

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 MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
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**Rome, 18-23 novembre 2009
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**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième session
36º período de sesiones**

**FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
PRIMERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

19 November 2009

The First Meeting was opened at 14.52 hours
Mr Noel D. De Luna,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 14 h 52.
sous la présidence de M Noel D. De Luna,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 14.52 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Noel D. De Luna,
Presidente de la Comisión I

**SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE EN MATIÈRE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA EN MATERIA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y
AGRICULTURA**

- 6. Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (C 2009/23)**
6. Stratégie mondiale en matière de statistiques agricoles et rurales (C 2009/23)
6. Estrategia mundial para las estadísticas rurales y agrarias (C 2009/23)

CHAIRPERSON

I believe a quorum has been reached and may I therefore call the first session to order.

Before everything else I would like to express my personal gratitude to all of you for electing me to this position. It is a great honour for me and for my country, and I am humbled by it.

Before we adopt our Agenda, may I refer you to the Statement of Competence and Voting Rights; this is document C 2009/INF/4 submitted by the European Community and its Member States. The competence of the EC and its Member States is mixed for all items on the agenda of Commission I. Member States have Voting Rights on Item 6, 8 and 9.

May we now adopt the Agenda of our Session; the main items to be covered by Commission I are the substantive and policy matters shown in part one of the agenda, document C 2009/1 as outlined by the Provisional Timetable document C 2009/INF/1. Our Commission will cover Agenda Items 6, 8, 9, 10 and the various reports, then 7, 11, 12, 13 and finally, Item 30.8.

If there are no objections I will consider them adopted. There seems to be none. So decided.

We now go to the appointment of our Vice-Chairpersons. Upon consultation with various regional groups the following were nominated to serve as Vice-Chairpersons. Mr Fazil Düsünceli from Turkey – I hope I pronounced your name right - and Mr Javad Shakhs Tavakolian of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If there are no other nominations we can consider them elected by acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

My warmest congratulations to the Vice-Chairpersons.

We now go to the appointment of the Drafting Committee of Commission I. Upon consultation with various regional groups the following have been nominated as members of the Drafting Committee. We have Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Indonesia, New Zealand, Spain and Uganda. The Drafting Committee will still meet sometime tomorrow.

The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee has also not been named yet, but it is my understanding that negotiations are going on among the regional groups for this. This can also wait.

Thank you very much for that, before we start with the Agenda Item G, I would like to announce some house rules first. Commission I is scheduled to meet for only three working sessions, today, tomorrow and Saturday, respectively, to debate on the agenda items before it and to adopt its Report on Saturday. This will call for the utmost discipline regarding the length of interventions. We have a very full Agenda ahead of us and I am afraid we do not have much time. I would, therefore, like to appeal to you to make your interventions short and straight to the point. I would appreciate it very much if you would avoid congratulating me, you can do that in private later on. I would encourage one country to speak on behalf of more than one country and if for some

reason you have stage fright I would encourage you to hand in your statements for inclusion in the Verbatim Records.

The Commission should have its work completed by 5.30 pm on Friday, and adopt its report by Saturday.

I would also like to start on time but if it cannot be done, we can at least end on time.

Now before we go to the main agenda item, I also would like to draw your attention to the fact that some of you may want to propose some resolutions here. May I remind the meeting that the FAO Council has recommended that the number of resolutions be kept to a minimum and that they should address matters requiring a formal decision by the Conference. Draft resolutions proposed from the floor may not be debated in Commission I without first being examined by the Resolutions Committee. So that is the route it should take.

May we now go to the first agenda item which is Item 6. The main document here is C 2009/23 and this is the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

May I invite Mr Pietro Gennari, Director, Statistics Division of the Economic and Social Development Department of FAO, to take the floor.

Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

I am very pleased to present to you a document on the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

This is an initiative led by the FAO Statistics Division under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission that is the apex entity of the Global Statistical System. It is a partnership between international agencies, developed and developing countries. There are two intergovernmental processes that have been followed for its adoption. One is under the auspices, as I mentioned, of the UN Statistical Commission where the National Statistical Offices of the countries are represented, and the other is the FAO Governing Bodies where the Ministries of Agriculture are represented. It is a long-term plan to respond to the statistical needs of the Twenty-first Century. It is supposed to be feasible and sustainable for developing countries and should represent the basis for a renewed initiative of capacity-building in agricultural statistics.

Why do we need a global strategy? First of all, the basic data requirements are not met, especially in developing countries. At the same time, there are new data needs that are emerging that are linking economic, environmental and social dimensions. And the last point is the fact that agricultural statistics are not well integrated in the national statistical system, and so we lack sound statistics for the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food security and agricultural development policies.

I mentioned what is the status of agricultural statistics; we have a declining number of countries reporting basic agricultural statistics to FAO. For example, in the Africa Region it is below 40 percent for some variables and this is due to the fact that countries' capacity in agricultural statistics have steadily declined since the beginning of the 1980s and this is due, in turn, to the fact that scarce resources have been allocated to this sector by countries and development partners. Agricultural statistics have been a low priority.

Another problem is the fact that there is a lack of coordination among the different institutions that are producing agricultural statistics at national level – mainly the statistical agencies and the Ministries of Agriculture. This leads to a duplication of efforts and conflicting statistics. A very worrying point, because this also has consequences for the future of agricultural statistics is the fact that agricultural statistics in most of the cases is left out of national statistical plans. If we look at certain components of agricultural statistics, like forestry and fisheries, they are completely excluded from the agricultural statistical system. This is a report on the response rate to FAO questionnaires that is low, especially in some regions and declining. This tries to depict what is the situation at country level in which we have a lot of players, stakeholders and very little

coordination among them, so statistical data are not consistent and there is limited willingness and ability to share data among these different institutions.

The last point that I mentioned is the fact that agricultural statistics are not well covered in national statistical plans. According to our review, only 10 percent of the national statistical plans that have been developed in developing countries are covering properly agricultural statistics. If we look at sub-sectors and different domains, this situation is even worse in some cases, like for livestock statistics, fisheries, forestry, or for prices, whose importance has been highlighted by the recent food crisis.

To face this situation, in the partnership, we decided to develop this global strategy. At the centre of this strategy, there is a proposal for and support to integrate agricultural statistics into the national statistical systems. In this slide you can see the framework we have followed to develop this strategy, starting from the information requirements and conceptual framework and on the basis of that, defining the minimum set of core data items that have to be reported regularly by all countries, and then to the methodologies that can facilitate this integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system. We then turn to the key components or prerequisites for the implementation of the global strategy, so the governance mechanism at country level and the statistical capacity-building strategy.

We started by trying to review what the key policy issues that have a consequence on statistical requirements were. I have listed here some of them, like use of agriculture as an instrument for economical rural development, improved well-being of the rural populations, reduced poverty, provision of food security and reduced hunger, enhancement of the efficiency of markets and so on, to go to less traditional ones like the impact of agriculture on climate change, on the alternative uses of agricultural products, ensure the sustainability of land and water resources, and monitor and evaluate rural and development policies. These policy issues are not independent. There is a large area of overlaps among them and so some of the indicators that can be used to monitor some policy issues are also useful for others.

On the basis of the review of the information requirements, we realized that we needed a new conceptual framework for agricultural statistics that included economic, environmental and social dimensions. This conceptual framework is a roadmap for the development of agricultural statistics. It is not a document that provides methodological guidance or stipulates what countries should produce. It is meant mainly as a strategy to facilitate the integration, a linkage of statistics, that are coming from different domains. The components of this conceptual framework are the scope of agricultural statistics, the data elements, the coverage, the statistical units, and here I refer to the difference between agricultural holdings, households and land and we need to establish a link between these three different statistical units, the classification and the organization of a framework that is used to develop the strategy.

The first point after the analysis of the information requirements is the menu of data that every country should commit to produce on a regular basis and to report to international agencies. In the strategy, the criteria to select these core data items are defined and, for example, one of the suggestions is to focus the reporting on the key commodities and we know, for example, that the 15 major commodities account for over 95 percent of the world production. On the other level, there is recognition that countries may have different needs or additional needs and so we have developed some criteria to complement this work on the core data items for international reporting, and on providing guidance to countries on how to establish these additional indicators that are relevant at country level.

The key component, at the core of the strategy is the integration of agricultural statistics in the national statistical system. The document provides the reasons and the methodological tools for this integration. We have identified three main methodological tools. One is the development of a Master sampling frame for agricultural surveys, an integrated programme of data collection survey framework and an integrated database, a data warehouse, where all the agencies that are producers of statistics should disseminate their data. The idea is to link information coming from different domains and from different statistical units, agricultural holdings, rural households and

land parcels. The idea is that the approach should be flexible enough to provide different pathways to develop these methodological tools according to the level of development of each country.

One of the main requirements is to have a good governance mechanism at country level to develop and implement this strategy. So, countries that do not have a coordination framework at country level should establish that. There are examples in other countries like National Statistical Councils that bring together all the stakeholders, all the producers of statistics to develop a National Statistical Programme. Where these statistical Councils exist, we should ensure that they function well and that they take into account the different sectors or instances because, as we have seen, agricultural statistics are not well-covered in many of these national statistical plans because they have a top-down instead of a bottom-up approach. The National Statistical Plan is developed not on the basis of the sector plans. In this governance, each institution should have a clear definition of responsibility that is built on its strength. The National Statistical Plans need to be updated to mainstream agricultural statistics into them. In the document, some directions for a new initiative on capacity-building in agricultural statistics are identified. First of all there is an emphasis on building the basic statistical infrastructure at country level. So, moving away from the usual approach that is looking only at countries and collecting some indicators, but trying to build sustainable capacity at country level.

The second point, a renewed initiative on education and training, above all on new methodological tools that offer new opportunities for collecting data in agricultural statistics. A very important point is the fact that too often Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistical Offices do not have good capacity in data analysis so they do not know or do not understand what are the policy questions that they have to answer with their data. And then there is the importance of having a regional approach and building partnerships for ensuring a sustainable statistical system. So, what process has been followed to develop this strategy? The Fortieth Session of the UN Statistical Commission in February this year recognized the need to develop a global strategy. A Friends of the Chair Group was established to steer the process with FAO as a Secretariat of this Friends of the Chair Group. A draft of the document was discussed in Maputo in August this year by more than 100 senior experts coming both from Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistical Offices and International Agencies. On the basis of the outcome of the Maputo Meeting, four task teams of the Friends of the Chair have been established to review some components of the document, like the conceptual framework, menu of indicators and integrated survey framework. The Friends of the Chair Group is supposed to report back at the next meeting of the UN Statistical Commission in February next year.

Here is the list of Members of the Friends of the Chair Group of the UN Statistical Commission. There is a good balance between developing and developed countries, big countries and small countries that have completely different requirements and also key development agencies that are active in this field. We have initiated a worldwide consultation on the strategy with different meetings, both within FAO and in the framework of the UN Statistical Commission. A first Seminar with the Permanent Representatives was held in Rome in June this year. We had the Maputo Meeting in August, and we presented the document at the Regional Statistical Commission in Bangkok, Accra and Rio de Janeiro recently. I come from the Paris 21 Consortium Meeting that was held in the last three days in Dakar, in which there was a strong recognition of the importance of agricultural statistics, and we have also initiated a global written consultation informing all the Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistical Offices that a Wikipedia web page is available. You can find the address here to provide comments on the documents that have been developed in this area, and the deadline for providing comments is 30 November 2009.

In this page, all the documents that I have mentioned are uploaded, the draft global strategy, the work of the Friends of the Chair Group and the comments that we have received so far from the countries. And as I said, the main appointment is the UN Statistical Commission next year in which we hope that the strategy will be endorsed. So, what is the way forward? After the approach has been approved, develop an implementation plan that means mainly a statistical

capacity-building plan for the implementation of the global strategy. In this implementation plan, there is a role that each one of the stakeholders can play such as national organizations, international organizations, donors. It is also essential that the users, the policy-makers, the decision-makers are involved in the development and implementation of this strategy.

The Conference is invited to review the document and comment on the strategy proposed to address the issues that I raised, and the problems that agricultural statistics are facing at the moment and to provide support in their implementation.

Luis RITTO (European Commission)

First of all, I would like to apologize to the interpreters both because of my French accent and because I seriously edited the text that they were provided with.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. We welcome the Secretariat's document and appreciate very much the described development of a Global Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Statistics. We also commend the leadership that the FAO Statistics Department is intent on taking in the development of its strategy, as recommended by the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

The recent food crisis and several elements of the recent economic and financial crisis, as well as the discussions on the impact of climate change, have strongly emphasized the real necessity to have good and reliable information on agricultural production, and the impact agriculture has on the environment, as well as on the need to enhance the quality and availability of agricultural statistics in many regions of the world.

Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Community, has been one of the first to recognize the need to enhance the agricultural statistics in developing countries and was also present at the launch of the initiative to develop this strategy. Eurostat also participated actively in the discussion on the strategy which took place during the last two years, and will play an active role also in the next phases of the development of a strategy.

The strategy, as recalled by Mr. Gennari, foresees a description of required data, a new conceptual framework and several other key components as described in paragraph 6 of the document. Most, if not all, of these components are already available in the European System of Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The Community, again, reiterates its support for this global strategy and wishes to be actively involved in its implementation.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

First of all, I would like to thank FAO for bringing this item into discussion under the Agenda of the Conference and I congratulate Mr Gennari for his presentation. His exposé was lucid, very clear and right to the point.

We are very grateful to FAO and to the United Nations System altogether for putting some pressure and giving incentives to countries to deal with statistics in general, and agriculture statistics *per se*. If it was not for the pressure coming from the United Nations System, our national systems altogether would be very bad.

May I draw your attention, Mr Gennari, to the fact that in FAO we used to have Training Workshops and Seminars on national accounts in agriculture and other seminars on the census of agriculture, and other ones on the prices, especially on how to collect farmgate prices. If we come back to this practice under this system, I think we will reach the point where we give more incentives to countries to deal with their agricultural statistics. I have a question for you: why are you including rural statistics? I do not understand. What do we mean by rural statistics? In the rural areas we can deal with statistics on education, on processing industries, etc. etc. Are we aiming at that? Is this our objective?

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the best way, as was said by Mr Gennari, to elaborate good agricultural statistics and to integrate agricultural statistics within the whole

system of national statistics, is to bring the users, to involve them in the preparation and elaboration of agricultural statistics.

Lord REASMEY (Cambodge)

Permettez-moi de vous exprimer brièvement mes impressions concernant la stratégie globale proposée pour améliorer la statistique agricole. Le Cambodge considère que les données statistiques sont des indicateurs essentiels et très efficaces pour la prise des décisions politiques, ainsi que pour la formulation et l'évaluation, le point fort et le point faible des projets et programmes. Nous savons qu'il est nécessaire que chaque pays doit disposer demain d'un ensemble de données principales pour les besoins des politiques agricoles et rurales. Au Cambodge, il existe un système de statistiques agricoles qui fonctionne assez bien et nous devons faire des efforts pour l'améliorer et l'intégrer dans le Plan national. Alors, l'idée d'une stratégie globale pour la statistique agricole et rurale est louable et utile pour renforcer la capacité de production et d'analyse statistique. Pour cette raison, il est important que les activités statistiques soient convenablement financées pour assurer la qualité des données produites et nous appuyons cette stratégie globale et statistique agricole et rurale.

P. MJOMBE (United Republic of Tanzania)

Tanzania strongly supports the Global Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Statistics. This is a very important initiative, and we believe that this is the right direction as it will inform the policy and planning mechanisms.

Tanzania, being one of the countries that lacks an elaborate and integrated statistical system, that captures all the data in the agriculture sector nationally, will stand to benefit from this strategy.

The global strategy will succeed if the individual developing countries are fully integrated in the proposed system, and we look forward to being involved in it.

Alonso SIMANCAS (México)

Más que una intervención la mía es una pregunta: tenemos un proceso que inició en la Comisión de Estadística y que se abrió en un proceso paralelo. Como bien se nos indica, se va a cerrar en febrero con la adopción de la Estrategia, y a su vez se volverá a abrir un nuevo proceso paralelo con el seguimiento de la Estrategia, donde la FAO jugará un papel importante.

Quisiéramos pedir que nos pudieran elaborar un poco más esta situación: ¿Cómo va a ser, qué es lo que continua durante el seguimiento de la Estrategia? ¿Se adoptará en la Comisión de Estadística? La FAO colabora activamente como Secretaría y, exactamente: ¿qué va a pasar después, qué tenemos que hacer nosotros como Representantes aquí en la FAO, cómo se van a ver reflejadas las implicaciones presupuestarias y administrativas, si las hubiera para la Secretaría, con esta carga adicional? En fin, "¿qué sigue para nosotros?" sería la pregunta.

Ndioba DIENE (Sénégal)

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour féliciter M Gennari et vous informer que le Sénégal est prêt à soutenir cette Stratégie. Je voudrais enfin attirer l'attention sur le fait que, même si les modalités n'ont pas été discutées, il serait opportun de montrer la cohérence des modalités qui existe entre le système mondial et les systèmes envisagés au niveau régional et notamment le système AGRIS pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Pour revenir sur la notion de cohérence et voir aussi quelles sont les conséquences en termes techniques et financiers, et aussi en termes de réorganisation des systèmes au niveau national.

Il serait souhaitable que le Directeur général revienne sur cette question-là et nous éclaire un peu sur ce sujet et sans se limiter à des statistiques agricoles et des enquêtes annuelles en ignorant l'horticulture, l'élevage, les forêts et d'autres aspects des activités rurales. Le Sénégal supporte tout à fait ce dispositif.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación quisiera agradecer la presentación realizada por el Sr. Gennari así como la iniciativa de la Secretaría de introducir este tema, en cuanto es uno de los puntos señalados en la Evaluación Independiente que planteó la urgente necesidad de mejorar la capacidad de los Países Miembros para introducir estadísticas agrícolas. Apoyamos también la creación de una Estrategia Mundial para las Estadísticas Rurales y Agrarias, a la que mi país podría aportar mucho por el desarrollo alcanzado en los sistemas estadísticos a través de la Oficina Nacional de Estadística de Cuba.

Sin embargo mi delegación querría hacer algunos señalamientos que nos preocupa:

1) desearíamos, de ser posible, que las estadísticas agrícolas y rurales que utilice la FAO sean tomadas de las informaciones oficiales ofrecidas por los órganos gubernamentales autorizados para ello;

2) que la FAO se convierta en el centro de procesamiento de estas estadísticas agrícolas y rurales dentro de todo el Sistema de Naciones Unidas a través de una verdadera cooperación y colaboración con los sistemas estadísticos que tenemos en Nueva York, y que esto aumente considerablemente la utilidad para los países que se beneficien de ello;

3) la necesidad que la FAO continúe aumentando su apoyo a los países en desarrollo, en la creación de las capacidades y el fortalecimiento de sus estructuras para la recopilación y el procesamiento de estadísticas agrícolas y rurales;

4) sería necesaria una verdadera cooperación internacional y un apoyo financiero, sobretodo, para los países en desarrollo para contribuir a la creación de verdaderas capacidades de desarrollo de estas estadísticas; y

5) quisiéramos que se lograra una mayor cooperación entre este nuevo sistema y los sistemas nacionales y regionales. Por ejemplo, la CEPAL en América Latina tiene un trabajo muy avanzado en este tema y podría ser de mucha utilidad si logramos hacer una verdadera cooperación.

Agradecemos la presentación de este tema y manifestamos nuestra disposición de apoyar en lo que se necesite.

Mohamet KEITA (Mali)

Le sujet est d'un intérêt tout particulier pour nous. Mon intervention va porter sur l'élevage. Vous savez que pour de bonnes statistiques en matière d'élevage et de production animale, il faut d'abord avoir une maîtrise, une connaissance tangible des effectifs. Autrement dit, il faut que les pays membres puissent faire le recensement périodique et régulier de leurs animaux, toutes espèces confondues. Or, le coût d'une telle entreprise pour des pays aussi vastes que le nôtre, 1 200 000 km², avec un élevage extensif, nomadisant et transhumant, généralement dépasse de loin les moyens du pays.

C'est à partir d'une connaissance effective de l'existant que l'on peut établir un système de méthodologie de relevés de données statistiques régulières et fiables. Ma question est de savoir où commence cette stratégie que nous venons d'écouter, qui nous paraît quand même assez raisonnable et assez claire? Comment une telle stratégie peut aider des pays comme le nôtre à procéder effectivement au recensement de leur cheptel et à établir des méthodologies et des méthodes éprouvées pour un suivi et une collecte des données en ce qui concerne l'élevage et les productions animales?

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Improving the financial and human capacity for the development of agricultural statistical information is an ongoing challenge, not only for developing countries but also for developed nations.

Canada has been involved in the discussions regarding the global strategy to improve agricultural statistics in 2009. For example, there was a mini symposium held on the *Changing Demands for Agricultural Statistics* that was co-chaired by Statistics Canada and the FAO at the recent International Association of Agricultural Economists in Beijing, China.

Changing government priorities, changing societies, physical constraints and response burdens are issues that are challenging some of our statistical programmes. In addition, within the statistical programme, the development and maintenance of the statistics, measured against all other statistical priorities, may not be receiving the attention they deserve within the context of the agricultural sector. Canada recognizes the critical role that FAO has played over the many years in promoting and actively developing comprehensive agricultural statistics. For example, the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture continues to advance knowledge on the best practices in agricultural census and the CountrySTAT Programme is making a difference.

The establishment of new statistical measures by the FAO, where data-sharing benefits all countries involved and the FAO, being the holder of the database, certainly increases efficiency and effectiveness in the dissemination of the statistics worldwide.

The response burden is an issue which needs to be addressed at many different levels. Demands for national agricultural, forestry and fishery statistics by international organizations is increasing, and FAO may be able to gain information it requires from other international organizations as well.

With regard to the report, unfortunately the report does not address the additional response burden that may be placed on individual survey respondents, if an integrated survey framework were to be introduced. The addition of forestry and fisheries to the agricultural definition, we must say, could be a challenge for Canada, as much as this data is presently decentralized between the federal and provincial and other levels of Government.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

I am sorry, Mr Chairman, to take the floor again but after the discussion it came to my mind that I have to ask Mr Gennari about the policy of FAO concerning censuses of agriculture. I remember well that FAO used to recommend that every ten years we had to have a census of agriculture and this was very good because in this way we were obliged or we had the incentive in our countries to work on the census of agriculture. But is this policy being continued, or maybe we can recommend that every five years to have this census of agriculture if it is possible.

There is another point related to nutrition and statistics for food consumption surveys and as you know, Mr Chairman, we rely on the food balance sheets for our statistics on nutrition but this is not very accurate. The accuracy here leaves a lot to be desired, therefore we recommend that good collaboration should be established between the Statistics Division and the Nutrition Division in FAO in order to have regularly food consumption surveys.

Assad ZAMIR (Afghanistan)

Compared with other sectors of the economy, agricultural and rural statistics have received far less attention because its coverage is widespread and because it has not had a special lobby to promote it, although in many countries agriculture accounts for a sizeable proportion of their GDP in employment. As a result, policies in developing countries tend to be based on data which are considered inadequate and often suspect for their accuracy. For many countries, the data on agriculture production published in the FAO Statistical Yearbook are, at best, good estimates. Moreover, investment for the development of agricultural statistics has not kept pace with the rising need of the diverse data in assessing the impact of the new challenges like climate change. The same can be said about the lack of attention given to the capacity-building in strengthening agricultural statistical institutions in developing countries.

This undesirable status of agricultural and rural statistics calls for urgent corrective action, but to do so a sound global strategy is required to make a good start and to keep on building for its successful outcome.

In the opinion of this delegation, the document for the consideration of Commission I is a well-articulated piece of work and we endorse its main thrust. In paragraph 15, the strategy is referred to as a living document that grows over time. We concur with this judgement.

In our opinion, the merits of the proposed Global Strategy for the revival of agricultural and rural statistics are as follows:

- 1) It is needs-based, at a country level, it can start on a modest scale by identifying the minimum core data and then moving towards the gradual extension, upgrading of standards in subsequent consolidation. The participating country will have a say in it and make sure that the agricultural statistics are integrated into a national statistics system. We think this is a sound approach.
- 2) The Global Strategy maintains flexibility to be able to adapt to the needs of the developing country at the front stages of statistical coverage and maturity – paragraph 14. It is certainly not a one-size-fits-all strategy.
- 3) The methodological tools mentioned in paragraph 11 will make the global outreach of this Strategy possible, provided there is coordination among the statistical offices within each country, while the Global Strategy maintains the overall methodological oversight for consistency and uniformity of approach based on the scientific basis.
- 4) We are impressed with the meticulous process observed in developing the Global Strategy, part 6 of the document, paragraphs 16-20, the wider nature of the consultation among many stakeholders under the leadership of the United Nations Statistical Commission is praiseworthy. We also appreciate the input provided by the FAO Statistical Division and also of Friends of the Chair Group of UNFC to this participatory process.
- 5) The worldwide consultation on Global Strategy explained in part 5 of the document adds strengths to its relevance as the foundation stone in expanding the coverage in improving the quality of the statistical data on agriculture in the rural sector which is so badly needed for policy, planning, investment and programming in the decades ahead.

We request this Commission to endorse the proposed Global Strategy for implementation, and we urge FAO to strengthen its own capacity in agricultural statistics as was so strongly recommended by the Independent Evaluation of FAO's role in work in statistics.

The findings of the Independent Evaluation were indeed very useful to the FAO Secretariat. We hope donors will be generous in providing resources both as the Core Voluntary Contributions for Organizational Reserve, page 4 of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011 which cover the field of statistics as well as extra-budgetary support for field projects in the development and in strengthening of agricultural statistics in developing countries. Considering the Global Strategy, a multi-donor Trust Fund to finance field projects would be most appropriate.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Afghanistan. Afghanistan is the last speaker on my list. Are there any other countries that would like to take the floor at this point in time? If there are none, perhaps I may give the floor to Mr Gennari and the Assistant Director-General, who would both like to take the floor to reply to your questions and the issues you raised. Mr Ghanem, you have the floor.

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

Thank you Mr Chairman. In response to the many points raised, I just wanted to make four points if I may.

The first point is that we are very heartened by the strong support that you have all given to the strategy and to our work on statistics. I hope that this means that not only will FAO be putting much more emphasis on statistical work, but that all of you will be doing the same. We have been suffering a great deal from the neglect of statistics by the developing countries; if the countries do not put priority on collecting agricultural statistics there is no way that we can help, so we need this priority as do the donors. Out of the four divisions in my Department, Statistics is the one that

gets the least extra-budgetary support. So I hope that all of the good words that I heard today will mean that this will change, and we really need to work together. I think that our colleague from Afghanistan made that point very, very strongly, and I would like to thank him.

The second point is that we work in very close partnerships, and actually we are very careful not to go and collect data that somebody else collects. We have such limited resources that it does not make sense for us to work alone. We work in very close partnerships, we work closely with Eurostat, with the World Bank and, of course, with the UN and with many others.

The third point I wanted to make is that training and capacity-building are very important, the issue was raised by Lebanon. We do not do the capacity-building in Rome these days although we do a little bit, but maybe when he responds, Mr Gennari can give you more details on the Seminars and capacity-building work that we are doing in the regions, and that we are starting in the next few months.

The fourth and last point is that we, in the Secretariat, are putting our money where our mouth is. We are implementing the recommendations of the Evaluation Report for statistics and that involves three basic areas, we are giving much more focus to capacity-building and to helping countries. Second, we are working hard under Mr Gennari's leadership to ensure much better coordination for statistical work inside FAO itself, and third we are reallocating resources from other Divisions, from other parts of our programmes to Statistics. In the Programme of Work and Budget that we presented, you will see that this is the reallocation with new positions for Statistics, exactly as recommended by the External Evaluation Report.

So, thank you all very, very much and maybe, Mr Gennari, you can take over and answer the specific questions.

Pietro GENNARI (Director, Statistics Division)

First of all, I would like to thank all the delegates for their interventions, a wide variety of comments and suggestions on how to improve the document further. We will surely take into account all of your comments.

It is difficult for me to address all the technical issues that were raised, and I would invite you to have bilateral discussions where maybe these issues can be much better clarified. I would like also only to touch on some of the main issues that were raised, for example, the fact that we were still strongly supporting the Census of Agriculture. We have produced a manual, as a guidance for countries, that contains some important methodological innovations, and we have conducted regional seminars to discuss these new methodologies and new approaches with countries. Of course, we need to do more about that in disseminating these new methodologies and in disseminating good practices by countries in adopting and implementing them, because it is important not only to disseminate guidelines but also to show countries how these guidelines can be implemented at country level. Sometimes this is the main obstacle.

We need to have a regional approach; we are of course cooperating with the Regional Offices of FAO to have a closer collaboration provided by the regional statisticians who are located in the Regional Offices.

The second point is about rural statistics. Agriculture is changing over time, and people who are working in the agricultural sectors in most countries, also in developing countries, do not rely only on agriculture for their income, because agriculture is sometimes not the main source of income. So, in order to address issues about rural development and poverty, we need to know more about what are the different sources of income for the rural population. The idea is not to address the whole range of indicators that can be developed by dividing the geography between urban and rural areas, but mainly to better understand the sources of income of rural populations beyond what is provided by agriculture.

There are other questions which I would be more than happy to discuss with individual delegates. Concerning the process, as we mentioned, we try to be inclusive in our approach and to involve both the Ministries of Agriculture and the National Statistical Offices. FAO is playing the role of

linking the two processes because FAO is very much present within the UN Statistical Commission and has been, in a way, appointed by the UN Statistical Commission to lead this process. At the same time, of course, we are working with you, the FAO Governing Bodies, to consult the countries on these strategies. The idea is to have this parallel process linking these two processes with the help of FAO Statistics Division. This process will also continue after the UN Statistical Commission. We will continue to consult you, we will organize a seminar to inform you on the development on the strategy and we will try to receive guidance from you on what is the best implementation process for the Strategy.

Concerning the need for a renewed effort of statistical capacity-building, I would like only to confirm what my ADG mentioned before, we are refocusing our work programme in this area and we are working together with the key development partners to mobilize the resources there. As you know, not many resources have been allocated to the Statistics Division from FAO contributors, and we are trying to improve this situation. First of all, we have the recognition that statistics is an impact focus area so we hope that in the future more resources that are coming to FAO will be channelled to statistics and, at the same time, we are working with key development partners, both at the regional and the global level, for this mobilization of resources. I can say that we are already organizing a meeting in Tunis at the beginning of February next year with the key development partners to develop an implementation strategy for Africa. The idea, as I said, is to replicate the same approach in other regions, bringing together the main global partners, so the World Bank, the European Commission, DFID and the main donors in statistics and regional partners. So also the African Development Bank, the UN Commission for Africa, the Sub-regional entities, AFRISTAT and so on, that are working in Africa. This will also be replicated in the other regions to mobilize resources and to build a trust fund and involve, in a strong partnership, the regional institutions that can sustain this process and help countries in the implementation of the Strategy.

