the Council. All of those have been agreed following a consensual process. That is the only way to proceed in the future, too. So, I would beg those who might still be thinking of voting for this Draft Resolution, don't. Don't do this to the FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sir. I will next call upon our colleague from Iraq. Iraq is chairing a Resolutions Committee. Then I will turn to our colleague from the Dominican Republic.

Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original Language Arabic)

I chaired the Resolutions Committee on two consecutive meetings. The first meeting was held yesterday, and the representative of Uruguay was the Vice-Chair. Three Draft Resolutions were submitted to our Committee. The first one is about the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal which requires amendments to the Constitution regarding increasing the number of Council seats. This is the first Draft Resolution. The second Draft Resolution was about the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, which requires amendments to the General Rules of the Organization regarding increasing the number of Council seats. The third Draft Resolution is related to policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Committee noted that the first two Draft Resolutions were submitted by Paraguay on behalf of the Dominican Republic, since the latter is currently chairing the G-77, while the third Resolution was submitted by Canada on behalf of Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, the European Union, in addition to the Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Switzerland and the United States.

The Committee proceeded with the review of the Draft Resolutions and was of the opinion that those subject matters fall first under provision A of the criteria for the formulation of Resolutions – Appendix C of the document C 2009/12. As far as the third Resolution is concerned, related to policies and arrangements for access and manufacturing for genetic resources for food and agriculture, it falls under provisions F and G of the criteria mentioned above. Then the meeting was adjourned.

Now, with regard to the meeting that was held today, the Committee considered first the draft report of its first meeting which was translated into the FAO languages. The Committee concluded that three Draft Resolutions reviewed during its meetings were acceptable, and recommended that they be transmitted to the Secretariat for appropriate action.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I will call on my colleague from the Dominican Republic and I want people to be mindful that we have about five more minutes before we lose our interpreters. Thank you.

Mario ARVELLO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Como sabemos esta Organización se encuentra en un proceso de Reforma, igual que renovación y fortalecimiento. Ninguna otra Agencia Especializada del Sistema de Naciones Unidas ha experimentado un escrutinio tan amplio, tan profundo y tan detallado.

Los Estados Miembros encargamos a un equipo de expertos, la realización de una Evaluación Externa Independiente cuyo Informe Final es el punto de partida de este proceso revolucionario. El Informe Final de la EEI formuló centenares de recomendaciones puntuales, cubriendo con un prodigioso nivel de detalle todos los aspectos técnicos y administrativos del trabajo de la FAO.

Sin embargo, al abordar la gestión política de la institución ejercida por los Países Miembros a través de los Órganos Rectores, el análisis de la EEI no alcanzó el mismo grado de meticulosidad. Sus conclusiones fueron de extrema prudencia y sus recomendaciones de carácter general fueron excesivamente modestas. Los Países Miembros, en consecuencia, nos vemos en la obligación de llenar los vacíos dejados por la EEI en el tema crucial del Gobierno de la FAO.

Mientras la administración es reformada para responder a las exigencias del Siglo XXI, sus Órganos Rectores cargan el peso de las décadas y permanecen en las profundidades del Siglo XX. Los Órganos Rectores muestran enormes defectos estructurales que limitan su capacidad de responder con efectividad a las necesidades de los Países Miembros.

Los países en desarrollo, cuyas posiciones políticas tengo el honor de coordinar como presidente del Grupo de los 77, han observado con gran frustración que mientras el Consejo de la FAO expande sus atribuciones ejecutivas, su legitimidad democrática disminuye a consecuencia de una

representación regional anacrónica e inadecuada. Se trata de uno de los muchos desperfectos estructurales que es preciso corregir, y quizás es el más urgente.

Por este motivo a principios de este año, mi delegación recibió mandato del Grupo de los 77 para formular una propuesta de modificación a los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO para ampliar el número de Miembros del Consejo.

Habiendo realizado consultas en estos últimos días y habiendo escuchado y tomado nota de la intervención de la distinguida delegación del Canadá, mi delegación concluye que la mejor forma de proceder en un tema de tanta importancia, consiste en proponer como en efecto proponemos, la inserción de la siguiente formulación en el Informe de la Conferencia que leeré en inglés a velocidad de dictado: *“The Conference noted that the Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of the Group of 77 had proposed an ammendment to the Constituion of FAO increasing the number of Council seats from 49 to 61. The Conference noted further that, as required by Article XX of the Constitution that the Director General had informed all Members of the proposed ammendment. The Conference further noted that the Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of the Group of 77, had proposed two draft Conference Resolutions ammending the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization for the immediate implementation of the proposal. The Conference agreed to defer consideration of the draft Conference Resolutions. Meanwhile the Conference decided to establish an Open-Ended Working Group which in the course of the 2010-2011 biennium will review and make recommendations regarding representation of Members in the Governing Bodies and on measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies. The Working Group will draw as appropriate on the advice of the relevant Governing Bodies of FAO and report to the Conference through the Council”.*

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much our colleague from the Dominican Republic. I understand that there are a number of people asking for the floor, but the reality is that we need to allow our translators to have a break and we all need a break, so the Secretary-General has an announcement to make but I am going to suggest we break at this time and reconvene at 2.30pm. That is a very short hour for your lunch and your emails, but I think that with the amount of items on our agenda we do not have much of a choice.

The meeting rose at 13:31 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 13:31 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

22 November 2009

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.47 hours
Kathleen Merrigan,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 47
sous la présidence de Kathleen Merrigan,
Présidente de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.47 horas
bajo la presidencia de Kathleen Merrigan,
Presidenta de la Conferencia

21. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(continued)

21. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(suite)

21. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos (C 2009/21-Rev.1; C 2009/INF/21; C 2009/LIM/11-Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12 Rev.1; C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1; C 2009/LIM/17)
(continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

I call us back to order. I know that there are a number of members having anxiety about where we are on the Agenda and there are items of very great importance to them. Will we be able to get to it in time? My suggested way of proceeding is I am just going to become a much more aggressive Chair because you all know, I like to use the gavel. I have already warned you. So I am going to start where we left off where the delegate from the Dominican Republic had suggested the tabling of the Resolution.

I know people want to talk about that and we will proceed with statements but I am going to ask that those statements be one minute and at two minutes I will gavel people off.

Our colleague from the Dominican Republic read his statement in English and I believe that it has been distributed in both Spanish and English. However, I know there are more than Spanish and English as the official languages of FAO. We are working to get them translated. If at the end of the half hour, those translations have not been received, my plan is to proceed by tabling that item for later in the afternoon, once we are able to receive the translations so that members are fully informed. We can thus continue this discussion later, once members are fully informed. At that time, in a half an hour from now, we will proceed with discussion of the budget.

Once we proceed with discussion of the budget I will also continue to be a very aggressive timekeeper. I know Members want to make statements about the budget, but I am going to keep them to the one-minute, two-minute gavel-it-down-situation, and we will proceed as quickly as possible so we can get through our Agenda and catch up on time.

Are there any points of clarification? My colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Are we going to continue the debate where we left off?

CHAIRPERSON

Yes Sir, that is my plan for the first half hour. You have the floor again.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to speak on behalf of the Near East Region. I may go over the two minutes concerned. I would like to talk about the seats of the Council Membership. I will be speaking on behalf of twenty-one countries, and I would like to say that I listened very closely to my Canadian colleague and my colleague from the Dominican Republic. I would like to say I stress that the Dominican Republic is not the Chair of the G-77, and we have reached a proposal in the G-77 but we do not agree with it because we, of the Near East Region, have suffered the most from the current allocation of seats in the Council.

If we are examining the allocation of seats, we have 6 seats for 21 countries and this represents 12 percent, whereas in some Regional Groups the level of representation in the Council is over their level of representation in the Organization. There are several instances of this in some Regional Groups. The level of representation sometimes goes up to 100 percent, and in other Regional

Groups this level is in excess to the level of representation in the Organization. I would now like to give you one example. I will be frank, in the North America Group, for example, there are two Members who have a permanent seat. I recognize from what my colleague from Canada said that he is prepared to examine the issue, namely that he does not represent his country on a permanent basis but the Region is entitled to two seats, and the Region is represented at 100 percent. In Asia, there are 23 Members with 9 seats. We are 21, and we have 6 seats so I do not know how these seats were allocated in the past, bearing in mind the rationale is that each country has one vote, but this is a very sensitive issue. We have discussed this in recent years and have not been able to reach a consensus on the issue. Each time we were close to reaching a consensus, at that point we would move away from it. The Near East Group is not satisfied with the allocation of these seats, and this proves there are not many Members wishing to compete for the three seats which will be allocated for the next biennium. So this also proves that there is an unfair allocation of seats between the different Members of the Organization.

The figures speak for themselves. In 1977, there were 144 Member Nations whereas the seats of the Council were 49. Now there are 191 Member Nations, and there are still 49 seats on the Council. Do the new Members of the Organization not have a right to a seat?

We are not at all satisfied in the Near East Group with our quota of seats within the Council. I would like for this to be put on record in the Report of the Conference. Our Group will go along with the final decision, but I would like what I have just said to be put on record.

CHAIRPERSON

As you were speaking for a block of countries, I let you exceed time but now I will become a timekeeper once again. Are there other delegates that would like to address the Floor? My colleague from France.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Madame la Présidente, mon intervention n'a pas de relation directe avec le point de l'ordre du jour, il s'agit d'un point d'ordre. Ce point d'ordre, je suis venue vous en parler de façon informelle afin que vous ne soyez pas totalement surprise. Voici ce que j'ai à dire: je suis donc l'ambassadeur de la France et nous avons, cet après-midi, une élection extrêmement importante pour désigner le nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil. Madame la Présidente, il y a trois candidats. L'heure prévue pour cette élection est en principe 14h30. J'ai reçu beaucoup de signaux de différentes délégations de niveau ministériel et ambassadeurs me disant que c'est le dernier jour de la Conférence. Il y a beaucoup de contraintes d'avion, beaucoup de chefs de délégation veulent pouvoir retourner dans leur capitale et veulent pouvoir aussi voter lors de cette élection, qui est un des processus démocratiques majeurs de notre nouvelle gouvernance.

Aussi, Madame la Présidente, je vous demande de bien vouloir organiser l'après-midi de telle sorte que ce vote puisse avoir lieu dans les meilleurs délais même si, pour ce faire, Madame la Présidente, vous devez, pour un temps, suspendre l'ordre du jour normal afin que nous puissions procéder à cette élection et que nous n'ayons pas, tard dans la soirée, une salle à moitié vide.

CHAIRPERSON

I am going to proceed on the Agenda as it was accepted by the Conference. I understand that people are anxious about time, and that people have alternative plans. They plan on leaving here earlier perhaps than where our Agenda will take us, so I will not move forward to change the Agenda at this time. But I ask colleagues to hear the appeal from our colleague from France to keep close time so we can proceed with haste through our Agenda and make sure that important matters come up in a timely matter. I now call on my colleague from the United Kingdom.

James HARVEY (United Kingdom)

Simply to acknowledge the issue here, but simply to say we need to allow time for everyone to understand any change in procedures. So we are very happy to go with your suggestion, Chair, that you will keep a watch on this issue.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Very briefly I just want it to be clear that we have a very interesting body here, and we have a tendency to like to make our statements heard. I accept the point from France and acknowledge what the United Kingdom has just said about the time issue. What we do not want is to have these elections at eight o'clock tonight when there is no one here in the room. I would ask the Chair at some point, at the appropriate moment, when we know we have a quorum in the room, that the Chair would consider moving forward with the elections.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Muy brevemente quisiera asociarme a las expresiones que han sido manifestadas en el sentido de que estamos en sus manos, por supuesto para poder tener la elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la brevedad posible.

Habida cuenta de que una serie de nuestros colegas incluso de países que no están permanentemente representados en Roma, deberán abandonar la sala en los próximos minutos para dirigirse a sus países de origen. Confiamos que usted pueda acelerar los trabajos y darse cuenta que si en los próximos minutos las cosas no aceleran, entonces se podría cambiar el Orden del Día, de manera que podamos celebrar la elección del Presidente Independiente para el Consejo con la mayor cantidad de Países Miembros presentes.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now suggest, we have lost six minutes in our Agenda talking about re-ordering the Agenda in terms of time, and I would like to end our discussion on the issue about expanded Council Membership at 15:20, giving Members one minute time, with a gavel off at two minutes to discuss that. At such time at 15:20, if we have not yet received the fully-transcribed documents, I will table that to later in the day, and we will take up the budget matter on the Timetable.

Does our colleague from Gabon wish to speak on the issue raised about expanded Council Membership?

Yvonne DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Non, en fait je voulais soutenir la proposition faite par Madame l'Ambassadeur de France et les intervenants qui l'ont appuyée.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there Members who would like to speak on the issue of expanded Council Membership? We have heard from three or four Members on this issue. Are we ready to conclude discussion on this issue? Our colleague from the United States of America.

Robert DOWNES (United States of America)

I know that there comes a point in time in these negotiations where we try to move forward quickly on the Agenda, but at the same time some issues that are being raised are extremely important. We have listened with great interest to the previous speakers on this topic and I will be brief, but I want to point out that we have made a lot of progress in recent months. We had good agreement on the reform of the Committee on Food Security. We had a good agreement in the Declaration and we had a good meeting last night, although it was very late, on the budget. There are other major issues that we need to look at, and Governance is one of them – the tension between inclusiveness and efficiency. We appreciate the offer to table this Item, and we would

support some process to look at this in a very careful and timely matter over the next eighteen months.

María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Yo quería referirme a la elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo, es para apoyar lo que expresó República Dominicana y Estados Unidos.

Tal como usted lo dijo suspender ni bien pueda los otros temas, para dar lugar a una elección en la que estén presentes la mayor cantidad de Países Miembros posibles.

Heins Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

Very briefly. I fully support the statement of the United States. We support the draft submitted by the Dominican Republic. We are fully aware of the legitimacy of points made by difference delegations with regard to the representation issues involved, so we look forward to this Working Group in order to address them.

CHAIRPERSON

So at this point, seeing no more discussion on this issue at this time and waiting for the official translated text, we will return to discussion on this later today, and will now proceed with discussion of the budget.

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET (suite)

CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS (continuación)

17. Medium Term Plan 2010-13, and Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 (Draft Resolution) (C 2009/15)

17. Plan à moyen terme 2010-13, et Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 (Projet de résolution) (C 2009/15)

17. Plan a plazo medio 2010-13 y Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-11 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2009/15)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would invite the Chairperson of Commission II, Ambassador Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven of The Netherlands, to take the Chair on the Adoption of the Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2010-2011. The Draft Resolution has been the subject of intense discussion within Friends of the Chair which has been meeting regularly since the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of Council, and very late into the night, as I understand it.