The last point is on data collection. I recognize that we need to work more and to revise our review and improve our data collection system. As Mr Ghanem said, we are working with the other institutions, mainly at the global level, that are collecting data in this area. But we have to recognize that there are many regional institutions that are duplicating this effort and each Regional institution and Sub-regional institution is collecting its own data. So, we need to establish agreement also with these Regional institutions to make sure that countries receive only one questionnaire and data shared among the different international and regional organizations. I would stop there. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gennari. I hope that clarifies most of the questions raised from the floor. If there are no other comments or interventions, I will now try to summarize the debate. It was very rich and I may not be able to do justice to it in a few sentences but more importantly, I would not want to prejudge the work of the Drafting Committee. Suffice it to say that Members noted the progress made to develop a Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics and that there is broad support and consensus for the Global Strategy and the initiatives undertaken by the FAO in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to organize a global consultation on this strategy.

Having said this, let me now close this Agenda Item, and move on to the next one.

8. Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C 2009/14)

8. Rapport intérimaire sur l'examen triennal d'ensemble des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies (C 2009/14)

8. Informe provisional sobre la revisión trienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas (C 2009/14)

CHAIRPERSON

The next agenda item is Agenda Item 8, Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for the Development of the United Nations System.

The main document relevant to the item is C 2009/14. May I invite Ms Annika Soder who is the Assistant Director-General for the Office of the UN Coordination and MDG follow-up.

Annika SODER (Assistant Director-General, Office of UN Coordination and MDG Follow-up)

I would also like to introduce my colleagues on the podium, Hans Page from the Technical Cooperation Department, Lucy Elliott from the Administrative and Financial Department, and Daud Khan from the Office of Coordination and Decentralization. We work very closely together between my Office, UNC, and many Divisions and Departments in FAO, not least the Country Offices, in order to contribute to the System-wide coherence.

The Report that you have in front of you is about how FAO implements a General Assembly resolution that is called Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review. Maybe the name is not very attractive, but I would say that the content of the work is quite useful and quite challenging.

In this presentation we will describe main events in the UN System over the reporting period, how we work internally in the UN through the interagency mechanisms, FAO's participation in UN country-level coordination mechanisms and the new generation of UNDAFs, UNDAFs being the country-level programme instrument for the UN System. We will also tell you a little bit more about FAO's implementation of the two Resolutions, and say a few words about how we view the challenges ahead.

Many of you will recall that the former Secretary-General put in place a High-Level Commission, a High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence. It finished its work in 2006, and some of its findings were taken forward in eight test pilots, eight countries that are trying out a closer cooperation model for the UN System. In FAO's earlier Conference Resolutions from 2005 and 2007, Members requested us to implement the General Assembly Resolutions and the aims were to achieve transparency, effectiveness, accountability, coherence, and to avoid duplications and to simplify and harmonize business practices – business practices meaning not private sector practices, but the way we work.

In the General Assembly Resolution from 2007, the one we are reporting on now, the need was also emphasized for an Independent Evaluation of the eight country pilots, the test pilots that I mentioned earlier, and I would like you to know that the countries concerned met a few weeks ago in Kigali, Rwanda, to discuss how such an independent evaluation could take place. Those discussions will be taken forward for discussions in the Governing Bodies in New York.

The main events in the last two years, from FAO's perspective, were that we managed to realize something that I guess is very important both for us as a Secretariat and for you as Members, and that is that all UN activities, if considered important by the country in question, are also to be included in the UN Country Programme. This was not the situation from the beginning, and we had a lot of discussions on whether the UN should be minimized or have only a few programmes in each and every country. I think that the consensus we arrived at is that the countries' requests

would have to guide the presence and the activities of the UN, be it only a request for a few programmes or a request for more UN activities.

Another sensitive point that we have discussed over these years is the role of the Resident Coordinator that is sent out by the UNDP and also the role of the firewall, how to separate the work of UNDP as a programme deliverer in its own right, in its area of mandate, and the role of UNDP as taking care of the whole system through the Resident Coordinator. There I think we have taken a few steps forward, but since we have different Governing Bodies, we will continue to have some tensions because you come here to look after FAO's mandate and other Representatives of the same countries come to another Governing Body to look after health or good governance of those Bodies and so on. So, this is a very complex issue where I think we will continue to monitor and we will have to work very hard inside the UN System to achieve a good model for the future.

Further, we have manifested the very central role of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, meaning the planning instrument for the entire UN System, and this is in line with the Accra Agenda for Action to facilitate, for the partner countries and their governments, in dealing with the UN System in a more comprehensive way and for them to have all their programmes with the UN System in one planning instrument.

So, when it comes to FAO's own involvement, we are very active in the new structures which have made the United Nations Development Group, meaning all of us in the UN System that are active in the field. We have become part of the principles of the UN System when they are meeting under the leadership of the Secretary-General in the CEB. This UNDG, United Nations Development Group, is guiding the eight country pilots and it is also guiding what we are doing now in all countries where we work together. FAO was the first Vice-Chair of UNDG to come from a Specialized Agency, and I have had the honour to hold that position for one-and-a-half years now, and we will hand it over to WHO, the next Vice-chair of UNDG, in January. The Permanent Chair of UNDG is the head of UNDP, the Administrator, Ms Helen Clark.

We have also formed an Advisory Group where FAO is a member with the ten biggest Agencies working in the field trying to give advice to all our Country Representatives and the Resident Coordinators on how to work better together in the countries. Also FAO has become a formal member of the Regional Directors Teams and this is a very important level because, more and more, the country level work is guided and backstopped at the regional level, and if we are to work as one in the field, the regional level will also have to work well together in the field.

So, as I said, initially our experience is positive. We are active in all the eight country pilots. Only in one of them, in Albania, is FAO not present on the ground. But we have nevertheless become a partner in that programme because of a request from the Albanian Government. In the other countries, we have country representation. Maybe I should repeat the countries: they are Pakistan, Viet Nam, Rwanda, Cape Verde, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uruguay and Albania.

We have also found that the test pilots as well as the discussion going on globally has led to intensified cooperation with other UN Agencies for FAO. The UN Rome-based Agencies' collaboration also takes place in the context of the overall UN coordination activities. I mentioned earlier how we find it important as Specialized Agencies, and Agencies that are not present on the ground are also involved in the programmes. We think this is happening to a large extent, but it is quite demanding and it requires resources to be able to relate to all programming efforts going on in many countries presently.

There is a new mindset in many countries now where working together has become the most used recipe, and there are many joint programmes. More importantly however, we do the programming together to avoid duplication or to avoid creating gaps where no-one is active. As regards joint programming in the eight country pilots, FAO is involved in programmes that cover about 20 percent of the budget, which is quite a lot if you bear in mind that we are many Agencies out there. In the programmes over all, we have a figure of about 13 percent in the eight country pilots. We also have seen that the national ownership is strengthened by a more comprehensive UN

approach because we facilitate for the governments to deal with the UN through one channel and to reach several areas of work through one channel and consequently, among the different Agencies, one Agency is aware of what the other is doing.

On the picture, you can see the joint programming in one of the country pilots in Mozambique and that programme is about value chains, and how to build commodity value chains and market linkages for farmers' associations. And here, FAO, WFP and IFAD, each play a distinct role in this programme. It is not that we do everything together, but we have a harmonious division of labour within that programme.

So here comes the big challenge that we are presently in and that is that, in the new UN Country Programmes, we expect most of them to take on a UN coordination approach. There are ninety, if we count the countries that are programming and starting their new Programmes this year in 2010 and in 2011. The opportunity here is that if we are able to invest in the discussions on programmes and relate to Ministries involved in our areas of mandate, we may also be able to enhance the role of food and agriculture in the country programmes overall and in the UN Programme in the countries.

We are preparing for the integration of food security and agriculture and rural development in the country planning instruments also at Headquarters, and we have managed to make food security a new priority in the UNDAFs in the UN Programmes. Some of you may know that earlier they had more of a social approach than an economic one, but through the One-UN discussions, it has been recognized and realized that it is important to include also the economic sectors in the UN programming and among of them, of course, food security and agriculture feature quite prominently.

FAO's work, our policy assistance, our support of capacity-building and so on, is being conducted through the NMTPFs. Colleagues have promised to discuss a change of the name of this FAO Country Programme. It is a very good instrument with a difficult name, but that instrument is there for us to be able to support the countries in discussions together with us and others related to our mandate, and then take that programme request either here to FAO, or to take it to the One UN. So the NMTPF contributes to the overall UN Programme, and when we do that programming, we are not doing it in isolation from the rest of the System, but it is actually a contribution to the UN System.

In the ninety UNDAF roll-out countries, FAO is involved in almost all of them, eighty or maybe as by now even more of them. In about sixty of them, FAO is a leader or a Co-chair in the thematic groups that have been established and, of course, our role there is to chair the discussions and co-lead the discussions in our area of mandate.

Here comes another creature that is what is called the self-starter in UN jargon. We have the eight Test Pilot countries, we have the ninety roll-out countries that may wish to have a more of a UN coordination approach in their Programmes, and then we have what we call Self-Starters, or countries that decided that they wanted stronger UN coordination. Malawi is one example. There are others, for example, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and others. Most of you have heard Malawian Representatives or others describe the food security success story of Malawi, so I will not dwell on that, but it is quite clear that in agriculture and small-holder farming, they managed to muddle through the food crisis and even to become a food exporter. We are happy to be a convenor on the cluster in the UNDAF on food security and economic growth in Malawi and we are also happy to know that agriculture and food security in Malawi has been targeted as the driver of economic growth of poverty alleviation. Malawi also applied for money from a new fund, the expanded Delivering as One Funding Window. It is a funding window to which Norway, Spain and UK are contributing, and they want to enhance and support the one UN approach in the Pilots, in the self-starters and I guess also soon when the new UNDAF countries come up with their comprehensive programmes. I am happy to be the Chair of this expanded window, which is also an innovation in the sense that we have both Donor Countries and Partner Countries represented in the Advisory Group, the Consultative Group that is advising the Agencies on how to make use of the money.

So this takes me to what we are doing here in FAO. We want to ensure that the One UN approach, the Delivering as One approach, also means that Members will have access to our knowledge as well as that of other Agencies. This refers to what I said earlier that if this becomes too exclusive at the country level, the countries may miss expertise from parts of the UN System. We also want to see to it that the technical assistance that we can provide is part of the programming frameworks, that they are laid down in the guidance for the programmes and that they also become part of the programmes when countries want them to be there. We also want to see to it that the policy advisory role, the standard-setting role that the Specialized Agencies have is preserved. You could call it the provision of global public goods. I would like to say that the work in the eight Country Pilots has led to a view that the United Nations comparative advantage is rather in giving good policy advice, supporting capacity-building, having a dialogue, and that the countries themselves may be better at providing the concrete services. So, I will not be surprised if the UN System will further enhance and strengthen its policy advisory and capacity-building role throughout.

The next bullet relates to the Resident Coordinator System, I touched upon it before. It is again about UNDP reaching out to all of us and providing a leadership for the entire System so that the exercise of working better together does not lead to crowding-out of the particular and special knowledge that most of the Agencies' funds and programmes sit on, and that we can really build a team in the countries to the benefit of the stakeholders at the national level to the benefit of the countries themselves.

So, what are the challenges ahead? In order for programmes that are designed in consultation with the Governments, that are part of the Government's Country Plans, in order for them to work well, both the countries and the UN System need to know that there is also funding in the long run because we all know that a one-year programme in the field may not lead to much. So the predictability of funding both at central levels, in Headquarters, regarding Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, at the country level is really very, very important. I would like to, again, thank those countries that provide resources on a multi-year basis to the One UN in order for us to become better, become more efficient, and support the developing countries better. Only a few donors actually are active in this field. If I am correct, I think that we have thirteen donors, and the very vast majority of the money that we get for One UN comes from only four donors.

You are aware that the IEE and the IPA speak a lot about partnerships. We shall be, as you know, very soon ready with our Corporate Partnership Strategy and we will also soon come forward with a UN Partnership Strategy. This is, of course, because working together with the rest of the UN System is necessary for us to abide with principles, for us to be able to deliver, because most development situations are so complex that we need to work together with somebody else in order to be able to do our best. This does not mean that we are not interested in collaborating with others and, as I said before, we believe that the One UN approach at the Country Level is a very good first step. But it does not exclude Rome-based collaboration, it does not exclude collaboration with the international financial institutions, and FAO holds the view that we can do more when it comes to working together with the Regional Development Banks and with the World Bank on the one hand, and the UN System on the other hand in the Field, in order to also avoid duplication between the UN System and the international financial institutions. Then of course, we have the collaboration with the NGOs and the CSOs and with the private sector, collaborations that are very important for many countries and where the UN can also contribute.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to a new Resolution adopted by the General Assembly in early October this year. This Resolution is a follow-up of the High-Level Panel that I mentioned earlier, that expert political panel that worked on System-Wide Coherence. That Resolution has requested the Secretary-General to come up with proposals during the next General Assembly on submission and approval of common country programmes, on a voluntary basis, centrally in the UN, meaning that we are now working in the UNDG, the United Nations Development Group, to provide material to the Secretary-General for him to advise how it will be possible for a UN Country Programme designed in a specific country to be also scrutinized on a voluntary basis in ECOSOC or in the General Assembly. So there is more and more of a drive

towards more coherence, more coordination at the country level, but also on forces that want this to influence how we take decisions and how we can also take joint decisions when the resources are provided jointly. So as we are now responding to the TCPR of 2007, we are in parallel working with the evaluation of the Country Pilots. We are working with this resolution in the General Assembly that may very likely take the coordination and the decision-making a step closer to more joint decision-making, bearing in mind of course all the constitutional aspects that we have to put on this issue.

So I thank you for your attention and we would be happy of course to take questions and comments.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Annika for that very comprehensive update. I would like to open the floor now for your comments, interventions or questions.

Cuba, you have the floor. Go on please.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación quería sinceramente agradecer a la Señora Annika por su excelente presentación y el conocimiento demostrado en la presentación del tema.

Para decir verdad, mi delegación tenía un discurso que he tenido que ampliar aquí en mi silla, en base a lo explicado por la Señora Annika. Lo primero que quiero decir es que mi delegación no estaría en disposición de aceptar este Informe. Tendría reservas sobre este documento, y quisiera que quedara plasmado adecuadamente en los resúmenes, por los siguientes elementos:

Entendemos el Sistema de reforma de Naciones Unidas como un Sistema que está en proceso, que está en evaluación y que todavía no ha sido aprobado. Afortunadamente, el 14 de octubre cuando aprobamos en New York la Resolución 64133, que daba seguimiento a la Resolución 63127, sobre la Coherencia del Sistema, una de las mayores discusiones que tuvimos en aquella sala fue precisamente porque no habíamos avanzado en la Reforma de Naciones Unidas y mucho menos en la propuesta de Unidos en la Acción.

En este momento existe un Programa Piloto, como dice la Señora Annika, en ocho países, que se está mirando como experimento, por eso se llama piloto. Sin embargo, mi delegación observa que en este Informe que se presenta, el C 2009/14, ya se han adoptado acciones en el marco de la FAO como si ese proceso se hubiera aprobado.

La misma creación de la ventanilla de financiación es un ejemplo de ello y mi delegación preguntaría: ¿estamos tomando disposiciones para implementar el reto de las cinco áreas de la Reforma referidas a la igualdad de género, a mejorar la gobernanza de la ONU, a la financiación, a la armonización de las prácticas? Es decir, nos preocupa grandemente que solo se atienda a uno de los aspectos de la Reforma, que es Unidos en la Acción, que sobre todo va a tener influencia en los Países en Desarrollo porque no hay oficinas de Naciones Unidas en los Países Desarrollados. Solo afectará a los Países en Desarrollo, y esa iniciativa Unidos en la Acción, lo que plantea es una unidad de las Oficinas, una reducción del financiamiento, una reducción de los proyectos.

Es decir tenemos muchas preocupaciones y la preocupación mayor es que en el ámbito de Naciones Unidas no hemos aprobado la iniciativa Unidos en la Acción, y ya en FAO, desafortunadamente, se han adoptado medidas para implementarla. Esta es una cuestión que nosotros no estamos en disposición de aceptar.

El otro problema grande que encontramos en este Informe es que se vincula siempre a la ayuda de la Declaración de París y del Programa de Adopción de Accra. Por ejemplo, en el párrafo 88 (b), la Declaración de París y el Programa de Adopción de Accra establecen principios para la ayuda internacional que dan los donantes bilaterales y no es el lineamiento del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, ni el lineamiento de la cooperación que se da a través de la Cooperación Sur-Sur, ni de la Cooperación Triangular. Por tanto, los principios del programa de la Declaración de Accra no son los lineamientos de la cooperación internacional que se dan en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas. En

la cooperación internacional hay que tener en cuenta las Resoluciones que adoptamos bajo los temas del TSRP que están bien definidos. Por lo tanto, mi delegación tampoco estaría en disposición de aceptar una vinculación con la Declaración de París y el Programa de Acción de Accra porque, además, mi país no es firmante, como muchos otros, de ambos documentos.

Desafortunadamente yo quisiera decirles que no puedo acompañarlos, que reservo este documento y que quede bien clara la posición de mi país.

Andries OOSTHUIZEN (South Africa)

My delegation would like to thank FAO for the Report and the presentation provided under this item. As was mentioned, this issue is a very important issue, and also very critical for the success of the UN development system in general. It is also clear that it is a system in progress, and as information from Pilot Countries is evaluated, further fine-tuning would and could be made. I think my colleague from Cuba has just referred to some elements of this.

I will only limit my intervention to the following. My delegation is happy to note that in paragraph 34 of the Report that FAO's approach is to ensure better oversight for FAO Governing Bodies over the use of resources in an effort to reduce dependency on ear-marked contributions. I also welcome the announcement of a stronger focus on food security in the UNDAFs where countries could take the lead in identifying their own needs.

South Africa has a particular interest in this item as it has been involved in the first ever Evaluation Process of all UN Agencies, and how it interacts with the government to analyse the impact and contribution to development activities, particularly in South Africa. This evaluation was concluded during June of this year. We will continue to follow the Report by FAO under this item to ensure that its activities relate to the TCPR resolution as is being negotiated in New York. I am not sure as to whether the name will be perhaps changed in the future, as there is an agreement to change the focus to four years and not to three years in future.

What I just want to conclude with is to refer again to the Evaluation Process that was completed in South Africa and I want to make a caveat immediately to say that this is South Africa's experience, and it is only our experience, but one of the outcomes of the Process was that there was a definite need for UN Agencies and government departments to interact more strategically to analyse the impact of the mandated activities of the UN. And we felt through the Process, which we all believed was a good one, an independent Process, that the outcome of that document provided a clear insight as to how better we could coordinate with the UN Agencies and how better the UN Agencies themselves could coordinate with one another.

Thomas KENNEDY (New Zealand)

Our thanks for that very interesting presentation.

New Zealand is a strong supporter of the UN Development System, and for some time now we have stressed the need for improved development effectiveness, encouraged better coordination of the various UN Agencies and supported national ownership and use of national systems in all development activities.

We see the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review Process as making a sound contribution to these efforts in particular by working towards harmonization across all Agencies. The TCPR is the most authoritative guiding document for the funds and programmes, as it is a result of an intergovernmental process and it provides a mandate in a number of areas including reform, governance and finance. To this end, we thank the Secretariat for this Second Interim Report.

As a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, New Zealand has subscribed to the need for Results-Based Management for harmonization of processes, partnership approaches, increased accountability and transparency, and the provision of a predictable long-term funding. These aims apply equally to FAO.

New Zealand supports and has contributed financially to the UN Plan of Action for the Harmonization of Business Practices which is an important opportunity to focus on accountability, Results-Based Management and transparency of processes across UN Agencies.

While there are many significant issues to consider, New Zealand would like to specifically note, in the context of the current TCPR process, that national ownership is the keystone to all development activities. To this end, we urge Specialized Agencies, such as FAO, to increasingly align to the national priorities and plans of developing countries, and to work through national execution using national expertise where possible such that countries own and control their own development processes.

Dmitry MAKSIMYCHEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In principle we would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report, the main thrust of which we support, and also express thanks for the presentation which was given to us, which in our opinion contained very interesting information.

In the presentation, as regards experience with implementing the Delivering as One Pilot, reference was made to the positive elements which have been attained. We would like to ascertain whether there have been any problems or challenges as a counterpoint to the advantages or positive elements in the introduction of this system, especially this idea of a single funding window as well as the role of the Resident Coordinators. If there were such problems, then it would be very useful to ascertain whether they have been overcome, how they are being overcome and so on.

In conclusion, once again, may I thank the representative for the Report and for the presentation.

Adel CORTES (Lebanon)

First of all, I want to thank the ADG for her lucid, very clear presentation on a subject which to me is a very difficult subject. However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, as was said by the ADG, coordination has a cost.

Looking at the situation in my country, I can see that if you are asking the FAOR to work on coordination with the other groups of the United Nations, that is fine, IFAD, WFP, the World Bank, are cooperating very well, but what about UNDP? UNDP is not cooperating at all on agriculture, on food security, on rural development, at least this is the case of my country. I would like to ask you if this is not the case also in New York when discussing with the UNDP.

If we are asking countries to work and to Deliver as One, what about FAO itself? Are we delivering as one in this area? I do not see anybody from TCA here, am I wrong? TCA has a major role, the planning assistance service has to do a good job in this area in helping the countries in preparing their UNDAF.

François PYTHOUD (Switzerland)

First of all, Switzerland commends FAO and Ms Annika Soder for the very detailed and informative Report on the implementation of the provisions of the TCPR.

Secondly, Switzerland acknowledges the progress made by FAO in implementation. We appreciate its increased involvement in mechanisms designed to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness of UN activities at country level.

While the UN operation system is moving from planning and budgeting together towards truly delivering together, the stocktaking of the One UN Pilot experience has shown that responses from Headquarters to innovations at the country level in terms of procedure and regulatory policy change are cornerstones to success. This means that the FAO Management in Rome sometimes has to take hard decisions to support the Reform Process and to contribute to the reduction of transaction costs related to the delivery of UN assistance. Mr Chairman, in our opinion, this shift in the mindset is critical with regard to the three following issues.

First, the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator System. Switzerland takes note with appreciation of FAO active participation in UN Country Teams and Thematic Groups at country level under the leadership of the RC. We also commend the inclusion of a dedicated paragraph in the Report on the financial support of FAO to the RC System. In this context, Switzerland urges FAO to include the provision of resources and support to the RC System in its Programme of Work and Budget, and to continue to include information on FAO's support to the RC System in its report to the Membership.

Second, the simplification and harmonization of business practices. Switzerland appreciates FAO's stated commitment to implement the Root and Branch Review in full cognizance of the requirements of related System-wide processes. FAO Regular Programme and Budget should consequently allocate funds to support the implementation of the Plan of Action developed by the High-Level Committee on Management. With regard to the harmonization of financial rules, Switzerland encourages FAO, whenever possible, to accelerate the roll-out of the harmonized approach to cash transfers in order to strengthen national execution.

Third, the funding of operational activities for development. We have read with attention the chapter of the Report dedicated to the funding of FAO operational activities. We commend FAO for the efforts undertaken to better align its extra-budgetary resources to the priorities of its Programme and Budget through an integrated approach. This move is critical to reduce fragmentation at country level and to improve the effectiveness of UN assistance, in line with the principles contained in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

To conclude, Switzerland would like to request FAO to standardize the reporting on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of Resolution 62/208 on an annual basis as requested by several recent ECOSOC Resolutions. Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Switzerland. Before I give the floor to Sweden who is the last on my list, I would like to know if other countries would like to take the floor. Sweden you have the floor.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

Let us first join others in thanking ADG Soder for her thorough presentation. We thank the FAO Secretariat for the informative document C 2009/14 which gives a good overview of the actions and activities undertaken by FAO to implement the TCPR Resolutions adopted in 2004 and 2007, including FAO Conference Resolution 13/2005 and 2/2007. It shows that FAO's response has been significant. We appreciate the commitment of FAO in this field, and call upon the Organization to continue the work in order to promote a more coherent and coordinated United Nations System at field level.

More generally, the EC fully supports the System-wide Coherence initiatives and therefore the efforts made to improve the cooperation between the UN Organizations.

The EC acknowledges, as has also been done by the Secretariat in the background document for this Agenda Item, that there are challenges as well as opportunities related to the implementation of the Delivering as One Process. We are encouraged to see that FAO, as per the desire of its Membership, still feels committed to following through with this important process. In this context, we would be interested to hear more about FAO's experience with the One UN Fund that has been introduced in the Delivering as One Pilot countries. We are also interested to hear how FAO's experiences in the approach to the Delivering as One Process will be linked to the Organization's Decentralization Process.

The EC urges FAO to actively continue to take part in the overall UN Reform Process and further improve the coherence of the UN System. As the Secretariat says in the document, this will make it more effective and responsive at country and global level to meet the needs of its Members.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Sweden. I do not see any other flags raised and so I will give the floor to the Secretariat to respond to your queries and the points you have raised. Annika, you have the floor.

Annika SODER (Assistant Director-General, Office of UN Coordination and MDG Follow-up)

FAO and the rest of the UN System are implementing what the Governing Bodies have decided upon, that is, the TCPR of 2004 and 2007. We are also taking an active part in the Test Pilots that will be evaluated, and we are also carefully reporting back to our own Governing Bodies what we are doing in order to have them back us while having the knowledge of what we are doing. So, this means that we are implementing what has been decided, it means that we take part in Test Pilots and it means that the 90 UNDAF countries are fully voluntary, and there will be no straightjackets put on them, but that many countries actually feel that its good for them if the UN coordinates better. We already see from the Pilot Countries that the partner countries reduce their transaction costs when they work through the One UN, because they can deal with fewer actors and do it in a better way. Also, their reporting will be facilitated, for them and for us, saving money for real programmes in effect.

This means that what we are doing is that we are aligning with the national priorities and, that many, or most of the programmes are actually now consulted with the governments and they form part of their country's own national development plans. So we do not have a separate UN Programme, but we are aligned with the national priorities and, as I said earlier also, the UN System understands that its role is about giving policy advice and that national expertise should be used as much as possible.

I have identified some challenges as I mentioned earlier. One is the role of the Resident Coordinator representing the entire system where we want to see a team leader and where it is also important that the Specialised Agencies can have frequent contact with their opposite numbers in the line ministries. The funding issue I also mentioned as a constraint, because the predictability of funding and the level of funding and the number of donors to the country level programmes of the UN could be much better. But some of the challenges have also been overcome, and among them I mentioned that we are now included in the One UN approach as Specialised Agencies and non resident Agencies, and also that reaching out to working with the countries themselves has become a very normal part of our work. Yes, it is true that coordination has a cost. Sometimes coordination is done for coordination's own sake. Then it is wrong. Partnerships should always have to have an added value. We see added value in cooperating with many Agencies. Of course, IFAD and WFP are obvious ones, but we cooperate as many of you know, very closely with WHO on the Codex Alimentarius, for example. We work together with UNICEF and others on nutrition issues, we work together with UNDP in institution-building because they have expertise there, and we have the expertise in the area of mandate. So there are many, many partners in the UN that are natural to work with. Sometimes we have to make an investment in the partnership in order to reap the benefits later on, when we have lined up and got rid of duplication or found new synergies.

We welcome the comments on support to the Reform of business practices and to the business practices between the Agencies and we are also doing our share here when it comes to how we implement the Root and Branch Review where we have an opportunity to deal with our own business practices. Also, of course, Delivering as One, Pilots and the experience emanating therefrom as well as the TCPR, are all influencing the Decentralisation Process and how we guide our Regional Offices, Sub-regional Offices and Country Offices. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ms Soder. Are there any more questions from the floor? I think the response made by the Secretariat is satisfactory for everyone. If there are no other questions, let me conclude by paraphrasing the statement made by South Africa earlier that this is a System-in-progress, this is very much an ongoing update in response to FAO Conference Resolutions 13/2005 and 2/2007 which requested the Director-General to take up appropriate actions for the full implementation of the General Assembly Resolutions of 2004 and 2007 on the TCPR. Suffice it to say that at country-level, FAO in cooperation with all the other UN Agencies should constantly be operational and Delivering as One. However, it should become all the more important to partner with other Rome-based Agencies at Headquarters as well as other regional and international financial institutions.

With that, let me conclude this Agenda item and move forward to the next. I see the flag of Cuba. I think the reservations expressed by Cuba earlier will be reflected in the Report of Commission I. Cuba, would you like to take the floor, go ahead please.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación agradece su paciencia y por volverme a dar la palabra. Lo apreciamos altamente y apreciamos altamente las explicaciones que nos dio la Secretaría.

Mi delegación quería precisamente esto, que se apuntara la reserva sobre todo, que no es una reserva para oponemos a cualquier armonización o al mejoramiento de las prácticas.

Mi país está de acuerdo con mejorar la función de las Naciones Unidas, la coordinación y la armonización. Lo que sí queremos es que se respeten las Resoluciones de las Naciones Unidas y que se deje bien claro que Unidos en la Acción es un proceso piloto que todavía no ha sido aprobado y que cualquier iniciativa al respecto deberá tenerlo en cuenta.

Creo que la Señora Annika comprendió mis observaciones y solo quería que estuviéramos claros en lo que mi delegación quería expresar.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cuba. I am confident that the report that you made will be heard by the Drafting Committee Members and that the report will record appropriately your reservations. Thank you.

9. Status of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (C 2009/22)**9. Situation du Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (C 2009/22)****9. Situación del Plan de acción mundial sobre los recursos zoogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura (C 2009/22)****CHAIRPERSON**

Can we now move on to the next Agenda Item, which is Item 9. Item 9 is the Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. The main relevant document is C 2009/22. May I invite Mr Müller, the Assistant Director-General for Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, as well as Mr Traoré, the Assistant Director-General for Agricultural and Consumer Protection Department, who will introduce the topic for discussion. Mr Müller, you have the floor, go ahead.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I want to only briefly introduce this item, starting with the information that in 2007 the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic

Resources for Food and Agriculture focused on the preparation for the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission accepted to act as a Preparatory Committee for this international Technical Conference which was held a few months later in September 2007 in Interlaken, Switzerland. As you may recall, the Interlaken Conference did not only welcome the first ever Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture produced by FAO. The Interlaken Conference also adopted the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources.

The successful outcome of the Conference without doubt is a further milestone in the work of FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Interlaken instruments join the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Together all these instruments lay the basis for a coherent, overall approach to all sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The 2007 FAO Conference welcomed the outcomes of the Interlaken Conference and endorsed the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources as a major contribution to the overall international framework on agricultural diversity. It also requested the Commission to develop a funding strategy for the implementation for the Global Plan of Action to oversee and assess its implementation, and to report back to this session on steps taken as a follow-up to the Interlaken Conference.

I will report on behalf of the Commission on the results of the last session of the Commission under Agenda Item 30.8. However, I should like to confirm here and now that the Commission adopted indeed a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action as requested.

Mr Chairperson, with your permission I should now like to pass the floor to my colleague, Mr Modibo Traoré, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture Department, who will report on concrete and practical steps taken up by FAO's Agriculture Department and Animal Health Production Division, in particular, to implement the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

As the technical support to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* lies with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, it is my pleasure to introduce this Agenda Item. Together with Samuel Jutzi, the Division Director and Irene Hoffman, the Animal Genetic Resources Group Leader, we will try and respond to your queries and questions.

The Report on the Follow-up to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is contained in document, C 2009/22, Status of Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. I shall also report on the recommendations made by the Commission, in its Twelfth Session, as they relate to animal genetic resources.

Document C 2009/22 presents an overview of the activities, partnerships and projects undertaken by FAO in support of country-driven efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, in particular in facilitating global and regional collaboration and networks, supporting the convening of intergovernmental meetings, maintaining and further developing the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS), developing communication products, providing technical guidelines and assistance, coordinating training programmes, promoting the transfer of technologies relating to sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and coordinating preparation of global status and trend reports on animal genetic resources. The information is presented in the order of the four Strategic Priority Areas of the *Global Plan of Action*: 1) characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks; 2) sustainable use and development; 3) conservation; and 4) policies, institutions and capacity-building.

In response to the request by the 2007 Conference to address the role of small-scale livestock keepers, FAO made available a document to the Commission on *The Role of Small-scale Livestock Keepers in the Development, Use and Conservation of Livestock Resources*. The Commission acknowledged the important contribution of small-holder farmers and pastoralists as custodians of much of the world's animal genetic resources. It stressed the importance of addressing their particular needs and for countries to take into account their contributions and to encourage their full and effective participation in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. In this context, a booklet entitled *Livestock Keepers – Guardians of Biodiversity* has been recently published by FAO and is displayed in the Hall. It can also be downloaded from the FAO Website.

Document C 2009/22 also covers progress made in Part III of the *Global Plan of Action* dealing with its implementation and financing. The Commission which oversees and assesses the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* decided on a four-year interval for progress reporting on its implementation, and encouraged its Members to prepare their first Country Progress Report by 2011. The Commission also addressed the need for regular updating of information on the status of animal genetic resources. Members of the Commission need to regularly maintain their national data and information, to ensure updated data are available for FAO to prepare bi-annual status and trends reports.

The *Global Plan of Action* recommends that FAO ensure adequate Regular Programme support for its implementation and pursue, with relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies, means by which they might also contribute to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. In FAO's new Strategic Framework, animal genetic resources-related activities are hosted under Organizational Result B3 – *Better management of natural resources, including animal genetic resources, in livestock production* of Strategic Objective B – *Increased sustainable livestock production*. They are also covered by the Impact Focus Area on *Global standard-setting and implementation into national policies and legislation* (IFA-SNL).

As requested by the 2007 Conference, the Commission adopted the *Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* and requested FAO to implement it as part of a consolidated programme that addresses all genetic resources for food and agriculture. It urged donors to enhance financial support for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

The adoption, in 2007, of the *Global Plan of Action*, the first internationally-agreed framework for the management of livestock diversity, was a major achievement – a milestone for the livestock sector and for the management of agricultural biodiversity. The task ahead is to build the foundations needed for effective implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* in countries and regions.

By adopting the *Global Plan of Action* and the *Interlaken Declaration*, countries affirmed their common and individual responsibilities for the management of animal genetic resources. The implementation process is already beginning to bear fruit as countries gear up for national action and organize themselves at regional level. This is best done by improving opportunities, through appropriate policy and technical developments, for the better utilization of animal genetic diversity. Sustainable use is a key component of the *Global Plan of Action*. Just as important, given the dynamics of the genetic erosion process, are the components dealing with characterization and conservation. The world's economic and biophysical environments are changing. So are societal demands, particularly for environmentally-friendly food of animal origin. The livestock sector needs to be able to adapt. Every country is affected. International cooperation is therefore imperative.

Governments have the opportunity and responsibility to make effective arrangements for the long-term management of animal genetic resources. A number of countries around the world have prepared – or are currently preparing - strategies and action plans to implement the *Global Plan of Action* at national level, other countries are advancing characterization and conservation programmes. In this context, the Commission endorsed guidelines for *Preparation of National*

Strategies and Action Plans and Breeding Strategies for Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources.

In Resolution 12/2007, the FAO Conference stressed the importance of implementing the *Global Plan of Action* in order to strengthen global food security and sustainable rural development, in particular to achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7, and had called for prompt action to conserve animal breeds at risk. The substantial threats facing animal genetic resources in all regions of the world require that action is urgently undertaken; more than 20 percent of breeds are classified as at risk and the reported rate of extinction is alarming. The Commission's Background Study Paper, number 50, based on country responses, concludes that the three most significant threats eroding breed diversity across all species were: 1. economic and market drivers (28.5 percent) 2. poor livestock sector policies (20.2 percent), and 3. poor conservation strategies (14.5 percent). The regions with the highest proportion of their breeds classified as at risk, Europe and the Caucasus, and North America, are those that have the most highly-specialized and efficient livestock industries, in which food production is dominated by a small number of breeds. Given these possible trade-offs between different aspects of biological diversity and food security goals, a "business as usual" attitude is not good enough.

Climate change, surging demand for animal products, and the threats posed by emerging and re-emerging animal diseases highlight the importance of maintaining genetic options with which to adapt our agricultural production systems. The Commission therefore noted strong linkages between the management of animal genetic resources and transboundary disease prevention and control, livestock policies and institutions for poverty alleviation, livestock-environment interactions and climate change adaptation and mitigation. It requested FAO to emphasize these linkages in its livestock programme.

Finally I would like to thank all our partners, in particular, the Governments of Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Tunisia and the United States of America, and the GEF and the European Commission, for their support to this important process. Many international research organizations such as ILRI and ICARDA and NGOs also provided in-kind support. We are grateful to all of them.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Traoré and Mr Müller for that very comprehensive and informative presentation. Let me now open the floor to Member Nations for their comments and interventions.

I have Cuba, Malaysia, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Brazil, United Republic of Tanzania and the United States.

Before I give the floor to Cuba, I would like to make a short reminder. I am terribly pressed for time today. We have about 20 minutes of interpretation time, so I would appeal to you to make your interventions as short and direct to the point as possible.

Cuba, you have the floor.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación agradece la presentación de este Informe por parte de la Secretaría y su presentación aquí en la sala. Mi país quisiera hacer unos pequeños señalamientos que nos parecen importantes.

En primer lugar, teniendo en cuenta que en este documento se muestran los resultados de los trabajos del Grupo Técnico Intergubernamental sobre Recursos Zoogenéticos a finales del 2008, mi delegación recomienda que sea analizado de conjunto con los resultados de la reciente Reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos celebrada hace sólo un mes aquí en esta misma sala, donde el tema también fue analizado.

En segundo lugar, respecto a la propuesta de preparar directrices para ayudar a realizar inventarios y el seguimiento de razas a escala nacional, mi delegación recuerda que en muchos Países en Desarrollo los censos agropecuarios no consideran las distinciones de raza, incluso están poco

desarrollados en muchos casos, por lo que el establecimiento de sistemas nacionales de alerta y respuesta temprana para los recursos zoogenéticos no debe sustituir ya también las obligaciones internacionales que existen sobre la materia.

Por otro lado, la implementación de estos sistemas a nivel nacional, requerirá de mucho tiempo, de mucho esfuerzo, de muchos recursos, de asistencia técnica y financiera y, sobretodo, de capacitación del personal que debe ejecutarlo, lo cual nos parece que necesita un apoyo internacional y la FAO puede jugar un papel determinante en esta tarea.

En tercer lugar, vemos en el documento que no aparece claramente especificado que los pequeños criadores de ganado se encuentran fundamentalmente en los Países en Desarrollo, pero los Países Desarrollados también son criadores y no se diferencia bien en el Informe las diferencias que existen entre unos y otros en cuanto a las capacidades técnicas, lo cual sería un elemento importante señalar esta diferenciación entre los criadores de los Países Desarrollados y los criadores de los Países en Desarrollo en cuanto las capacidades técnicas, las posibilidades que tienen para trabajar en este sentido.

En cuarto lugar, creemos que es necesario que en el proyecto de estrategia de financiación para la aplicación del Plan de Acción Mundial sobre los Recursos Zoogenéticos se priorice la financiación internacional en contraposición a la prioridad que se le está otorgando al financiamiento nacional. Creemos que es una responsabilidad nacional, pero que se necesita el apoyo internacional, sobretodo en los países menos desarrollados, países africanos y países que tienen meno desarrollo estructural. La cooperación internacional es fundamental para nosotros.

Mi país le da apoyo a todo este proceso y muestra su disposición a trabajar en cualquier documento que pudiera mejorar la elaboración de estrategias en esta materia.

Datuk Dr. Abd. Shukor ABD. RAHMAN (Malaysia)

Malaysia supports the *Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources*. We agree that there is a need for the country-based early warning and responses to animal genetic resources, so that the country will be able to take necessary action to prevent the loss of genetic resources.

As such, FAO should play an important role in providing capacity-building to countries in establishing this early warning and response system.

Malaysia compliments the Working Group for producing the Guidelines for the Preparation of National Strategies and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources and the Building Strategies for Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources. However, we feel that these Guidelines should also be reviewed periodically to ascertain that they are suitable for current situations.

Malaysia congratulates the Commission on the preparation of the funding strategies for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. It is indeed timely for FAO to provide funding to the Developing and Least Developing Countries to implement the Global Plan of Action. However, FAO needs to monitor closely the progress of the implementation plan in countries that receive funding from FAO, so that there is not abuse in the use of the funding provided.

Finally, we also urge developed countries to contribute to the FAO Trust Fund for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

François PYTHOUD (Switzerland)

Switzerland thanks Mr Mueller and Mr Traoré for their Report on the status of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

We would like to reaffirm the importance of the Interlaken Declaration and stress the need for implementation for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in order to contribute to global food security, to assist in rural development, to face global environment challenges such as climate change and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

In our view, due priority and attention should be given to the effective allocation of creditable and agreed resources for the implementation of activities within the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action.

In this regard, we strongly welcome the adoption by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources as an important critical milestone.

We are of the opinion that within FAO, the coordination between this funding strategy and the other one addressing genetic resources such as the one of the International Treaty should be ensured. We, therefore, strongly support the Commission's request that FAO implement the funding strategy as part of a consolidated programme that addresses all genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Switzerland will continue its active support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and Animal Genetic Resources, in particular through contribution to the funding strategy.

To conclude, we are of the view that the Commission on Genetic Resources should continue to oversee the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and to report back at the next Session of the FAO Conference on the status of implementation.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

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.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for their presentations at the beginning, as others have already done.

The European Community, with reference to the document C 2009/22 on the Status of Implementation on the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, welcomes the synthesis of the work done by FAO on a national level in this regard.

The European Community welcomes the Report and notes the outcomes of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in October 2009.

We would like to restate the importance the Interlaken Declaration and stress the need of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development, as well as to meet current and future production challenges resulting from climate change and in particular to achieve the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

We acknowledge the importance of the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and urge FAO to continue providing Regular Programme funds and technical advice to support the implementation of the GPA in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, and to further pursue partnerships and alliances with other international mechanisms and organizations to enhance the implementation of the GPA.

We also appeal to all FAO Members and to relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give due priority and attention to enhance financial support for the implementation of activities within the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action.

Furthermore, the European Community requests that the Commission continues to oversee the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and to report back to the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference on the status of the implementation of the GPA, including the role of small-scale livestock keepers.

Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As other colleagues have already indicated, we very much appreciate the documentation provided by the Secretariat and the feedback that was provided by Mr Müller and Mr Traoré.

Certainly Canada welcomes the progress made with regards to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the Multi-year Programme of Work adopted by the Twelfth Commission on Genetic Resources just a few weeks ago in this room.

These global level plans are important in addressing global food security and sustainable rural development. Like others, Canada encourages the FAO and its Members as well as other relevant mechanisms, funds and bodies to give due priority to the implementation of these plans and activities.

Canada would like to add that the Commission also adopted the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including the development of a Trust Fund to assist in the roll-up and the implementation of the GPA.

Canada agrees that the FAO should continue overseeing the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources including reporting on status and trends. However, it also suggests that it may be premature for the Commission to report in 2011 as the time between the initial adoption of the Global Plan of Action and reporting back may be too short. Country reports on the Animal Genetic Resources as foreseen in the GPA are due in 2011 which will then be rolled up on the regional and global levels. A reporting date of 2013 may be more appropriate, when the first synthesis of the report and actions taken could be presented to the Conference after review by the Commission.

Canada would like to commend FAO and its Commission on their efforts related to access and benefit-sharing, and its relationship to the genetic resources for food and agriculture. In particular Resolution 1/2009 adopted by the Twelfth Commission highlights the unique and the very special nature of agricultural biodiversity, in particular, the genetic resources for food and agriculture. There are distinctive features, and problems needing distinctive solutions, such as differential treatments of different sectors or sub-sectors.

Further to the Resolution 1/2009, Canada supports the call for FAO Conference to invite the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to work closely with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetics, regarding access and benefit-sharing in the areas of genetic resources for food and agriculture in a mutually-supportive manner.

Furthermore, Canada suggests that this important Resolution should be adopted by Conference and forwarded to the attention of the Secretary of the Convention of Biological Diversity to bring these critical issues to the attention of the Convention with an aim to explore and assess options for the international regime on access and benefit-sharing that will allow for adequate flexibility to acknowledge and accommodate existing and future agreements.

Romero MAIA (Brésil)

Beaucoup de thèmes ont été discutés parmi les documents de la Commission des ressources génétiques et je voudrais insister sur ce que notre délégation a déjà affirmé dans la Commission.

Premièrement, au sujet de la mise en place du Plan d'action mondial, il est très important pour nous qu'il y ait une flexibilité dans les questionnaires que la FAO va envoyer aux pays pour faciliter les réponses car certains pays, dans notre région, dans le monde qui n'ont pas le même système de production.

Deuxièmement, au sujet de la Stratégie financière, il est très important pour nous que cette stratégie soit toujours basée sur la coopération internationale et que les pays en développement puissent compter sur des aides internationales.

Troisièmement, le Système d'alerte précoce, selon nous, ne doit pas constituer un moyen de distorsion du commerce international. Il doit être en accord avec le Traité et les institutions internationales qui sont déjà en vigueur.

P. MJOMBE (United Republic of Tanzania)

We have noted progress in the implementation of the global plan of action and for that we commend FAO for spearheading this work. We realize the need for sending to FAO status and trend reports on national animal genetic resources and factors influencing change for the purpose of monitoring progress. However, this may be difficult for some of the developing countries, like my own due to inadequate mechanisms for data collection. On the issue of sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, we appreciate the formulation of the Guidelines on Breeding Strategies for the Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources. We in Tanzania are using these Guidelines for breeding of the indigenous livestock for sustainable management of the animal genetic resources.

On the issue of Strategic Priority number 4, concerning policies and capacity-building, we note the importance of effective coordination of activities of the farm animal genetic resources because we think this is key to success. So we urge FAO to technically support the regional focal points for the East African Group of countries and in the SADC Region.

Tanzania fully supports the role of small-scale livestock keepers in development, use and conservation of the livestock resources as the majority of the indigenous livestock are kept by the small-scale livestock keepers. We look forward to their involvement because we think they have a major role to play. We reiterate the importance of FAO in ensuring adequate Regular Programme support by facilitating collaboration in mobilization of the donor resources for programmes like support to endangered breeds like we have in Tanzania (goats), enhancing services and also capacity-building in establishing database and information systems which are in line with the Global Plan of Action.

In a nutshell, we encourage you for you to continue spearheading activities in support of the Global Plan of Action. We reiterate the importance of implementing the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable development and, in particular, to help achieve Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7. We appeal to all FAO Member Nations and to relevant international financing bodies to give priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for implementation of the activities within the strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action.

Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

I can be brief. The United States welcomes and endorses the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. The development of the funding strategy is an important contribution to advancing the Global Plan of Action. We encourage FAO to continue its activities in support of the Plan. We appreciate and take note of the outcomes of the Twelfth Regular Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It should continue to oversee the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and report back to this body at its 2011 Session.

ZHAO LIJUN (China) (Original language Chinese)

We welcome this Report. We have seen that the FAO has made real progress in this field. In order to better manage these genetic resources, we would suggest first of all that governments and international organizations take steps to implement the Interlaken Declaration.

Secondly, the FAO has to speed up the implementation of the Early Warning System for Genetic Resources in order better to ascertain the situation and to monitor those genetic resources.

Thirdly, the international community should be supporting the developing countries in implementing this Global Plan of Action and by providing the necessary financial resources.

Fourthly, the FAO should continue to enhance cooperation with the Convention on Biodiversity as well as other international institutions in order to bolster implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

CHAIRPERSON

China was the last speaker of the member countries on my list. If there are no other countries, can I give the floor to an Observer, the Heifer International?

Constance NEELY (Heifer International)

Heifer International appreciates the Report and the work done by FAO and at the national level on the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. We certainly welcome the outcomes of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in October, and we are pleased that FAO is working on important contributions of small-holder farmers and pastoralists as being the custodians of most of the world's animal genetic resources. We certainly encourage the continuation of this work.

Heifer International works on sustainable livestock development in 50 countries and is well aware of the cross-sectoral issues around livestock and livestock-based livelihoods. We, therefore, strongly support the recommendation of the Commission that FAO's livestock programme continues to emphasise the strong linkages between the management of animal genetic resources and transboundary disease prevention and control, livestock policies and institutions for poverty alleviation, livestock environment interactions and certainly climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We compliment the FAO on its important technical efforts on these issues and we appreciate that Commission II of the Conference, in its deliberation of FAO's new Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan, attributes due attention and funding to Strategic Objective B – Increased Sustainable Livestock Production.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

I am just concentrating only on the role of the Commission, and I would like to make three brief remarks.

First, Cuba, Brazil, European Commission and United States made the recommendation that the Commission should also in future oversee the implementation and of course we will do it, and therefore, this document has to be seen in conjunction with the deliberations of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission. We will continue to do it in the spirit of the multi-year programme of the Commission which covers all genetic resources for food and agriculture.

My second remark is European Commission, Switzerland and also United States supported by China made clear that we need a coherent and consolidated approach for genetic resources for food and agriculture, strengthen the links to CBT, and Switzerland made the recommendation that we need not only a coherent funding strategy, also with the International Treaty, but also a consolidated programme on biodiversity here in FAO. I think this is a debate which has to continue also on the other Agenda Items during the Conference.

My last remark, I would like to thank Tanzania for linking the work of the Commission with the Strategic Objective F on sustainable development and I think, implementing FAO's new Strategic Framework, this is the way forward, how we should do it and of course we will follow this recommendation.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I have noted that most of the interventions were comments and suggestions on how to improve our work and how to mobilize additional resources to support the work in developing countries. I think from our side, we are doing our best through our Regular Programme budget and also through the extra-budgetary resources which are welcome to finance the impact focus area, budgetary item and also the assessed budget.

We thank you very much for your support of this work and we hope that, thanks to your contribution, it will be possible for our team to improve as a work.

Suite en français

Nous avons pris bonne note de la demande de la délégation brésilienne pour plus de flexibilité. Je pense que, compte tenu du rôle que le Brésil joue au niveau régional pour l'Amérique latine, ce travail sera fait d'un commun accord avec vous et j'espère que cela va effectivement nous aider à avancer.

Continues in English

I do not know if you wanted to add some more points. Irene, please.

Irene HOFFMANN (FAO Staff)

Only one small comment in addition to what the two ADGs have said. Referring to the technical parts, many countries have mentioned the Early Warning Systems and Response Systems as a request for our support. We would just like to announce that we are working on Guidelines for Serving and Monitoring that will also be tested and applied and rolled out in countries. With regard to the financial support, the answers have been given, but on the technical side we are at your disposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Müller, Mr Traoré and Ms Hoffmann for the responses. I think that more or less sums up the discussions that have taken place this afternoon.

Before I adjourn this session, let me say that there is a general support for the recommendations and the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and that there was a call for a more sustained and predictable funding strategy.

Let me adjourn the session this afternoon with that note and I hope that we can start tomorrow promptly at around 9.30 am. I would also like to make a few announcements.

For the Members of the Drafting Committee, I have been informed that Senegal and Gambia will be the Members from the Africa Region, and that the Near East will be served by Egypt. It is still up to you to negotiate who your Chairperson will be, and I hope that can be settled tomorrow.

Let me adjourn the Session for today. It has been a privilege to hear your views and nice working with you. Have a good night. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième session
36º período de sesiones**

**SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEGUNDA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

20 November 2009

The Second Meeting was opened at 09.46 hours

Mr Noel D. De Luna,

Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 09 h 46.

sous la présidence de M Noel D. De Luna,

Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 09.46 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr Noel D. De Luna,

Presidente de la Comisión I

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CONT'D)
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE EN MATIÈRE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (SUITE)
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA EN MATERIA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y
AGRICULTURA (CONTINUACIÓN)

10. Global and Regulatory matters arising from:
10. Questions de politique et de réglementation découlant du:
10. Cuestiones generales y regulatorias derivadas de:

10.1 Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (2-6 March 2009)
 (C 2009/16)

10.1 Rapport de la vingt-huitième session du Comité des pêches (2-6 mars 2009) (C 2009/16)

10.1 Informe del 28.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (2-6 de marzo de 2009)
 (C 2009/16)

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Next to me is Mr Jorge Csirke, Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management division; next to him Mr Grimur Valdimarsson, Director of Fish Products and Industry Division.

I wish to introduce briefly the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and highlight some of its conclusions and recommendations which should be brought to the attention of this Conference.

It is important first to stress the high-level of participation to that session, with the presence of 520 registered participants from 113 Members, 1 Associate Member, 7 Specialized Agencies of the UN, 84 IGOs and NGOs. In the recent years, the considerable increase in the number of participants, both in terms of individuals and of delegations, is an illustration of the awareness of the international community that COFI is the only global intergovernmental body specifically mandated to address issues related to fisheries and aquaculture.

This new situation has made it necessary for COFI to use more efficiently the time available as well as to take the opportunity of a number of Side Events which enriched its discussion.

The conclusions and recommendations of COFI on global policy and regulatory matters can be grouped in 10 areas or groups of issues.

First, in relation to Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and arrangements, it should be noted more particularly that COFI encouraged those of them that had not yet undertaken performance reviews to do so.

Second, in relation to safety at sea, COFI supported the development of guidelines of best practices in this respect.

Third, COFI encouraged FAO to continue its collaboration with IMO and ILO, especially in several specified areas.

Fourth, COFI called on FAO to promote and sustain capacity-building in support in a range of activities, in order to assist Developing Countries, both at the national and regional level.

Fifth, in relation to trade, COFI endorsed the Report presented by the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, which in turn contains a number of conclusions and recommendations on global policy and regulatory matters.

Sixth, COFI did the same in relation to aquaculture, when endorsing the report presented by the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture; it also underscored the importance of aquaculture as a means of enhancing food security and sustainable livelihoods.

Seventh, COFI noted that FAO should continue to play a leading role in relation to assistance for the implementation of the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

Eighth, COFI achieved several conclusions and recommendations related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, including on the development of a global record of fishing vessels as well as on the Draft Agreement on Port-State Measures.

Ninth, on small-scale fisheries COFI expressed the need for an international instrument aimed at ensuring the sustainability of these fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting.

Finally, COFI called on FAO to play a more active role in matters relating to climate change and gave some concrete indications in relation to activities and the principles and methods that should guide them, including the need for cross sectoral approaches.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that probably the most important of all these issues for the present session of the Conference is the decision that it must take with regards to the adoption of the Draft Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing. This legally - binding instrument which has been successfully negotiated during four sessions of a Technical Consultation, through the very able chairmanship of Mr Fabio Hazin from Brazil and with the active participation of 92 FAO members and 20 IGOs and NGOs, represents a decisive step toward the development of international law as well as a formidable tool to fight against IUU Fishing.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Nomura. May I now open the floor for interventions, statements or questions from Member Nations? I have the European Commission, would anybody else like to take the floor? Tanzania, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Lebanon, Australia.

Alright, I think we can start with this list. European Commission you have the floor.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union. The former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The European Community welcomes the results of COFI and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members in that Committee.

Important decisions have been taken, however, the outcome of COFI could have been strengthened if documents, such as the work plan, had been received timely and could have been discussed in the context of the Reform of FAO.

The European Community regrets that no prioritization of activities in the work plan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by FAO, which is essential to the work of COFI. Therefore, the European Community calls for the establishment of such prioritization for COFI in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next COFI Session based on the priority paper produced by FAO Management to facilitate the discussion.

The European Community welcomes the adoption of the amendments to the Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fish Products from Marine Capture Fisheries and the consensus reached on the adoption of the International Guidelines on Deep-Sea Fisheries. We recommend, however, a higher focus of FAO on the marine bio-diversity.

The European Community would like to highlight the importance of the recommendations adopted by COFI to undertake further work on the development of Flag State performance criteria and of a Global Report Vessels. More particularly, the Community wishes to stress that the ongoing work on the creation of an effective international instrument for Port-State control will represent a crucial step in international efforts developed to stop IUU Fishing.

Finally, I would like to express our support to other important decisions adopted by COFI, such as the development of international guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards, and the finalization of the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification.

Hadija R. KIIMU (United Republic of Tanzania)

Tanzania notes that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) remains one of the major threats to sustainable fisheries, not only in Tanzania but the world at large. Appreciating the economic and social pain inflicted by IUU Fishing, Tanzania wishes to commend the effort made by FAO and the Member Nations in fighting IUU through various strategies including establishing a legally-binding instrument on Port-State Measures and the establishment of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels. Tanzania is prepared to ratify it as soon as it is ready.

Application of the Port-State Measures will go a long way to deter the rampant plundering of our fisheries resources and governmental damage. We urge Member Nations to join hands and collaborate in fighting IUU.

On the issue of the status of the agreement on adoption of instruments, Tanzania supports the idea of adopting the instrument within the framework of FAO, under article XIV of the Constitution of the Organization as we believe that this will allow level play.

Tanzania is in support of establishing proper vessel records which will be of great help in monitoring fishing vessels and other vessels that support fishing operations, including transportation of fish and fishery products. We think it will be more helpful if the database to be developed include photographs that will facilitate identification.

In implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries related plans of actions and strategies, we have in place a draft International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing, which was prepared with the support of FAO, to which we are thankful.

In collaboration with Kenya and Uganda, we have prepared and personalized a regional plan of action to prevent the IUU Fishing in Lake Victoria.

Noting that Tanzanian fisheries are dominated by artisanal fishers, we recognize the need for sustaining small-scale fisheries for the purposes of ensuring sustainable food for these fishermen and of securing economic development of the country.

Tanzania commends FAO for the work done in support of small-scale fisheries so far, and would urge it to continue with the assistance in terms of capacity-building and technical support.

Tanzania commends FAO efforts and role play towards promoting aquaculture in the country. We believe through aquaculture there will be an increased fishing ability contributing to increased household incomes, food security, employment and government revenues. Furthermore, there will be a positive reduction of fishing pressure on the culture fisheries.

In recognition of the importance of aquaculture, Tanzania has established a fully-fledged Aquaculture Department whose primary role is to promote aquaculture development in the country. We have prepared a National Aquaculture Strategy, in which FAO played an important role. The Strategy emphasizes the importance of commercialization of aquaculture with a view to privatize the subject of increased production and productivity.

Baraka S.M. MNUGULWI (Malaysia)

On the issue of fish trade, Malaysia shares the concern that Eco-labelling will be an impediment to trade, especially for developing countries. We would like to see that more support be given to Developing Countries, especially where small-scale fisheries is significant to assist in the handling of Eco-labelling issues.

Malaysia agrees that FAO should continue to work closely on providing technical inputs to World Trade Organization on matters of fisheries subsidies. In addition, on traceability on fish trade, Malaysia supports the call for FAO to prepare Guidelines for Cash Documentation Schemes which are acceptable for all fish trade worldwide.

At the moment, Malaysia is preparing to meet the requirements of the cash documentation scheme being imposed by the implementation of EC Regulation 1005/2008 to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing as of 1 January 2010.

Related to aquaculture, Malaysia supports the promotion of aquaculture in an environmentally-friendly manner and to minimize external pressures on the environment. Technical support in critical areas, such as aquatic animal health management, will help Management formulate relatively cheap alternative feeds. Improvement of offshore aquaculture technology, maximum use of land and water resources, specific pathogen free seeds and other aquaculture requirements should be continuously forthcoming from FAO to its network of experts.

Finally, the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification should be finalized as soon as possible for approval by COFI at its next Session in 2011.

Malaysia also extends its support, and will participate at the Global Conference on Aquaculture in 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Alexander OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation considers that the COFI meeting this year worked on the International Guidelines and, of course, the decisions taken by COFI are ones that the Russian Federation considers very important. What we think are important are the measures that were adopted on IUU Fishing, and we think that this is a very important agreement to which the Russian Federation attaches great importance.

We are already working within the framework of this order and since 2007, we have been doing this and we see that this model of work does bear fruit in terms of preventing poaching. We think that there is definitely a need to create a Global Record of Fishing Vessels.

We have to draft a relevant Document on Flag States, and we have to begin drafting documents to prevent the discarding of fish. The Russian Federation will continue to be very active in the work of COFI, as it considers this work an important stage and an important contribution in ensuring food safety.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

I was really impressed by the presentation made by the ADG on Fisheries, on the COFI Meeting and really, here I have to say that FAO has the leadership in fisheries at the international level. I was really impressed by the number of IGOs and NGOs who participated in this meeting. However, there is a serious problem, Mr Chairman, here. The ADG is seconded by two competent Division Directors related to fisheries, and I have participated in the Committee of the Conference for the Review of the Evaluation Report and I have seen that the number of people who will be doing their job properly in FAO in fisheries is declining. There is a serious problem here, Mr Chairman, if you look at the number of the recommendations made in this Report of COFI, and you compare this with the number of people who would be working on fisheries at the international level. I repeat, FAO has the leadership in fisheries and this is a very very serious problem which should be tackled. Therefore, I would recommend, Mr Chairman, and please take this very seriously, that we have to make a recommendation here that when we are looking at the number of technicians and professionals who will be working on Fisheries, we have to equate the duties and the responsibilities with the number of people who will be working on these.