Agnes VAN ARDENNE VAN DER HOEVEN (Chairperson of Commission II)

I open the meeting of the Commission II and I have the honour of chairing that Commission and calling to order its Third Meeting. We will be dealing with Item 17 on the MTP/PWB, in particular the Draft Report and Resolution relating to the budget level.

The Friends of the Chair of Commission II have met in long informal gatherings during several days culminating in a Draft Resolution on the budget level around 4 o'clock this morning. I wish to express my gratitude to the Members of the Friends of the Chair, the Members of Commission II and the representatives of the Secretariat for their most constructive contribution which has led to this good result.

The Drafting Committee of Commission II has already adopted most of the Draft Report of Commission II. Given the late hour of yesterday's meeting and this morning's meeting, we still have to adopt two additional paragraphs for the Commission II Report on matters arising in the Friends of the Chair. I direct your attention to document C 2009/II/REP/17-Add. 1.

Paragraph 1 concerns the deferral of consideration of Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account until the next session of the Conference, through the PWB 2012-2013.

Paragraph 2 provides clarification on the distinction between the unidentified further efficiency savings and the one-time savings needed to be achieved in the next biennium, and indications of possible areas for efficiency savings.

Furthermore, we agreed in the Friends of the Chair a total net budgetary appropriation as summarised in the Draft Conference Resolution. I wish to stress again that this was the outcome of complex and intricate negotiations and I, therefore, submit it to Commission II for any comments Members may have. Subject to any comments from Members of Commission II, the Draft Conference Resolution would be immediately submitted to the Chair of the Conference.

I now open the Floor to Delegations wishing to speak on this item. I recognize Denmark.

Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

I fully understand that we are in a rush, but we do not have the documentation. Could we wait to discuss these important issues until the Resolution and whatever has been circulated or at least indicated where we could pick it up?

CHAIRPERSON

You can pick up these documents at the Documents Desk. Are there other requests?

They will bring these documents to the Plenary Hall, so they will be distributed here. So everybody can read the documents. But after all we have sat there for many, many hours all together. We all know what the text is on. But of course for justification and verification, you need these documents on your desks. Are there already Members who wish to speak? I recognize Mexico. Ambassador you have the floor.

Jorge CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Había pensado hacer esta declaración antes del voto ya que estamos votando en la segunda Comisión, adoptando esto, quisiera hacerlo de una vez, para ahorrar tiempo y aprovechar estos minutos.

La delegación de México no participará en la votación del Proyecto de Resolución que tenemos frente a nosotros, con el cual se autorizará el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de la Organización para el período 2010-2011, que en relación con el bienio precedente tiene un aumento considerable.

Esta no participación se debe a que la crisis financiera internacional ha tenido efectos negativos, que han obligado a mi país adoptar estrictas medidas de austeridad nacional a fin de hacer frente a las nuevas circunstancias. Es por ello que en congruencia con las medidas a nivel interno, debemos limitar el crecimiento de los presupuestos de organismos internacionales.

Mi delegación está convencida de que es posible lograr mayores ahorros en los gastos de la FAO y que con ello se puede financiar el incremento de programas propuestos. Lamentamos la austeridad que muchos países se han visto obligados a aplicar en sus administraciones nacionales, no se refleje en este presupuesto a ser adoptado. México refrenda su compromiso absoluto con el sistema multilateral al tiempo que reitera su pleno apoyo a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, en la que hemos participado siempre convencidos de la importancia de su mandato.

México respalda plenamente una Organización que cumpla sus mandatos con total eficiencia y tome en cuenta el contexto económico global y de los Países Miembros. Por último, me permito solicitar que esta explicación de voto forme parte del Informe de la Conferencia.

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize United States. Madam Ambassador you have the floor.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

This is the first time in six years that the United States has had an opportunity to vote in support of a budget here at FAO. In the past, we agreed with Mexico and voted with Mexico that the levels were much too high. Admittedly this budget does represent an increase. But the increases that are included in this budget are ones that we support. Number one, we are fully funding the IPA.

When I joined this body one of the things that I said to my Congress is that I would work with the other leaders in this Organization to reform the FAO, to make it the organization that the global community needs to support the agricultural development issues that we put forward just this week in the Declaration to feed the billion hungry people. And so the increases in the budget are efficient increases, and we believe they are increases that will allow the Organization to protect their efficiency, to protect the reform process and to implement the Programme of Work and Budget while seriously implementing the IPA.

What we also are very proud of is that this budget represents, for the most part, a consensus of this body. This is a new spirit in FAO where the Members are working together for the benefit of the Organization – putting politics to the side and working for the issues that we have all been sent here to address. This is, as someone said to me earlier today, a grand slam because we started with the Reform of the CFS, where we had a consensus, then the Declaration document where we worked, sometimes at a glacial pace, but we moved to consensus.

And after very long hours last night, this body moved to a consensus budget that was in the best interest of not one regional group but the entire Organization and the people that we serve. For this reason, the United States is very proud to join this consensus.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize Japan. Japan you have the floor.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Japan fully participates in the process of the Friends of the Chair and I appreciate a lot its achievements, but I have to confess that I am no more your friend. So, my delegation cannot join the consensus. I will explain why I have to oppose the proposed budget.

From the spirit of compromise, Japan has indicated that we could accept Zero Nominal Growth plus 100 percent IPA implementation costs of USD 39.6 million at the Friends of the Chair meeting yesterday. For Japan it is a big, big move forward, since Japan's original stance was the Zero Nominal Growth. However, the budget proposed was a little beyond what I can accept. The level is a little bit higher than I expected.

Since Japan's financial situation was so serious, our Government cannot accept this level of the budget. However, Japan also places its first priority on the FAO Reform. So we decide to accept the increase for the expenditure of the IPA implementation. Japan always supports the Reform Process and Japan believes that Reform with Growth will be reached through the recovery of the trust of the FAO. With this, Japan believes implementation of the IPA is essential.

Finally, I want to emphasize that Japan will continue to work together with other Member Nations to achieve a better and stronger FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize Canada.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Le Canada se réjouit du fait que nous puissions donner notre soutien au Projet de résolution adoptant le budget 2010-2011. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize Denmark. No, not any more. Sierra Leone. You have the floor, Madam.

Afsatu KABBA (Sierra Leone)

Thank you for giving me the Floor, and I must say that I appreciated the consensus on the budget very much. Sierra Leone relies mainly on the agriculture and fisheries sector and in our recent poverty reduction strategy paper, commonly known now as "Agenda for Change," we recognized, as did our President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, these sectors as a top priority for economic growth and food security for every generation.

My appeal to this forum is the timely release of the budgetary allocation. Many times we set out results-based timelines for any particular year, but if these budgets are not allocated on time developing countries cannot complete projects within the specified timeframe. So I am appealing to reduce some of the bureaucracy in terms of implementation. But I thank you very much, because no plans can be achieved without a budget and it is a very good one.

CHAIRPERSON

I recognize Zimbabwe and then Dominican Republic. But first Zimbabwe. Ambassador, you have the floor.

Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

As one of the African delegates that participated in the negotiations of the budget, I wish to extend our great appreciation to the Friends of the Chair that worked within this important initiative. We are very satisfied with the full funding of the IPA which will enable the strengthening of the Decentralization process in the regional and country levels. At the same time we are very encouraged by the fact that any savings that have been incorporated in the budget will not impinge on the implementation of the technical programmes. With that, my delegation and indeed the region that I represent, feels honoured to be part of this Resolution.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

A nombre propio y en nombre del Grupo de los 77, quiero agradecer su liderazgo en la Comisión II y en el Grupo de Amigos ya que estuvimos, como usted ya lo indicó, trabajando hasta las 4:00 am para lograr el mejor resultado posible en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2010-2011, que pido a todos nuestros colegas aprobar a continuación.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I think many have spoken about the congenial way in which you led our deliberations. My delegation, during the deliberations on the budget, was following the leadership of the President of the G-77, President Mario Arvelo, to whom I want to pay my full respect in guiding the G-77 through very successful negotiations. Yes, we have managed to reach consensus. Yes, we have managed to reach a level of the budget through a decision in which we are making sure that whatever is done in terms of identifying savings in the budget, the programmes are not going to be hurt. In that sense, I can follow the call of the Chairman of the G-77, and on behalf of my delegation we can fully endorse the budget level.

Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania)

As has been said by the Chairman of the G-77 we outright endorse this Budget Resolution. My delegation would like to thank you in leading the process of negotiations, and coming to the consensus reached this morning. We thank you very much for that leadership.

The issues which were on the table included queries on the increases which we all found were inevitable at the end. We recognize the efficiency saving needs and to what extent this can be undertaken. We hope we are all able to endorse this Resolution.

Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden)

I just wanted to add to the voices that we have already heard, that this is indeed a very exciting and promising time at FAO. We have now secured both the decisions on the Reform and also the financing. So I hope that when we meet again, in two years' time, that we will be able to see the fruits of our hard work.

The IPA has been secured by consensus, which also denotes that Members, as well as FAO, are reforming their way of working together in a more cooperative and constructive way giving us great hope for the future.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their tireless explanations all during the days leading up to the Conference and during the night. They were always there to clarify and explain points that were often difficult for us to understand.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to begin by picking up on the last words from Sweden in expressing our deepest gratitude and thanks to you for steering our work on this very important issue and, indeed, the outcome bears out all of the endeavours which have been undertaken. Pleasure follows fatigue and if the work had not been so hard, we would not be so gratified by the work achieved under your leadership.

Indeed this budget reflects two main elements, the Reform of the Organization, encompassing the Immediate Plan of Action, as well as the upholding of the objective of the developing countries and the Middle East Region in particular, that is, preserving the work of the Organization in implementing technical cooperation and providing technical assistance to Member Nations.

So, I would like to say that the Near East Group is especially happy and in agreement with these results, and once again I convey to you, personally, our gratitude for the fine way in which you have shepherded the work on this. I thank all the Member Nations of the Organization and the Secretariat.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there other speakers now? I do not see other speakers in the room. Commission II has reached agreement on the additional paragraphs, and before asking Mr Haight to take the Floor, I recognize Gambia.

Momodou KAH (Gambia)

It is indeed a pleasure for The Gambia to thank you for enabling this wonderful gathering to come to such a conclusion, and guiding these negotiations on behalf of the benefits of mankind. The Gambia wishes to thank the G-77 and Friends of the Chair for having tirelessly worked on a budget which Gambia fully supports. We believe the budget before us reflects our aspirations.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. So we have Ethiopia.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

My delegation would like to join others in congratulating you on bringing this process to a very satisfactory ending, and assuring the necessary budget for the biennium without affecting the technical programme.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

We also endorse the budget that is accepted by all. We would like to thank the Friends of the Chair as well as your leadership. We would like to stress that we hope that the support expressed

in the budget for Reform and for efficiency savings will indeed be helpful in promoting agriculture in developing countries. We hope that this will continue to be reflected in future budgeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. This rounds up this part of our session. I see no other speakers on my list, and given that Commission II has reached agreement on the additional paragraphs of the report as well as the Draft Resolution, we are transmitting to the Plenary of Conference document C 2009/II/REP/17-Add. 1.

Commission II has completed its work and I would say paraphrasing of what we see already here in the building that members of the Commission could be proud of being a member of Commission II. Thank you all for working together.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General to provide an explanation of the voting procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

A two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution of the General Rules of the Organization. The two-term number of the affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number for or against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as having been rejected. Could I ask all delegates present in the room to press the green button on their desk? This will enable us to calculate the number of delegates present. Please press the green button.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Have all delegates pressed the green button? Thank you very much.

I am advised that there are 140 delegations, one-four-zero delegations in the hall. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set in document C 2009/II/REP/17-Add. 1.

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. Again, green if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. Green to vote for, red to vote against and yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación



FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

22/11/2009
15:36:07

Vote on: Item 17. Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11
Vote sur: Point 17. Programme de travail et budget 2010-11
Votación para: Punto 17. Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2010-11

RESULT SHEET / RÉSULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote par appel nominal/ Votación nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	138
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	92
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	137
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	2
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	24

**Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:**

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DEM. REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GERMANY, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HAITI, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JORDAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO, LATVIA, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. LUCIA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, T.F.Y.REP. OF MACEDONIA, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, U.K., U.S.A., UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

**Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:**

JAPAN

**Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:**

ARMENIA, BURUNDI

**No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:**

BELIZE, BOLIVIA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GHANA, GUINEA BISSAU, GUYANA, ISRAEL, MALAWI, MEXICO, MICRONESIA, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RWANDA, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, TOGO, TONGA, VIETNAM

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

28. Appointments
28. Nominations
28. Nombramientos

28.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2009/9)

28.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2009/9)

28.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2009/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Our Agenda would have us next move to Item 27, but unless there are strenuous objections in the Hall, I propose that we move to Item 28, the Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. We have had numerous Members request that we accelerate this on the Agenda, and understand that the secret ballot process takes a long time, I am advised it might be efficient if we move to Sub-item 28.1.

Would the Conference allow me to proceed in that manner? Hearing no objections, we move to Item 28, Appointments.

Søren SKAFTE (DENMARK)

Well, it is not exactly a Point of Order but thank you anyway for giving me the Floor just before the Conference takes the important decision on who among the three very qualified candidates shall serve as Independent Chairperson for FAO Council for the next biennium. Dear delegates my Minister, the Honourable Eva Kerr Hansen, Minister of Food Agriculture and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Denmark, who last week served as Vice-Chair for the World Summit on Food Security, has asked me to convey the following short message:

"Women produce roughly half the worlds food and anywhere from 60 to 80 percent of food in most developing countries. Furthermore, the poor particularly in developing countries are likely to face the worst effects of a changing climate. The poor are more likely to live in areas vulnerable to flood, storms and rising seas and they are more likely to depend on agriculture and fishing for a living and therefore risk going hungry or losing their livelihoods when crop strike, rains become unpredictable and hurricanes move with unprecedented force. Among the poor, women are especially vulnerable. Therefore, we urge government and the international community to prioritize achievements of gender equality and women's rights as these are essential in all efforts of poverty reduction and the promotion of growth."

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sir. May we proceed to the voting? Ms Williams will you please explain the procedures.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will receive a ballot paper with the names of the three candidates. Delegates are invited to indicate the candidate they wish to vote for with an X. On the basis of Rule XII.4(c)iii of the General Rules of the Organization, ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions. It shall also be noted that in accordance with the same rule, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

I also wish to draw the attention of the delegations to paragraph 10(f) of Rule XII which states that should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall then remain in the custody of the Elections Officer.