Madeleine BALOWIN (Australia)

As regards the Report of the 28th Session of COFI, prioritization in fisheries matters in COFI remains an issue for Australia. We supported the finding of the Independent External Evaluation that the FAO needed to focus and direct funding to its highest priorities. As conveyed at the 28th Session of COFI, Australia would like to reaffirm to the FAO a number of priority issues.

Firstly, we see continued emphasis on the development of sustainable aquaculture as a significant and growing contributor to global fisheries production and food security. In particular, regarding the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, Australia supports these as they focus on

environmental sustainability and product quality similar to the Guidelines on Eco-labelling of Fish and Fish Products from Marine Captured Fisheries. We reaffirm our position that a Technical consultation on these Guidelines should be progressed.

Secondly, we welcome the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas, finalized at the Second Technical Consultation in August 2008. Australia supports the work programme developed by FAO in support of the Guidelines, particularly, in developing tools to support their implementation, and coordinating with other relevant organizations in the development of a global database of vulnerable marine eco-systems.

Finally, Australia supports the proposed Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. IUU Fishing is a global threat to sustainable fisheries, to the management and conservation of fisheries resources, the marine environment, marine bio-diversity and to the aspirations of legitimate fishers. The proposed Agreement is the first global legally-binding instrument specifically directed at combating IUU Fishing. Australia thanks Members who participated in the development of the proposed Agreement, and we encourage others to become signatories to the Agreement in due course

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Permítanme en primer lugar agradecer la presentación del Informe del 28° Periodo de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca de esta Organización.

La delegación de El Salvador quisiera en esta oportunidad unirse a la declaración que hicieran durante el Grupo de Trabajo que examinó la Consulta Técnica, que examinó la redacción de este instrumento para establecer un Acuerdo Vinculante sobre las Medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto, Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada.

En ese sentido, la delegación del Salvador reitera su firme compromiso en la promoción de un uso sostenible y la conservación a largo plazo de los recursos vivos marinos.

Sin embargo, como lo expresaran en esa oportunidad en el Apéndice E, las delegaciones de Colombia, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Ecuador y México, El Salvador considera que el documento en consideración no se encuentra por el momento listo para su firma, ya que tendríamos que examinar algunos elementos que todavía quedaron pendientes durante el último COFI y durante las reuniones que tuvimos para examinar este Acuerdo.

Repetimos nuestro total compromiso con este tema y su total importancia, sin embargo estimamos que el mismo debería ser examinado en algunos aspectos con más profundidad.

Beatriz CALU (Colombia)

En relación con la declaración que acaba de hacer la distinguida delegada del Salvador, me permito leer algunos aspectos a parte de la mencionada declaración que figura como Apéndice del Informe de la Consulta del pasado mes de agosto.

Se refiere a que de todas maneras estas delegaciones reiteran su firme compromiso de promover el uso sostenible de la conservación a largo plazo de los recursos vivos marinos. Para el efecto, ellas han contribuido de manera constructiva y transparente a fin de elaborar un texto que pueda ser considerado por los Países Miembros de la FAO, para la adopción, suscripción y efectiva aplicación de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante de normas mínimas eficaces para prevenir, desalentar y eliminar la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada, que complemente la responsabilidad principal del Estado del pabellón.

Por su naturaleza entendemos que este instrumento no pretende reglamentar el ejercicio de la soberanía del Estado sobre sus puertos, y que sus disposiciones se ajusten a los principios del derecho internacional, en especial al derecho de los tratados que reconoce la facultad que tiene un Estado de presentar reservas a un acuerdo jurídicamente vinculante.

Sin embargo, estamos dispuestos a someter a consideración de nuestros Gobiernos, el texto que acompañe este Informe incluyendo, el Artículo 31, en el entendido de que podrá ser objetado para abrirse el debate, negociar el texto e incluir reservas necesarias por parte de cualquier Estado, nos interesaba hacer énfasis en esta declaración.

Carlos BETANCOURT (Uruguay)

En primer lugar quisiera agradecer por el Informe presentado por el Sr. Director General Adjunto al que, obviamente le atañe este tema con mucha propiedad y que nos deja muy satisfechos en cuanto a la forma en que el Informe está presentado.

Pero mi delegación quería hacer una especial mención al tema del acuerdo jurídicamente vinculante sobre las medidas del Estado Rector del Puerto, Destinadas a Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada.

Todos sabemos que este proyecto es el resultado de una larga labor desarrollada con el mayor compromiso por parte de todos nosotros, y surge la preocupación de la comunidad internacional por un flagelo que afecta a la humanidad en su conjunto.

Mi país en este caso está particularmente preocupado por este tema y entiende que el Acuerdo es sumamente útil desde el punto de vista de lo que significa la regulación jurídica de un tema tan importante. Una vez aprobado, como esperamos que así sea, este tratado sería el primero jurídicamente-vinculante a nivel mundial, centrado en forma específica en el problema de la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada.

Nosotros entendemos que es un Acuerdo satisfactorio, con un texto que aceptamos en un 100 por ciento y que prevé un marco jurídico útil para el control de los buques en puerto, que operen en la pesca en áreas distintas del mundo y que proveerá una capacidad de control muy importante para evitar estas actividades ilegales.

Uruguay está ya comprometido con la Comisión para la conservación de los recursos vivos marinos antárticos, y por ser también miembro de la Comisión para la Conservación del Atún del Atlántico en medidas similares. Para nuestro país, esto no es nuevo pero si es importante contar con este instrumento a nivel internacional.

Uruguay acepta el Texto tal cual como es y está dispuesto a proceder a su firma cuando así lo decida esta Conferencia. Gracias.

Agustín ZIMMERMAN (Argentina)

En primer lugar doy la bienvenida al informe del 28^a Período de Sesiones del COFI. Específicamente la delegación argentina quisiera expresar su posición respecto al Acuerdo de Medidas de Estados Rector del Puerto para Prevenir, Desalentar y Eliminar la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada.

En línea con lo dicho por el colega de Uruguay, creemos que la negociación de este Acuerdo es de suma importancia. Estimamos que durante las varias sesiones que tuvo la Consulta Técnica se ha logrado un texto muy satisfactorio que la delegación argentina puede apoyar en su totalidad.

Por lo tanto, el Gobierno Argentino desea expresar que estaría en condiciones de firmar este acuerdo y espera, e insta a las demás delegaciones, a sumarse a este importante Acuerdo porque el tema de la lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada así lo merece.

Emma María José RODRIGUEZ SIFUENTES (Mexico)

Al igual que el Uruguay Sr. Presidente, México le da una importancia particular a la lucha para combatir la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada y estamos conscientes de la importancia de un texto que colabore y coadyuve a los esfuerzos de los Estados en la materia. Es por ello Sr. Presidente, que la delegación de México ha participado activamente en las negociaciones del Proyecto de Acuerdo que estará en consideración durante esta 36^a Conferencia General de nuestra Organización. Yo solo quisiera recordar los elementos de la posición que México mantuvo durante la Tercera Consulta Técnica. Si nosotros recordamos en el Informe que

ha sido distribuido con la asignatura FI LE/L914 encontraremos que México dejó claro que buscábamos precisar las definiciones del instrumento. También dejó claro que esto tenía que ver con el ámbito de aplicación del documento. Mi país es parte del Apéndice de dicho Informe junto con otros países en el que indicamos que someteríamos a consideración de nuestros gobiernos el Texto del Proyecto de Acuerdo incluido el Artículo 31 que como ustedes saben se refiere a las reservas y cito del Apéndice de este Informe en el que señalamos que esto lo hacíamos en el entendido de que el texto podía ser objetado, reabrirse el debate, negociar el texto e incluir reservas de ser necesario por parte de cualquier estado. Yo solo quisiera recordar esto. Sabemos que tendremos que revisar de manera particular el texto en los próximos días. La importancia que le damos es porque estamos convencidos de la importancia de la lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal No Declarada y No Reglamentada y creemos que un instrumento que se permita y permita una mayor participación de los Países Miembros será el mecanismo más efectivo para combatir este fragelo. Sr. Presidente, yo dejaría yo presentada la posición de la delegación de México, y agradecemos que nos haya dado la palabra. Muchas gracias.

Robert RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

Just very briefly, United States strongly supports adoption of the draft Agreement on Port-State Measures as is, and intends to sign the Agreement if the Conference adopts it and opens it for signature.

We also fully support the outcomes of the 28th Session of COFI, and endorse its future plan of work.

CHAIRPERSON

I don't see any other flags raised so far.

Senegal you have the floor.

Moussa BAKHAYOKHO (Sénégal)

Monsieur le Président, je voulais signifier à la Conférence que le Sénégal apprécie la préoccupation forte qui est donnée à la pêche illicite non déclarée non règlementée. C'est un véritable fléau qui préoccupe notre pays et les dispositions qui sont prises dans ce rapport sont en train d'être étudiées avec la plus grande attention au niveau du Sénégal. Au moment opportun, le Sénégal apportera sa position par rapport à cela, surtout lorsque la Conférence aura apprécié et donné son point de vue sur la question, mais c'est une question préoccupante forte, compte tenu de son incidence sur la sécurité alimentaire et son incidence sur la dégradation des éco-systèmes. Merci

Jose Eduardo BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

Cape Verde also welcomes the Report on this matter that is of utmost importance for an island country whose maritime surface makes it a small island country with a huge maritime territory. We recognize the important work that has been done and also the principles that are enshrined in the Draft that was prepared. It is under review by our Governments. By the way I would say our constitutional system makes it a little bit more complicated because it is a parliamentary one, not presidential, so the process takes a little bit more time. But we expect to be able to have instructions as soon as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, very much, Cape Verde. Are there any others who would like to take the floor? Mauritania, I can see your flag, go ahead.

Mariam I. Mohamed AHMADOU (Mauritania)

Nous constatons dans ce document qu'il y a eu un rôle de l'État du pavillon, qu'il y a eu surtout un point faible dans ce document. Il doit y avoir plus d'engagement de la part des États du pavillon. On parle ici dans le document d'encourager les États, alors que nous ne voyons pas un encouragement ou un engagement ferme ou clair de la FAO, de l'organisation ou de l'État

développé. Il y a aussi un autre point faible dans cet accord, il n'y a ni engagement de la FAO ni des pays comme j'ai dit, mais on parle de faciliter la participation des ces États en développement ou faciliter l'assistance technique. Dans ce cadre, on doit avoir un engagement comme j'ai toujours dit, un engagement fort des pays développés et surtout pour la pêche artisanale, la pêche maritime et la pêche continentale. Nous avons des accords avec des pays où nous devons faire des certificats de capture dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pêche illicite, à partir de janvier 2010. Cela sera très difficile de réaliser ces certificats pour les pays avec qui nous avons déjà un engagement pour la capture de la pêche artisanale, surtout dans les pays en développement. Donc l'engagement des pays développés ou l'engagement de l'Organisation doit être clair et fort dans les textes, en attendant une réaction. C'est surtout cela que je voulais signaler. Merci.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mauritania.

I do not see any other flag raised, so I can give the floor to the Secretariat to respond to the queries and interventions from the floor. Mr Nomura.

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you to the delegates who spoke.

I will dwell on three points because all other points are including compliments, criticisms, lack of prioritization made by the European Community and Australia and the work in progress always included in the COFI Reports. To the best of my knowledge, no statements you made for those issues are inconsistent with what was recorded in the COFI Report, so I will not repeat them. The prioritization issue, lack of prioritization in the document is not linked to criticism against the COFI document but to other Technical Committee documents. We will provide better documents in time for the next Technical Committee, including COFI. Work in progress, as you encouraged and supported, is already recorded in the COFI Report and we are on the right track, including aquaculture certification and a global record of fishing vessels. So I am not repeating this also.

I first tried to touch upon the statement by Kenya. She seems to be criticizing the lack of the role of FAO for strengthening the Flag States measure. I do not exactly know in what context she was referring to the lack of Flag State measures in the agreement on Port-State Measures; of course the Agreement is on Port-State measures, and has nothing to do with Flag States.

If we look at paragraph 70 in the COFI Report, there is a reference to how we follow up on our task to strengthen Flag-State responsibility, including Expert Consultation to be followed by Technical Consultations. So it may be true that Mauritania is right in the sense that we are lacking some instruments to make Flag States' responsibility more visible, and we are working on correcting this.

A number of delegations talked about the Port-State Measure Legally-Binding Agreement. This issue is probably outside the scope of this Agenda Item. This Agenda Item is only the Report of COFI. What you are discussing on Port State Measures Agreement is beyond COFI. We are at a crossroads whether or not this Conference is going to adopt and open it for signature. To the best of my understanding, that issue will be brought up on Sunday morning in the Plenary in the Agenda Item of the Report of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. So whatever you said was already expressed at the September Council, and everybody is aware of this. At least in the view of the Secretariat, it is time for your decision at the Conference.

Lastly, there is one very interesting remark from the distinguished delegation of Lebanon who happened to be absent. Since his remark is of a different nature to the others, I will just try to respond. We very much appreciate his appreciation of the work of the Committee on Fisheries but for those who attended COFI, what he said is not new. COFI attracted about five to six hundred participants, so that is why we used the Plenary Hall. We are very proud of the extent and interest in the Committee, including the FAO Members in the significance of the Committee on Fisheries because it really affirms our conviction that COFI is the only global governmental body to discuss global fisheries. The reason why so many people will come and stay until the last day Friday, that

big audience, is because if they leave, they lose something, so we are very pleased and that creates a lot of pressure for us, of course.

About the lack of human resources, as well as budget resources, to which the Lebanese delegation referred, for the work of fisheries and aquaculture, of course we have to agree with what he said but what we can do is different and is beyond the Committee on Fisheries and beyond the Secretariat of the Fishery Department. The Secretariat and I myself, appreciate the positive comments that the delegation made regarding the work on fisheries and of the Secretariat.

For that Mr Chairman, I think you can safely recommend that Conference can endorse the Report of COFI.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Nomura. If there are no further interventions from the floor, I guess I can conclude this Agenda Item by saying that first, the Drafting Committee will note your concerns and some of the recommendations that we heard earlier during the debate. Meanwhile there is a separate Resolution on the Agreement on Port-State Measures to be presented before the Plenary this Sunday, I believe. If there are no objections, I can consider the Report of the Twenty-eighth Session of COFI endorsed.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

*10.2 Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry (16-20 March 2009)
(C 2009/17)*

*10.2 Rapport de la dix-neuvième session du Comité des forêts (16-20 mars 2009)
(C 2009/17)*

*10.2 Informe del 19.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (16-20 de marzo de 2009)
(C 2009/17)*

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move on to the next Agenda Item, which is the Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Forestry.

The main document here is C 2009/17.

May I invite Mr Jan Heino, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, to present the Report.

Mr Heino, you have the floor.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

On the podium, together with me from the Forestry Department, I have Mr Michael Martin, Director, Forest Politics and Economic Division. I have the pleasure of bringing to your attention global and regulatory matters of interest and relevance to the Conference that have been identified by the 19th Session on the Committee of Forestry and you already heard the Chair referring to document C 2009/17.

Let me introduce this by a couple of slides. While the discussions undertaken by the Committee on Forestry were rich and diverse, some key recommendations are highlighted for your attention, especially those recommended to be brought here by the COFO: climate change response, forest policies and reform of forestry institutions, the need to prepare a Report on the state of world forest genetic resources and let me also mention, as number five, the strategy for forests and forestry since it was one of the main COFO topics in March this year.

The role of forests in climate change, mitigation and adaptation was widely discussed. We benefited from a stimulating introduction to the topic by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, United

Nations Secretary-General, Special Envoy on Climate Change. The 19th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry agreed that sustainable forest management is the key forest sector response to Climate Change. That is to say that climate concerns are integrated explicitly into the management of forests and the actions of forest users in ways that are economically-environmentally-and socially-sustainable.

In order for the forest sector to meet its potential, COFO stressed the need for sufficient financing to assist national forestry administrations and forest owners in improving their performance and emphasis was given to strengthening national capacities to develop effective responses. Responses and strategies for adaptation of forests to climate change are needed as well.

Several members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, CPF, contributed to presentations on this topic. A document called Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change prepared by the CPF was very well received and stimulated discussion among COFO Members. By the way, the Executive Summary is available in all six FAO languages.

Another topic widely discussed by COFO was the improvement of forest policy and especially forestry institutions. There was widespread understanding that many forestry institutions needed reform and modernization to be equipped and fit for emerging challenges. FAO was asked to work alongside other international partners in strengthening national institutions with the latest thinking and tools to confront the challenges ahead.

Recognizing FAO's own need for renewal, COFO endorsed the FAO strategy for forests and forestry. Elaborating the strategy was a long and participatory process with many contributions from not only FAO staff, FAO Regional Forestry Commissions and Member Nations, but also from a range of stakeholders within or close to forestry. As you know the strategy has become embedded in the FAO Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plans.

I would like finally to mention that COFO this year was organized within the first ever Forest Week that attracted numerous private sector and NGO representatives and other stakeholders outside forestry administrations to participate in partner events and special sessions.

Since this new and more transparent and active concept with less formal sessions and more time for interaction was well received, the recommendation is to continue with the World Forest Week concept.

By working with numerous partners in this way, we are able to do a better job of partnering with others to multiply the impact of our work and to better define FAO's comparative advantages in the very active field of international forestry. This is one of the many ways that we are trying to renew FAO upon a strong foundation of partnership as called for in the Immediate Plan of Action and the IEE.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me bring to your attention, the main outcome of the Thirteenth World Forestry Congress, held in Buenos Aires last month, document C 2009/INF/17 refers. The Congress was organized by FAO and the Government of Argentina. It turned out to be a success in all respects; the Argentinean hosts offered wonderful hospitality and excellent arrangements to the more than 7000 participants from 160 countries. The main outcome of the Congress was the exchange of information and experiences between participants at different levels from a range of organizations all over the world.

A Final Declaration, adopted by the Congress, also attached to the information document, called for immediate "multi-sector responses" to rapid global changes. Today, the major pressures on forests are arising from outside the forest sector, such as changes in global climates, economic conditions, and population. These changes are creating impacts across multiple sectors.

The Congress was also sending a strong message on climate change and forests to the upcoming UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, COP 15, in December. The message stated above all that sustainable forest management provided an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation, and you can find this message on the FAO Website.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I look forward to hearing the comments of Conference Members on our progress and plans for future work in support of Member Nations in the field of forestry, and possibly also comments on the World Forestry Congress.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate country to the EU, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement. Let me first of all thank ADG, Mr Heino for his presentation. The EC shares the analysis by the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry whereby it is concluded that Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is the right answer to the challenges faced by the forest sector and in particular the key to its response to climate change. The EC recognizes the need for adequate financing of sustainable forest management. The EC does welcome the recent UNFF decision on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management and stresses that facilitative process will need the full support of Member Nations, the collaborative partnership on forest, the private sector and other stakeholders, including regional organizations which can share their knowledge of financing needs and opportunities and the enabling conditions required for investments in SFM. In this regard, we consider that the National Forest Programme Facility hosted by FAO and the Pro-For Programme hosted by the World Bank and the CPF Source Book on Funding for SFM, have important roles to play. The European Community regrets that no prioritization of activities in the Work Plan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by the FAO, which is essential to the work of the Committee on Forestry. Therefore, the EC calls for the establishment of such prioritization for COFO in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next COFO Session based on a priority paper produced by FAO Management to facilitate the discussions. The EC appreciates the proposal of the Collaborative Partnership on Forest for the Strategic Framework on Forest and Climate Change as a clear overview of what should be done in the field of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The EC fully supports the Committee in its call upon the Member Nations to cooperate more closely on this area, and to adopt appropriate forestry practices and policies to this end. In particular, the EC believes the recommendation that FAO, in collaboration with other organizations, strengthens national capacities to develop effective responses to climate change should be given priority. The EC further appreciates the message sent from the World Forestry Congress to COP 15/UNFCCC emphasizing the roles forests have to play in both climate change, mitigation and adaptation. The EC strongly supports the recommendations of the Committee to reinforce FAO Forestry Department in order to improve its capacities and to intensify, in collaboration with other international organizations its efforts to provide timely support to Member Nations in implementing their policies and reforming their forestry institutions. Against the backdrop of climate change, this approach is necessary due to the current economic, political, social, environmental and technological challenges that the forestry sector faces at the local, national, regional and global levels.

The EC takes note of the progress made at the Twelfth Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held on October 2009 in Rome, and particularly welcomes with appreciation the start of the work on the State of World Forest's Genetic Resources Report with planned release in 2013. The EC sees the establishment of an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources as a useful tool in the work with the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources Report.

Madeleine BALOWIN (Australia)

Australia welcomes the FAO strategy for forests and forestry, but we are concerned that the strategy is highly ambitious in defining a wide range of priority areas of work. To move forward with this strategy in an effective manner, we believe it is necessary for COFO to focus on priority activities that support countries with their efforts to implement programmes for achieving the sustainable management of their forestry resources.

Australia proposes that the Agenda for the next meeting of the Committee on Forestry include reaching agreement on the priority activities to be pursued and on indicators for monitoring progress with the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Forest and Forestry under the Medium-Term Plan. That is all I had to say at the moment.

Hadija R. KIIMU (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation, we take this opportunity to commend the report on the 19th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), and appreciate the matters brought forward for the attention of this Conference. We underscore the importance of forest and wood lands to human life as a source of livelihood, as well as in providing ecological safety. However, deforestation and degradation of forests in Tanzania is very much alarming, and in 2005 it was estimated to be 412,000 hectares per annum, this is equivalent to 1.5-1.21 percent of the country's total forest area, which is declared every year. The main causes are population growth, poverty, clearing for agriculture, wildfire, extraction of timber, charcoal production, encroachment for settlement and livestock. Through the efforts of the government and the development partners, various interventions have been implemented, for instance, the programme involving the community in the management of forest resources. The terminology called Participatory Forest Management (PFM) is well known in Tanzania, and is very much implemented with the assistance of the Governments of Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, as well as with the other international organizations such as FAO, WWF, UNDP, GEF, World Bank and the other local NGOs. PFM is taking place around the country as a strategy to improve management of forestry resources, livelihoods and the governance. It covers about 4.5 million hectares of the total forest area which accounts only for 12.8 percent of the forest total area. So, we still have some areas to be covered through this approach. PFM has led to improvement in forest conditions including regeneration, and increasing water flow. PFM reduces illegal activities such as encroachment and illegal harvesting. PFM has proven to halt deforestation and has decreased degradation in the natural forest in general. The current speed under which the PFM project proceeds is very slow. This is indeed due to limited resources and excessive harvesting, lack of proper land, and the lack of a mechanism of cost-benefit sharing in this arrangement. We note the Committee has underscored the linkage that existed between the implementation of sustainable forest management and reducing the vision from deforestation and the degradation, this is the REDD. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania considers the REDD policy a viable option that can provide opportunities for the country to meet its obligations of managing its forest and woodlands on a sustainable basis, and that simultaneously responds to the poverty reduction initiative. Tanzania has realized that current forests and a PFM frame has a potential for carbon trade since they contribute to carbon sequestration and therefore mitigate climate change.

We commend FAO for the technical assistance on national forest resources and on monitoring and assessment in a formal project. The project will provide national information on the forest resources that can be used to develop national databases for the carbon credits. We encourage FAO and the other organizations to continue supporting countries in this endeavour. However, REDD policy is still new and its introduction in Tanzania requires changes in management and governance system, both in terms of arrangement, policy, legal frameworks, and land tenure. Tanzania is in the process of now reviewing the 1998 national forest policy which addressed some of these social and economic changes. Also Tanzania is in the process of transforming its forest and making it efficient, to promote a more semi-autonomous forest service that would address some of these challenges. The Government of Tanzania, in partnership with the Government of Norway, has studied addressing climate change challenges. They are already in the process of developing a strategy and action plan for REDD, and its national framework has been prepared.

Mr Chairman, changes in the forest management and the governance system are very important if the country has to safely address climate change challenges. We are here to collaborate with FAO and with other organizations to support the change process.

Eko Boedhi SOESANTIJO (Indonesia)

Indonesia is pleased to see that the FAO strategy for forest and forestry is set and agrees that this implementation would need more resources. It is in this context that we support the request for an increased share of the overall FAO budget to be allocated to forestry. This is, as far as we see, the growing recognition of the role of forests in the present changing environment. Most of all is the role of forests in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. It is just recognized by the ongoing development of the mechanism called Reducing Emissions from the Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD. In this context, among FAO's comparative advantage, is its extensive work related to inventory of forest data and information crucial to the concept of performance-based EDG. This comparative advantage needs exploring, which is just among the reasons for our support for a strengthened Forestry Department in the FAO. This goes along the COFO stance to be brought to the FAO Conference, that is, the forest sector needs sufficient financing in order to respond to climate change. The FAO Forestry Department is part of the global forest sector, and also needs financial strengthening.

Jose Eduardo FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

Let me first of all thank very much ADG Heino for the excellent work that he and his Department do, as well as for the excellent presentation to which we subscribe fully.

Cape Verde, at the moment of its independence, was a country on the brink of complete afforestation and desertification. Thanks to work on a voluntary basis but with the support of the international community, of its population and in this particular case, of FAO, it was possible not only to reverse the situation but to go to great lengths. Right now, despite the drought that continues to affect the country, we believe that we have now gone a long way. So, we would like to support the proposals that were made by previous speakers concerning funding because it is critical. When I say so, I say it thinking also of the efforts that my government has made in this field in the past and is still doing, whatever is necessary for forests to be really important in the development of our country.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación cubana agradece por la presentación del documento. Nuestros comentarios son los siguientes.

Apoyamos la consideración sobre la importancia de la ordenación forestal sostenible en la adaptación de este sector al cambio climático y la necesidad de disponer de un financiamiento suficiente dentro del Programa de Trabajo de la Organización. Consideramos pertinente la colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones para fortalecer la capacidad de los Países Miembros dirigida a elaborar respuestas eficaces al cambio climático y consideramos que se deben buscar vías para fortalecer la acción de la FAO en este campo.

Apoyamos que la FAO trabaje para reforzar las capacidades de los Estados Miembros en la aplicación de sus políticas y en la reforma de sus instituciones forestales, siempre que los Países Miembros así lo soliciten.

Respaldamos la recomendación de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que solicitó que la FAO prepare un Informe sobre el estado de los recursos genéticos forestales en el mundo.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Mr Chair, I think I can be brief. Thank you for the remarks and for the support given to the Forestry Programme and the work of the Forestry Department. As for the priorities, I think I can refer to what was discussed after Mr Nomura's presentation and we note the request for further prioritization for COFO and the other Technical Committees under the guidance of the Member Nations. For sure we will come back to this issue during the next COFO. Then, maybe I will pick just one of the substantive points made by several delegations regarding the assistance and

support for our work on climate change, where again your comments very well reflected the discussion on the outcome of the COFO meeting because COFO requested us to develop effective responses to climate change such as carrying out forest carbon assessments, mainstreaming climate change consideration and international forest programmes, also mentioned here by Tanzania, Indonesia covered several these points related to climate change, so I think we are well aligned. Then as to the overall outcome of this discussion I do not see any contradiction regarding the outcome of the COFO discussions, so with this I think I am happy to take on board all the remarks.

*10.3 Report of the Sixty-seventh Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems
(20-22 April 2009) (C 2009/18)*

*10.3 Rapport de la soixante-septième session du Comité des produits (20-22 avril 2009)
(C 2009/18)*

*10.3 Informe del 67.º periodo de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos
(20-22 de abril de 2009) (C 2009/18)*

Neil FRASER (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

The Committee on Commodity Problems held its 67th Session from 20-22 April 2009 here at FAO and of the 105 Member Nations that are registered for that Committee, 86 were present at the Session, the Holy See, four international organizations and five non-governmental organizations participated as Observers; presumably these Observers have not been registered as Committee Members. Anyway, those are numbers of the Committee meeting.

Onto the meeting itself, and we have got some matters to be drawn to the attention of the Conference. Just before that, I want to point out there was one matter which is being drawn to the attention of the Council which is certainly worth repeating here, and that is that there is a requirement for the next session of the Committee to look at a document as a basis for discussion of its role and working arrangements. Now, the Committee on Commodity Problems is the oldest Technical Committee in this Organization. It started in 1949 when it was set up, 1950 it had the first meeting and it is still operating under the same name. There are some who think that it could be time to change that name. That suggestion will come through in the document that is being prepared for consideration in the next meeting that will look at keeping the Committee current, relevant, responding to the needs of Members and looking at ways in which the working methods can be improved.

So, I would like to move now to those matters which require the attention of the Conference, and the Committee wishes to draw the Conference to the following matters in particular. There are six and I will quickly read them.

First, it is a request for continued analysis of the reasons for sudden changes in market situations including an in-depth analysis of the impact of policies with a view to drawing implications for small farmers and Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries. You will see that that is corresponding to a call that was made at the Summit earlier this week, so it is still a current relevant issue.

Secondly, it is requested that FAO should undertake further analysis on the implications of bio-fuel development on poverty, food security and the environment, the linkages between energy and agricultural markets and, in particular, of second generation bio-fuels.

Thirdly, it is welcoming the renewed commitment among WTO Members to reach a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced agreement, referring to the Doha Round, and support for continuation of FAO's analysis and capacity-building work in relation to international trade negotiations.

Fourthly, its request for analysis for the impacts of the financial crisis on agriculture, trade and food security and we expect that those impacts will have lags or delays that will continue for sometime.

Fifth, it is welcoming a progress made towards decoupling of agricultural support policies and its recommendation that FAO should facilitate investments to improve the competitiveness of developing countries' agriculture.

Finally, its request for further research considering the macro-economic impacts and management of commodity price movements.

Those are the six points that were to be brought to the attention of Conference. There are eleven points to be matters requiring the attention of Council. I am not going to read those out. Council have heard those, but there are two that I would like to just append to what I have just said because I think they are very relevant and it's worthwhile bringing them to the attention of Conference also.

They are the first two matters: the review of the state of food and agriculture commodity markets and the important role that the Committee on Commodity Problems plays in monitoring food markets and policies supported by information provided by Member Nations. I think that if you go to any meeting in FAO, Summit included, you will hear the relevance of that. Secondly, the request for continuing analysis of reasons for the sudden changes in market situations, including policies, with a view to drawing implications for small farmers. I am sorry, there was a third one and that was the Committee's agreement that a Working Group be established to review the present and future role of the international commodity bodies, and request that Terms of Reference for such a Working Group be prepared for approval by the Bureau. So, those of you at the meeting will recall that we raised this architecture and the working methods, etc. of those international commodity bodies and the need to look at them - are providing best value to their Members and our Members in general?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Fraser. Would anybody else like to add to that? Would you like to add to that Mr Hallam? Alright, let me now open the floor for interventions and comments from Conference Members. I have the EC on my list. Would anybody else like to take the floor? New Zealand, US and Tanzania. Alright, we have the first four speakers. European Commission you have the floor.