CHAIRPERSON

Ok then. In accordance with Rule XII.2(a), the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 96 Member Nations must be represented at this time. I shall now call on the Secretary-General to give details regarding the vote and to determine whether we have a quorum.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will now calculate the number of Member Nations present again at this Plenary Meeting. Please press again the green button located at the front of your desk so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

Thank you very much. I will now close the voting system.

The electronic voting system indicates that there are one-hundred and forty-two (142) delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with Rule XII.10(c)(i), the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two Tellers from the delegate representatives or their alternatives. May I therefore ask the delegates of Australia and Thailand to proceed to the voting area. The Assistant Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Madam. I shall now proceed to call out Member Nation representatives, beginning with Afghanistan, to be followed by Albania.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am going to read again the names of those countries which did not vote and those are the following: Belize, Benin, Botswana, Central African Republic, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Dominica, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Namibia, Nepal, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Serbia, Slovenia, Suriname, Timor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and, that ends the list.

CHAIRPERSON

The Tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, they will count the votes. In the meanwhile, a short video presentation will be made.

Video Presentation on the FAO Vision

Présentation vidéo de la Vision de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre la Visión de la FAO

The meeting was suspended from 16.20 to 16.52 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 20 à 16 h 52

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.20 a las 16.52 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, please return to your seats. We will now continue with Item 28.1: Appointment of the Independent Chair of the Council. The Secretary-General will read the result of the ballot.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the report of the ballot. Ballot papers deposited: 145. Votes cast: 145. Abstentions: 0. Deffective ballots: 0. Majority needed: 73. Eliminated: Ms Fatou Ndeye Gaye: 13 votes – not elected. Mr Guyau of France: 69 votes. Mr Victor Charles Heard: 63 votes. We will have a second round of voting.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	1	NOMINATION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL 2009-2011 DESIGNATION DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL 2009-2011 DESIGNACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO 2009-2011
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	145
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	145
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	73
------------------------------------	----

Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos		Eliminated – Éliminé – Eliminado	
		Mr Luc Guyau (France)	69	Ms Fatou Ndeye Gaye (Gambia)	13
		Mr Victor Charles Heard (United Kingdom)	63		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mrs Sarrak Chailanggar (Thailand)

Signature *Sarrak*
FirmaDate
Fecha 22/11/2009

Mr Travis Power (Australia)

Signature 
FirmaStephen Dowd *Stephen Dowd*
.....Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Williams. We will now proceed to a second round of voting. I kindly request that the Tellers return to the voting area. The Secretariat will call out the names of the countries entitled to vote. I see a flag raised. Our colleague from Senegal.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Serait-il possible d'obtenir le nombre de voix obtenues par tous les candidats? Le nombre de voix obtenues par chaque candidat, s'il vous plait.

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the Secretary-General to repeat the vote count.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the report for the second time. Ballot papers deposited: 145. Votes cast: 145. Abstentions: 0. Defective ballots: 0. Majority needed: 73. Eliminated: Ms Fatou Ndeye Gaye: 13 votes. Mr Luc Guyau of France: 69 votes. Mr Victor Charles Heard of the United Kingdom: 63 votes.

CHAIRPERSON

So Ladies and Gentlemen, we proceed to a second round of voting. I ask the Secretariat to begin the call-out of names of countries entitled to vote.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

So I will proceed to the reading of the list of countries in alphabetical order.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to read out again the list of those countries which did not vote. Sorry, Libya did vote. Also Pakistan voted. Am I missing any other country? Sorry for having missed those two countries I didn't mention.

CHAIRPERSON

Voting is now completed. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a very archaic voting process here. It is very slow, and as the Chair of the Conference, I just want to say perhaps by the next time we meet, two years from now, FAO can help us figure out a more expedient process. For now, however, we need to ask our Tellers to leave the room. Rather than suspending the meeting, we will ask our Tellers to go and count the vote.

I have been asked by our colleague from Turkey if it would be appropriate, and I think so, to utilize this time for expressions of words of thanks to the outgoing Independent Chair. So I will keep the proceedings open. I think that is an excellent suggestion and I will begin by recognizing our colleague from Turkey.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I think in order to save time and be efficient, I thought this would be an appropriate time to thank the outgoing Chairperson of the Council.

In this respect, very simply, we would like to indicate our appreciation for the great work of Mr Noori Naeni. We in particular admire his independent behaviour and equal approach to all of us, as well as the passion he had for the success of the Organization. Through his service, he has been very hardworking, transparent and very efficient and also sincere to us all. Thus, we thank him for all the good work he has done, and we wish him very good luck during the rest of his life.

At the same time, we also thank the Chairperson and the Management as well for running the election process very smoothly, with some difficulties but very smoothly I would say. We also thank all the three candidates for coming up for the post of the Independent Chairperson which is, I believe, a very, very hard job. And, of course we will elect a new Chairperson and we also wish the new Chairperson very good luck in the new term.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Sir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now recognize our colleague from the Dominican Republic.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Para mí es un honor y una satisfacción personal que mi nombre esté asociado al nombre del Profesor Noori como Presidente del G-77.

Cuando llegué a Roma hace algunos años, el profesor Noori presidía el Grupo de los 77. Ahora llegamos él y yo a los últimos días de nuestras respectivas responsabilidades actuales, él como Presidente del Consejo y yo en esta posición que he ejercido siempre tomando en cuenta, como ya lo dije en la última Sesión del Consejo, pensando ante cada situación: ¿qué haría en este caso el Profesor Noori?

El Profesor Noori es un intelectual reconocido, un académico, y siempre ha buscado el consenso desde el punto de vista de una diplomacia efectiva, constructiva e independiente, como acaba de decir nuestro colega de Turquía.

Tuve la satisfacción de dedicar en primer número del Newsletter del G-77 el pasado mes de octubre al Profesor Noori, una entrevista en la cual nos expresó cuáles han sido sus principales logros y los recuerdos gratos que se lleva de su presencia en Roma, representando a su país y a los países en desarrollo y, en los últimos cuatro años, también representando a todos los Países Miembros como Presidente del Consejo.

Cuando hace cuatro años se llevó a cabo la elección, en la cual él fue elegido en razón de la distribución de asientos, dio la casualidad de que el suyo estaba inmediatamente detrás del mío, así que tuve la ocasión de ser el primero en felicitarlo tras su elección. Me alegra mucho también ser de los últimos en felicitarlo ahora que corona con grandes éxitos sus dos mandatos como Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Profesor Noori: gracias por ser una universidad de diplomacia para todos nosotros.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We will now call upon our colleague from the Russian Federation.

Vladimir KUZNETSOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would like to endorse the kind words which have been voiced by colleagues to Professor Noori Naeini. I have had the opportunity for the last year-and-a-half as Permanent Representative here of the Russian Federation to work together with Professor Noori Naeini and I was able to see that he is a very gifted gentleman who possesses the art of compromise. The most important thing is that he has that desire to help countries when they find themselves in difficult situations, with a view to finding a common point of view. Availing himself of this great talent, Professor Noori Naeini has worked for the good of FAO and for those countries who are Member Nations of the

Organization. So on behalf of the Russian Federation, I would like to express profound gratitude to Professor Noori Naeini for everything he has done for this Organization and its Member Nations, not just in the FAO incidentally.

For a long time Professor Noori Naeini worked as President of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, so his biography is quite rich. Each page in that biography is very rich in events and, of course, marked by that great talent and capability of Professor Noori Naeini at the service of his own country and the Rome-based Agencies in which he has worked.

Professor Noori Naeini, please accept our heartfelt appreciation and the wish that we will not lose this contact. Your experience and knowledge will be sorely needed in the future, in FAO and in the other Rome-based Agencies as well.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Ethiopia.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

My delegation would like to join others in expressing our thanks to Professors Noori Naeini for his able leadership, calm and consensus-forming approach that he has been applying throughout his term as Independent Chair of the FAO Council. We wish him good luck in his future work. Thank you once again.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The delegation of China would like to speak on behalf of the Asia Group.

We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Noori for the efforts that he made regarding the Reform and for the development of FAO. During his four-year mandate as the Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO, Professor Noori played a very important coordinating role and showed leadership. He coordinated the work of the Regional Groups and helped us resolve many significant problems. So we would, once again, like to express our sincere gratitude to Professor Noori. At a time when Professor Noori will be leaving his post, we hope that he will come back to Rome often to visit us.

Finally, we wish you good health and we wish your family very good health. Thank you Mr Noori.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Ante todo pues me quiero sumar a los colegas que han tenido la palabra para expresarle al Profesor Noori, como lo hicimos al momento que se develo su imagen en la Sala Roja al recordar ahora esas palabras.

Creo que tuvimos en usted una persona que nos enseñó la conducción de un institución tan compleja como esta, en donde nos hizo confluír y lograr consenso entre todos los Grupos Regionales, indistintamente de nuestra visión política, geopolítica, geográfica, social religiosa. Quisiera resaltar también que ese trabajo es difícil hacerlo, y usted lo hizo de manera excelente y brillante.

Como han expresado otros que le conocieron en esa faceta, y yo que le conocí en estos dos años como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, y en sus otros cargos en los Órganos de esta institución, ha llevado adelante este proceso de la Reforma en manera ejemplar. La Reforma de la FAO se debe también a todos los Miembros, pero en modo especial a su conducción que permitió lograr el consenso de todos para llevar adelante esta institución en los años por venir.

Muchas felicitaciones, muchas gracias por todo el esfuerzo que puso en este trabajo y felicitaciones también a su familia. Que tenga mucho éxito en su carrera en los próximos años.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Senegal.

Papa Cheikh Saadibou FALL (Sénégal)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles qui se sont exprimées avant moi pour dire combien nous avons été heureux de travailler avec un homme comme M. Noori. Tout le monde l'a dit, il a, dans l'immense tâche qui lui a été dévolue, toujours su faire preuve de tact, de diplomatie, de gentillesse et de disponibilité, pour effectivement nous permettre à chaque fois que nous étions confrontés à des problèmes difficiles, de déboucher sur des compromis dynamiques qui nous ont permis de trouver des solutions en ce qui concerne la coordination des différents points de vue venant des différents groupes.

Je voudrais, au nom du Groupe Afrique que j'ai l'honneur de présider, dire à M. Noori combien nous avons été heureux de travailler avec lui et, au moment où il doit quitter ce poste pour rejoindre sa famille, nous lui souhaitons un bon retour. Nous le félicitons surtout pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli au niveau de ses responsabilités et au nom du Groupe Afrique, nous lui disons merci d'avoir été avec nous jusqu'à présent.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I now call upon our colleague from Nigeria.

Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

I would like to associate myself with the comments of the G-77 Chair and the African Chair.

More importantly, my delegation has gained quite a lot from Professor Noori's experience in life and the way that he has been able to walk through several miles in the Reform of FAO in the last two-and-a-half years.

When things are falling apart, I have learned from him that calmness, patience and commitment can do a lot. The diplomacy is there no doubt, but at times when diplomacy seems to boil over, you still find Professor Noori, cool and calm.

I must almost say that following the way he has organized us in the last two-and-a-half years, I have discovered that he has not compromised principles and that he has always succeeded in bringing divergent views to a middle ground, bearing in mind that we have 191 Member Nations with diversity in faith, diversity in culture, and diversity in attitude. He has succeeded, however, in getting us all together in line for the Reform of the FAO that all of us will be proud of.

It is quite an emotional thing to see a man of such experience and because of the termination of tenure, he has to leave. I do know that it is also said that why should you leave this stage when the ovation is loudest?

Professor Noori, we will miss you, and I sincerely believe that you are not through with Rome yet. For members of the two countries that are looking forward to the next Independent Chair, I do not know exactly how you feel now, it is like a father who is expecting the new baby. I felt it in the case of the Presidency of IFAD, so I wish you the best. Professor Noori, congratulations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will now call on my colleague from the United States, then my colleagues from Germany, Sweden, Oman, Brazil and New Zealand.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

This past Wednesday, I have now served seven weeks at post. It has been a long seven weeks, but let me say from the time that I arrived, as I talked to my colleagues in the US Mission, if ever there was an issue, what I would always hear was "Professor Noori said" or "we have a problem so we are getting together with some of our other colleagues and Professor Noori". Whenever there was a challenge, what we would hear was "do you think we could get a meeting with Professor Noori?"

So, when finally I had the opportunity to meet him as we were working on the Declaration, what I found was that it was all true. He would tell you very quickly what he thought you could do or what we could accomplish, and he would tell you very honestly what was not possible. That is what you need when you are working to develop the kind of consensus that this body has begun to create in our operations.

Professor Noori, on behalf of the United States Mission, I thank you. I will miss you, and your shoes will be very tough to fill.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call on our colleague from Germany.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

Although the EU Presidency is following me, I am this time very sure that, whatever I say, the Swedish Presidency will agree with, so I may be allowed to go ahead.

It is an immense pleasure for me to praise Professor Noori. The two candidates now running for his job might reconsider, hearing such praise for such a great man, whether they really want this job. But Professor Noori has been in a positive sense a profoundly human being and human partner with all of us. He has been, and I have known him now for more than two years and ten months, a voice of calm and reason. He has been serene. He was always accessible for all of us. Since chess is derived from his country, I would like to call him a truly international grand master of negotiation and mediation.

Let us now forget the background of Professor Noori. He is certainly a brilliant son of the great people of Iran, a country with a tremendous history and culture. All these positive qualities we find in Professor Noori are also derived from his people, from the great people of Iran.

Professor Noori will be associated with historic events, this historic Conference, accomplishments of this Organization, the global partnership, the Reform of CFS and, of course, for us here the profound Reform Process now getting underway in FAO. So let me thank you from all of my heart, and this time I am really sorry that I cannot speak German here because my language offers you much better words to praise your accomplishments.

You have been a guiding light for all of us. You have not only been the Independent Chair of the Council, you have been and you will be the Independent Star of the Council. Thank you very much and all the best for you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I call upon our colleague from Sweden.

Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden)

Obviously, the European Union can not do anything but wholeheartedly agree with all the words that have been said so far, which Professor Noori so much deserves. His personality is warm and listening and he is a true fountain of wisdom, bridge-builder. The Organization and we, Member Nations, owe Professor Noori a debt of gratitude. I for one find him an inspiration and I can only hope that the newly-elected Chairperson of the Council will also take him as an inspiration.

I echo my German colleague and feel a bit of sadness that it is time to say goodbye. But I have to say that your family has a very valid claim on you, so we wish you all the best and hope to see you back here.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon our colleague from Oman.