Luis RITTO (European Commission)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States with the candidate countries to the EU, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associating themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided C 2009/18 which offers a valuable summary of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, the CCP. This CCP Report provides information on a broad range of issues which is timely for policy-makers due to the global economic and financial crisis and its devastating effects in particular on the livelihood of the poorest and the most vulnerable. The European Community regrets that no prioritization of activities in the work plan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by FAO which is essential to the work of the CCP. Therefore, the European Community calls for the establishment of such prioritization for the CCP in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next CCP Session based on the priority paper produced by FAO Management to facilitate the discussions.

On the current situation, on the outlook of the world agriculture commodity markets, the Report underlines the turbulence that characterized markets leading to record high prices by mid-2008 and the sharp declines by the end of the year. These fluctuations and significant price volatility have a negative impact in particular on food-insecure countries. We welcome the FAO Secretariat's endeavour to continue monitoring and analyzing commodity price movements and follow-up from the SOFI 2009 Report, in particular on how a gradual world economic recovery in 2010 could impact food demand. A Commission communication tabled at end of October 2009 proposes concrete policy actions at Member States and new levels to improve the functioning of

the food supply chain in Europe. It identifies tensions in contractual relations between actors of the chain stemming from the diversity and differences in bargaining power. It also highlights the lack of transparency of prices along the food chain, as well the increased volatility of commodity prices. It is essential to ensure that derivatives keep serving their initial purpose of price discovery and etching as tools to cope with price volatility.

In this respect, the European Commission will make proposals to improve the overall transparency and oversight in the EU for derivatives on agricultural commodities. The EC is ready to share its experience with FAO on how to improve the food chain in the context of a fragmented market across products and states.

The CCP Report notes that further analysis is required on the implications of bio-fuels, poverty, food security, environmental benefits and carbon balances. The European Community agrees that policies to develop bio-fuels in developing countries need to be consistent with other national economic development strategies. There is some concern from some developing countries that bio-fuel certification may become a trade barrier. The EC would like to reiterate that any bio-fuels sustainability scheme contains non-discriminatory sustainability criteria, as well as a set of policy monitoring and reporting requirements on a wide range of economic, social and environmental impacts on land and labour issues, on availability of food at affordable prices, in particular in developing countries which are significant sources of bio-fuel imports into the EU.

The European Community has consistently demonstrated its long-standing commitment in the ongoing Doha Development Agenda negotiations engaging pro-actively and constructively with others, including developing countries, to find acceptable compromises. We are determined to seek comprehensive, ambitious and balanced conclusions to the Doha Development Round in 2010 consistent with its mandate, based on the progress already made including with regard to modalities. A balanced outcome of the Doha Development Agenda negotiation remains a key priority for the European Union.

The Committee highlights in its Report the complexity of farmer support policies aiming at meeting future food challenges. Against this background, it is too simple to state that all policies fall into a continuum of different degrees of distortion. The European Community and its Member States would like to point out that a Common Agricultural Policy is moving away from trade-distorting since it mainly relies on the use of the coupled income support payment to farmers in line with WTO green box requirements. Further research on the consequences and management of food commodity price movements is welcome. We encourage the FAO Secretariat to keep contact with other organizations working on these topics; export restrictions and previsions can affect the food supply of both developed and developing countries, as we have experienced recently, and have a serious upward effect on prices.

Paragraph 34 mentions and I quote: "that it was stressed that rapid policy responses to food price increases including export restrictions may have no effect on the price level". This sentence is not in line with the results outlined in the paper State of Food and Agriculture; according to paragraph 29 of the paper, simulations assessing of the impact of the main policy responses showed that border measures have pushed prices further up, especially in the case of rice.

Tom KENNEDY (New Zealand)

New Zealand wishes to express its appreciation for the Report. We are very supportive of the role of the Committee on Commodity Problems which is of benefit to all FAO Members. We wish to further encourage the Committee's ongoing relevance in looking for new directions and in this connection, we are particularly looking forward to its findings on the work related to the future related of international commodity bodies. We wish to again emphasise the importance of the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round. In light of various comments on the volatility of commodity prices, we are pleased to note this is an issue that the Secretariat is applying its analytical capacity to.

Robert A. RIEMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. The United States welcomes and endorses the Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We believe it is an informative and useful Report. We believe that the implementation of sound policy responses that are designed to be adjusted appropriately is critical to the effective management of price fluctuations. When dealing with price movements, it is dangerous to arbitrarily adjust policies as this may exacerbate the situation by creating spikes in prices. It is our view that addressing market conditions with sound economic policies will form the basis for stable markets. We have learned that interventionists' policies have effects on the markets by creating unsustainable spikes in prices or depressing prices. IMF data shows that trade-restricted policies adopted by many exporters of grains, oil, seeds and vegetable oil were a major factor contributing to the surges in world food commodity prices during the last half of 2007 and the first half of 2008. This is particularly true in the case of rice. The United States agrees with the World Bank, OECD, FAO and IFAD that export restrictions exacerbate price volatility in world markets, negatively affect importing countries, impede price signals to producers, undermine trust in the market and lead to worse outcomes for all. It is our view that historically, self-sufficiency policies as a means to achieve national food security have not proven to be effective as demonstrated by the effects of those policies implemented during the 1970s and the 1980s. In closing, we would like to thank the Committee for providing the the Report and we concur with the recommendation that the Committee continue its functions.

John MNGODO (United Republic of Tanzania)

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to air my voice the work done by the Committee on Commodity Problems. Tanzania notes and commends the good work done by the Committee on Commodity Problems in the monitoring and analysis of commodity price movements. This has helped Member Nations to be abreast of recent commodity price movements, particularly during the last two years.

As far as food commodities are concerned, globally it appears that prices are generally on the decline. However, in most developing countries, the behaviour is different. This is quite the opposite.

Food commodity prices remain high, in fact, higher than during the previous two years and are also on the increase currently. The reasons for higher prices, particularly in developing countries like in our eastern Africa region, continue to prevail, including production constraints mainly attributed to severe drought conditions. The impacts of both to small-holders, farmers and consumers are also evident, so we therefore welcome the Committee's resolve for continued monitoring and analysis of commodity price movements, particularly as far as there are implications for small farmers and to Low Income, Food Deficit countries is concerned.

I would also like to make a few comments on the market and food security implications of the development of bio-fuel markets. As far as other mostly non food-oriented commodities are concerned – this is the continuation of the previous comment – we have had quite a serious impact concerning the downturn to the small-holder farmers, particularly in the cotton industry, in coffee and other export crops.

We have been experiencing a climb in prices and the effects have been to the lower producer prices for the farmers, as well as for the other players in the industry, and this has forced the government to intervene with some support to the farmers and other players.

It is important that the Committee establish the trends and continue to give indications of the impacts of the functioning of the markets in the medium-and long-term.

As far as the development of the bio-fuel market is concerned, recently Tanzania is among the developing countries that have seen the surge of investors attempting to develop bio-fuel crops for a variety of reasons. Given that our policy environment is still being worked out, we find it

necessary for the Committee to seriously engage in further analysis of bio-fuel development implications on poverty, food security and the environment. So we do welcome the idea of developing international sustainability guidelines, including best practices for bio-fuel production, consumption and trade on the basis of scientific developments.

Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation would like to highlight the following points regarding the issue at hand.

Firstly, Brazil commends the work done by the Committee on Commodity Problems, mainly with regard to the analysis undertaken by that Committee on agricultural policies.

The CCP is a valuable forum for open discussions among Members and counts for the rich and updated knowledge provided by FAO, particularly through its Economic and Social Department.

Brazil has no doubt that the CCP should remain part of the FAO governance structure. Its mandate, functions and name could be reviewed, but that should be done in due time respecting the overall reform process that FAO faces ahead.

Secondly, Brazil understands that the issue of bio-fuels should be carefully analyzed. We have been expressing our concern on the misleading and inaccurate interpretations of bio-energy production policies worldwide. In this regard, we insist on the value of a separate approach towards bio-energy based on sugarcane and bio-diesel from family farming production, taking into account the economic, social and environmental benefits that stem from their production. Furthermore, we understand that FAO documents should avoid adopting the term "second generation bio-fuels", since it does not correspond to a scientific-oriented terminology.

We also affirm that control or certification measures or mechanisms for bio-fuels should never be applied unilaterally but instead be the result of internationally-agreed criteria to be viewed by a coherent, effective and results-oriented international dialogue on bio-fuels.

Thirdly, in future sessions we expect a stronger appeal from the CCP on the need for calling the stakeholders, mainly OECD countries, to foster the political engagement for advancing the Doha Round negotiations.

Finally, we would like to draw attention to the term "Dutch disease" to describe national economies endowed with natural resources. Several times dysfunctions in those economies are not a consequence of a natural resources trap, but rather stem from economic mismanagement.

José A. QUINTERO GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación de Cuba felicita también por la presentación del informe del 67º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

Nuestra delegación apoya la solicitud de que la FAO continúe analizando y brindando información a los Países Miembros acerca de la evolución de los mercados de productos básicos, así como las repercusiones sobre la producción agrícola de los Países Miembros, en especial los Países en Desarrollo.

Destacamos la necesidad de que la FAO prosiga el análisis de las repercusiones de la producción de bio-combustibles y de la crisis financiera sobre las economías de los Países Miembros, fundamentalmente en relación con la seguridad alimentaria y el medio ambiente.

A este respecto, recordamos la decisión adoptada en la Conferencia de Alto Nivel sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria: los Desafíos del Cambio Climático y la Bioenergía, que tuvo lugar en junio del 2008, la cual en su párrafo 7 inciso F, solicita a las organizaciones intergubernamentales pertinentes, incluidas la FAO, en el ámbito de sus mandatos y áreas de su conocimiento con la participación de otros interesados, a que impulsen un diálogo internacional coherente, efectivo y orientado a los resultados sobre los bio-combustibles en el contexto de las necesidades en materia de la seguridad alimentaria y del desarrollo sostenible.

Esta solicitud se reiteró en el párrafo 30 de la Declaración de la Cumbre sobre Seguridad Alimentaria que acabamos de clausurar.

Abogamos también por la conclusión oportuna, ambiciosa, completa y balanceada de la Ronda de Doha que facilite un comercio justo y equitativo sin subsidios que impidan el normal acceso de los Países en Desarrollo a los mercados internacionales.

Cuba no apoya la liberalización de los mercados como un fin en sí mismo, ni la finalización de las rondas a cualquier costo. Consideramos que para llegar a un acuerdo en las negociaciones deben alcanzarse resultados concretos desde la perspectiva del desarrollo.

Ratificamos la necesidad de que la FAO continúe, y en la medida de lo posible, aumente las acciones destinadas a fortalecer la capacidad de los Países en Desarrollo para participar en las negociaciones comerciales internacionales.

Reiteramos la recomendación de que la FAO apoye las inversiones destinadas a aumentar la competitividad de la agricultura en los países en desarrollo.

Para finalizar me quiero referir a la presentación de la Secretaría, especialmente porque creí escuchar que existen algunas propuestas para cambiar el nombre de este Comité. Por eso estoy solicitando la asistencia de la Secretaría y para que quizás esto fuera un tema a poner a disposición de la Conferencia.

Mi delegación quiere dejar claro que este Comité, como decía el representante de la Secretaría, es de los más antiguos de esta Organización y consideramos que su nombre hasta ahora no debe ser cambiado porque una de las condiciones que dieron origen a este Comité todavía se mantiene y está a la vista de todos.

En ese sentido quiero respaldar también la intervención del Representante de Brasil acerca de la necesidad de mantener sin entrar a discutir cuestiones que tienen que ver incluso con el mandato y los objetivos de este Comité.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Quería respaldar lo indicado por Brasil y Cuba recientemente con relación a lo que se refiere al Comité de Problema de Productos Básicos.

Neil FRASER (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I thank you for the trust in the CCP, its value and the relevance of its work, but that is not to say that it cannot be improved and that review will look at that including a possible name change. Probably a quarter of the countries in this room have changed their name since the beginning of the CCP, so you know, names can change and things carry on or even improve or maybe names do not change; that will be in the hands of Members.

I just want to underline the excellent role played by the Secretariat in preparing the meeting, preparing the documents, running the meeting and doing the follow-up work and I just want to convey that. They are great to work with. Finally, that leads me into putting in a plug for their flagship publication – I am sorry that I cannot hold one up – but the flagship annual publication "State of Agricultural Commodity Markets". I think if you have not got one you should get a hold of it. It has got very good information, it is well written and it is relevant, so I would like to thank them for that. That is material that is allied to the work of the CCP.

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I really have little to add, just to thank the delegates for their helpful comments. Just to comment very briefly on the point raised by the European Community on the prioritization of the work and so on, although it has not traditionally been the practice for the CCP to review elements of the work programme, the CCP obviously gives guidance to the work programme of the Trade and Markets Division. The last session asked us to work in a number of areas, many of which have been mentioned – bio-fuels, work on the trade policies, non-distorting policies and so on. That work is being done and, in fact, documents and agenda items relating to those will be coming to the next session of the CCP in June next year.

As regards the examination of the working practices and role of the CCP, there was some discussion in the Session which has been echoed this morning about after this long history of the CCP whether it was time to review how we went about our work. So that is happening. There will be some ideas and suggestions brought to the next meeting of the CCP, but that is all that they are, just some thoughts; there are no decisions regarding name, format or anything at the moment. That is for the Membership of the CCP to decide, and as Brazil pointed out, supported by Cuba and El Salvador, of course, any changes made in the CCP's format and roles need to be within the context of the broader Reform Process within FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any others that would like to take the floor. I would like to thank the Secretariat also for their presentation. If there are no other interventions and if there are no objections I will consider the Report of the 67th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems endorsed.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

*10.4 Report of the Twenty-first Session of the Committee on Agriculture
(22-25 April 2009) (C 2009/19)*

*10.4 Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité de l'agriculture (22-25 avril 2009)
(C 2009/19)*

*10.4 Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura
(22-25 de abril de 2009) (C 2009/19)*

CHAIRPERSON

Can we now move on to Agenda Item 10.4, which is the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture. The main document here is C 2009/19.

I now invite Mr Dusunceli, chair of the Committee on Agriculture to present the Report of the 21st Session.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Dear delegates, good morning, it is my privilege to be here with two titles on the podium today. I am here to present the report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

At the outset, I need to give you some figures. The Committee met from 22 to 25 April 2009 and in the meeting 114, Member Nations were present. The number of Observers present included delegations from four states, two CGIAR Centres, two UN Agencies, two Inter-Governmental Organizations and 20 Non-Governmental Organizations.

In view of the emerging global challenges, the Committee stressed that an eco-system approach be adopted in agricultural management including integrated pest management, organic agriculture and other traditional and indigenous coping strategies that promote an agro-system diversification and soil carbon sequestration. In this respect, the Committee endorsed the proposal that public and private investment be increased in agro-ecological research at both national and international levels, and emphasised that public private sector partnerships in agricultural development.

COAG recognizing the importance of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also requested that the work on bio-diversity for food agriculture be strengthened and coordinated among the different sub-sectors and that multi programme of work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture be implemented.

The Committee supported the notion that the livestock sector should not be merely regarded as an appendage of agriculture but as an increasingly important contributor to economic development and food security.

Regarding the bio-fuels, the Committee requested that potentials and benefits of bio-fuels be carefully monitored in light of national circumstances, and that more analysis be undertaken. In this regard, the Committee supported a results-oriented international dialogue on bio-fuels in the context of food security and sustainable development without, however, duplicating ongoing work and creating new institutional structures.

Chairperson and distinguished delegates, these are the main matters which require attention of the Conference.

Mongui MEDÍ (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun a relu avec beaucoup d'intérêt les trois principales questions qui sont portées à l'attention de la Conférence par le Comité de l'agriculture lors de sa vingt-et-unième session en mai 2009. Il se réjouit du fait que le Comité ait demandé avec force l'adoption d'une approche systémique pour la gestion de l'agriculture, la coordination des travaux sur la biodiversité en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture et des analyses plus approfondies sur le potentiel des bio-carburants, on peut dire par conséquent que le Secrétariat sera fort occupé.

Le Cameroun se satisfait de la reconnaissance du travail de la FAO dans le domaine de la nutrition et de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, y compris dans l'établissement du programme EMPRES Food Safety et même de la création d'un système mondial sur la qualité et la quantité de l'eau utilisée en agriculture. Nous n'avons pas d'autres commentaires spécifiques et c'est pour cela que nous soutenons l'adoption de ce rapport de la vingt-et-unième session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Le Cameroun prend en outre à son actif la volonté des États à soutenir le processus de réforme actuellement en cours au sein du Groupe consultatif pour la recherche agricole internationale (GCRAI) et du système mondial de recherche agricole par l'intermédiaire du Forum mondial de la recherche agricole (GFAR) tel qu'il a été approuvé par la Déclaration du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation sur la sécurité alimentaire, je pense qu'il s'agit du paragraphe 35. Mon pays souhaiterait proposer que le Comité de l'agriculture puisse être intéressé par ce processus. Ce faisant, nous réaffirmons notre soutien à tous les autres processus de réforme notamment, la réforme de la FAO et la réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale parce que nous pensons que c'est un package. Il s'agit pour nous, cependant, de nous assurer que la coordination est bonne à tous les niveaux et que le processus est professionnellement bien mené. Cela ne peut véritablement se réaliser que si dans les Secrétariats respectifs l'opportunité est donnée de faire le travail demandé. Ainsi donc le Secrétariat du Forum mondial pour la recherche agricole (GFAR), actuellement logé à la FAO, doit pouvoir y rester et pouvoir faire usage de toute l'expertise qu'il a accumulée au cours des ans pour mener à bien ce processus de réforme des Groupes consultatifs pour la recherche agricole internationale (GCRAI). Le GFAR qui a eu l'initiative de plusieurs parties prenantes, et je cite qui représente les représentants des forums régionaux et nationaux des systèmes de recherche nationaux agricoles des pays du sud, les instituts de recherche et universités du nord, les centres internationaux de recherche, les ONG, les organisations de société civile, les secteurs privés et les bailleurs de fonds. Nous pensons que le GFAR est le forum indiqué qui peut au sein de la FAO soutenir le processus de réformes du GCRAI.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Luis RITTO (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, The former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this Statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the document provided, C 2009/19 which offers a summary of the 21st Session of the Commodity on Agriculture. The European Community regrets that no prioritization of activities in the workplan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by FAO which is essential to the work of the COAG. Therefore, the EC calls for the establishment of such prioritization for the COAG in the FAO Programme of Work and

Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next COAG Session, based on a priority paper produced by FAO Management to facilitate the discussions.

The Report gives particular attention to the role of livestock in a poverty alleviation strategy. The European Union is of the opinion that animals are an indispensable asset for small-holders and share-croppers in mixed farmers, women-aided households and landless in rural and renewal areas in the developing world. Therefore, livestock in development cooperation plays, indeed, a leading role in ensuring food security, environmental services, improved global health and consequently in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goal 1.

Concerning the agriculture and environmental challenges of the 21st Century, the Report underlines the necessity to put into practice sustainable modes of production in order to develop resilient agriculture productive systems as a basis for income generation, poverty reduction and food security for all.

The EU would also like to encourage the FAO to elaborate further on the contribution of reducing deforestation and encouraging reforestation. The view of the European Union is that gross tropical deforestation should be cut by 50 percent by 2020, and net deforestation halted by 2030 while reforestation should be promoted.

The EU emphasises also the importance to establish agriculture systems and sustainable management practices that positively contribute to climate change mitigation and foster ecological balance. It also supports the advancing of research in improving the diversifying crop varieties that are tolerant to abiotic stresses and resistance to environmental factors, including draft and climate change in a manner consistent with national regulations and relevant international agreements and towards research on conservation agriculture.

As regards the engagement of the private sector in agriculture development, the EU welcomes the conclusion on the future FAO involvement in these processes and believes that the development of partnerships inside one family but also with the private sector, NGOs, civil society will become an important feature of a renewed FAO. This is particularly following the recent positive outcome in the context of a revitalized and reformed CFS.

Finally, as far as the future of the COAG is concerned, the EU acknowledge the existing synergies between the issues tackled by the Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and the Committee on Agriculture, and what becomes the call for reduced and much more focused agendas.

The EU also believes that the election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons acting as a Steering Committee between and during sessions will positively contribute to the Committee's work and will ensure its continuity. The EU also likes to reiterate the benefits of time and cost savings of a Rapporteur versus Drafting Committee for Technical Committees.

Datuk A.A. ABDRAHMAN (Malaysia)

Malaysia congratulates FAO for preparing a good and comprehensive Report of the recent 21st Committee on Agriculture. Malaysia is of the opinion that food security programmes should be given priority to ensure that food is available and accessible for all people in the world. Therefore, efforts to produce enough food through crop production and intensification programmes should be given support by Member Nations.

Malaysia supports the element of the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 covering the areas of crops, livestock, food quality and safety and natural resources.

Malaysia fully supports the outcomes of the meeting and stresses the importance that an eco-system approach be adopted in agriculture management in order to achieve sustainable agriculture, including integrated pest management, organic agriculture and other traditional and indigenous strategies that promote agro eco-system diversification.

Malaysia agrees on the Committee's request to strengthen and coordinate work on bio-diversity for food and agriculture among the different sub-sectors and the Multi-Year programme of work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Malaysia believes that the exploitation and utilization of the native bio-diversity resources would make superior planting materials more available and affordable to farmers.

On the request and potential and benefits of bio-fuel should be carefully monitored in light of national circumstances and that more analysis be undertaken, Malaysia supports the motion and suggests that all nations should have a national bio-fuel policy as a guideline in the development of the bio-fuel industry.

FAO's IVOs bio-energy and food security criteria and indicate this, once finalized, should be adhered by all Member Nations. Bio-fuel is a new source of renewable energy but its production must not be carried out at the expense of food for the people. The food security programmes should be given top priority by Governments, as agreed by national leaders at various international fora.

Malaysia supports FAO's efforts in outlining strategies to effectively engage greater private sector involvement in agricultural development. Participation of the private sector will accelerate agricultural development, increase competitiveness, create and add value to agriculture products and services. It has often been proven that the agro-based NGOs could accelerate agriculture development significantly through their agricultural extension and consultative works. Agro-based NGOs should be given direct due recognition as they can provide and balance all strategies and programmes developed.

Finally, Malaysia reaffirms its support to all the initiatives that have been presented.

Mohamed AIT HMID (Maroc)

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve la déclaration faite par le Représentant du Cameroun en ce qui concerne le GCRAI et, en référence au document WSFS 2009/2 relatif à la déclaration du Sommet mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire, elle voudrait compléter le paragraphe 35, notamment la dernière phrase, par ce qui suit: "Son Secrétariat domicilié à la FAO, devra le rester pour assurer la liaison avec le Secrétariat du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et tout autre partenaire", et souhaite que cette proposition soit dûment consignée dans le rapport.

Robert REIMENSCHNEIDER (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank FAO for the opportunity to discuss the new results-based framework of this Committee.

The United States would like to highlight the importance of the role of FAO in supporting international standard-setting bodies such as the IPPC and CODEX. International standards are critical to ensuring that trading partners adopt regulatory measures that are fair, science-based and reflect a balance between our desire to facilitate trade and our need to protect our natural resources.

Generally, international standards ensure safety, fairness and the smooth-functioning of the global trade system. We believe that FAO provides a neutral and credible venue for this important standard-setting work.

The United States recognizes that the development of the livestock sector can potentially contribute to poverty reduction, given its prominent role in the livelihoods of a significant number of rural poor. However, we must be careful not to assume that certain outcomes found within developed countries are appropriate or even make sense for developing countries. The outcome should depend on the resource endowment and other factors. Additionally, in designing livestock policies, consideration should be given to the potential affects of concentrated intensive livestock production, including possible dietary consequences and its contribution to greenhouse gasses.

Regarding the discussion of bio-fuels as a challenge to sustainable agricultural production, it is the view of the United States that the rise in commodity prices that began in the late 2006 and

peaked in spring 2008 was caused by a broad range of global factors. The bio-fuel policies and increased production of bio-fuels were not the main driver of high food prices, but rather one contributing factor.

The United States believes that climate policies could be included in a broader sustainable development agenda that promotes economic growth and helps nations deliver greater prosperity for their people.

In closing, I would like to thank the Secretariat for an excellent job with the Report which we fully endorse.

Hadija R. KIIMU (United Republic of Tanzania)

I would like to restrict my comments to agricultural and environmental challenges and also on the engagement of the private sector in agricultural development.

Tanzania acknowledges the need for more sustainable modes of production in for developing resilient and productive farming systems that would improve income generation, poverty reduction and food security for all. This cannot be over-emphasized. The current challenges in terms of drought, floods and unpredictable weather events which are associated with climate change are increasingly evident the world over.

The developing countries, such as those from our part of the world, are being seriously and severely impacted upon. The result and situation of food insecurity in our part of the world lends us to agree with the Committee on Agriculture that we need to increasingly take care of the environment and promote sustainable agriculture. An eco-system approach in Agricultural Management and Food Sustainable Agriculture, including IPM organic agriculture traditional indigenous coping strategies promoting agro-eco-system diversification and soil carbon restrictions need to be taken into account.

In view of the challenges to address current and future food security concerns, these approaches and other scientifically-proven approaches need to be undertaken simultaneously.

As far as agricultural investment in Tanzania, is concerned, for a long time it has been the domain of the government with some support from development partners and through the framework of what we call the "agricultural sector development programme". However, resources still remain a constraint. In order to meet the current challenges, we do concur with COAG that there is a need to give the private sector the incentive to invest in agriculture.

In Tanzania, we have launched a new initiative in terms of partnership between the government and the private sector promoting development and, in Kiswahili "Kilimo Quanza" or Agricultural First. The result is intended to open avenues for local private investment bringing more resources into the wide spectrum of agriculture, including farm production, processing, marketing, and infrastructure development, and also involve all the sectors of the economy in areas which are relevant to the promotion of the agricultural sector.

Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

First of all Brazil commends the Secretariat and the Bureau for the work done on the last session on the Committee on Agriculture. We support the adoption of its Report including the elements for the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan. Brazil would also like to support what has been stated by the delegation of Cameroon in respect to the role of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research in connection with the work of COAG and to the Reform of the CGIAR.

In the last session of COAG, we held very productive and focused discussions. Brazil was very pleased to see that COAG worked in line with the new results-based framework that was determined by the CoC-IEE process and it also followed the procedures in the IEE Reform. In that sense, COAG included several good outcomes and Brazil wants to mention two of them.

The first was the important role of COAG in calling for revisiting of Strategic Objective G of the Strategic Framework of FAO to reinforce aspects related to rural development and small-holder

farming. That call of COAG has had a follow-up and actually Strategic Objective G was revisited and while we still think the end result could still be improved, we were very satisfied with the process and we would encourage COAG and other Committees to give substantive inputs to the work of FAO in general.

In second place the COAG Report here before us underlines items of interest and points them out to the Council and to the Conference at the start of the document.

Brazil views this as a good practice that was recommended by the IEE, and we would like other Committees to do the same. In this regard, however, in the view of our delegation we think that some issues could also be brought to the attention of this Conference along with the others stated in the start of the Report, and I would like to point them out now.

First, as was also mentioned by the European Community and other delegations, I refer to the importance of livestock for poverty reduction and for food security. We see that issue was already pointed out to the Council because it had repercussions on the Programme and Finance Committees of FAO, but in our view it also relates to policy and should also be reported to the Conference. The Report of COAG says that the Committee recommended that lesson learning, capacity-building at all levels from policy formulation to technology and knowledge extension should be priority elements of FAO's work in the livestock sector. Indeed we move that the Conference supports the view of the COAG Report, the move that FAO work to increase its work in capacity-building and knowledge extension in the livestock sector with a view to poverty alleviation because as our discussions in COAG showed, it is now a very small part of the work of FAO in livestock.

Another subject that we would like to point out is that paragraph 43 of the COAG Report states that the Committee propose for consideration the possibility of electing the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons at the end of every biannual session, so as to enhance effectiveness of COAG.

We are of the view that this also should be reported to the Conference as the discussions in COAG were about how it could be fitted in the process of FAO Reform in general. In this respect, think that that procedure of electing the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons at the end of the Session and not at the start of the Session as has been done by COAG is a very sound procedure that has already been adopted by other Committees with great success. We recall the example of the CFS, which adopted this procedure already in its Thirty-fourth Session in 2008, even before the present Reform.

So we move that this Conference recommends the adoption of this procedure by COAG starting from the next Session, which would be the Twenty-third Session. We could then have the pleasure of once again the leadership of Mr Düsünceli for which we thank him, and the Bureau would thus be entitled to prepare our next meeting in conjunction with the Secretariat. In our view this is of fundamental importance if we want COAG to be a Member-driven process.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

I have had the honour to participate in the COAG meeting and I am very pleased to see that some of the proposals which I made during this meeting concerning Strategic Objective G as mentioned by the delegate of Brazil, were already adopted. We would like that this could be strengthened in the future, as it is especially related to rural development and agrarian reform and to helping small farmers.

My second point is related to this conflict which might arise in the future between COAG and the Committee on Food Security. This is the item which we are going to discuss later on, but I can see here that there are some conflicts between the two Committees, one is under the Council, this is COAG and the other one is under the Conference and there would be a conflict between the two Committees. I would be very pleased if the Secretariat could clarify this point.

My third point is related to nutrition and food safety all together. I hear we have to do more and more and I would request that the Assistant Director General for Agriculture would pay attention to this point. The more we can strengthen the capacity of the output of our Organization in the

field of nutrition, food safety and good collaboration under the Codex Alimentarius with WHO, the better for all.

Finally, there were many references to bio-fuels altogether. I do not know why we are making a big fuss about these, " bio-fuels". The farmer who is, according to Alfred Marshall, the best economist on his own farm, is going to decide what he is going to produce. If he can see that oil seeds which would be amenable to the production of bio-fuels are better than other crops, "why not"? Our main objective is to increase the income of farmers and in this case, "let the farmer decide".

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación agradece la presentación de este Informe y quisiera solo hacer algunos comentarios sobre aspectos positivos que vemos en él.