Saud AL-BADDAIE (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for giving me this opportunity to us to express our feelings on the occasion of the departure of Professor Noori as the Independent Chairman of the Council.

I do not think that words are enough to express our gratitude for the excellent service that he has provided to us as a result of his calm, his firmness of approach and his delicate diplomacy with all of the Member Nations. We wish him every happiness in the future. We wish him the greatest of health. We wish his family good health; and, we also wish every success to his successor in this position.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now call on our colleague from Brazil.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

Thank you, Professor Noori. Thank you very much. You have been, indeed, an inspiration to all of us. Much has been said about you and I do not mean to be original. I just would like, if you allow me, a personal digression now. When I arrived here in Rome more than two years ago, you were one of the first people I met and my predecessor and my colleagues here in the Mission had always spoken highly about you. But I do not think they spoke highly enough. I learned a lot with you, and I think, during your tenure as Independent Chair, that you leave behind tremendous landmarks.

It is not for us to enumerate that. We all know what you did. We know your involvement in the whole Reform Process, what you did this year regarding the Summit Declaration, but when we were going through on the CoC's first year of work, I think I shared with you what the CoC did.

The IPA was a by-product. The main achievement of the CoC was to change the culture of governance. When I arrived here, I was very much impressed how dispersed the Membership was, and you were working diligently to change that situation, and I can assure you that you did change it.

Now, people talk about Culture Change in the Organization, and you were working on Culture Change in Governance, and you certainly have achieved that and all the merit goes to you. You have set the standards for us, always very high but you led us to achieve those goals, the high goals that you always showed us in your wisdom and experience. Your legacy here at FAO is immense. Thank you very much indeed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will now call on our colleague from New Zealand, followed by our colleagues from Afghanistan and Kenya.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I would like to offer greetings from the Member Nation that is furthest from this building, further away than anyone else and I am sure that our friends in the South West Pacific Region also share these thoughts.

We have observed Mr Noori in his role over the past four years, and I personally have worked with him on occasions before that in his previous position as Permanent Representative.

When I think of Mr Noori, I think of a man of knowledge, experience, honesty, integrity, fairness, commitment and hard work, and all delivered with a genuine warm smile. But that is not to say that you do not sometimes see a concerned frown when things are getting a bit tough.

We have appreciated working with you. We value your results, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from Afghanistan.

Muhammed Musa MAROOFI (Afghanistan)

Dear Professor Noori Naeini, you are a dear friend and an outstanding Independent Chairperson but you have put us in an impossible situation. It is so unfriendly to remind such a dear friend of his departure when he is still working and so much needed. But the Afghan delegation will always remember you as a competent and brilliant Independent Chairperson of the Council.

You may be gone, but you will never be absent. Anyway, life is not always fair but we wish you all the best in whatever you do in the future. The Afghan delegation also wishes to promise its full support for Professor Naeini's successor. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I call upon our colleague from Kenya, followed by Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Ann Belinda NYIKULI (Kenya)

I take the floor in full appreciation also and in recognition of the speakers who have spoken before of me. Many of them, and in particular, I identify myself with the G-77, Africa, the words of my colleague from Germany and those of my colleague from New Zealand who have endeavoured to describe Professor Noori very, very clearly.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our profound thanks to the Secretariat and the officials for having steered this Conference in a manner that is exemplary. I thank you, for giving me the opportunity to express, like my colleagues have done, the joy and satisfaction that Professor Noori was able to steer the Council for two terms. It is amazing that due to his able stewardship throughout the two terms, he helped us to overcome numerous stumbling blocks and challenges by becoming extremely accessible to all of us, listening to each block and putting us together in a manner that will be unforgettable.

It was indeed amazing at times, Professor, how you would maintain such a humble and selfless and calm façade even when the meeting room was steaming with dissent and uncertainty, and sometimes actual discontent on issues that we were discussing. Time and again you managed to maintain a successful record of success as an able consensus-builder. We cannot say that enough, and I know that each and everyone of us would like to add our voices to that. You leave behind in FAO a legacy of pure success. I do recall the first time we tried to vote for you, it was a close call, but the second time we did not have to think about it. You got it, neat and straight.

You leave an enviable record as a bridge-builder. You deserve to enjoy every word of the overflowing words of appreciation coming out from this room. We wish you all the best, and remember, you leave behind happy smiling faces of friends, friends and friends, not just of the Chair but friends of Professor Noori. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

So interestingly, I had announced that next would be Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic, Costa Rica, Iran, Jordan, Bangladesh, Australia. I said Australia. Does that mean our vote has been returned and I have been told yes, so after our colleague from Australia speaks, I will express the feelings of the Conference as a whole. For those of you who have had an opportunity to have the Floor and for those of you who have not, I will say a couple of words, and then we will proceed to announce the vote result, so our colleague from Saudi Arabia, please.

Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. On behalf of my country's delegation, I would like to thank Professor Mohammed Said Noori, the Independent Chairperson of the Council. His term at the head of the Council has been characterised by excellence. It has met with the satisfaction of all of the Member Nations. Professor Noori has always worked to strengthen the role of Member Nations working in the interests of the Organization as a whole. He has always tried to improve coordination and cooperation between national groups, and to ensure that we could reach consensus easily, wisely and with intelligence.

I have always been struck by his working methods, strengthening multilateralism to the benefit of all. Under his leadership, we have managed to resolve difficult problems, but we have always heard him tell us with his legendary smile that it is never impossible to reach a solution if you approach it with good will.

Thank you, Professor Noori. We wish you the greatest of success in the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from the Syrian Arab Republic.

Hassan KHADDOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

After listening to the kind words spoken by my colleagues as a tribute to Professor Noori, his career path through the FAO, his term of office at the head of the Council, I can do no better than to join with all of those delegations in thanking Professor Noori for his great efforts in the interests of this Organization. We wish him success and health.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from Costa Rica.

Luis París CHAVERRI (Costa Rica)

A nombre de los países centroamericanos, queremos expresar nuestro más sentido agradecimiento al Profesor Noori por su excelente labor que ha sido muy positiva para esta Organización.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

As I am Iranian, for me it is too difficult to find words to say about Professor Noori, particularly after listening to many kind words from all of the distinguished delegates in the room. Again, as my duty, I try to repeat and again, I find it is very difficult for me to say something because all of you know Mr Noori better than me, whatever he has done so far. So once more again, on behalf of my Government, the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to heartily express my appreciation to Professor Noori for what he has done so far as the Independent Chairperson as well as for the Committees he chaired.

Let me briefly repeat what the Director-General mentioned a few weeks ago, if I can remember well. Professor Noori is the right man for the right work at the right time. These are the best words to extend to Professor Noori. So, Professor Noori, we learn from you to have much patience, flexibility, commitment and independence, and so many other things.

Finally, I wish you success and prosperity wherever you will be in the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

It is difficult to add something to the tribute that we have just heard. I nevertheless would like to say that the personality of my brother, Mr Noori, was made known when we spoke about the issue of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. At no time did we disassociate the function from

Professor Noori's personality. He personified the qualities required of an Independent Chairperson of the Council. He was truly objective and independent. He always sought a compromise among the various Members despite all the difficulties we had. I've known him for a long time. We worked together before he was appointed as Independent Chairperson of the Council. I will never forget his charming smile, even in the face of the most serious difficulties. He has always been able to navigate using his smile. He always said that nothing was impossible, and that we would always find a solution. So he was able to personify our inspirations, and we hope the next Independent Chairperson of the Council will have the same qualities.

Now, after having thanked him, I would like to wish him every success in his future endeavours and I hope that fate will have us meet again.

Thank you once again, Mr Noori.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from Bangladesh.

Masud Bin MOMEN (Bangladesh)

I would like to join all my distinguished colleagues who have spoken before me in praising the unique role of Professor Noori. He epitomizes the true consensus-builder. He steered through the most challenging time of this Organization when many of us were having doubts on many fronts. After two-and-a-half years, he leaves us with a lot of hopes.

Best wishes for him and his family. All I can say at this stage is that his successor will have a tough job ahead.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from Australia.

Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you everybody for waiting. On behalf of the Australian delegation, I would very much like to extend my congratulations and join with my colleagues to give thanks to Professor Noori for his immense efforts within the role of the Independent Chair of the Council.

From the early 1950s when Australia last held the position of Independent Chair, we certainly had a strong appreciation of the central and vital role that the Independent Chair plays in creating and maintaining an efficient and effective FAO. As my colleagues here understand, FAO is facing great challenges in the current climate of food insecurity and there are many difficult and large tasks that it faces. A strong Independent Chair of the Council is an instrumental part of the proper conduct of the FAO in addressing these daunting tasks. Professor Noori has risen to the challenges, has risen beyond the challenges, demonstrated exemplary guidance for all Members and has been a key element of the FAO Reforms.

It was only a week ago that Professor Noori was guiding us, maybe two weeks, in preparing the final Declaration for the World Summit on Food Security, and it was only through his tough but effective management that we managed to get through it and get the outcome that we did.

We greatly appreciate the role he has played, acting as a bridge between FAO Members and Management; in many cases acting as a bridge between the Members themselves. We would certainly like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Noori, but also to welcome the incoming Chair, recognizing that that person will still have much work to do.

Thank you, Ms Chairperson and most of all thank you Professor Noori. We wish you and your family the best.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Professor Noori, clearly you are a very beloved man in this Conference. Your leadership has been acknowledged by all. You have done wonderful work here, and let me just say one final congratulations.

Standing ovation

Ovation debout

Ovación de pie

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask Mrs. Williams to read the results of the vote for Independent Chairperson of the Council.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of the ballot: Ballot papers deposited: 146. Votes cast: 144. Abstentions: 2. Defective ballots: 0. Majority needed: 73. Elected: Mr Luc Guyau of France with 75 votes. Not Elected: Mr Victor Heard of the United Kingdom with 69 votes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	2	NOMINATION OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL 2009-2011 DESIGNATION DU PRÉSIDENT DU CONSEIL 2009-2011 DESIGNACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO 2009-2011
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	146
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	144
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	73
------------------------------------	----

Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos	
Mr Luc Guyau (France)	75	Mr Victor Charles Heard (United Kingdom)	69

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mrs Sarrak Chailanggar (Thailand)

Signature

Firma *Sarrak*

Mr Travis Power (Australia)

Signature

Firma *[Signature]*Date
Fecha

22/11/2009

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Guyau for his election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council, and want to wish him well for the demanding role he has taken on. Now it is my pleasure to ask for words from our Director-General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would just like to say that when we have had so many hours of work, so many days, what is expected of the Director-General is to be brief. I therefore would essentially like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contribution to the success of the Conference after the success of the World Summit on Food Security, for having approved a budget which would allow us to operate effectively and also for having endorsed the Reform Process that will have to be able to translate into concrete actions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Noori-Naeini. I did it already at the Council, but I just wanted to say that, in him, I have always found someone who was trying to help Management to do its job better for the interests of the Membership. I have always had the kind of relationship built on confidence that has allowed us to always be able to achieve, I hope, progress in what the Members wanted us to do.

Naturally, I wanted to congratulate the new Independent Chairperson of the Council. He will find in me a Director-General open and willing to work with him in the spirit that the Membership would like us to have for the benefit of the Member Nations. We are to face great challenges and we need the wisdom, the understanding, the diplomacy and, in particular, the confidence that we have seen in Professor Noori-Naeini and which, I am sure, we will see in Mr Luc Guyau.

To all of you my best wishes; for those who are returning home, a safe trip back to your families. For all our colleagues who will be staying here with us in Rome, I look forward to continuing to maintain the excellent friendship that we have developed over time. We will naturally do our best to ensure that we address the problem of one billion hungry people in the world and, unfortunately, a world in which every six seconds a child dies of hunger.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and congratulations for the very able way in which you have conducted the debates of the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Now I would like to call upon our very dear colleague, the Ambassador from the United Kingdom.

James HARVEY (United Kingdom)

I would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Luc Guyau for his election as Independent Chair of the Council. We have every confidence he will do an excellent job. It is an extremely important job. Earlier this week we achieved something remarkable, a Declaration of Member Nations based on five principles, the Rome Principles, to take a comprehensive approach to tackling hunger and malnutrition, and this requires FAO to move ahead with its renewal at full speed. The work of the Council will be paramount.

I think the election has demonstrated some important principles, apart from the way you have conducted it, Chair, and I note your comments about getting an electronic system next time. That's something to look forward to. Firstly, we had a field of strong candidates from which to choose. And I would like to thank all of them. Secondly, we had opportunities to meet the candidates, to ask them questions, to hear their replies and assess their relative merits against the requirements

of the job. I would particularly like to thank the G-77 for arranging an opportunity for the Membership to meet all three candidates a few weeks ago.

This is a landmark in FAO appointment processes. We hope the lessons learned can guide us in future elections.

Luc, we look forward to working with you and we assure you of our full support.

Other people have said a million things about Professor Noori, but I would just like to accumulate them all together. We will miss you and we hope to see you around a little bit. It has been a privilege to work with you. Thank you very much indeed.

Victor Charles Heard from the United Kingdom, I apologize.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

So my intention now is to call on the colleague from France and then after that proceed to Item 27, Election of Council Members.

Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Mon cœur est partagé parce que nous perdons le Professeur Noori et j'ai eu l'occasion de lui dire, déjà, à quel point nous lui devons notre reconnaissance et, à tous les compliments justifiés qui lui ont été adressés, je voudrais rajouter le mien très brièvement en insistant, non seulement, sur sa sagesse mais je l'ai déjà dit, et je le dis dans le sens le plus profond de la langue française: son élégance, son élégance intellectuelle, son élégance spirituelle et aussi son élégance personnelle.

Professeur Noori, vous nous manquerez. Mon cœur est partagé parce que je dois reconnaître qu'aujourd'hui, mon pays, la France connaît le successeur du Professeur Noori et dans la mesure où ce successeur est Luc Guyau, le candidat que nous avons soutenu, évidemment d'un côté, je suis triste, et de l'autre, je suis contente, je dois l'avouer, en tant qu'ambassadeur de la France.

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, adresser mes félicitations à Vic Heard qui a été un excellent candidat et, plus qu'un candidat, puisqu'il était connu de nous tous pour son investissement au sein de la FAO.

Je voudrais aussi remercier l'Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni, James Alexander Harvey, qui a toujours été d'un très grand *fair-play* et cela nous a beaucoup aidé à travailler ensemble durant toute cette dernière période et je voudrais, évidemment, remercier toutes celles et ceux qui ont estimés que Monsieur Luc Guyau serait le Président indépendant capable, et ce n'est pas facile de succéder au Professeur Noori. Tout à l'heure encore, il était mon candidat, désormais il est le Président du Conseil et je suis seulement l'ambassadeur de la France. Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We thank you Madame and congratulations to your countryman

PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL

Je dois dire que c'est avec beaucoup d'émotion, et beaucoup aussi de sens de responsabilité et d'humilité que je prends la parole devant vous.

Je voudrais d'abord, comme cela se fait à chaque élection, remercier tous ceux qui ont voté pour moi mais aussi tous ceux qui n'ont pas voté pour moi parce que à partir de ce moment-là, je suis le président de tous.

Je voudrais remercier Vic Heard et Fatou Ndeye Gaye car ils ont permis de démontrer, en étant candidats avec moi, que la démocratie fonctionne pleinement.

Nous avons pu nous exprimer, échanger entre nous, nous respecter mais la démocratie élit une personne et les autres continuent des activités dans d'autres domaines. Donc, merci.

Et puis, je suis quand même très gêné, Madame la Présidente, parce que vous ne m'avez pas facilité la tâche en donnant la parole à toute l'Assemblée pour remercier le Professeur Noori. Je m'étais aventuré à écrire quelques lignes, mais je n'ai même pas envie de les lire car je trouve qu'elles sont très fades par rapport à tout ce qui a pu être dit.

Cependant, je perçois ce défi à vous succéder, Professeur Noori, parce que j'ai eu l'occasion de vous rencontrer trop peu mais j'ai vu aussi toute votre capacité d'écoute et de recherche de consensus et votre sagesse.

Alors, ce que je peux simplement vous dire, c'est merci et puis bonne chance pour vous et votre famille pour la continuité de votre action.

Je voudrais saluer le Directeur général, nous nous connaissons déjà depuis quelques années, pour avoir travaillé ensemble, pour avoir échangé lors de congrès ou en France dans mon organisation ou au Conseil économique, social et environnemental. Je vous remercie et je vous dis que c'est avec plaisir que je travaillerai avec vous.

Nous n'aurons sans doute pas le même tempérament mais nous serons, je l'espère, souvent d'accord, de temps en temps nous aurons besoin de nous exprimer, mais c'est comme cela que je conçois le tandem entre le Directeur général et le Président.

Et donc, c'est avec un très grand plaisir que je travaillerai avec vous ainsi qu'avec tout le Secrétariat, que je veux remercier pour sa disponibilité. J'aimerais saluer particulièrement l'ensemble du personnel de la FAO qui montre une disponibilité et une activité débordante: les interprètes, bien sûr, mais aussi toutes les hôtesse de salle (*messengers*) et tous ceux qui sont là à travailler autour de nous. Et puis, ceux qui sont en dehors de la salle, mais aussi dans les bureaux. J'aimerais également remercier tous les services de sécurité, car j'ai vécu toute la semaine ici, le Sommet mondial et j'ai vu combien il était difficile d'assurer la sécurité d'une maison comme celle-là mais tout semble se dérouler parfaitement. Les Chefs d'États circulent, ce qui démontre que tout se déroule bien.

Si je suis élu aujourd'hui, c'est aussi pour exprimer tout ce que j'avais dit pendant la campagne, que la première mission était de poursuivre votre action et, avant tout, de continuer la mise en place de la Réforme en facilitant celle-ci dans l'action, la croissance et la reconnaissance de la FAO dans le monde.

Notre objectif pour la FAO, c'est d'accomplir notre mission: éradiquer la faim partout et pour tous. Il est inacceptable aujourd'hui de constater encore qu'un milliard d'humains sur la terre ont faim. Et, je dois dire plus particulièrement aussi que, en tant que père et grand-père, je trouve cela encore plus intolérable lorsqu'il s'agit des enfants qui, encore aujourd'hui, sont touchés. Mais, je vous le dis, je serai rigoureux sur les objectifs qui sont confiés par la Conférence au Conseil et à l'ensemble de la FAO.

Pourquoi dire rigoureux, parce que, il est vrai, j'ai compris aussi qu'ici de temps en temps on se complait ou on se laisse aller à des discussions sans fin. N'oublions pas que ceux qui ont faim ne peuvent plus attendre. Nous devons donc, à certains moments, dépasser nos légers conflits ou mésententes pour aller plus vite dans les discussions que nous devons avoir.

À vous tous, j'ai pu vous rencontrer mais bien sûr trop rapidement les uns ou les autres. Dans les semaines qui viennent, mon premier travail sera d'écouter, comme je l'avais dit. Je prendrais rendez-vous très rapidement avec les Présidents des groupes régionaux. Mais, aussi avec toutes les directions et les sous-directions de cette maison pour connaître encore et m'imprégner un peu plus de cette maison.

Et puis, la chance que j'ai en arrivant, c'est que d'ici le prochain Conseil nous avons trois Conférences régionales, un Comité de programme et un Comité financier.

Donc, je pense quand j'aurai passé ces cinq réunions, je connaîtrai un peu plus chacun et si je ne suis pas opérationnel ce mercredi, à ce moment-là, je pense être vraiment opérationnel.

Je suis aussi ici comme Président indépendant de tous, venant de l'extérieur, avec une expérience de société civile, nationale et internationale. Ce sera un plus pour nos échanges, pour appliquer les orientations de la Conférence de la FAO. Mais aussi pour fédérer les énergies, peut-être plus près encore du terrain et en lien, bien sûr, avec le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), le Fonds international du développement agricole (FIDA), ici à Rome, mais aussi toutes les structures onusiennes.

Et avec le Directeur général, en tandem, pour le rayonnement de notre action à la FAO, nous agissons pour mieux faire connaître et respecter la FAO partout dans le monde. Car pour moi, pour lutter contre le fléau de la faim dans le monde, il nous faut une opinion publique plus favorable, plus consciente du rôle des actions et des missions de la FAO.

Enfin, l'action doit trouver ses complémentarités entre Rome et le terrain, dans les régions, dans les pays et dans les villages. Notre action doit aussi s'appuyer sur la mobilisation de tous, de tous les acteurs de terrain pour ne pas dissocier quelque chose qui, pour moi, est important: alimentation, pêche, agriculture et forêt, tout est un.

Nos pères, en 1946, nous ont confiés une mission. Nous devons relever ce défi en l'associant avec les grands débats d'actualité sur l'eau, le climat, la santé et bien d'autres choses. Pour que, tous ensemble, nous fassions respecter dans le monde ce premier élément des droits de l'homme: celui de se nourrir, de manger à sa faim pour aboutir à la paix du monde. Vous pouvez compter sur moi, comme j'espère bien compter sur vous.

Permettez-moi de finir, mais le Président indépendant a écrit son discours sur des bouts de papier tout seul. C'est sa première preuve d'indépendance pour aujourd'hui, je l'ai fait comme j'ai pu. Mais, je dois dire que je suis satisfait aussi de cette semaine que nous avons passée ici, car, quand je vois les orientations qui ont été prises par le Sommet mondial, ce que nous avons réussi à faire ce matin et ces derniers jours concernant la réforme du CSA, le vote du budget et la continuité de la réforme, je crois que nous sommes sur la bonne voie.

Vous me permettrez, enfin, de terminer en vous demandant une permission, pour la dernière fois, car comme l'a dit Madame Mireille Guigaz, je suis le Président indépendant. Donc, j'aimerais vous demander la permission de remercier publiquement mon pays qui m'a fait confiance, peut-être aussi comme candidat, mais aussi comme référent de l'organisation civile de notre pays.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Président de la République, son Premier Ministre et les Ministres. C'est un honneur et une reconnaissance pour moi, pour la société civile, mais aussi pour tous les paysans.

Merci aussi à toute l'équipe qui m'a accompagné derrière son Excellence Madame Mireille Guigaz, toute l'équipe de collaborateurs qui m'ont accompagné et en particulier une mention spéciale, vous me permettrez, pour Elisabeth Dahan, Ambassadeur, et Jean-Jacques Soula. C'est promis, c'est la dernière fois que je ferai de ces remerciements.

Et puis, je terminerai cette intervention, qui me guidera en permanence dans mon action, sur une citation du premier Président de l'organisation que j'ai présidée pendant dix ans en France, la Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles (FNSEA), le grand syndicat agricole qui disait: "Si dans ta vie tu veux tracer un droit sillon, accroche-le à une étoile là-haut, tout là-haut à un idéal".

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Once again we would like to congratulate Mr Guyau for his election, his excellent plan of action described in his remarks, and we wish him the best of luck. I would like now to give the Floor to our dear Professor.

Mohammed Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Former Independent Chairperson of Council)

First, I am really overwhelmed and left speechless by your very kind words so I will be very brief as you all wish so, especially the interpreters who have been here for a long day today.

I really want to thank you for providing this great opportunity for me during the past four years to work here in FAO. It has a few characteristics which you cannot find anywhere else. First of all, it is a very interesting, exciting and constructive job, so everybody enjoys that. Second, while you are doing your responsibility, you are enjoying a stay in the Eternal City of Rome, and you cannot find so many places like that. Third, which is very important is, that while you are doing your job and responsibility you are working for the underprivileged, the poor and the hungry and whatever you do you have a double role, doing your work and having the pleasure to work for those who really need us. I think this is the greatest reward that anyone working in an institution like FAO enjoys. We are among the privileged, all of us, who have this opportunity to enjoy this work.

I have enjoyed every day of working with you for FAO, for the poor and the hungry. I am sure that you have the same feeling as well. The level of satisfaction that you expressed today is really a major reward for me which I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Thank you for being so kind. Your satisfaction is the best compensation that I would have expected and I am happy that I could live up to your expectations.

Let me borrow one sentence from the statement of the Ambassador of Brazil, that he said last year and repeated this year "that the Reform of FAO, whatever we have earned during these two years, which is a lot, is all a by-product of something else" and that something else is the unity, the sense of solidarity and friendship and the Culture Change that we are enjoying right now. You have seen it recently in few events. We have never had such an atmosphere here in FAO. Now we are talking to each other and most important, we are listening to each other.

While I am congratulating Luc Guyau for his success in being elected, I can leave only one word for him " this plant of unity and friendship is very fragile". It needs care and we have to everyday be very cautious that we have to provide this nurturing and care. If we can do it, it would be a foundation of culture which is much needed in FAO. I am sure that Luc is able to do that. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

27. Election of Council Members (C 2009/LIM/16)

27. Élection des Membres du Conseil (C 2009/LIM/16)

27. Elección de los miembros del Consejo (C 2009/LIM/16)

CHAIRPERSON

I now move to Item 27, election of the Council Members.

You have before you document C 2009/11-Rev.1 and the Daily Journal which includes a chart of countries nominated by region and bi-electoral period. Given that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization allows for the election of Council Members by clear general consent when the number of candidates is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled, I suggest we carry out the election of the candidates by clear general consent when there are no more candidates than

vacant seats. If no delegation wishes to request clarification, we can now proceed. I call on the Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the period of November 2009 to 30 November 2011: one seat, candidate Mauritania. For the period of November 2009 to 30 June 2012: three seats, Gabon, Mauritius and Mozambique. For the period 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2013: five seats, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, and Uganda.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Africa.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Regarding Asia, for the period November 2009 to 30 June 2012, six candidates, China, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Asia?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Regarding Europe, for the period November 2009 to 30 June 2012, three seats candidates, Germany, Spain, Slovakia.

For the period 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2013, three seats, Greece, Ireland and the Russian Federation.

CHAIRPERSON

Excellent, we saved a few seconds there. It is so decided.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Latin America and the Caribbean. Ms Williams, please proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Regarding Latin America and the Caribbean, for the period 2009 to 30 June 2012, three seats, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivian Republic of Venezuela.

For the period 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2013, five seats, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the Near East. Ms Williams, please proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Regarding the Near East, for the period November 2009 to 30 June 2012, there are four candidates for one seat.

CHAIRPERSON

Do any of the candidates wish to withdraw. If not, we shall proceed to conduct a vote by secret ballot. Given that none of the candidates is willing to withdraw, we shall proceed to a secret ballot. The Secretary-General will provide the relevant information. Ms Williams, you once again have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called one at a time to go to the voting area where they will receive a ballot paper indicating the names of the candidates. Each elector, except he/she wholly abstains, shall cast a vote by marking a cross X in the box beside the candidate he/she wishes to elect. Each elector must cast one vote, I repeat, no more than one vote.

In accordance with Rule XII, 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention. In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

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

In accordance with Rule XII.10(f) of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing the ballot paper may request a clean one from the Election's Officer. The clean ballot paper will be delivered on the surrender of the invalidated ballot paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Voting will now commence. I invite the delegates of Sweden and China to act as Tellers and to proceed to the voting area, after which the Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Finally, may I draw your attention to Rule XII.15 which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or Representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Will all delegates press the green button.

CHAIRPERSON

Your attention please for one moment, we need to establish a quorum. Ms Williams.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Will all delegates press the green button on their desk to ascertain the quorum. Please vote.

I will read the result sheets of the vote. Number of persons present 164, number of votes cast 132, quorum required 89. You may proceed to vote.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I shall now proceed to read the list of Members starting with Afghanistan, to be followed by Albania.

Secret ballot
Voix secret
Votación secreta

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has concluded and I will ask our Tellers to depart and count the ballots. I will adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes, at which time we will reconvene. Thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 19.00 to 19.15 hours
La séance est suspendue de 19 h à 19 h 15
Se suspende la sesión de las 19.00 a las 19.15 horas

CHAIRPERSON

We are back in session, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let me tell you that we have, before asking Ms Williams to read the results of the vote, let me end the suspense right now and tell you the unfortunate news is that we do not have a majority for any one of the four candidates. So I am going to ask Ms Williams to read the election results and then I am going to break for 15 minutes and ask our colleagues in the Near East Group to convene and discuss the situation and see if they have any information for the Conference as a whole. Before doing so, I call on my colleague from Iraq.

Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I have been in consultation with my colleagues from the Near East Group regarding this issue and most of them recognize that a sense of the time, people are tired, people want to go home and I have the agreement of most of them – at least three of them – that we accept the results as they are. The candidate who gets the most will take seat number one. The candidate who gets the second and third highest number will go for the two seats, and the candidate who gets the least votes will withdraw from the election.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank our colleague from Iraq for that suggestion and let me suggest that it is going to get even more complicated than you might imagine. So, I appreciate the indication of willingness from your Group to discuss this internally. I will call on my colleague from Jordan, and then I will ask Ms Williams to read the results of the election. My colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In this principle, as our colleague from Iraq said and on behalf of my country, I can accept that and I can live with it. If Jordan will be number four, I will withdraw directly.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Well, I could ask for more statements, but I really believe these results may surprise you. Ms Williams.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will read the reports of the ballot. Ballot papers deposited: 140. Votes cast: 129. Abstentions: 4. Defective Ballots: 7. Majority needed: 66. I will read the votes. Islamic Republic of Iran: 34 votes. Jordan: 53 Votes. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: 21 votes. Syrian Arab Republic: 21 votes.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS - NEAR EAST REGION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL - REGION PROCHE-ORIENT <u>11/2009 - 06/2012</u> ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO - REGIÓN CERCANO ORIENTE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	140
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7

4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	65
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Élus - Elegidos	Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
	Islamic Republic of Iran	34
	Jordan	53
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	21
	Syrian Arab Republic	21

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Ms Cecilia Nordin Van Gansberghe (Sweden)

Signature

Firma

Mr Yuliang Pang (China)

Signature

Firma

Date 22/11/2009

Fecha

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Now we understand. What are the chances? So, given that information I will adjourn the Plenary for 15 minutes and then reconvene. I thank you.

The meeting was suspended from 19.44 to 20.11 hours

La séance est suspendue de 19 h 44 à 20 h 11

Se suspende la sesión de las 19.44 a las 20.11 horas

CHAIRPERSON

I bring your attention to our ceiling. I have been wondering all day about it and our kind Assistant Secretary-General did a little research. We find that the artist, and I will, of course, mispronounce the name as I always do, Mirko Basaldella, kind of, Italian born in 1910 and passed away in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1969 and it is metaphysical painting. I did not know anything about this – the fantastic side of real – metaphysical painting. I just point that out as we may be contemplating the ceiling quite a bit this evening because the Near East Group has not come to a decision, has not been able to come to agreement. So at this time we will proceed with a second round of voting. Let me remind you, dear colleagues that, if there is no change in the votes that have been cast, we will once again not achieve majority for any of the four candidates, and we will be in stalemate. So take a look at that ceiling, think about your vote, and I ask the Secretary-General to proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will read out the names of the countries that did not show up. The Assistant Secretary-General will read the names of the countries, please.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I think perhaps we should first ascertain that there is a quorum. Shall we do that?

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, if people would pay attention to the Secretary-General. We need to have a quorum count. Please indicate your presence by pressing the green light.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

We do have a quorum.

CHAIRPERSON

Sir, we have a quorum, and thank you. Our colleague from Turkey.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

This is just to seek clarification. I have two kids waiting at home alone – my kids – so I do not want to wait here until midnight for this voting. So, is this voting for the four countries again, or can we just vote for the last two countries – Libya and Syria.

CHAIRPERSON

The answer to your question, Sir, is that on the previous ballot, not one of the four candidates received a majority. According to our Rules, to get that seat, one would have to achieve a majority and so we need to have that same vote with the four candidates. If we get, this time, someone with a majority then it is possible that the lowest vote-getter, and hopefully it will not be a tie again, the lowest vote-getter will choose to withdraw his or her name to allow us to conclude the Membership for this Region. Are there any other questions of clarification? My colleague from Germany.

Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

Now you may hear me. I congratulate you.

Can we not continue the voting tomorrow? First question – that would give the opportunity to our colleagues and friends from the Near East Group to consult again among themselves. I do not know whether this voting procedure can be interrupted, but we have a free morning and we could start at 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I will call upon the Assistant Secretary-General.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have a little bit of consultation here and one option could be to proceed to the vote, and announce the results tomorrow so that you will not have to wait.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The risk of postponing the vote until tomorrow is that we might not have a quorum.

CHAIRPERSON

I am going to take the prerogative of the Chair. This is my last night in Italy, and that Italian food is calling to me. I am hungry and I want to celebrate. However, I am concerned that if we adjourn and proceed without the results being known, that we may be in the very same situation without one of the four candidates having a majority, and then we will run into a potential problem, as noted by our Assistant Secretary-General, that there might be failure to have a quorum tomorrow morning and then we would be in serious trouble. So, I am sorry. I am not able to accommodate that suggestion from our Vice-Chair, and I think we will proceed with the voting. I am sorry. My colleague from Uruguay.

Alberto BRECCIA GUZZO (Uruguay)

Quería hacer una observación, que no sé si es pertinente, y una consulta.

La observación: de pronto la fatiga me ha llevado a no detectar si efectivamente ya se dispuso la proclamación, de los candidatos por la región América del Norte. En todo caso creo que sería bueno, a los efectos de no dejar esto pendiente y en la medida de que todavía los candidatos para el Cercano Oriente no se han puesto de acuerdo, proceder a la proclamación de los dos candidatos para América del Norte, donde tenemos la misma situación de lo sucedido en las anteriores regiones donde ha salido aprobado todo por aclamación.

La consulta es: ¿qué sucede si en una segunda votación ningún candidato alcanza la mayoría? Quisiera saberlo porque podríamos estar en una situación que durase hasta dos días más.

CHAIRPERSON

I appreciate the question, dear colleague, and my observation is that this is a room full of very intelligent people, and we will not encounter that situation. I call upon my colleague from Nigeria.

Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Could you please just let us know what this majority figure is?

CHAIRPERSON

Well, the Secretary-General is just looking that up. Let me just say that we will proceed to take care of the North America situation. I failed to do that and I apologize and we will do that

expeditiously, and then go to the Near East vote again. Madam Secretary-General, could you reply in terms of the needed vote?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The required vote is 66.

Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Je pense que ce serait plus prudent de continuer le vote parce qu'il y a un risque de ne pas avoir le quorum demain et s'il n'y a pas le quorum demain, le problème devient encore plus compliqué car si une partie de l'élection se réunit ce soir et que demain il n'y a pas de quorum, que fera-t-on? Donc, il est plus prudent de continuer ce soir.

CHAIRPERSON

My colleague from the Dominican Republic.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Deseo sugerir que quizás podríamos designar a más delegados que puedan cooperar con el conteo de los votos para que dicho conteo sea lo más rápido posible.

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the Legal Counsel to consider that and reply. In the meantime, I am going to call on the Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for North America.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

From 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2013 Canada and the United States of America.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Just to be clear, I have a question for our colleagues from the Near East. Do we still have, for lack of a better term, the deal that they suggested for the first round of voting where the first candidate receiving the most votes will go into the A slot, and the two candidates receiving the next highest will go into the second, with the fourth candidate dropping out. I am hoping that we still have that situation in place.

CHAIRPERSON

I call on my colleague from Iraq.

Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would just like to verify, because according to the discussion we held just a little while ago, there is an agreement that the last, or the least, or the candidate number four would drop out so that we do not go for another round. I would like, if you would permit, to ask the four candidates if they agree on this, please? Is that understandable?

CHAIRPERSON

I call on my colleague from Gambia. I understand your question; we will return to it.

Kebba Satou TOURAY (Gambia)

Another option could be probably to give them more time to see whether from now and again tomorrow, they may be able to reach a consensus. Looking at the numbers now, going to another round might bring us to the same situation.

CHAIRPERSON

No, I plan on proceeding to the vote tonight. My colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In fact, I am open to all options. I have previously announced on behalf of my country that if we get the least number of votes, we will withdraw. On the other hand, I agree that the candidate who receives the highest number of votes will fill the first slot if this does not conflict with any other legal principles. Therefore, we all have to agree on this option. If all countries agree on them, I personally do so also.

CHAIRPERSON

So, in response to the question raised by our colleague from Iraq, what I would propose is that we proceed with the next round of voting. Hopefully, it will not be exactly the same since people understand that this would not be a good outcome here tonight for any of us. That the person with the lowest number of votes would find him or herself in a position, a rational position, of withdrawing. I would then present by rank order of the votes, the person with the highest number of votes to take that first term, and the two people that are in the second and third place on the vote count to take the second and third places available. I would ask the Conference to accept that by acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Our colleague from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Jafar KHALGHANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express that we really did not want to get to this situation. From the beginning, we wanted to resolve everything from within the Near East Group. Now we fully support the proposal from our colleague from Iraq and we fully support whatever happens. We definitely do.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I shall begin reading the list of countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I am just waiting for my Tellers. My Tellers are from Sweden and China, and they are in place. Please continue calling the roll.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I shall continue reading the list of countries.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Ms William, you have the Floor again.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now read out the names of the countries that did not vote.

CHAIRPERSON

I see we have lost some of our population and I will get advice from Legal Counsel in terms of what a majority may be. In the meantime, I would ask the Tellers to proceed with a count of the vote. We have asked that our colleagues from Greece and France join the Tellers so we will have a total of four Tellers, double the number of Tellers to accelerate things. So, I ask for them to

leave the room with the ballots and proceed with the vote count. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will take a 20 minute recess.

There is one announcement from our Assistant Secretary-General. This is a good time for announcements, if anyone has important announcements.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Sorry, I forgot to make this announcement earlier. Tomorrow in the Iran Room, there will be a Side Event starting at 13.15 in Russian and English. And the theme of the Side Event will be a Presentation of Plant Genetic Resources Collection of Saint Petersburg Vavilov Institute, who is one of the fathers of plant genetic sciences.

CHAIRPERSON

Any more announcements or shall we proceed with the recess of twenty minutes? I see none. We are in recess.

The meeting was suspended from 20.50 to 21.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 20 h 50 à 21 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 20.50 a las 21.20 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask Ms Williams to read the results of the vote, and then immediately afterwards I will gavel for a 10-minute recess. Ms Williams.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The report of the ballot. Ballot papers deposited: 115. Abstentions: 2. Defective ballots: 4. Votes cast: 109. Majority needed: 55. Islamic Republic of Iran: 30 votes, Jordan: 52, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: 10, Syrian Arab Republic: 17.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS - NEAR EAST REGION ÉLECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL - REGION PROCHE-ORIENT <u>11/2009 - 06/2012</u> ELECCIÓN DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO - REGIÓN CERCANO ORIENTE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	115
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4

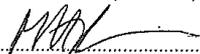
4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	109
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	55
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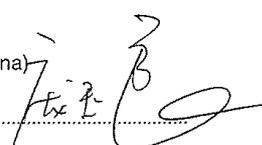
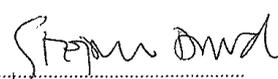
Elected - Élus - Elegidos	Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
	Islamic Republic of Iran	30
	Jordan	52
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10
	Syrian Arab Republic	17

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Mr Michael Hielmåker (Sweden)

Signature 
FirmaDate 22/11/2009
Fecha

Mr Yuliang Pang (China)

Signature 
FirmaStephen Dowd 
.....Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask for a 10 minute recess and ask our colleagues in the Near East region to once again meet quickly, and see if they might present to the Conference a situation where the colleague from Jordan would have the first seat, the colleagues from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic could have the second and third seats, and our colleague from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would withdraw his name from consideration. We are taking a 10-minute recess.

Hassan KHADDOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

Before moving on to the vote, we had come to an agreement. We had agreed that the candidate with the lowest number of votes would withdraw. We had that agreement and the candidate with the most votes would have the first slot from 2009-2011.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Muhamed Ramadan OMER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (Original language Arabic)

Dear colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my other colleagues who have been elected to Council, and we will stand by the agreement and withdraw at this stage.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sir. Your statement was well-received. We appreciate it. I would like to hear from our colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

At times it is hard to find the right words, the words I would like to now use, to thank all of the Member Nations who have accepted to stand by us over this long period of time, to come to a solution to this problem. I would like to express my gratitude to all of the delegations here. As you say, Madame Chair, concerning the allotment of seats in our region, we do have a problem. We are looking for representation but we also want to make sure that we can fully benefit from the dynamic spirit and the enthusiasm of certain countries. I would like to thank our colleague from Libya who was very sincere and who has accepted to withdraw his name from consideration. If we had followed the rules strictly, we could have spent a great deal of time continuing this discussion.

But I would like to come back to the issue of the numbers of seats allocated to our Region. We think there is a need to reconsider, and when we convene the Open-Ended Working Group, I think this is an issue that needs to be tabled. We need to consider the situation. If there are no changes, we are likely to have the same situation in the future.

Once again, I would like to thank those who voted for Jordan and those who voted for all the other candidates.

Rest assured that Jordan will be working in the interests of the Organization, and of all of the Membership, in particular, the developing countries.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Our colleague from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Jafar KHALGHANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I just want one word because it is too late. I would like to thank all of you who have stood with us so far. I would like to thank all of you who voted for us. Thank you to Libya for accepting the vote. Thank you very much to all of you.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to call upon our colleague from the Syrian Arab Republic.

Hassan KHADDOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I, too, would like to thank the delegate from Libya because his decision has certainly made our work here much easier. I would like to thank all of the countries that cast their ballot in favour of Syria. We would like to thank the Membership as a whole, and we are also sorry that it took so long to come to this final determination. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

We have one remaining item from today's work, and that has to do with the issue raised by our colleague from the Dominican Republic.

I would ask that we proceed to adjourn, and bring this up tomorrow morning or does the delegate believe we need to address this this evening?

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Dominican Republic)

I believe that we can resolve the matter right now because we have had a consultation with all of our colleagues. I believe that the text that was presented is acceptable, except for a small amendment that the Ambassador from the United States brought to us. If you could pass the floor to her, she can indicate that small amendment to the text that we circulated, and we can all agree that all of these issues having to do with the structure, the functioning, the efficiency, and the representation in the Governing Bodies should be addressed by all Member States calmly under the leadership of our new Independent Chairperson of the Council in the course of the next 18 months with a view to present consensus positions on these issues to the next Session of the FAO Conference.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Yes, as my colleague has just said, in consultation with the G-77, we have reached an agreement which I believe the body will find acceptable. If you would look at the Resolution which was tabled by the Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of the G-77, in the second paragraph of that document, where it reads beginning with the line "biennium 2010-2011 will review and make recommendations," at that point we would ask for the deletion of the words "representation of Members in the Governing Body" so it would now read "will review and make recommendations regarding measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation". What this would do is allow this body to focus where we should focus our energy, and that is on making all the Governing Bodies more efficient and more effective to serve the purpose for which we have been sent here, while also providing us with the opportunity to address the issue which has been raised so carefully and so correctly by our colleague from Jordan.

CHAIRPERSON

Unless I see a need for anyone to speak, I will assume that this language is acceptable and proceed to enter it into the Conference Report. Our colleague from Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

As Chairperson of the Near East Group, we accept this amendment with the reference made by our colleague from the United States of America, to take into consideration the question I have

mentioned and the issue I have raised about the representation of the Near East Group and the seats on the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Seeing no other comments, we will assume the language is adopted? I suggest that we adjourn the meeting and reconvene at 15:00 tomorrow for the Adoption of the Report. It is important that we have a quorum at that session, so I count on seeing you there.

Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I would like to say, and I think that my colleagues would join me in saying, thank you to you. I know that you are leaving, but you have done yeoman's work here, and we so appreciate the effort you have made, the time you have spent away from your regular duties and responsibilities at the US Department of Agriculture. But we know that you have such respect for the work that goes on here at FAO and we appreciate the commitment that you made by being here.

So on behalf of, I think I can speak for all my colleagues when I say "on behalf of all of us thank you".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 21.33 hours

La séance est levée à 23 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.33horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième Session
36° Periodo de Sesiones**

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

23 November 2009

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 16:30 hours
Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 30
sous la présidence de Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena Sesión Plenaria a las 16:30 horas
bajo la presidencia de Mary Margaret Muchada,
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I (C 2009/I/REP/6; C 2009/I/REP/7; C 2009/I/REP/8; C 2009/I/REP/9; C 2009/I/REP/10.1; C 2009/I/REP/10.2; C 2009/I/REP/10.3; C 2009/I/REP/10.4; C 2009/I/REP/10.5; C 2009/REP/11; C 2009/I/REP/12; C 2009/I/REP/13; C 2009/I/REP/30.8)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I(C 2009/I/REP/6;C 2009/I/REP/7; C 2009/I/REP/8; C 2009/I/REP/9; C 2009/I/REP/10.1; C 2009/I/REP/10.2; C 2009/I/REP/10.3; C 2009/I/REP/10.4; C 2009/I/REP/10.5; C 2009/REP/11; C 2009/I/REP/12; C 2009/I/REP/13; C 2009/I/REP/30.8)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I (C 2009/I/REP/6; C 2009/I/REP/7; C 2009/I/REP/8; C 2009/I/REP/9; C 2009/I/REP/10.1; C 2009/I/REP/10.2; C 2009/I/REP/10.3; C 2009/I/REP/10.4; C 2009/I/REP/10.5; C 2009/REP/11; C 2009/I/REP/12; C 2009/I/REP/13; C 2009/I/REP/30.8)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank you very much for your patience. I know the few minutes extended but I am glad to say that now the documents will soon be distributed in all the languages we were waiting for.

I now wish to call the Tenth Plenary Meeting to order.

Before moving to consideration of the Reports of Commission I and Commission II and the Plenary Meetings, I would like to pass the floor to Mr Jim Butler, Deputy Director-General, who will say a few words on the recent launch of the FAO Staff Internal Vision Statement. A copy of the Vision Statement has been left on your desks. More are available at the Documents Desk on the First Floor of this building, should you wish to avail yourselves of more copies.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you very much. I will only amplify, share with you, what I hope is in front of you in the appropriate languages. The FAO Internal Vision and Value Statement that was launched some two weeks ago after many months of contributions from our staff from all across the world and FAO. This is a Statement that we plan to implement, that we plan to practice and I would ask that you would reflect upon this Statement yourself. You may have noted throughout the building, the campaign with our employees that demonstrates that we are proud to work for FAO. I do believe the vision and the values reflected in this Statement also amplify the fact that we are proud to work here.

I would like to thank Culture Change Team for their hard work and many efforts distributing this document throughout our Organization in all of the languages. Some two weeks ago, for the first time in FAO, we were connected via video streaming to all of our employees and it was quite a rewarding experience so we are all feeling quite proud of this document. I ask you to again hold us accountable for these values and our Internal Vision.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Butler. We will now move to the adoption of Commission I, the Commission I Report. Kindly ensure that you have before you document C 2009/I/REP/6 which contains the Draft Report on all items taken in Commission I. I would like to remind the Conference that the editorial changes can be passed on to the Secretariat after the meeting.

I would now like to invite on Mr Noel de Luna, of the Philippines, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce this Report to the Conference.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Commission I will now discuss the approval of its Report. May I give the floor in turn to Mr Chris Hegadorn of the United States who served as Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I.

Chris, you have the floor.

Chris HEGADORN (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I)

To begin, allow me first to thank Commission I Chairman, Mr Noel de Luna for the opportunity to perform this task, also the Secretariat for their work on the Reports, particularly, Merritt Cluff and Miriam Saif among many others, the interpreters and all the members of Commission I Drafting Committee for the very professional and helpful way in which we worked during the Commission I Drafting Committee.

As appropriate and relevant to the IEE and IPA, we based our efforts on the principle that these Reports should capture decisions and clear conclusions as concisely as possible.

In the intervening time that we have had when waiting for some papers, I have had one or two people present to me small edits, which will be clarified after the session, very minor edits but to make sure that those will be captured correctly in the final paperwork.

I would also point out just two personal observations, having had the privilege of serving in this role, that for future, we might perhaps standardize the text, size, the fonts and I will give those recommendations to the Secretariat to make this easier for all of us, so when we are here, we know which papers are here that might include a table of contents, but again the effort is to make this easy and transparent for all of us.

Regarding the Commission I Report which the Chair has just mentioned, C 2009/6, we have had a chance to look through this carefully and this reflects very well the work that we did in the Commission Drafting Committee and I would like to recommend to the Commission I Chairperson that we move to adopt the entire text *en bloc*. With that, I will return the microphone to the Chair, and thank him and everyone else involved serving on this Drafting Committee.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you Chris for the very lucid presentation. The drafting negotiations generally were positive and very constructive. Personally I am satisfied at the level of professionalism shown. Their hard work more or less reflects what occurred in our sessions. The Chairperson, Chris Hegadorn, proposed to have this draft report adopted *en bloc*.

I now open the floor for comments.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Je voudrais dire que je n'ai pas d'objections à l'adoption en bloc. Je voudrais simplement indiquer que nous avons une observation dont, je crains qu'elle ne soit pas seulement du détail rédactionnel et je voudrais juste m'assurer que cela sera bien pris en compte.

Il s'agit du rapport concernant le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le point 10.5, au paragraphe 3, dans la version française d'une part, dans la version que j'ai pu rapidement consulter espagnole d'autre part, mais pas dans la version anglaise, il est fait mention de la mise en place d'un Groupe d'experts de haut niveau. Donc, nous ne l'avons pas dans la version anglaise et comme la plupart du temps nous finissons par travailler sur des documents en anglais, je voudrais m'assurer que cela sera bien reflété dans le document en anglais. Merci et pour le reste, je n'ai pas d'objection à l'adoption en bloc.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you France, your concerns were duly noted and the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee will make a statement on that.

Can I give the floor to Argentina, who has requested it?

María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

No tenemos objeciones a la aprobación *en bloc*, pero queremos hacer una mención y un pedido de aclaración con respecto al documento que estamos tratando.

En lo referente al informe del 28° Periodo de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca: C 2009/I/Rev.1 Sesiones del Comité de Pesca párrafo 3, en la última parte del párrafo se hace alusión al acuerdo de pesca y en la versión española, dice que el proyecto presentaba dificultades para su aprobación y firma en su forma actual.

La pregunta concretamente es: ¿cuál es el instrumento en el que se encuentra el documento aprobado? probablemente sea el C 2009/REP/21. Nos parece que es una forma de conceptualizar el acuerdo quizás demasiado negativa teniendo en consideración que dicho acuerdo fue luego aprobado por la misma Conferencia.

Queremos saber dos cosas: primero vemos por un lado en el C 2009/REP/21 la aprobación del acuerdo que se votó ayer en horas de la mañana y por el otro lado tenemos esas últimas dos líneas que hablan de una dificultad para su aprobación. El número de votos ayer fue suficiente y superó lo necesario para la aprobación. En tal caso, quizás se podría hacer algún tipo de aclaración con respecto a estas dos últimas líneas.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you Argentina, I do not see any other flags raised. Can I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. I am sorry, El Salvador, you have asked for the floor, go ahead.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Únicamente quería controlar las versiones en inglés y en español, porque me parece que son diferentes las versiones en inglés y en español. Tal vez pudiésemos aclararlo y eso le quitaría las dudas a la delegada de Argentina sobre este tema.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you El Salvador. Brazil, I see your flag raised. Go ahead.

Jose Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

I think our colleague from Argentina was right in mentioning that there is an apparent inconsistency in the Report because the Conference indeed approved the instrument. It does not provide for this, there is no word of that in the Report so I think it is missing some lines, that the expressions of positions are here, encapsulated in the paragraphs, but it does not say that the instrument was indeed approved. I think that is what my colleague from Argentina was stressing, and I concur with her observations.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Quisiera aclarar algo sobre la parte que corresponde al Informe de la Comisión I que se está revisando en este momento y que no es la parte más general, la cual entiendo que veremos más tarde.

En el texto de la Comisión I presentado por la Secretaría, en la versión en inglés en el párrafo 3 a partir de la cuarta línea de abajo hacia arriba, después de la parte donde dice "unreported and unregulated fishing", falta un punto seguido que expresa la situación que se vió ayer en la Sala, como todos recordarían.

Más adelante, cuando se hace referencia a la sesión de ayer en ese documento que todavía no estamos viendo, se refiere a la adopción del acuerdo de la Resolución que se aprobó ayer.

Se trata de dos partes diferentes que competen a la Comisión I en los textos propuestos y en los tres párrafos descritos. Solamente agregando un punto seguido a la versión en inglés y haciendo las traducciones correctas y consistentes en los demás idiomas, reflejará exactamente el acuerdo al que llegamos en la Comisión de Redacción.

En este punto, reitero que en lo que se refiere a la Comisión I, el documento es claro.

La parte sobre la que preguntaron las delegaciones de Argentina y Brasil se refiere a otra sección del documento que no corresponde a la Comisión I y que entiendo analizaremos más adelante.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you, Colombia. I do not see any other flags raised so can I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Commission I.

Chris HEGADORN (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee of Commission I)

Just to point out, thank you to the distinguished delegate of France, I had mentioned, just before the session began, to a member of your delegation, that the Secretariat has already recognized that the language you point out on the High-Level Panel of Experts is actually correct, it was language. I think I had proposed as well, so I have noted that absence. That will be corrected for the record and exactly as it was negotiated in the Drafting Committee.

On the points regarding the language in paragraph 3 of the Reports of COFI, on Fisheries, for Argentina and others who have spoken to this point, the Report here and the language adopted that evening, the second session took place before we had the plenary debate on the Port-State Measures Agreement, and the text here reflects the discussion in Commission I which took place on COFI and the Agreement, so hence the slight disparity of pre-agreement language. So that I hope explains the difference. I understand, as well as my Colombian colleague, who is on the Drafting Committee, and who pointed out earlier before we started, that the Spanish version needed to be corrected and that the Secretariat was already looking into correcting the verb, the reference to Conference and to several Members, to make sure the Spanish was consistent with the English as we negotiated it in the Drafting Committee.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you Chris. Ali has also requested for the floor. Ali, go ahead please.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee clarified the matter. Just one additional clarification in response to the comment by the Ambassador from Brazil. The adoption of the Agreement is reflected in C 2009/REP/21, which will be considered later on as Paper of the Plenary and that is in paragraph 4 of that document that says " the Conference adopted the agreement through the following Resolution" so we see there that specific comment in C 2009/REP/21.

Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you, Ali. I hope that everybody is satisfied with the explanations. If there are no objections and I hope there are none, this Report is adopted by acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr de Luna and Mr Hegadorn for the Report that has just been approved by Commission I. I now, therefore, propose that the Plenary adopts the Report of Commission I en bloc.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

Thank you very much. Consider this approved.

Report of Commission I adopted
Rapport de la Commission I adopté
Informe de la Comisión I aprobado

This concludes the adoption of the Report of the items taken in Commission in I. I wish to thank the Chairperson of the Commission, Mr De Luna, for his work in guiding the work of Commission I, and at the same time I also wish to thank Mr Chris Hegadorn of the United States of America who was the Chair of the Drafting Committee. My thanks to all the members of the Drafting Committee and indeed members of Commission I. Thank you all.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 2009/II/REP/14;
 C 2009/II/REP/15; C 2009/II/REP/16; C 2009/II/REP/17; C 2009/II/REP/17-Add.1)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 2009/II/REP/14;
 C 2009/II/REP/15; C 2009/II/REP/16; C 2009/II/REP/17; C 2009/II/REP/17-Add.1)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 2009/II/REP/14;
 C 2009/II/REP/15; C 2009/II/REP/16; C 2009/II/REP/17; C 2009/II/REP/17-Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the adoption of Commission II Report which is included in document C 2009/II/REP/14. The Resolution on the Budget Level which was adopted in the Plenary yesterday is contained in document C 2009/II/REP/17-Add.1. I would like to ask Ambassador Agnes Van Ardenne Van der Hoeven, of the Netherlands, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce this Report to the Plenary.

Agnes VAN ARDENNE VAN DER HOEVEN (Chairperson of Commission II)

Commission II will now discuss the approval of its Report. To that effect, I wish to give the floor to the Chair of the Drafting Committee of Commission II.

Renato MOSCA (Presidente del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión II)

Yo quisiera hacer más las palabras de mi colega americano en los agradecimientos, para no volver a repetirlos. Permítame comentar que hemos trabajado en dos ocasiones con el Informe del Comité de Redacción y en esas dos oportunidades hemos trabajado con el espíritu de la eficiencia y efectividad con el cual estamos todos comprometidos. Esto lo digo porque tratamos de no rediscutir los temas que habían sido discutidos en la Plenaria o en la Comisión.

Buscamos también la manera de no re-escribir el Informe, como muchas veces ha pasado en estas instancias y de no hacer literatura. Aunque es un Informe corto, estábamos concentrados en reflejar exactamente la discusión que se había tenido en la Comisión. Esto lo digo porque cuando la Comisión y la gobernanza de la FAO trabajan de manera clara y objetiva, como trabajamos en esta Conferencia, el trabajo de los Comités de Redacción se ven muy facilitados. Por eso, Presidente, permítame en nombre del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión II, presentar el informe y sugerir que lo aprobemos en bloque.

Agnes VAN ARDENNE VAN DER HOEVEN (Chairperson of Commission II)

Thank you very much, Mr Renato Mosca, Chair of the Drafting Committee, and thank you for your report which was also brief, but very clear to all of us and that is really the new spirit in which we also have worked as Commission II.

I would like to add some personal observations as Chair of the Commission II. In our meetings and in the Group of Friends of the Chair, from the start until the very end, we were in good company, first as colleagues and later as friends, as good friends I would say. We all created an atmosphere where we were able to build consensus, and we made it. After 25 long hours we achieved what we were aiming for, a win-win outcome. I think we can be proud of ourselves and proud of ourselves for being Members of this Organization, this renewing FAO.