Nuestra delegación apoya la propuesta dirigida a adoptar un enfoque eco-sistémico de la ordenación de la agricultura a fin de lograr una agricultura sostenible que abarque el manejo integrado de plagas, la agricultura orgánica y otras estrategias tradicionales e indígenas de resistencia que promueven la diversificación de los agro-sistemas y la retención de carbono por parte de los suelos.

Apoyamos también la propuesta para que se promueva y coordine la labor relativa a la bio-diversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura y que se aplique el Programa de Trabajo Plurianual de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Estamos de acuerdo también, con que se evalúe cuidadosamente, en correspondencia con las circunstancias nacionales de cada país, no solo las posibilidades y los beneficios que ofrecen los bio-combustibles sino también los efectos negativos de esta producción agrícola, y que la FAO continúe evaluando y estudiando dicha cuestión.

A este respecto, recordamos que en la Cumbre sobre la Alimentación que concluimos recientemente y en la Conferencia de Alto Nivel del 2008, se recomendó que la FAO junto a los interesados, emprendiera y fomentara un diálogo internacional sobre este particular. Esto no se ha comenzado a realizar, por lo que mi delegación agradecería que se prestara atención a estos documentos.

Por último quisiéramos hacer un comentario sobre la propuesta de la Unión Europea relativo a que la Comisión adopte la decisión de emprender el Informe Final a través de un reLator y no a través de un Comité de Redacción. En este respecto, mi delegación muestra su preocupación de que se haga solo en el marco de este Comité, y no se vea en el marco de la Reforma General de la FAO, como debiera verse.

Mi delegación, además, quisiera solicitar que cualquier propuesta dirigida a modificar los procedimientos de trabajo dentro de la FAO que sea vista en el marco de la Reforma, debido a las implicaciones que pudiera tener.

Ferreira BARBOSA (Cap Vert)

J'interviens brièvement pour accorder la voix de ma délégation à celle du Cameroun concernant la question du logement pour le Forum mondial pour la recherche agricole (GFAR). Bien évidemment, ma délégation a participé à la réunion du Comité sur l'agriculture (COAG) et nous souscrivons au rapport et sommes ravis du travail qui a été fait par le Secrétariat et le Bureau et nous félicitons le Président pour sa présentation.

Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We also support the intervention made by Cameroon regarding the Reform and the bio-diversity issues. I would just only like to emphasize the issue of genetic resources, the importance of the genetic resources for the food security as a basic element to be kept for this and future generations, particularly the indigenous genetic resources to which so far we have not been paying much attention to. If you consider the data presented by FAO, day by day we are witnessing a

decrease in the number of the different genetic resources consisting of plants and animals and so on.

Taking into account the importance of these genetic resources, particularly the situation we are facing, I am talking about the climate change, we need new varieties which should be more resistant to different situations and even to disease. For this reason I would like to call upon the COAG and the respective Committees to pay more attention to the conservation, diversification of these genetic resources for this and the next generation. That is principally what my intervention would like to make.

Finally, the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to support the Report.

Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I simply wanted to support what was said by the Representative of Cameroon with regard to the reform of the CGIAR, and with regard to keeping its Secretariat here at FAO.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

In view of a possible Code of Conduct for a Responsible Livestock and the discussion sometimes animated that it engendered, we would certainly be following that issue carefully and with interest. In that respect, concerning responsibility, in our view would be responsible to give more attention to the role of women in the future work in that area particularly given their role in small animal production. I thought at the meeting the recognition of the role of women in that area was missing.

I just want to also support the US comments on the IPPC and other standard-setting Bodies and also leave it on three fronts to CODEX. Now I just want to raise the role of monitoring or indicators, particularly relating to soil degradation. I think we heard some rather alarming figures at COAG and so we encourage the Secretariat to continue work in global monitoring of soils, but also other elements of measuring progress or otherwise towards global sustainability.

And for our future COAG meeting, we would like to see some thought be given to establishing a small set of headline indicators for that purpose. Again, I would like to mention forestry in relation to COAG, it was mentioned here this morning already. We support that any references or work in COAG, of course, would not come across COFO but there are cross-cutting and cross-disciplinary issues that we think can be addressed in COAG and are legitimate issues and subjects for COAG Members.

Concerning Side Events, and there is a reference to this on page 45 of the Report, and I would like to see some clarity and maybe harmonization concerning the status of Side Events in the organization or particularly in relation to the Technical Committees. There seems to be a mixed approach across the Technical Committees. In CCP we were told that it would not be possible to make a reference to the outcome of a Side Event in the Report of COAG it was completely the opposite. I would again urge the Secretaries of the Technical Committees to get together and to develop some common criteria as to the sectioning of these Side Events and then whether they should be reflected in Committee Reports, because there is no common view on that at the moment and I think we would be faced with the issue of organizations shopping themselves around and finding a friendly Committee through which to hold a Side Event and have their views expressed. So we would like to see a common view.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Agradezco la presentación del Informe del Periodo de sesiones del COAG, y en segundo lugar quisiera respaldar lo indicado aquí esta mañana por las delegaciones de Camerún y Egipto.

S. AMARASEKARA (Sri Lanka)

In the recent past the climatic changes have been considered as a major challenge for food security and food crisis. I think in time to come, this may be further aggravated. What we can do perhaps is look at new farming systems as well as new crop varieties. We cannot resist further

climatic changes. In this regard, the preferred system was an important factor. And also there were a lot of discussions about the bio-fuel production. This bio-fuel also has been considered as a new threat for the food security and food crisis, but in the long run, non-petroleum countries will benefit from this bio-fuel production. However, this should not be done at the cost of food crop. Land used for food crops should not be used for the bio-fuel. Perhaps what we should do is to develop some strategies to prevent that use in the food crops, land used for food crops should be prevented from being used for bio-fuels. We must have some system to encourage the farmers as well as countries to bring new areas under cultivation for bio-fuel without using crop land. We should also consider the possibility of using marginal and unproductive land for bio-fuel cultivation.

M.O. AZEEZ (Nigeria)

I just want to say that the Nigerian delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the quality of the Report laid before the Committee. We also want to support the position of Cameroon, and echoed by Egypt with regard to the issue of bio-diversity, genetic resources and climate change.

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Thank you very much for your enthusiasm and interest in the work of the Committee on Agriculture. The diversity of comments indicated you follow-up, you take it seriously, and mostly your comments I consider as supportive. And there were a number of criticisms, of course, but I consider them as constructive as well. So I thank you very much.

My comment will be just very brief for a number of general status of the committee. In fact as a Committee, we give great emphasis on dialogue with other Committees or organizations and also coordination with the Committees let us put it in the correct way and dialogue with other relevant international bodies. And, in this context, there were a number of comments with regard to CGIAR and GFIAR. These are, of course directly linked to the work of the Committee, and we consider dialogue with these very important as well. In fact, there were a number of recommendations coming out of the last session of the Committee. One was important. In fact, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons should be acting as Bureau between the inter-sessional period which we consider important and, at present, we are at a transitional period and we are trying to implement this as seriously as possible. I believe that during the next sessions, we will be in a better shape. In this regard, I would like to indicate that our Brazilian colleague should be confident that we as the Bureau are very much prepared for the next Session with regard to issues of electing the Bureau at the end of the Session. This would be seriously considered the next session. Finally I would like to thank the Secretariat very much, and as the Bureau we are working in harmony and effectively and you can trust our work.

Jutta KRAUSE (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

I would just like to make a few comments. The first general comment regards the request of prioritization and of the work as has already been requested to the Secretariats of COFO, COFI and the CCP. The Technical Committees will have to play a more central role in prioritization of the work of the Organization. Consequently, COAG in its next session will certainly also have an Agenda Item that will deal with the question of prioritization of FAO's work in the area of agriculture nature resources management for its work in the biennium 2012-2013. And, in this respect, as was mentioned by the Chair of COAG, we are also seeking the collaboration with the representatives of the Member Nations.

I also would like to mention two more procedural questions. One is the question of a Rapporteur *vis-à-vis* a Drafting Committee. The second point is the election of Chairs at the end of the Session rather than before the Session. Both questions had been discussed during the last COAG, and they will be discussed again and possibly a decision on this will be taken at the Twenty-second Session of COAG. Regarding closer collaboration between FAO's work and the work of the Committees and CFS, and also the process of Reform of FAO and the Reform of the CGIAR, we are making serious efforts to coordinate, and in a way, COAG is a very good place for

coordination regarding these areas of work as the Secretariat also comprises the ADGs of the three Departments that deal with these questions, that is, the ADG of Agriculture, the ADG of Natural Resources and the ADG of Economic and Social Policies. So, we will also make in the future more of an effort to coordinate the work of these Committees.

Regarding the livestock sector and the importance of the livestock sector for agriculture development and rural development, as had been decided earlier, the livestock sector will be discussed again during the next COAG. The Code of Conduct for Responsible Livestock Sector will certainly have importance, in the discussion of next COAG. And I would make all efforts to make the issue of women and the contribution of women to the livestock sector as a central part of the discussion of the livestock session as possible. We will also, as you have in COAG also basically agreed, have a session where recommendations emanating from standard-setting bodies will be reported, as has been requested by the delegate of the United States and I think also New Zealand. So the Session would see more of a discussion of standard-setting bodies in COAG. And with this, I think organizational and procedural questions for the next session of COAG will have to be further discussed in the next session.

Modibo TRAORÉ (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I wish to thank Member States' representatives for the helpful and insightful comments. We do agree, we understand the frustration. Last year, there was frustration for the prioritization process and we do agree that there is still room for further improvement in this. We hope that at the next session, during the next biennium we will be more prepared to prioritize, to give you the tools for better prioritization of our activities.

Regarding the livestock sector, I think the agreement was that at the next session a report would be presented on progress, at least on the status of this Code of Conduct. We hope that this should be done next year and we would have the opportunity to discuss it and to agree on the way forward. I think my colleague will deal with the questions regarding the CGIAR System.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

We will continue to work on bio-fuels, on opportunities and open questions and challenges. Bioenergy and food security will be in the centre and, together with the global bio-energy partnership, we have to work also on indicators for sustainability as requested by other countries. Last but not least, we would like to thank for the support when it comes to climate change. Adaptation, mitigation and sequestration of carbon in the soil is a very, very important and urgent issue. Soil as a whole is one of the challenges we have to face and we will, in the next year, publish a report on the state of land and water where we would like to give special reference to all these questions. Thank you very much, Chair.

Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

Thank you very much, Mr Chair. Brazil asked for the floor again first to thank the Chairperson and the Secretariat for the information and the answers that were provided to us, but we would like to come back to two of the issues that were raised in our first intervention. The first one relates to the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the end of the Session. The answer that was provided by the Secretariat is that the issue is going to be discussed in the next Session of COAG, but the discussions that we had at the last Session of COAG, where it was noted that it was a good proposal but the Conference and other FAO Bodies should review and state their opinion because they wanted COAG to be in line with the whole process of FAO Reform. So we really need to avoid going back and forth again, because if they sent it to us for consideration and then we send it back to COAG for consideration, we are losing two more years in this process and perhaps it would be good to hear from the Conference to state that this procedure could already be adopted in the next session of COAG, as was proposed by the Committee. So we should not lose another two years. Perhaps the end of the Session of the next COAG would only say that the Conference should consider it, and this is not the way forward.

We really need to work substantively in FAO, we should not lose that much time with such gains. The second thing is about the livestock policy that was proposed by COAG. In COAG, we discussed the proposals for poverty reduction in the livestock sector that had to do with the institution-building, institutional strengthening, countries' capacity-building and it had nothing to do whatsoever with deliberation of a Code of Conduct. A Code of Conduct is discussed in the Strategic Framework of FAO, and no one in COAG paid any attention to that Code of Conduct which was not something requested by the Membership - so we have here the collective Membership. It was a general consensus in COAG requesting an increase in policies directed at poverty alleviation in the livestock sector, and the only response I get from FAO now is that a Code of Conduct Report and the advancement of a Code of Conduct would be presented to us. I beg your pardon, Mr Traoré, unfortunately, is not here, but I will read from the Report of the COAG about the issue of the Code of Conduct. What the COAG stated is that the Committee noted the proposal for the preparation of Code of Conduct for Responsible Livestock Sector as included in Strategic Objective B. The Committee did not discuss the issue due to lack of information. Indeed, the response that we wanted to see in the livestock was a that specific unit in FAO propose sound policies and programmes for institutional reinforcement and capacity-building in the livestock sector. We also wanted to reflect the decision of this Conference as support in line with the general agreement for those policies in our Report. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Brazil. Would anybody else like to take the floor for a second round? Otherwise I will give the floor to the Secretariat for response. Argentina? You have the floor, go ahead.

María SQUEFF (Argentina)

Quisiera apoyar en todos los términos la declaración que acaba de hacer Brasil con relación al Código de Conducta. Nuestra delegación fue clara durante el COAG con relación a que falta información para comenzar a trabajar en un Código de Conducta.

Esta era la primera cuestión que planteamos en el Comité de Agricultura y luego por lo menos en dos oportunidades más en el Comité del Programa. Todos coincidimos en que era necesario primero recabar la información necesaria para luego hablar de un posible trabajo en un Código de Conducta.

Parece extraño, que sigamos insistiendo con una cuestión que ha sido ya tratada y adoptada primero por el Comité, y luego considerada en el Comité del Programa. Tratemos de mantener los acuerdos alcanzados, no modifiquemos en otras instancias los acuerdos alcanzados porque esto quita transparencia al trabajo, implica que lo que se acuerda en un lugar se modifica en otro y creo que esa no es la intención de la nueva FAO que todos queremos.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Argentina. Afghanistan, you have the floor to be followed by El Salvador.

Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

On this Code of Conduct for Livestock, Brazil quoted the report of COAG correctly. So we do not have anything on paper regarding the Code of Conduct for Livestock. We have to see what the Secretariat will come up with but I think that the issue that was discussed in COAG, I could be corrected, was that when you study the livestock sector from poverty orientation for the poor, livestock for the poor, the Code of Conduct is very important. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Afghanistan. El Salvador, you have the floor.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Quisiera dar el respaldo de El Salvador a lo señalado por Brasil y Argentina hace un momento con relación al Código de Conducta.

También quiero llamar la atención sobre lo señalado por Brasil hace un momento con relación a la mesa, antes de lo del Código de Conducta. En efecto, el COAG ya había decidido solicitar que fuese la Conferencia quien tomara una decisión. Si ahora solicitamos nuevamente al COAG examinar este asunto, estaríamos perdiendo dos años para tomar una decisión y poder lograr la armonía de todas las mesas de los Comités hacia lo que estamos queriendo sea una misma situación.

Ileana RIVERA (Guatemala)

Guatemala quiere ofrecer su respaldo a Brasil, Argentina y El Salvador sobre el Código de Conducta. Tal como lo expresó El Salvador no podemos retrasarnos dos años, tenemos que hacerlo de forma inmediata para asegurar la transparencia.

Virginia SERULLE (República Dominicana)

Simplemente para respaldar y apoyar lo expresado por Brasil, Argentina, El Salvador y Guatemala.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Dominican Republic. I do not see any other flags and we are running past our deadline. Can I give the floor to the Secretariat for response to that? Chairperson, would you like to give a comment?

Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

The selection of the Bureau at the end of the Session is brought up again. Perhaps in this respect, I can give you more clarification. Indeed, the Committee proposed that this should be implemented. There was support for this, and we, indeed, had consultation with the Legal Office and it was then evident this could be decided by the Committee itself. So, I would like to hear indicated - we do not really need to perhaps lose another two years - and I believe at the beginning of the next session, the Committee can decide, if the Committee wishes, and then it could be implemented immediately following next session. So, there should be no worry for that and in fact we did also have consultation with Legal Office with regard to representation of the Regional Office in the Bureau and it is also apparently possible and the Committee can also take a decision on that. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Chairperson of COAG. I think the time has come to close this Agenda Item. Many views were raised and some of them were recommendations for the next COAG Session, the others are new. I think as far as the next Bureau of the COAG is concerned, these will be reflected in the Report of Commission 1. The mechanics of that will be drawn appropriately. I believe the Drafting Committee has taken note of their views, of all these views, and I can be sure that they will be reflected in the Report. If there are no objections I can consider the Report of the 21st COAG endorsed.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

The meeting rose at 12.58 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 58

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.58 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-sixth Session
Trente-sixième session
36o Período de Sesiones**

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I
TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
TERCERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

20 November 2009

The Third Meeting was opened at 14.43 hours

Mr Noel D. De Luna,

Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 43.

sous la présidence de M Noel D. De Luna,

Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 14.43 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Noel D. De Luna,

Presidente de la Comisión I

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CONT'D)
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE EN MATIÈRE
D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (SUITE)
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA EN MATERIA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y
AGRICULTURA (CONTINUACIÓN)

- 11. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme** (C 2009/INF/10; C 2009/INF/14)
11. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (C 2009/INF/10; C 2009/INF/14)
11. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 2009/INF/10;
C 2009/INF/14)

CHAIRPERSON

I would invite you to take your seats please. We have a heavy Agenda in front of us and we are already ten minutes delayed.

With your permission, I have decided to change the order of the agenda items for this afternoon's session in the interest of time. Instead of starting with the carry overs from this morning's session, I would like to start with Agenda Item 11 which is United Nations/FAO World Food Programme Report since I want to take advantage of the presence of Mr Staffan De Mistura.

After that we return to the Agenda Item on the Committee on Food Security which was a carryover of this morning's session and back to its normal sequence.

I do not see any objections to that. Can I leave the floor to Mr De Mistura for the presentation? The main document here is C 2009/INF/14. You have the floor please.

Staffan DE MISTURA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

Thank you for the opportunity for providing you with, I hope, a short report but full of information. I am happy to present to you the Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2008 which was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2009. The Report has a story of how WFP progress incorporation in partners with other UN Agencies in the implementation of the UN Reforms. We are all hearing the writing on the wall; everybody wants the three Agencies to work together and I think we are hearing it and hope to apply it more and more effectively.

Since the food crisis started and the number of people facing hunger and malnutrition has increased by almost 200 million – we heard it at the World Food Summit recently – WFP has responded with the largest emergency scale up ever done, adding 30 million beneficiaries to our food and nutrition safety net reaching 100 million people, and that is thanks to all of you donors who have been joining in, in addition to the traditional ones.

In this connection we are working together with the Rome Agencies and other UN partners in the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force (HLTF) which has been established – as you know, it is a follow-up to that crisis – in ensuring a coherent inter-agency response to the food insecurity and hunger created by the food finance, and now also climate crisis jointly.

With the adoption of the World Food Summit Declaration this week world leaders have again repeated a commitment to a coherent country-level and comprehensive approach. We, therefore, need to continue joining forces just in consistency with that to enable communities to access safety nets, school meals, cash vouchers, food for agriculture asset programme, local purchases and mother and child nutrition, which are our own priorities.

The sense of urgency to assess the needs of the most vulnerable has served as a catalyst for strengthening our own joint operations, including through the Reform Committee on Food Security (CFS), which now constituted with a tripartite lead role for all three equally important FAO, IFAD and WFP, at the same level, having the same importance in this Committee.

With the participation of other HLTF agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, the CFS Reform which is in your hands is an example of enhanced collaboration among governments, UN Agencies as well as civil society organizations and private sector, who were all actively involved in the reform process and discussions. WFP would like to engage as a full and equal participant – I repeat, full and equal participant – with FAO and IFAD in the joint CFS Secretariat, Advisory Group and High-Level Panel of Experts in support of the chair and the Member Nations. Let me provide you now with a brief outline of some of the key features of the WFP Report to ECOSOC and FAO for 2008. Only a few features, do not worry, Mr Chairman.

WFP recalls its original Programme of Work in 2008 in order to have a funding requirement which went up to USD 3.1 billion from USD 5.7 billion during the course of the year. By the year's end, almost 100 donors had contributed a record of USD 5 billion enabling us to reach 100 million people, and that is thanks to all of you. WFP has continued to expand this partnership with the private sector. By September 2008 a contribution from the private sector has increased to USD 116 million and other partnerships have been developed to improve the WFP food basket through research of new highly-nutritious products and small-holder support.

With regard to WFP work in the UN Reform and inter-agency cooperation, which is the one you are particularly rightly concerned about, first, we have continued the role of humanitarian logistics leading cluster. In other words we have been assigned the leading role on your behalf, at your request, on the humanitarian logistics cluster and also on the communication cluster and in view of the increasing emergency number, which went up last year from 4 to 7 between 2007 and 2008 and we have been continuing this type of telecommunication and logistic, cluster leadership, as well as being part of other clusters.

Second, WFP has remained actively engaged in the common humanitarian appeals process accounting for 36 percent in 2007 and 38 percent in 2008 of all requirements. WFP, in fact, received 90 percent of these requirements against appeals in both years.

Third, WFP has increased its participation in joint country-level programmes from 46 to 84 in 2007. In 2008, WFP has intensified the quality of its joint programmes. The main areas of cooperation were education, HIV/AIDS and nutrition.

Fourth, WFP has engaged actively in Delivering-as-One, in other words as One UN, particularly in the Four Pilot countries where WFP has Country Offices, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda and Tanzania. We do believe in Delivering-as-One UN. There is no alternative to that, and the time has come for going ahead with it.

Fifth, WFP has continued to support the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator System. We had a special meeting and a discussion on this at the Board. In 2008, four WFP staff members were assigned as Resident Coordinators to Algeria, Cambodia, Myanmar and Tajikistan.

Sixth, WFP has continued to strengthen partnership within the framework of the overall UN efforts to deliver efficiently as One System. Let me mention, for example, the collaboration between the Rome-based Agencies FAO, WFP and IFAD. In 2008, WFP, FAO and IFAD were active in the food security steering groups which are important elements of response to food insecurity at a country-level, and there were many joint missions by the Rome-based Agencies, the World Bank, and the New Partnership for African Development.

The Secretary-General's Millennium Development Goals for African Steering Committee Group identified WFP as a major agency for implementing its recommendations, and we are going to do it in a comprehensive way.

In June 2008, the Rome-based Agencies signed a MoU with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Now allow me to give you one example of how our strengthened collaboration in the operational country level can translate into joint actions. In Mozambique, for instance, the Purchase for Progress – P for P, we will call it – is being implemented through a joint operation in the field; WFP, FAO and IFAD, as well as civil society organizations. This is a joint programme that aims

to facilitate direct purchase of maize and beans from small-holders, farmers and downwards. FAO provides capacity-building on post harvest; IFAD provides credit; WFP a concrete market opportunity for the local producers and traders. This is where the real cooperation takes place, where we can show it on the ground and when that cooperation also makes sense for those who are supposed to be the recipients.

I would also like to mention the latest action and steps WFP has taken to move our collaboration forward with FAO and IFAD, including a joint Senior Management Meeting and a WFP Executive Board decision on the eve of the World Food Summit on Food Security, when our Governing Bodies – and you were present, Mr Chairman – approved the joint paper on direction for collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies. The joint direction paper provides a roadmap for collaboration, and you are all familiar with it and guidance on the areas where we should prioritize our own efforts to address food security at the global, regional and country-levels. We will pursue this agenda in collaboration with our Rome partners, as well as with other major partners, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, World Bank and other UN Agencies in the UNDG and HLTF and beyond, including, of course, our many NGOs and private sector partners. We have heard the message; we intend to do so and there is no alternative.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Staffan De Mistura for an excellent Report. May I now open the floor for comments or interventions from Member Nations. I see the flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and then Sweden, United States of America, Lebanon, Colombia, Guatemala, Cuba, New Zealand and Brazil also.

Can we start with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. You have the floor.

MUN Yong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

I recognize that the WFP precisely and wholly reflected its activities for the last two years in its Report submitted to the current Conference.

For the last two years, WFP took several measures according to its humanitarian mission and objective, extended the period of its strategic work plan from 2009-2011 till 2013 aimed at alleviating global poverty and hunger and achieving food security.

WFP fully ensured the assistance resources such as updating the projected use of the Managing Fund on five occasions to cope with the increase of food and oil prices and the economic and financial crisis.

WFP is working in collaboration with UNICEF, FAO and WHO so as to reduce hunger of children and improve their nutritional status. At the same time WFP is actively involved in development assistance activities, including school feeding and food for community development in the developing countries. In particular, it secured the food equivalent to USD 1.1 billion by giving cash to the farmers of the developing countries last year in concurrence with the policy for development, thus making the contribution to agricultural production in these countries.

WFP also offered quick assistance to those countries which suffered damage from natural disasters and conflicts in different regions of the world. Accordingly, it provided 3.9 billion tonnes of food assistance to more than 1 billion people of 78 countries in the period between June 2008 and June 2009.

WFP offered a large amount of food assistance to our country, which temporarily suffered from food difficulty, owing to several natural disasters during the last ten years. Since 2006, it has been providing the development-oriented assistance to DPRK. WFP's activities encouraged our people who are striving for rural rehabilitation and increased crop production.

In the name of our delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to give a high mark to the success scored by WFP in its work to alleviate the level of hunger and poverty.

I would like to also express gratitude to Ms Josette Sheeran, the Executive Director, and the entire staff of WFP who are exerting great efforts in assisting DPR Korea. In the future, we shall continue to work closely with WFP to ensure the country's food security.

Petter NILLSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement. Let me thank Mr De Mistura for his presentation at the outset.

The European Community has taken note of the WFP Annual Reports to ECOSOC and to FAO Council on WFP's activities in 2007 and 2008. In particular, the European Community welcomes the increased commitments by WFP to increase the collaboration with other UN Agencies.

In line with the remarks of WFP's Executive Board, the European Community is keen on receiving more information on the impact of inter-agency collaboration within countries and on the developments of the cluster approach, in particular regarding WFP's role as a lead agency for important parts of the humanitarian cluster. Furthermore, the EC would appreciate that the future Annual Reports be more analytical and results-based, rather than merely providing an account of activities performed.

Harriet SPANOS (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you, Staffan, for your presentation. As always we commend you for a comprehensive and succinct summary and for the many achievements that you have made during 2008, particularly, during the height of the food price crisis. We echo Sweden, appreciate the emphasis on partnerships and are assured that WFP will continue to set the gold standard for partnerships within the UN. We also acknowledge the role and vision of the Executive Director in this regard.

The United States of America not only supports, but strongly reinforces, your statement that WFP, as well as IFAD, engage as full and equal partners on the CFS Secretariat. This message is directed in particular to FAO to please adhere to the request of Member Nations to ensure fair and equal partnership. We are all in this together, and no single entity can do it alone.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

Well, I would like first to congratulate my good friend, Staffan De Mistura, for his lucid, right to the point, presentation.

There is only one point, which I have mentioned before, when you mentioned about collaboration between partners of the United Nations System you forgot about UNDP. That means that either UNDP is not collaborating, or you have forgotten about it. Therefore, I would like to have some clarification about this.

My second question is to WFP as an organization. I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that when we are bringing food aid to some countries and you are delivering this food aid gratis, without any payment, are we not competing with the local farmers in the country? I remember the time when I was in school studying Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, our professor on agriculture policy drew our attention to this fact. Maybe you should have taken into consideration this point at WFP Secretariat. Is there any study related to this point or not?

Francisco COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Le agradezco al Sr. Staffan de Mistura y en general a la administración del PMA por la presentación de los Informes correspondientes a los años 2007-2008 y particularmente también por la leve presentación que se nos ha hecho resaltando los aspectos principales.

Como se evidencia en estos documentos, los dos últimos años han sido de gran importancia para el PMA, no solo por el difícil ambiente estratégico en que ha debido operar las múltiples crisis, especialmente por supuesto la crisis alimentaria, sino el proceso interno que lo llevó a responder,

a nuestro juicio, de una manera adecuada con un nuevo plan estratégico con el cual se modificó el perfil del programa de una agencia de ayuda alimentaria a una agencia de asistencia alimentaria.

Este nuevo perfil como todos sabemos, enfatiza el papel amplio y de largo alcance que los Miembros hemos querido darle al PMA, que ha sido resaltado entre otras cosas con la aprobación el pasado lunes, de la Declaración de la Cumbre sobre Seguridad Alimentaria donde se habla de la necesidad de buscar soluciones de largo alcance sostenibles al tema del hambre.

Buena parte de los cambios que se han visto en el PMA se reflejan, como lo mencionó el Sr. De Mistura, en el aumento importante de las operaciones que por una parte se reflejó en casi una duplicación de su presupuesto. Obviamente eso está matizado por los aumentos de precios de los alimentos, pero sin embargo el Programa produjo una respuesta eficaz en muchas de las partes donde se necesitó su presencia.

Animamos al PMA a seguir adelante con esta labor de coordinación con otros organismos tanto dentro como fuera del Sistema, para lograr una acción más efectiva, no solo en la atención de emergencias sino también en las labores de fomento de las capacidades que permitan a los Países Miembros generar sus propias capacidades de respuesta.

Con estos comentarios recomendamos la aprobación de estos informes.

Ileana RIVERADE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Me es grato felicitar, antes que nadie, al Sr. de Mistura, por el Informe tan lindo, preciso, exacto y bueno que nos ha dado y congratulamos, asimismo, a la Directora Ejecutiva del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y a sus colaboradores por el excelente trabajo llevado en estos dos últimos años. Verdaderamente, como expresado por la delegación de Colombia, ha cambiado el proceso de ayuda que tiene el PMA.

Apreciamos de forma especial el espíritu de fuerte colaboración del PMA con las Agencias de Naciones Unidas y que se concretizará, esperamos, por medio de los polos regionales de coordinación. Verdaderamente esperamos que el PMA tome el liderazgo ya que tiene una experiencia exitosa en los mismos.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Con agradecimiento a tan completa y adecuada presentación, nosotros como delegación quisiéramos hacer algunos comentarios al respecto.

En primer lugar, reconocemos el papel del PMA en el apoyo a los Países Miembros para hacer frente a la crisis alimentaria ocasionada por el alza de los precios de los productos alimenticios y del combustible y por el aumento del número de beneficiarios de la ayuda alimentaria. Así como también reconocemos la rápida respuesta a las emergencias producidas en muchos de nuestros Países, en especial en nuestro país.

Reconocemos el apoyo logrado de los donantes, que permitió una suma record de contribuciones, incluyendo los aportes de nuevos donantes de Países en Desarrollo, lo cual es algo que nos complace en gran medida.

No obstante, llamamos la atención a que los recursos resultan insuficientes en virtud de la cantidad de problemas que enfrentamos en el mundo, por lo que hacemos un llamado a los donantes a realizar esfuerzos adicionales que le permitan al PMA en su honorable labor realizar un mejor esfuerzo para ayudar a nuestros Países Miembros.

Destacamos las acciones emprendidas por el PMA para mejorar su eficiencia en el terreno y lograr mejores resultados en el apoyo a los beneficiarios, así como sus iniciativas para aumentar la colaboración en el terreno con el resto de las Agencias, sobre todo las de Roma.