All negotiators were flexible, creative and worked together in a good spirit and with good humour. For everybody, the aim remains to achieve consensus even at difficult moments. I am grateful to all of you that we made it. I am also grateful to Mr Juneja, Mr Haight, Mr Klompenhouwer, Mr Aliyev and Ms de Benedetti and others behind them. They provided us with the best information during the day and the night, and facilitated our discussions as best as they could. Thank you Manoj, Boyd, Yves, Elkhan, Sylvia and others behind them.

But colleagues, what is this all about? Why are we here? We are here as diplomats, representing our governments to FAO, to the United Nations. Pope Benedict XVI stated to all diplomats in Rome, earlier this year, that diplomacy is an act of hope. With this Report, including the budget for the next biennium, we enable FAO staff to hope and to work for a more effective and efficient and more relevant FAO. Moreover, with the approval of this Report, FAO will enable the poor, the deprived and the malnourished to hope and to work for a better life for themselves and their families, with enough nutritious, safe and affordable food.

I now open the floor for any comments that Commission Members may have on the Draft Report of the Commission as presented.

I recognize Japan.

Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

As for the part of Item 17, namely the 2010-2011 PWB is concerned, my intervention on this Agenda Item is not reflected at all. My intervention is substantial; Japan has had to oppose the proposed budget so this should be recorded somewhere in the Report.

Agnes VAN ARDENNE VAN DER HOEVEN (Chairperson of Commission II)

Thank you very much. Mexico you have the floor.

Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

En el mismo sentido que la delegación que me presidió, la delegación de México también hizo una explicación de voto que pedimos que se reflejara.

Agnes VAN ARDENNE (Chairperson of Commission II)

Thank you very much. We have two requests, and I ask Mr Mekouar to react to these two requests. Thank you.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegations that made declarations and explanations of vote during the debate after the vote, have indicated that they would like their statements reflected in the Report, and this is possible by adding a footnote in the relevant paragraph in document C 2009/REP/17-Add.1, that would read "Some Members made explanations and declarations of vote which can be found in (reference to the Verbatim Records of the Session in which the Item was discussed)".

Agnes VAN ARDENNE (Chairperson of Commission II)

Thank you very much. If there are no further comments, the Report of Commission II has been adopted by Commission II.

We can now go back to the Plenary Session of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Van Ardenne. As proposed by the Chairperson of Commission II, I propose that we adopt this Report *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Report of Commission II adopted

Rapport de la Commission II adopté

Informe de la Comisión II aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

That concludes the adoption of the Report of Commission II and I wish to thank Ambassador Van Ardenne for her steering work as Chairperson of Commission II. I know this included many late sessions with the Friends of the Chair Group. I am sure the Conference also wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Renato Mosca de Sousa, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, along with the members of the Commission and members of the Drafting Committee. We thank you.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF PLENARY (C 2009/REP/1; C 2009/REP/2; C 2009/REP/3; C 2009/REP/4; C 2009/REP/5; C 2009/REP/18; C 2009/REP/19; C 2009/REP/20; C 2009/REP/21; C 2009/REP/22; C 2009/REP/23; C 2009/REP/24; C 2009/REP/27; C 2009/REP/28; C 2009/REP/28.1; C 2009/REP/28.2; C 2009/REP/29; C 2009/REP/30; C 2009/REP/30.1; C 2009/REP/30.2; C 2009/REP/30.3; C 2009/REP/30.4; C 2009/REP/30.5; C 2009/REP/30.6; C 2009/REP/30.7; C 2009/REP/30.8)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA PLENIÈRE (C 2009/REP/1; C 2009/REP/2; C 2009/REP/3; C 2009/REP/4; C 2009/REP/5; C 2009/REP/18; C 2009/REP/19; C 2009/REP/20; C 2009/REP/21; C 2009/REP/22; C 2009/REP/23; C 2009/REP/24; C 2009/REP/27; C 2009/REP/28; C 2009/REP/28.1; C 2009/REP/28.2; C 2009/REP/29; C 2009/REP/30; C 2009/REP/30.1; C 2009/REP/30.2; C 2009/REP/30.3; C 2009/REP/30.4; C 2009/REP/30.5; C 2009/REP/30.6; C 2009/REP/30.7; C 2009/REP/30.8)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (C 2009/REP/1; C 2009/REP/2; C 2009/REP/3; C 2009/REP/4; C 2009/REP/5; C 2009/REP/18; C 2009/REP/19; C 2009/REP/20; C 2009/REP/21; C 2009/REP/22; C 2009/REP/23; C 2009/REP/24; C 2009/REP/27; C 2009/REP/28; C 2009/REP/28.1; C 2009/REP/28.2; C 2009/REP/29; C 2009/REP/30; C 2009/REP/30.1; C 2009/REP/30.2; C 2009/REP/30.3; C 2009/REP/30.4; C 2009/REP/30.5; C 2009/REP/30.6; C 2009/REP/30.7; C 2009/REP/30.8)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, finally we have come to the adoption of the Reports on those items that we have examined in this hall. The documents concerned are as follows. C 2009/REP/1, C 2009/REP/20 and C 2009/REP/28.1.

Full details of the Resolutions were approved by the Conference yesterday and set out in the following documents. C 2009/LIM/8, C 2009/LIM/12-Add.1 and C 2009/2/REP/17-Add.1. These are the documents under consideration.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor on any section of the Report that I have tabled before you?

Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Hago referencia al documento C2009/REP/21 que se refiere a la Adopción del Proyecto de Acuerdo sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto.

Quisiera hacer referencia a los párrafos 5 y 6. Como ustedes recordarán, la delegación de México hizo una intervención para apoyar la enmienda puesta a consideración de la Conferencia y de igual manera hizo una explicación de su voto en abstención que fue entregada en ese preciso momento a la Presidenta de la Conferencia.

Desearíamos que estos dos elementos se vieran reflejados en este Informe.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mexico. I recognize El Salvador.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Al igual que la delegación de México, la delegación del Salvador, el día de ayer hizo ambas declaraciones, una en apoyo de la enmienda y otra declaración de explicación del voto en abstención y quisiéramos que esto quedase reflejado en el Informe.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, El Salvador. Sweden.

Cecilia NORDIN VAN GANSBERGHE (Sweden)

The Conference is now very short and we understand that the Secretariat is working very hard but the Report presently in front of us is less than satisfactory in several places which constitutes a reason for taking a look at reporting procedures for the Plenary. We will not enumerate any of these deficiencies, but we would like to suggest to the Conference that Member Nations, through the appropriate forum and at the appropriate time, have an open discussion on how to facilitate the treatment of the Report of the Plenary.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sweden. Any other delegation wishing to take the Floor? Dominican Republic.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Mi delegación quiere asegundar lo que acaba de decir la delegación de Suecia.

Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación también hizo una formulación ayer cuando se discutió el texto. La declaración de nuestro país no aparece en el texto, por lo cual pediría que también quedara reflejada.

Michael P. GLOVER (United States of America)

The United States would like to voice its support for Sweden's proposal.

Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Solamente para complementar y suportar la posición de México, El Salvador y Cuba, en el sentido de que nosotros expusimos, en nuestras declaraciones, nuestro desacuerdo con la Resolución y expresábamos las razones y queremos que quede reflejada también en ese Informe tal como ellos lo han señalado.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comments? Colombia.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Solo para apoyar lo que han dicho las delegaciones de México, El Salvador, Cuba y Venezuela.

CHAIRPERSON

Any more comments from the floor? Guatemala.

Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Para apoyar lo dicho por Colombia, Venezuela, México, y el Salvador.

CHAIRPERSON

Any more comments from the floor? With that, may I call on Mr Mekouar to give us the response of Management.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

We appreciate the comments made by those delegations which made statements yesterday when the Agreement was discussed. Those comments are actually reflected in paragraphs 5 and 6 of C 2009/REP/21. In paragraph 5, there is an explicit reference to the explanation of abstention by Colombia and in paragraph 7, there is reference to the fact that several Members made statements on the occasion of the adoption of the Agreement which are available in the Verbatim Records of the Conference. If you wish, we could add, similarly, a footnote in this paragraph, making a clear reference to the document in which those statements would be recorded as we did a few minutes ago regarding the PWB. This is in response to the first series of comments, which we appreciate.

The comment made by Sweden, seconded by the Dominican Republic and the United States of America, is also appreciated. We are aware of the need to improve our methods of work and I think that we will have the opportunity to discuss this throughout the next biennium through the Committee of the Conference of the IEE, also through the Council in particular on the occasion of the discussion of the Arrangements for the Conference. As you know, there is a standard item on arrangements for the Conference and I think that would provide a good opportunity to discuss those issues and see together how we can improve our methods of work. If this is agreeable to the assembly, we could reflect that in one paragraph under any other items.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I recognize Jordan.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Madame Chairperson. Concerning C 2009/REP/21, when there is reference to the increase in the number of the Members of the Council, the Near East Group did call upon the Organization to take due account of its position within the Resolution. However, the Resolution at hand does not refer to the position of the Near East Group on that score, and I hope that what we have said yesterday will be taken into account.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Jordan. El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHIH ONORI (El Salvador)

Agradecemos las indicaciones que nos ha dado el Sr. Mekouar con relación a lo solicitado por algunos Países Miembros para que quedase reflejado su explicación de voto. Sin embargo, el Salvador y, tal vez, otros Países Miembros preferirían que en este hincapié que van a poner, se indicaran también los Países Miembros que explicaron su abstención en el voto del día de ayer.

Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Entendemos la sugerencia de la Secretaría. Quizás aquí las únicas cuestiones para señalar son las siguientes. La delegación de México, cuando hizo lectura de su texto de apoyo en sesión plenaria, el co-patrocinio a la enmienda propuesta, solicitó en ese momento que constara en el Informe de la Conferencia. De igual manera, cuando pidió la palabra para explicar su voto en abstención, y entregó el documento a la Presidencia, también solicitó que quedara reflejado en el Informe de la Conferencia.

No sé si por razones técnicas sería más fácil poner un hincapié que poner tal cual los nombres de nuestras delegaciones en los mismos párrafos. Para nosotros sería más apropiado mencionar a mi país en el texto mismo. De esta manera es lo preferente puesto que hay un país que ya se encuentra allí mencionado.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mexico. Any other comments? With that then, I go back to Mr Mekouar.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The comments are well taken. We will mention explicitly the names of all those Member Nations which spoke to this question. That can be done in a footnote. Also, I forgot to mention another paragraph which addresses specifically the proposal to amend the Draft Resolution by some Members from the Latin American Group and this is paragraph 3, which says "some Members of the group of Latin America and the Caribbean made a proposal that the Draft Resolution be amended in order to make provision for an Extraordinary Session of the Committee on Fisheries for consideration of the Draft Agreement". I think that it is probably under this paragraph that a footnote could be added, mentioning explicitly all those countries which addressed this issue, if this is agreeable to you, Madam.

Now on the second question raised by Jordan, speaking also on behalf of the Near East, I think we do acknowledge the fact that the comments were made twice yesterday in the debate and if the assembly is in agreement, we would add a sentence to reflect the comments made by Jordan on behalf of the Near East.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Mekouar. I recognize El Salvador again.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Para mi delegación es importante que quede registrada la explicación del voto, no solamente en el párrafo 3 donde se presentó la propuesta de enmienda, sino que también quede reflejado que El Salvador hizo una explicación de su voto de abstención. Quisiéramos que esto quede mencionado en el texto, como lo expuso la delegada de México o con una nota en hincapié en este sentido, pero preferiríamos en el texto.

En el párrafo 6 dice "varios Miembros formularon declaraciones", ahí podríamos poner cuales fueron los Miembros que formularon esas declaraciones, los Países Miembros.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, your points are noted. Are there any further comments on the subject. With that then, this effectively brings us to close the discussions we have on the Reports that I have tabled before you.

May I recommend that we now adopt them *en bloc*. We have already adopted the Commission I Report and the Commission II Report. Now we must adopt the remainder, that is, the Reports of this Plenary. I now call on you all that we adopt *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Report of the Plenary adopted

Rapport de la Plénière adopté

Informe de la Plenaria aprobado

Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen. This effectively brings us to the end of the substantive work of the Session of this Conference. But before we come to the concluding part, may I now pass on the floor to the Director-General of the FAO.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the FAO Secretariat, our gratitude to the Member Nations for the very hard work and for the long hours spent discussing the issues of this Organization, sometimes until 4.00 a.m., and to achieve a consensus. A consensus is very important for the Organization in order to be able to build on the unity of our Membership. Therefore, I wanted to express gratitude to all of you for the work done in the service of the Organization and, beyond the Organization, for the different people around the world whom we are serving.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Organization. They have shown dedication, they have shown commitment, they have shown experience and knowledge not only in handling technical issues but also in interacting with the representatives of our Member Nations to enable them to perform their work in the best possible conditions. Our appreciation also goes to the interpreters, the translators, the different aides and assistants, the security staff, and all those who worked on preparing the documents and making sure they were distributed and available. Without them, without the support staff, we would not have been able to achieve these excellent results.

I naturally also convey gratitude to the Chairpersons who have conducted our debates, to those in the Committees, to the leaders of the discussions in the Friends of the Chair Group and to all those who have made it possible, through the exchanges of views and through the spirit of give and take, to achieve a very successful Conference. I would like to reiterate again that the Secretariat, on its part, will faithfully implement your decisions and continue to do its best to ensure that we improve the conditions of one billion hungry people around the world. To all of you who will be going home, we wish you well and a safe trip back to your family.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I think I will speak on behalf of the Membership here. We too would like to thank you, the Director-General, and the Team that has made all the logistical arrangements and all the Secretariat services, including the interpretation and documentation, and indeed all the logistical arrangements that has made this Conference successful. With that, I would like to thank my colleagues, my fellow representatives of the various nations here. I wish to thank each and every one of you for the cooperation you have given to the Chair and with that I would also want us to register the sterling work that the Chair of this Conference has done. She is not here to take the tribute herself, but we would wish to have it registered for the record that we are very appreciative

of the work she did with her team. At the same time, I wish you all a safe journey. Before I close the meeting, I would like to request if there is any delegation that wishes to speak.

If not, I would like to say thank you again. May I now remind you that the Council will convene for its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session on Wednesday, on the 25 November at 9.30 hours in the Red Room.

With this Ladies and Gentlemen, have a safe trip home, and I declare this Thirty-sixth Session of the Conference closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 17:23 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 23

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:23 horas