Solicitamos que el PMA mantenga y mejore sus actividades en la reducción de los riesgos de catástrofes en los sectores alimentarios y agrícolas, en el aumento de la capacidad de los Países en Desarrollo para enfrentar estos eventos y en las emergencias alimentarias de carácter general, así como las actividades para promover la transición al socorro al desarrollo.

Alentamos su participación en la nueva Secretaría del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial pues esto ayudará a lograr mayor cooperación entre las tres Agencias de Roma. Apoyamos asimismo el nuevo perfil de trabajo del PMA que de alguna manera le permitirá responder mejor a las necesidades de búsqueda de soluciones a los problemas alimentarios a largo plazo.

Mi delegación quisiera plantear dos aspectos que observa con preocupación en este Informe. En los párrafos 34 y 35 del Informe que se refieren a la preparación del Manual de Instrucción para la elaboración de programas, se dice que se han adoptado acciones para adaptarse a las nuevas modalidades de ayuda. En este sentido, mi delegación quisiera hacer dos preguntas concretas: ¿Cómo y cuándo se aprobó el cambio de estas nuevas modalidades de ayuda?, y en segundo lugar: ¿cómo prevén llevar a cabo esa ayuda en los países que no son firmantes de la Declaración de París y del Programa de Acción de Accra?

Otro aspecto que mi delegación quisiera llamar la atención del Informe es a las iniciativas a los programas conjuntos en Unidos en la Acción. Realmente, a mi delegación le hubiera gustado que se reflejara de una mejor manera, es decir más claramente, que esta iniciativa como Proyecto Piloto no sea aprobada y que el PMA observara las Resoluciones adoptadas por los Órganos Intergubernamentales y las Resoluciones, sobre todo de la Asamblea más recientes sobre el tema.

Nos hubiera gustado que se reflejaran de mejor manera, aunque nos complace observar la manera en que están apoyando estos programas.

En general mi delegación quiere manifestar su firme apoyo a la labor del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y su complacencia por la colaboración con otros órganos del sistema, en especial con las Agencias de Roma.

Thomas KENNEDY (New Zealand)

New Zealand continues to regard WFP as a well-managed Agency with a sound record of meeting humanitarian needs in a timely and effective way. We are impressed by the considerable work being undertaken by WFP to improve further the quality and relevance of its planning and evaluation, and the significant shift by the WFP to develop and use more diverse situation-specific tools including cash and vouchers and the purchase for progress programme. We welcome ongoing work to strengthen responsiveness to gender, staff capacity and partnerships with national governments and other agencies.

Despite such good progress, we consider that there is a need for WFP to place a still greater emphasis on results and the formulation of some of its country and programme frameworks, including the consistent setting of defined, robust targets and performance indicators. Greater consideration, in some instances, needs to be given to a tighter programme focus to enhance management and impact. We would add that plans for national capability-building and, where appropriate, eventual country phasedown and exit need to be well defined.

We recognize the various benefits of WFP's work and school feeding. We would, however, urge WFP to consider carefully the value and practicality of other options to help achieve the outcomes sought. It is crucial for WFP to ensure that the need to achieve in the longer-term the national sustainability of school feeding is incorporated fully into the consideration and planning of programmes.

New Zealand endorses fully the efforts of WFP, FAO and IFAD to strengthen collaboration between the three Agencies. We welcome the joint paper on this which was submitted recently, and endorse the proposed pillars and focused areas outlined. We would encourage the final document to link the focus areas directly with intended outcomes and to be more specific around planned areas of collaboration, the roles of each agency, the scope for partnerships with the World Bank Group and CGIAR and how this collaboration sits within broader UN processes.

Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

Brazil wants to welcome and congratulate Stefan for the report he presented to us now. It is a very thorough, comprehensive Report and we support its approval by this Conference.

Brazil also wants to associate itself with the statements by Columbia, Cuba, Guatemala, New Zealand and other interventions here in welcoming the very good work done by WFP in the last two years in its transition from a food aid agency to a food assistance agency in very difficult times, in a situation where crises increased and food prices went soaring high. WFP worked in trying to embed its programmes more and more into country strategies, into developing long-term strategies for safety nets and for fighting food insecurity. The second point that we would like to raise is about coordination. In its transition from a food aid agency to a food assistance agency, WFP will need more and more to coordinate and will need more and more the support of its partners such as FAO because many of those projects and initiatives will depend on the actions of others to come to a successful conclusion. In this respect, we also welcome, as many interventions here have already stated, the stress put in this Report presented for our consideration on the coordination aspects and collaboration of other Agencies. We welcome the work of WFP in this regard, in the field and also here at Headquarters, and we look forward to increased collaboration. We would also like FAO to show the same level of propensity for collaboration because we understand that in the same sense as WFP needs FAO, FAO also needs WFP's expertise and field presence in the years to come.

Javad S. TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Let me join with others to congratulate to my dear friend, Staffan, for a very good and excellent presentation regarding the activities accomplished by the WFP.

I would like also to appreciate again the humanitarian activities accomplished by WFP, particularly in the last two years, even by sacrificing some of its own staff in this regard.

We also would like to appreciate the generosity of all donors, whether in cash or in kind, given to this organization, and in brief, I would like to reiterate again a wish for the very excellent cooperation and collaboration between the three Rome-based Agencies regarding the issue. Finally, we would like to fully support the Report.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada appreciates WFP's performance in the period under review and the direction it is taking as it moves forward. We commend Staffan's emphasis on collaboration and partnership and endorse the EU's comments on the importance of WFP's humanitarian partnerships and would echo Lebanon's reminder that WFP has many other important partnerships in New York, Washington, Africa and beyond.

But turning back to Rome, my delegation can only regret that the World Food Summit's convening organization evidently did not share the same spirit of cooperation as demonstrated by the poor treatment of WFP, IFAD and other international and regional organizations during the World Food Summit.

Canada hopes that FAO behaves like a proper partner going forward, notably in transforming the CFS into a truly inclusive forum operating on an egalitarian basis.

T. Nanda KUMAR (India)

I would also join the other delegates in complimenting the WFP for all they have done and for their approach particularly in the P4P programme. One point which I would like to bring to the notice of the WFP, relates to their Annual Report. There is mention of an India project, on page 7 of the Report. There is a mention of a quantity of food grains and the cost mentioned there, and if you compare that with other countries on the next pages, you will see a huge difference in the costing. This is because the Indian Government provides substantial quantities of food grains at highly-subsidised rates to the WFP forage programmes. So I would request that this contribution be reflected in the Annual Report.

Staffan DE MISTURA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

This was a highly-useful debate for all of us. Thank you to several delegations for strongly supporting what WFP and its Executive Director, its own staff, particularly in the field, we have

11 000 people in the field as you know and 1 000 in Rome, are doing in order to try to do their best in order to pursue the mission of WFP.

I thank you for your many words of encouragement and we will pass on the message to our colleagues who are currently in many countries, some of them, as you know, in dangerous countries or at least in difficult circumstances.

Regarding the message from Sweden, on behalf of the EC, we are hearing your message and we are certainly very, very much aware of the fact that our humanitarian role is a priority. At the same time, as you know, we are trying and we are striving to reach and become more and more a food assistance organization, and not just purely a food aid organization, because there are certain areas which are just before emergencies and just after emergencies which do justify some type of stabilization capability. We are seeing many examples in recent times.

Now, regarding the fact that you would like to have a more analytical Report, and some of you have been referring to that, that's fair enough I think in the future what we should be doing, rather than just listing the areas where we are cooperating, is also to highlight many more projects, and to provide concrete examples of activities undertaken.

Regarding the message from my friend and colleague, old friend actually from Lebanon, and the fact that UNDP was not totally mentioned, well I did mention UNDP in the context also of the fact of the visit of Helen Clark, the new Administrator, who we respect and admire, and who has certainly given a new approach and a new wind of change to UNDP in their own activities. We are cooperating with them, but I didn't mention it because we are still at the strategic level rather than that of identifying projects. But I shall give you one example, on the P4P which is the Project 4 Progress, one of the tools which some of you have mentioned, buying food locally from local small producers and using it for local distribution. The UNDP and WFP have developed a special strategy for doing that more effectively in the areas where we operate. There is also a future for even more concrete cooperation with UNDP regarding safety nets and Resident Coordinators.

Two countries referred to the fact that partnership needs to be shown all the time everywhere and refer to the fact that the CFS needs to have a fair, full and equal partnership by all three UN Agencies which are FAO, IFAD and WFP. I could not agree more. We cannot agree more. If, as it is, CFS is going to be in Rome and in Rome there are three UN Agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, then all three need to be seen working together and all three are having a very competent Secretariat, those three Secretariats with no special leadership by anyone, but leadership on a rotation basis. We should make sure that CFS becomes what you all want it to be based in Rome.

Continúa en Español

Agradezco mucho por esta iniciativa de ayudarnos con la asistencia alimentaria. Es claramente una de las dos prioridades que tenemos. No hemos olvidado nuestra misión con respecto a las emergencias, en las que debemos estar siempre activos, pero al mismo tiempo hay otras cosas que se pueden hacer e intentamos hacer desde hace dos años con su apoyo, y también el de Guatemala y de Cuba en esta dirección, por lo cual les agradecemos mucho.

Continues in English

Regarding the question which was raised by Cuba on the lack of funds, yes we do have some reductions, as you know, on what we were hoping to be able to get this year, but we also have to acknowledge the fact that, in spite of the financial crisis, there has still been strong support for WFP. We were hoping to reach more than 100 million vulnerable people this year. We are probably going to be able to reach 84 million, but that still needs to be appreciated while we are striving and hoping that we will be able to increase the quantity and the quality of assistance we are providing.

Regarding New Zealand's observation, the fact that we should be more result-oriented, we are now developing a system for this purpose. As you know, however, a bag of wheat or some cash in areas where we are supposed to buy food definitely talk for themselves – either you deliver the

bag of wheat or you deliver the cash. You are not delivering a report or a seminar, therefore, the results aspect should not be difficult for WFP to do.

I wanted to refer again to one point that Lebanon very correctly asked. What about the local farmers? You are right and you and I when we joined the UN many years ago, you are much younger than I am but still I remember when you were there, we were basically seeing WFP distributing surplus food. That was exactly the nature of WFP at that time. Any country that had too much food was giving to WFP rather than having to store it or throw it or whatever, and we were then distributing it in developing countries. Things have changed. Developing countries have become much more developed and they are proud of being so, and rightly so. Secondly, we are in a way affecting the agriculture by doing so. So now, USD 1 billion, I repeat USD 1 billion of what is being given to WFP in cash is being used in local and regional purchases. That is the future, that is the present. It needs to be made even more concrete in the future. That is why P4P is an innovative way of doing it, because you do not need to buy it locally, or from a big producer which could be a multinational, but actually from the local farmers, thereby highlighting the country-driven approach.

Regarding the issue raised by Brazil about our own need for more coordination in the future, we are moving in the direction of delivering according to what has been requested by the World Food Summit. We are aware of that. That is why we would like to see the follow-up to the meeting we had on 4th November with the three Executive Heads and all the senior staff, to be followed up by more concrete examples of real jointly-planned projects. I am talking about projects that can become pilot projects from the beginning, demonstrating how each of the three entities can work together in full and equal partnership. This is not rocket science. This is doable absolutely.

Regarding the manual of instructions that Cuba referred to and the Declaration of Paris, you have to forgive me.

Continúa en Español

Cuba lo siento mucho pero soy bastante nuevo aquí; hace tres meses que llegué y este aspecto no lo conozco muy bien. Voy a contestarle privadamente, pero me parece demasiado técnico para mí en este momento. Voy a contestar una vez que me informo un poquito mejor.

Continues in English

Regarding the messages we received from Iran, thank you for the kind appreciation and for the support regarding our move towards a more sophisticated way of food assistance.

And, regarding the message from Canada on the CFS – thank you. What you are saying is exactly what we believe. We have to work on an equal footing in order to make it work.

And regarding what the distinguished delegate of India mentioned, you are quite right, Sir. I remember one thing I mentioned the other day to the Italian television when they were questioning why despite the series of food summits we were still not witnessing a solution to hunger in the world. I reminded them that when I joined the UN 39 years ago, India was a major recipient of food aid. When I was in Kabul a few years ago, we had a food aid emergency and then we received an Ethiopian airlines plane carrying Indian-donated food. That to me was the turning point in saying how much things have changed for the better, and can change for the better. That is why you are quite right, we will correct that. It is true what you said, you are subsidising heavily what you are giving to us, and that is why the prices should be accordingly reflected.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Staffan for enlightening us further. If there are no other comments from the floor, Cuba you have asked for the floor.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Solo quería agradecer al Sr De Mistura por tener la deferencia de respondernos en español. Gracias.

Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Je remercie le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour l'exposé qui a été fait et je suis tout à fait d'accord pour soutenir le rapport dans le cadre du PAM. J'ai seulement une recommandation à faire concernant ses activités à savoir l'idée d'une acquisition d'achat de produits avec les producteurs pour une utilisation ultérieure. Je prends le cas de la Mauritanie, d'où je viens, et où nos producteurs sont souvent les plus grandes victimes de la famine et de la pauvreté, parce que c'est dans le monde rural que l'on connaît beaucoup de pauvreté. Ces producteurs, au sortir de l'hivernage, car nos productions se font en général pendant l'hivernage et un peu après - les productions sont en général momentanément abondantes - les producteurs dans le besoin sont dans l'obligation, dans beaucoup de cas, de vendre leurs productions et souvent à des prix très bas, donc contre l'intérêt des producteurs et, en période de soudure, on achète très cher une production qui avait été vendue à un très bon prix.

La recommandation que je fais, toujours par souci, mentionné dès le début du Sommet, est que la cible fondamentale de lutte contre la faim, soit les producteurs agricoles, au niveau des villages, des ménages et de l'agriculture familiale. Pour les aider à sortir de l'ornière de la pauvreté et être moins atteint par la famine, une solution pourrait être trouvée pour acheter les produits de ces producteurs à un prix acceptable pendant les récoltes et ainsi leur garantir une acquisition de leurs produits à un prix défiant toute concurrence. Par la suite, le PAM n'aurait pas à acheter, par exemple, des produits trop chers pendant les périodes où une famine se déclenche.

Donc, en adoptant une bonne programmation pour une acquisition des produits alors disponibles, les agriculteurs ne seront pas lésés et cela évitera ainsi les risques de spéculation aux dépens de ces derniers. Pour aider ces agriculteurs et ces producteurs à résoudre cette situation, une solution pourrait être, comme je l'ai entendu dire au Brésil, d'acquérir la production de ces producteurs familiaux et de les mettre dans des conditions plus aisées en vue d'obtenir un stock de production céréalière acquis à bon prix et qui leur permettrait de sortir d'une situation difficile.

Staffan DE MISTURA (Directeur exécutif adjoint, Programme Alimentaire Mondial)

Merci pour la question au délégué de la Mauritanie et ce pour deux raisons, cela me donne l'opportunité de montrer du respect à la langue française et pour répondre à une question qui nous touche de près.

Vous avez tout à fait raison, c'est exactement ce que le PAM est en train d'essayer de faire, plus ou moins, mais il essaie de le faire constamment. Quand il y a une urgence, évidemment la première chose à faire c'est de donner à manger, on ne peut pas permettre qu'une victime de la famine puisse être affectée par cela, mais nous avons aussi l'option de donner des coupons pour se nourrir. Ayant dit cela, c'est justement le projet P4P, c'est-à-dire production pour le progrès, qui n'est pas appliqué pendant les urgences, il est mis en place dans la tranquillité, entre guillemets parce que la situation est toujours assez compliquée, mais dans la tranquillité d'une période normale, pour acheter ces produits, les mettre en réserve et pouvoir les donner quand il y a une urgence. Donc, votre idée est la nôtre, et d'ailleurs si vous avez des idées encore plus raffinées sur comment les rendre efficaces, c'est exactement l'une des formules sur lesquelles nous voulons travailler.

J'en profite, si vous le permettez, Monsieur le Président, pour mentionner un point que j'avais oublié à propos du Brésil, et je pense aussi la Nouvelle Zélande. Non, la Nouvelle Zélande avait parlé de la question de l'aide que nous donnons aux écoles, que nous appelons en anglais une *Safety Net*, et qui est très importante. La Nouvelle Zélande avait aussi précisé qu'il fallait avoir une *Exit Strategy*, une stratégie de sortie, cela ne peut pas être permanent. Le Brésil en est un exemple incroyablement efficace. Le Président Lula l'a référé et nous l'utilisons comme un

exemple. Il y a un moment où les pays qui ont reçu de l'aide, qui ont appris ce que veut dire le *Safety Net*, c'est-à-dire, une aide alimentaire à l'école, l'utilisent et le transforment en un système national. A partir de ce moment là, le PAM se retire en disant: "on a fait notre devoir, on est ravi, on est fier maintenant, c'est à vous de continuer".

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Staffan. I do not see any other flags raised so I will try to make a concluding statement. It is pretty hard for me to sum up the discussions so far but one thing is very clear, there is a broad consensus among Members for strengthened collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies as full and equal partners, both in the Field and at Headquarters. The message is loud and clear, and I hope everybody listens.

It suffices to say that we take note of the report of the World Food Programme as had been approved already by the World Food Programme Executive Board in 2009.

With that, I guess we can close this Agenda item and move on to the next.

10. Global and Regulatory matters arising from: (Cont'd)

10. Questions de politique et de réglementation découlant des: (suite)

10. Cuestiones generales y regulatorias derivadas de: (Continuación)

10.5 Reports of the Thirty-fourth (14-17 October 2008) and Thirty-fifth (14-17 October 2009) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (C 2009/20); (C 2009/21-Rev.1)

10.5 Rapports de la trente-quatrième (14-17 octobre 2008) et de la trente-cinquième (14-17 octobre 2009) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) (C 2009/20); (C 2009/21-Rev.1)

10.5 Informes del 34.º (14-17 de octubre de 2008) y 35.º (14-17 de octubre de 2009) períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (C 2009/20); (C 2009/21-Rev.1)

Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Únicamente que se trata del documento C 2009/21. También está el documento incluido en este documento el C 2009/21 Add.1, que son parte del mismo documento.

CHAIRPERSON

That is right Guatemala. It is a point well taken. May I now give the floor to Argentina to present to us the Reports of the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

María del Carmen SQUEFF (Presidente, Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)

Es un honor presentar los informes del 34º y del 35º períodos de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Las propuestas principales efectuadas por los Miembros durante el 34º Período de Sesiones del Comité en octubre de 2008 se encuentran en el documento C 2009/20 y se referían a la necesidad de preparar el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité, teniendo en cuenta una Agenda más centrada y orientada hacia políticas esenciales. Dicha Agenda debía poder abordar los desafíos que enfrenta la seguridad alimentaria ante la crisis económica y financiera global y debe posibilitar propuestas de políticas opcionales para afrontarlas. Debía también examinar los procesos de monitoreo e informes por países de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación, debía preparar un documento sobre el seguimiento de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Debía continuar fortaleciendo la colaboración entre las Agencias con base en Roma. Debía mejorar la participación de las organizaciones

gubernamentales y organizaciones no gubernamentales en el Comité. En síntesis, en la 34ª Reunión de Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial la Membresía decidió reforzar y renovar la estructura y el funcionamiento del Comité. Ello fue apoyado por el 135º Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Por su parte, el Informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente indica que el Comité debe ser renovado para focalizar mejor los factores claves que afectan la seguridad alimentaria global incluyendo una mayor participación de las partes involucradas en el diseño e implementación de las agendas sobre políticas de seguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial, regional y nacional.

La Conferencia Extraordinaria de la FAO en noviembre de 2008 y el Plan de Acción Inmediata, en su acción 2.63 que fue adoptado por la Conferencia del año pasado, endosó la necesidad de revitalizar el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Con estos mandatos trabajamos durante el año pasado y el Informe del 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité que, tal como lo dijeron el Presidente De Luna y la colega de Guatemala, se encuentran en el documento C 2009/21, en el documento C 2009/21 Add.1 y en el C 2009/21 Corr.1.

En todos estos documentos vemos que trabajamos durante un año y en este contexto y con estos mandatos se desarrolló la renovación del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

La mesa integrada por los representantes de Bélgica, Federación de Rusia, Jordania y Madagascar junto con esta Presidencia convocó a un Grupo de Contacto integrado por representantes de los Estados Miembros, organizaciones de Naciones Unidas y representantes de la sociedad civil. Durante diez meses el Grupo de Contacto se reunió en ocho oportunidades con un promedio de 120 participantes en cada encuentro y se formaron cuatro Grupos de Trabajo. Estimo que se trató de una rica experiencia que mostró que el Cambio de Cultura propuesto por la Reforma de la FAO es posible y necesario.

Como resultado de este amplio proceso participativo inclusivo, la Reforma del Comité aprobada y en curso desde el 17 de octubre, se afirma en los pilares centrales que permitirán mejorar su performance histórica. En primer lugar se propone una ampliación de los actores involucrados, esto significa la participación no solo de los Países Miembros, principal actor en el tema, y de los organismos internacionales sino también una activa participación de las organizaciones sociales y las entidades de la sociedad civil. En segundo lugar, se prevé la incorporación de diversas agencias internacionales a los fines de producir respuestas integrales y pluridisciplinarias. En tercer lugar, una iniciativa importante que trae la Reforma es la de atender especialmente al desarrollo en el terreno de las acciones que se encaren. Las acciones a cargo de los Países Miembros deberán responder a una doble finalidad temporal: acudir a una respuesta urgente para el aquí y el ahora y, a la vez, sostener el trabajo en el terreno para que las comunidades aludidas puedan desarrollar medios y modos de producción, al menos para la auto sustentación futura. Para ello es insoslayable la activa participación de los Países Miembros que seguirán definiendo sus prioridades, pero también de los actores locales.

Aquí en esto está la esencia de la Reforma: el enfoque debe ser de abajo hacia arriba, del terreno hacia el ámbito global.

En la fase 2, el Comité va a promover la coordinación de los planes nacionales y regionales, también debe promover la rendición de cuentas y compartir la mejores prácticas en todos los niveles y debe elaborar un Marco Estratégico Mundial para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición. Ahora bien, toda reforma requiera una actividad permanente de operadores para que los enunciados se conviertan en acciones, en ello seguramente ya está trabajando la nueva mesa y la Secretaría.

Como dijimos en la reciente Cumbre, si hay algo que caracteriza esta Propuesta de Reforma son los niveles de flexibilidad. Flexibilidad es el mayor de los desafíos, flexibilidad para entender que no hay un programa mágico que produzca soluciones globales, flexibilidad para aunar los esfuerzos y recursos de todo tipo de las más diversas Agencias. Antes de terminar el primer tema que es el de la Reforma, quiero insistir una vez más en que el documento CFS 2009/2 Add.1 que contiene la Reforma aprobada el 17 de octubre último en el seno del Comité, debe ser parte

integral de este Informe. Debe incorporarse como Apéndice H y no como Adendum, como se presenta hoy. Para que sea un Adendum, se debe modificar el párrafo 10 del Informe laborado y aprobado por el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité. Tenemos hoy un Corrigendum.

Adendum, señores, en español significa agregar, añadir, adjuntar. La Reforma ha sido el punto central del 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité, y no es un añadido. Ha sido ratificada por la Declaración de la Cumbre que la consagra en los Objetivos Estratégicos y en el contenido del Principio 2 y fue citada por la mayoría de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno.

Si se trata de falta de tiempo, solicito una vez más que se corrija a la mayor brevedad posible. Mi propuesta, entonces, señores, es que aprobemos hoy estos documentos y que los próximos días se realicen los cambios correspondientes, ya sea como anexo H, o bien que todos estos documentos que ahora aparecen como Adendum y Corrigendum sean parte integral del documento C 2009/21, que sea un solo cuerpo que esté todo integrado.

Terminado este tema pasamos a otro que teníamos como actividad para el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité que se refería a los informes nacionales. Este tema, el de los informes nacionales y su estructuración, debe ser uno de los trabajos que va a realizar el CFR formado.

También en el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité se presentó el documento CFS 2009/3 referido al seguimiento de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural. Asimismo, funcionarios de Brasil y Alemania comentaron este documento. Como resultado de los debates se afirmó que la reforma agraria, el apoyo a las pequeñas explotaciones familiares y el desarrollo rural equitativo eran elementos centrales del seguimiento de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que la FAO debería abordar en su labor.

El último punto que tenemos por el momento, con la finalidad de agilizar las sesiones plenarias se presentaron en el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité el día 15 de octubre, cuatro exposiciones que figuran en el Informe referidas a experiencias exitosas en ejecución y se trató de experiencias que se están realizando en Mozambique, en Brasil y en Indonesia. Dichas experiencias trataron la gobernanza, el diálogo entre múltiples partes interesadas, el compromiso con la reducción del hambre y el rol del sector agrícola en época de crisis. Las exposiciones fueron muy buenas y fueron muy bien recibidas por el pleno, pero a mi entender, resultó innecesaria la presencia de un facilitador. Si la experiencia se vuelve a repetir se estima que ese rol lo puede realizar la Presidencia, un miembro de la Mesa o del futuro grupo asesor, un funcionario de la FAO o de alguna de las otras Agencias, que participarán del Comité el año próximo. Además de que seguramente será más efectivo el papel de ese coordinador, va a ser también un pequeño ahorro que siempre viene bien en los momentos que corren.

Finalmente con los mejores deseos para la nueva Mesa, una vez más agradezco a todos el apoyo brindado durante el año que duró mi gestión al frente de la Mesa.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for a very clear presentation and enlightening us into the dynamics of the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on Food Security. May I now open the floor for Member Nations to make some comments. I have Cuba on my list.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación agradece la presentación de este informe por la Sra. María Squeff que actuó como Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

En el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se aprobó un valioso documento que contiene los elementos necesarios para llevar a cabo una adecuada reforma de este órgano. Fue aprobado y ya está en curso. Los resultados de este proceso recibieron un contundente respaldo de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno durante la Cumbre sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, no solo en las intervenciones sino también a través de la aprobación de la Declaración por consenso en la que se apoya expresamente la labor del nuevo Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial reformado.

A mi delegación le satisfacen sobre todo los siguientes elementos:

El nuevo CFS se mantiene dentro de la FAO como un órgano de carácter intergubernamental donde los Países Miembros conservarán sus prerrogativas en la toma de decisiones.

El nuevo Comité constituye el elemento central para el tratamiento del tema de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en el contexto de la Asociación Mundial para la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Se establece una participación amplia de otros actores internacionales en los debates y análisis del Comité, los cuales podrán servir como un complemento importante y valioso en las decisiones que deberemos adoptar.

Se solicita la creación de un Grupo de Expertos de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición con el objetivo de apoyar el proceso de toma de decisiones lo cual nos aportará insumos técnicos y científicos de gran validez.

La Secretaría del Comité estará compuesta por representantes de las tres Agencias de Roma, lo que contribuirá sin duda, a lograr una visión más amplia y de mayor cooperación.

En este marco, mi delegación quisiera sobre todo señalar varias cuestiones de interés de cara al futuro:

Todos, absolutamente todos debemos velar porque esta Reforma se implemente de manera adecuada en concordancia con las disposiciones aprobadas en el documento en el 35º Período de Sesiones del Comité.

La FAO deberá seguir jugando un papel fundamental en el tratamiento de las cuestiones vinculadas a la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en correspondencia con su mandato.

El reto fundamental que tiene el Comité no es la Reforma en sí misma si no el objetivo por el cual fue reformado: fue reformado para alcanzar resultados alentadores en la lucha contra el hambre a nivel mundial. Para ello se necesita sobre todo, de la voluntad política de parte de todos los miembros, participantes y observadores del Comité.

Reclamamos la necesidad de que los países se abstengan de aplicar políticas que limiten la capacidad de la FAO o que le impidan llevar a cabo con éxito sus políticas y programas acordados.

Y por último, mi delegación quisiera apoyar la propuesta de la ex Presidente del Comité, la Sra. María Squeff, de anexar el documento de la Reforma del 35º Comité para que sea parte de este documento y que sea un conjunto, es decir un único documento y que lo aprobemos en bloque tal y como lo hicimos en el 35º Período de Sesiones.

Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Solamente dos puntos. El primero es para manifestar nuestro reconocimiento a los esfuerzos que se realizaron en el Comité durante todo el año pasado y nuestro agradecimiento por el muy positivo resultado que obtuvieron de esos trabajos. Se abre ahora para el Comité una formidable oportunidad para cumplir con sus objetivos, justo en el momento en que el mundo más lo necesita.

El segundo punto tiene que ver justamente para respaldar lo propuesto por la Sra. Presidente en cuanto a la adopción integral de los documentos en los cuales se reflejan los trabajos del Comité, particularmente la Reforma, la cual deberá ser aplicada con la misma decisión y con la misma energía con la cual fue tratada en el Comité.

Francisco COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Agradezco y felicito a nuestra colega Maria Squeff (Marinita), por la forma eficiente y clara como presentó este Informe sobre el Comité de la Seguridad Alimentaria, en particular los énfasis en el tema de Reforma, que entendemos ya aprobada y en curso.

Creo que la delegación de Cuba que intervino antes lo hizo a profundidad y enfatizó en muchos detalles con los cuales estamos de acuerdo, de manera que no necesitamos entrar y agregar mucho a lo que ellos han dicho.

Presidente, como usted recordará nuestra delegación participó activamente en este proceso, toda la percepción de que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es el órgano de la FAO con un mandato más amplio, transversal y de mayor alcance. Apoyamos en su momento y creo que con éxito, el mandato de la Reforma, en el sentido de que el nuevo Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial debería tener un carácter incluyente.

Creo que la propia reforma, el resultado de la Reforma es un ejemplo de la importancia y validez de ese enfoque. Los debates que se dieron durante todos esos meses de reunión, fructificaron y quedaron al final en un documento sólido bien sustentando y sobre todo con una amplia legitimidad en la medida en que se le dio participación a gente que antes tenía una voz apenas limitada en estas discusiones.

Finalmente con Cuba aprobamos enteramente la propuesta de la Presidente saliente del Comité, para que el documento de la Reforma se incorpore plenamente al documento presentado a esta Comisión de manera que lo podamos aprobar en bloque.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

First of all, I would like to congratulate my good colleague, Maria Squeff, on the good presentation she made on a very sensitive issue which was related to the Committee on Food Security.

Second, I would like to refer to the first paper C 2009/20 paragraphs 10 and 11 related to the International Alliance Against Hunger. I think we have not given enough credit to the International Alliance Against Hunger, and I would add hunger and poverty. Here we have to commend the work being done here at FAO, with a very small tiny Secretariat on collaboration with national alliances against hunger and poverty all over the world. I think this is something to be cheered about, and we have to commend this kind of action under the activities of the CFS.

My third point relates to paragraphs 12 and 13. You are referring here to the follow-up of the World Food Summit; which World Food Summit? We have many of them now. There are five of them, not three. Are we referring to the last one? I do not think so, because we did not have the time. Maybe you are referring to the year 2002, the second World Food Summit? Please clarify.

My fourth point, I am coming back to the point which I have raised before, I am afraid that here I am referring to the second paper which is C 2009/21 Add.1, and I am afraid that we are going too far, we are establishing a new FAO here. I remember the time in 1974, we had a similar crisis to the one of 2008, and at that time we established what we called the World Food Council. This was a real duplication with FAO, and we were obliged after that to cancel this because you cannot work with two organizations on the same problem.

Petter NILLSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States, the candidate countries to the EU, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The EC welcomes the Reports from the two latest sessions of the Committee on Food Security. The Reports show respectively the will of the Membership to embark on an ambitious and forward-looking Reform and the result of the Reform Process where trust and inclusiveness have been key factors. Since the EC attaches great importance to the formal adoption of the CFS Reform, we note with satisfaction that the Reform document is to be included in the Report as Annex H.

The EC appreciates the agreement on the Reform of the CFS at its Thirty-fifth Session and considers it a crucial step in the improvement of the global governance of food security. The CFS, as a central component of the global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition, will

be able to play a vital role in support of better coordination and alignment of actions at global, regional and national levels. The CFS will be an inclusive international platform where a broad range of committed stakeholders will debate and converge on policies that are meant to support country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger in accordance with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

The EC regrets that no prioritization of activities in the work plan for the biennium 2010-2011 has been made by the FAO, which is essential to the work of the CFS. Therefore, the EC calls for the establishment of such prioritization of the CFS in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2012-2013. This should be an objective for the next CFS Session, based on a priority paper produced by FAO Management to facilitate the discussions.

Since food security is a concern for a wide range of stakeholders with different mandates, the EC supports the fact that the CFS will report to the United Nations General Assembly through ECOSOC, as well as to the FAO Conference. This will ensure that the deliberations of the CFS, and subsequently the issue of food security, are appropriately taken into account at a higher level in the UN System.

The EC stresses the importance of the continued cooperation between the CFS and the United Nations High-Level Task Force, building on the successful work and lessons learned by the HLTF at country level. With regard to the new methods of working that the CFS will employ, the EC recalls the importance of fully involving the wider UN System in this process. The EC welcomes the establishment of a Joint Secretariat and the participation of UN Agencies in the Advisory Group to the Bureau.

Moreover, the EC reaffirms its view that the post of CFS Secretary should rotate between qualified staff members from the three Rome-based Agencies in future biennia. The EC also wants to lend its full support to the rapid establishment of the High-Level Panel of Experts for Food Security. This group of independent experts will ensure that the CFS bases its deliberations on highly analytical and up-to-date information and expertise. The appointment of the panelists needs to include experts from many different fields so as to secure a comprehensive approach and to ensure that poverty-reduction approaches are properly reflected. We expect the first results of the HLPE to be presented to the CFS Plenary in October 2010. In this respect, we would like the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts to be established by the end of this year. The EC is prepared to suggest to the CFS bureau things that could be dealt with by the High-Level Panel of Experts during 2010 as soon as it is established and ready to get to work.

Renato GODINHO (Brazil)

Thank you, Ms Squeff, for the presentation of the Report of the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Sessions of the CFS, and your very clear explanation of the proceedings.

Since we had to consider, at this Session, the Reports of both Sessions of the CFS, the Thirty-fourth Session in 2008 and the Thirty-fifth Session that we held just now in October, I had to go back to some of the documents of the 2008 Session of the CFS Report and among them one document that is a very inspiring read. The document is CFS 2008/6 "Proposals for Strengthening the Committee on Food Security in order to meet the New Challenges", and I will explain why we think it is a very inspiring read.

I invite you all, those that have not read it and even those that have read it, to read it again in your free time in view of the recently-approved Reform of the CFS, so you can be as inspired as we, Brazil, have been while reading it. It is inspiring because when we get to the proposals that were presented to the CFS at the end of 2008, we can see from what is there, the proposals that were either approved or discussed or not yet agreed, they were so minor in nature and they were so petty in relation to the challenges ahead. We can take some examples, some of them actually went backwards from the direction we intended. One of them was a proposal of having less meetings of the CFS; instead of meeting once year, meeting only once every two years. Another one was about streamlining Reports and another one tried to get more participation from civil society by means of more Special Side Events and other Agencies in those Special Side Events. And even

those were not agreed in the last CFS Report. When we see now the Reform document of the CFS that we fully support should be included as Annex H after the present Report document, we can see what a long way we have come.

The CFS now is not discussing such minor issues. The CFS has full participation in civil society, it has an advisory group that allows for full and equal participation of the Agencies in the inter-sessional periods. It is not about having less meetings but more meetings, it's having a comprehensive process between one session and the other that we were able to carry out coordination. It has the High-Level Panel of Experts as many have stated here so we went so much further away from the expectations that were there. We went light years ahead and now we, rightly so, raise many more expectations – even greater that we now must face again. And for that, we wish to really express our deep thanks to Ms Squeff and the process that she led, for her leadership, her vision and her engagement in this process. Had it not been for the contact group process that she started, we would not be in the situation that we are in now. We can all go back to the document and see how far we have come forward, and we can all agree on this.

The new Chair of the CFS happens to also be the new Chair of this meeting. We put our trust in you, and we trust that you will be able to be up to the task of carrying on that very lofty legacy that Maria leaves us.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Mi delegación habla a nombre del GRULAC y del propio. Queremos felicitar a la Mesa saliente y de forma especial a su Presidente, Consejero María del Carmen Squeff, que conociendo así el arduo y excelente trabajo realizado en este año, culminó en la adopción de la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Recogí en el documento C 2009/21 Add.1, que forma parte integral como habíamos citado anteriormente, de hecho lo citó la señora ex-Presidente con el Informe del 35° Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, documento C 2009/21 y C 2009/21 Corr.1.

El nuevo Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, cuyo proceso de renovación se caracterizó por ser transparente, inclusivo e innovador, al celebrar todas las reuniones de los Grupos de Trabajo, incluyendo las de la mesas, con una apertura de inclusión total hacia todas las partes interesadas. Nuestra delegación espera que esta nueva Mesa siga este camino de trabajo de forma igualmente transparente y exitosa.

Por último, este grupo regional solicita que este documento C 2009/21, recoja el informe del 35° Período de Sesiones del Comité y que sea debidamente corregido, incorporando la Reforma en un solo documento.

También queremos felicitar al nuevo Presidente de la mesa del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, esperando que siga el camino arduo para lograr esta Reforma que ha costado tanto esfuerzo.

Diego A. SIMANCAS GUTIÉRREZ (México)

Quisiera agradecer a la Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial por la presentación de los Informes de los trabajos del Comité, incluyendo por supuesto la Reforma a dicho órgano. Apoyamos la propuesta formulada por la Presidente de contar con una versión integral del Informe que contenga, en primerísimo lugar, el tema de la Reforma.

La Presidente, como es habitual en su persona, ha sido humilde en su descripción de la importancia que representó el esfuerzo por ella encabezado para reformar al Comité. No podemos olvidar que hace un año se estaba debatiendo la desaparición misma del Comité, justo en el año que quedará registrado como el de la crisis mundial de los alimentos. Si el Comité celebró su

35° Período de Sesiones, y celebrará el 36° período y los períodos consecuentes, es precisamente gracias al proceso de Reforma que hemos llevado a cabo con éxito.

Pero Cuba tiene razón. La Reforma no es la razón de ser del Comité, sino el hecho de convertirse en el vehículo para que finalmente pueda ejercer su rol de coordinador y catalizador de las acciones que permitan alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Por ello, hemos solicitado la palabra, para rendir el justo homenaje a la labor realizada por la Presidente del Comité, Sra. María del Carmen Squeff. Su sucesor tiene, sin duda, un gran reto ante sí, mantener el nivel de calidad y compromiso alcanzado por ella. En este sentido nos congratulamos que se haya identificado al señor Noel De Luna, de Filipinas, a quien saludamos por su conducto como el Presidente de la Mesa entrante del Comité, según se nos indica en el párrafo 19 del documento C 2009/21.

Creemos, al igual que lo han referido varias delegaciones con respecto al Comité de Agricultura, que se tiene que aprovechar la designación anticipada de la Mesa entrante para llevar a cabo un proceso de transición productivo para avanzar con mayor eficiencia en los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, teniendo la ventaja, la fortuna, de contar con ambos funcionarios capaces y comprometidos como el Sr. De Luna y la Sra. Squeff, este objetivo será muy fácil de alcanzar.

Virginia SERULLE (República Dominicana)

Agradecemos el Informe presentado por la Sra. Maria del Carmen Squeff y nos unimos a las declaraciones de Cuba, Argentina, Brasil, Guatemala, México y todo el GRULAC sobre el rol, logros y desafíos del nuevo Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

La República Dominicana apoya la solicitud de la Presidente para que el documento de la Reforma sea parte integral del informe del 35° Período de Sesiones del Comité, y no un adendum. Lo que se está proponiendo aquí es un cambio de forma no de fondo. Un cambio técnico no político. La intención aquí no es reabrir el debate puesto que la Reforma del CSAM ya fue aprobada el 17 de octubre de este año en el marco del 35° Período de Sesiones del Comité.

Así mismo, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, el día 16 de noviembre al firmar la Declaración de la Cumbre de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se comprometieron a ejecutar plenamente la Reforma del mismo, hecho que nos llena de satisfacción.

Aprovechamos al igual que lo han hecho todas las delegaciones para rendir homenaje y para felicitar a la doctora Marilita Squeff, quien con su esfuerzo encomiable ha hecho una labor extraordinaria y como dijo Brasil: sin la persona no hubiéramos podido alcanzar los logros que hemos alcanzado, sin la presencia y la labor de ella. Felicizamos también al nuevo presidente del CSAM.

John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank the CFS Chair, the Bureau and the Committee itself for the successful outcome of the nearly two-year long process of the reforming of CFS.

We have covered a lot of ground since 2008 and the United States believes that the Bureau and Membership of CFS work together in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, and exhibited a strong commitment to strengthening that body.

The resulting text produced by the October CFS Session, we believe, represents a balanced blueprint for Reform that will set the stage for a more productive CFS that supports country-led Food Security planning. We expect the CFS to provide the supportive platform the dialogue and communication to help countries devise effective food security strategies with the help of committed stake holders and partners, both domestic and international, to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. For these reasons and others, we believe the Conference should approve the Report of the CFS.

We cannot rest on our laurels, however. The process of Reform of CFS is not complete. The United States looks forward to working with the Chair and other Members of the CFS Bureau and the rest of the Committee itself in the coming months in implementing the CFS Reform Plan.

Yasuro FUNAKI (Japan)

Japan believes that the Reform of CFS should play an important role as a platform for policy convergence in achieving the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security. Having said that, Japan notes that while the mandate of Phase 2 included in the TOR of the Reform of the CFS is an ambitious one and the budget and human resources are limited. Given this, costs and priority of each box of the TOR should be thoroughly evaluated.

Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Je pense que nous avons un peu commencé par la fin parce que, normalement, on aurait dû tenir cette réunion avant le Sommet qui a déjà adopté une Déclaration dans laquelle on est d'accord avec la FAO. Théoriquement, on ne peut plus la changer parce qu'on a dit qu'on était d'accord.

Aujourd'hui, on en discute, parce qu'il y a des choses dont il faut discuter. Moi, je pense que pour la réforme, c'est bon, il n'y a pas de problème sur le principe. En tout cas, le CSA réformé est un CSA qui est un peu plus élargi. Mais, il faut surtout éviter, tout à l'heure un intervenant a dit: "il y a une forme de doublon". Cela veut-il dire qu'il faut créer un autre PAM ou une autre FAO et aussi éviter de faire de l'exclusion? On doit aller dans un sens d'inclusion avec beaucoup plus de participation afin qu'un CSA soit beaucoup plus élargi ou un forum où on peut discuter, avoir beaucoup d'avis différents des avis initiaux. C'est le principe même de la Réforme du CSA.

Deuxièmement, s'il y a une réforme il y a peut-être besoin d'un financement additionnel. Et là, ça m'inquiète un tout petit peu, parce que je n'apprends rien à l'assistance, les pays industrialisés et les pays riches ont brillé par leur absence au Sommet. Ceci dit, on hésite à mettre en place des financements, et le Japon vient de dire: "est-ce une réforme ambitieuse, les financements vont suivre?". En plus, la Réforme ce n'est pas un "package" qui est là, qu'on met à disposition, il faut l'adopter.

Tout à l'heure un intervenant a dit que cette réforme était bonne, on la prend comme elle est, mais est-ce à dire que si elle n'est pas prise telle quelle, les pays donateurs ne participeront pas. Cela m'inquiète un tout petit peu. C'est une forme de chantage qui, à mon avis, il faut éviter dans la mesure où on est dans un forum de discussion.

Nous, nous sommes les pays sous-développés, on a besoin d'appui et on est inquiet quand les pays donateurs conditionnent leur aide par l'approbation des réformes qui ont été discutées.

Enfin, dernier point, concernant les documents présentés, je pense que, par rapport aux documents tels qu'ils sont et les documents addendum, je les considère comme un document unique – document unique, dans la mesure où un document peut se référer à un autre document qui n'est pas dans le document original. Dès l'instant où il se réfère à un autre document, on peut considérer tous les papiers qui ont été donnés comme un document unique. Et par conséquent, c'est le but de cette Conférence, on peut le reprendre sous forme de document unique, étant entendu, qu'il ne perde pas une partie de son sens. Tous les articles doivent nous amener à un document unique de la réforme.

Voilà pourquoi je pense que la précision apportée par Madame la Présidente, concernant les documents additifs corrigés entrent dans le cadre d'un document unique de la réforme qui a été présentée.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, on behalf of the Asia Group, I would like to thank Madame Chair for the presentation of the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Sessions of the CFS. At the same time, we would like to commend her efforts in this regard.

I would like to thank you and to congratulate you on the resumption of the new Chair for the next session of the CFS. I think that under your leadership, the CFS Reform will proceed very positively. China supports the CFS to expand the involvement of all stakeholders through the Reform. However, the mandates for the stakeholders, including the private sector and the NGOs, must be clearly-defined, as the CFS is an intergovernmental committee. The Chinese Delegation maintains that the responsibilities of the Group of Experts must be clear and provide the technical support to the CFS so the selection of its Members shall be transparent. Their region and disciplines must be taken into account on a scientific basis to ensure the equity of their representation in this.

María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Agradecemos en primer lugar el detallado informe que nos ha presentado la Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

La delegación de El Salvador desea reiterar la importancia de este Comité dentro de la FAO. En los momentos en que estamos viviendo, su Reforma es y fue fundamental, con la finalidad de hacer que dicho instrumento sea realmente de utilidad. Nuestra delegación por eso apoya la propuesta realizada por la Presidenta del Comité, de que el documento de la Reforma sea parte integral del Informe del 35° Período de Sesiones del CSAM, de tal forma de obtener su aprobación en bloque.

La delegación de El Salvador, desea así mismo expresar su agradecimiento a la Representante de la Republica de Argentina, Maria Squeff, por el excelente trabajo realizado al frente del CSAM, y al frente del Grupo de Trabajo que se encargó del Proceso de Reforma de este importante instrumento que todos tenemos que saber utilizar.

Confiamos que el mismo nos conduzca por el buen camino para lograr la seguridad alimentaria para todos. Este reconocimiento queremos hacerlo extensivo a los Miembros de las Mesas, quienes apoyaron decididamente este trabajo, y en ese sentido nos unimos a lo expresado por la delegada de Guatemala en nombre de nuestro Grupo Regional del cual proviene nuestra querida Marilita.

Para concluir, queríamos felicitar a la nueva Mesa encabezada por usted, Sr. De Luna de Filipinas. Usted tendrá un arduo trabajo que realizar para la efectiva aplicación de esta Reforma, para que no perdamos el esfuerzo que hasta hoy hemos realizado. Tienen ustedes un fuerte compromiso, les deseamos muchos éxitos en sus trabajos.

Fatma SABER (Egypt)

Firstly, I would like to reiterate what was said by so many delegations before me, and to thank Ms Squeff for her excellent Chairmanship of the CFS, especially in the period where it was going through major reform. We appreciate her leadership and all the efforts she exerted to make this process go through in the way that the Membership desired. We support the process of Reform of the CFS, as was approved in the past session of the Committee on Food Security. The new Bureau has Mr De Luna, who I also congratulate for his new Chairmanship of the CFS. We look forward to moving the process forward, and we will be participating in the Bbureau to streamline the decisions that we have approved in the CFS and to make them see the light in the way that we all would like.

Adair EUCHAN (Canada)

I would just like to reiterate what every delegation has said in acknowledging and thanking you, Ms Squeff, the Bureau and the Secretariat for the outstanding leadership to bring us to a reformed CFS.

We would also like to welcome, of course, you, Sir, as the new Chair and the new Bureau, and we commit our full support to you as we go forward. It is now up to us to make this work.

We would just like to support what the EC has said regarding the future rotation of Secretary among the Rome-based Agencies. We view this as important for ensuring full ownership by all Rome-based Agencies, and for new injections of energy and creativity as we go forward.

Javad S. TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I would like to thank Madame Chair and thank your excellent outgoing chair for very excellent job she has done so far regarding the CFS.

We fully support the revitalised CFS, but we would like to share our concern with the Lebanon delegation regarding the issue raised by him. So, we need to revitalise the CFS. We would need a stronger CFS, but at the same time we need FAO to be credible but we would not like to have a parallel organization compete with it. My appeal is to consider this concern raised by the Lebanon delegation. Finally, we would like to welcome you, Mr Chairman, as a new CFS Chair, and wish you luck in this respect.

Patrick MOONEY (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration)

I am speaking in the spirit of, but not on behalf on People's Forum on Food Sovereignty that met earlier this week in preparation for the Food Summit. All of our comments, research and writing that were done for that time were addressed to the Summit and not to the Conference, so I cannot pretend to represent all the exact views and of all the 85 countries and 450 organizations that participated in People's Forum on Food Sovereignty.

I do believe that I am reflecting the perspectives that were shared in our meetings. We want to congratulate very much all the governments here in the room for their quite marvellous work that has been achieved over the last two years. We think that all governments have played a role in this, and really have gone beyond our expectations in producing an extraordinarily-revised, improved and strengthened Committee on Food Security. We especially want to join with everybody else in this room in congratulating the Chair of that process and her Bureau, and how much was accomplished by that Group in particular. We also have a great deal of confidence that the new Bureau under his Chair will continue the spirit and style of the previous Bureau and Chair and we look forward to working very closely with all of the governments here again in this room in the years ahead.

We have three worries and we have three opportunities, we believe. One worry is that we have very short time. An awful lot is expected of the Committee on Food Security in the next few years. We have a lot to do in this timeframe and really the Agenda is not one that can be controlled entirely by the Committee itself, given the food crisis around us. This takes us to our second worry, which are the resources available to the Committee on Food Security over the next two years. Will we really have the financial and human resources necessary to accomplish the enormous task that has been given to it by the governments in this room? It was disappointing yesterday sitting in Commission II of this Conference and hearing the discussion that was going on in that room about finances, when we heard over and over again about concerns regarding the financial crisis. The crisis cannot let us do this, the crisis will not let us do that and the crisis they were talking about was not the food crisis. It was the financial crisis. Somehow, there was never a reference, in fact, to the food crisis in the other room, only financial limitations. But given the job coordination that has been given to the Committee on Food Security, it is absolutely essential that it has the resources it needs to fulfill that coordination. Coordination requires some administration. If the Committee does not receive that support from the Conference, then the hopes for the next two years are going to be stretched tremendously, and we cannot be sure that they will be able to achieve the task that is before them.

The third worry we have is one related to finance as well. It is the proposal for a USD 20 billion fund which may be established through a multi-donor process at the World Bank. To us, this is still a process that is not resolved. There is still a lot to be discussed regarding this. It does not seem logical. It seems a worry to us. There is not a clear policy connection or policy guidance coming from the Committee on Food Security to that Fund. We need a very close connection between the policy formulation, the brains here in Rome and the funds or the pocketbook that will

be in Washington or wherever it finally ends up. We think it is very important that this connection be made very precise and clear, or we will all be guilty of poor governance we meet again in the Committee on Food Security.

There are three opportunities though. One is because we have seen clearly both in the meetings in October and during the Summit that there is an anxiety and interest in the part of the Consultative Group of Agricultural Research to really join this process very closely. They have been active participants, they have shared in all of the processes along on the way, but somehow they have been the one outside, the fourth pillar of the Rome-based Agencies that has not really been discussed. We believe it is important to bring them tightly into the process, and therefore suggest that there should be another evaluation of the four Agencies together - World Food Programme, IFAD, FAO. Their evaluations have already been completed with the evaluations that have been done already with the CGIAR to look at four together. That is qualitatively different than work that has already been done by the governments in this room because half of the resources of those four agencies together rests with the CGIAR. If we do not look at the alignment of those four Agencies collectively, we miss out on a lot of potential for making real progress and real adjustments to the work and effectiveness of all our bilateral activities here in Rome. So we call first for a very short three or four month evaluation of the existing evaluations to try to understand how the four can work together more conveniently.

Secondly, we need to take the advantage of the upcoming Regional Conferences of FAO which will be taking place during the year ahead of us. Those Conferences created tremendous opportunity for the governments in this room on a regional basis to express their views on Reform of the UN System, and Reform of the Agencies here in Rome. We believe the CFS can play a central role in making sure that this is really an equal process of the Rome-based Agencies together in those Regional Conferences, to make sure that the dialogue of Reform is carried on and governments and others have their voice clearly heard in that regional process. Once that is completed, we believe that the Rome-based Agencies again, the four, as a third step should come back together, look at what they learned with an evaluation among themselves and look at what they heard from the Regional Conferences and decide then how to move forward through the CFS to make further changes. Those three steps taken together over the next year or so, I think, could align the Agencies in Rome and the Governments here in Rome to achieve new things and really make a major effort in solving the major challenges ahead of us in terms of the food crisis.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

Sorry to take the floor again. Just one short remark since there has been discussed the level of attendance at the World Food Summit on Food Security, which is something that maybe does not belong to this agenda item. Anyway, I just wanted to point out that the EC delegations were headed by high-level representatives, many on the highest level, among others the President of the European Commission and the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden who is the presidency country for the moment. This shows the importance that the European Community attached to the Summit and the issue of food security.

LEGAL COUNSEL

Regarding this question of the reform document *vis-à-vis* the Report, I wanted to say that this question is a non-issue, in fact, but has attracted a lot of visibility, has attracted a lot of attention. We apologize if we in the Secretariat have contributed to that, and I wanted to make this clear at the outset.

Our understanding, at least in the Legal Office, was that from the start this document would have been an Appendix to the Report. If you look at the Report, you will see a number of Appendices, of course the Agenda, the list of the Members, a number of statements, and, of course, this document should have been placed also among these Appendices. We have done this many

times. If you look at other Reports of our Committees, you see that often important documents are reproduced as appendices and this was not done. We should have had a set of all relevant documents including the Report, the Appendices and the Reform document so that you had a single set of papers. Why was this not done? Perhaps because – you recall the conditions under which the Reform document was approved – maybe there was a need for some polishing, some editorial changes to the document, this was done in cooperation with the Bureau and eventually somehow this was not done.

Yesterday evening, we contacted our service in charge of operations of the Conference and we asked for this document to be inserted as an Appendix to the Report. Since, as you know, we are all working under pressure, eventually this was done through a link to the main document and as an addendum to the document. We wanted just to clarify that, in a hard version of the Report, you will also have this annex together with the Report. This has been done many times, and we would have no difficulties with that. We are in your hands and we will issue the Report with a consolidated set of documents with an Appendix, it would be Appendix H. I hope that this clarifies the position.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Legal Counsel. After hearing the statement of Mr Tavares I would like to ask the floor if everyone is satisfied with the explanation because, if there are no objections to it, I would like to go ahead and safely conclude that the Reports of the Thirty-fourth and the Thirty-fifth, and especially the Thirty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on Food Security are hereby adopted in block as proposed and explained by the Chairperson of the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth CFS, with the corrections to be issued in the next few days.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

At this point in time, I am compelled to say a few words to the outgoing Chair of the Committee on World Food Security. I never had a chance to do so. Definitely it would be hard to duplicate, let alone surpass, the achievements of Ms Maria Squeff. When I first heard that I was selected Chair of the CFS, my first reaction was "Oh! That should be easy" because after-all Maria Squeff did all the hard work. I was, of course, very wrong. And sometimes I can be very, very wrong. I never realized that it will be a difficult job to implement her vision and idealism, but I will try to do my best, my utmost, with your cooperation and solidarity.

I want to address a point raised by Lebanon and this is about the difference between the CFS of 1974 and the CFS of 2009. Of course, I think that some of us can still remember that the CFS of 1974 was born out of the commodity crisis of 1974 and the revitalisation of the CFS of 2009 was, of course, born out of the commodity crisis of 2007 and 2008. The big difference now is that there is partnership among the major stakeholders of the process, among the Rome-based Agencies, and there is the goodwill and intention to make the delivery of services as coherent as possible.

As far as the implementation of the Reform Process is concerned, since its approval last October 17, we have had two meetings of the Bureau. We would have had a third meeting before the Summit and before this Conference, but I was prevailed upon to postpone it until after the Conference. After the Summit and the Conference, we are inspired by the goodwill and determination that exists. I certainly look forward to implementing the CFS Reforms without

delay. It is kind of ambitious, but with enough resources, both financial and manpower, it can be done. Would anybody else like to take the floor? Kostas, you have the floor.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Kostas STAMOULIS (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

May I reply to the comments made by Sweden. I am not sure that I understood it correctly, FAO has not given priority to the CFS in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. I want to point out that in the Strategic Objective H, there is a mention of the CFS Reform, so it is in there.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Kostas. Any other comments, any other statements before I close this Agenda Item and move on to the next? There seems to be none. Let me close this agenda item and move forward to Item 7.

7. Progress Report on the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 (C 2009/INF/18)

7. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Année internationale des fibres naturelles 2009

(C 2009/INF/18)

7. Informe sobre los progresos del Año Internacional de las Fibras Naturales en 2009

(C 2009/INF/18)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 7 is Progress Report on the International Year of Natural Fibres. This is for information only, and the main document is C 2009/INF/18. Mr David Hallam, the Deputy Director of Trade and Markets Division, will introduce the Report.

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I am very conscious of the number of Agenda Items left to cover so I will be very brief.

The full progress report is given, as the Chairman has said, in the information document, so I would just like to make one or two points about where we are at the moment. There will, of course, be a full evaluation of the year at a later stage. Remember that the origins of this International Year were with the FAO Intergovernmental Groups on Hard Fibres and on Jute. Following their suggestion, the idea for the International Year was adopted in the General Assembly of the UN in 2006, and 2009 became the Year. FAO was asked to coordinate and to facilitate the International Year through the coordination of an International Steering Committee which has acted as the basic coordinating mechanism.

There are four basic objectives of the Year – two relatively short-term objectives and two longer-term. The short-term objectives were simply to raise awareness and stimulate demand for natural fibres and also to try and bring together different interests within the fibre industries in an international partnership. The other longer-term objectives concerned appropriate policies, guidance of policy and improving the efficiency and sustainability of natural fibres.

In spite of relatively little in the way of external support for FAO's facilitation role, FAO has managed to achieve quite a lot. We held a Symposium on Natural Fibres in October 2008, we published a book of the proceedings of that symposium, we produced a lot of promotional material including an International Year logo, we produced and disseminated a lot of both printed and electronic materials, and we produced a video in seven languages. All of these you can find on the Website for the International Year.

So there was a range of activities undertaken by FAO. More importantly though, were the activities undertaken by the various Member Nations, and there were about one hundred, to date, different activities and Events undertaken by fibre-producing countries, by fibre-using countries

and so on, and really it has been those that have contributed very much to the achievement of the first of the aims which has been to raise awareness of natural fibres and their advantages. I should mention that one of those Events was a very successful one in the Philippines.

The International Steering Committee for the year is morphing into an International Natural Fibres Committee. One of our hopes for the International Year was that we would create some kind of longer-lived, coordinating body for all of the different fibre industries internationally. And so, this hopefully will be achieved through the creation of this Natural Fibres Committee.

That was a very brief rundown of where we are to date. The full details are in the document, so I will be happy to answer any questions.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document C 2009/INF/18 called "Progress Report on the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009", which clearly sets out where we are coming from and where we are heading to.

The European Community welcomes the progress that has been made on the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, and congratulates FAO on the significant activities that have been made so far and that have generated increasing interest in this type of product. We fully recognize that production, processing and export of natural fibres such as jute, sisal, but also cotton, are vital to the economies of many developing countries and to the livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers and low-wage workers across the world.

Today's situation brings the issue even more to the forefront as many of these countries and economies and livelihoods are under threat. The global economic crisis has reduced demand for natural fibres as processors, manufacturers and consumers suspend purchasing decisions or look to cheaper synthetic alternatives. We, therefore, believe that the challenge of the International Year of Natural fibres is raising the profile of natural fibres by strengthening demand and contributing to the improved welfare of fibre-producing farmers, is currently of vital importance. In addition, it is important that countries where natural fibres play a crucial role in eradicating poverty, ensure that these are included in their poverty-reduction strategies. The Community is fully supporting this through its Development Policy and also due attention to Aid for Trade provides significant opportunities in this context.

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

Just to thank the EC Representative for the comments and the support. I think that he touched on the key issue which is the link of this work with poverty reduction. Natural fibres are the source of livelihood for many poor small-holder farmers in the world, and I hope that at the end of this year or when our work is completed, we will come back to you with an evaluation of what kinds of results we achieved.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

Just to benefit from this pause, just to ask some questions in order to satisfy myself and excuse my ignorance about the subject. My question is related to this point. To what extent are synthetic fibres competing with natural fibres?

My second point is related to cotton because the delegate from the European Community mentioned cotton. Do you consider cotton as a natural fibre? In this case, I think this is the case, take a country like Egypt, we know that the varieties they have in Egypt with long fibres were competing on the quality side, not on the price side, with many other varieties all over the world but recently we heard that varieties from Pakistan and the United States of America were competing with Egypt.

Do I understand that this is true?

David HALLAM (Secretary, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I will try and answer those questions. I should qualify my remarks by saying that it is a while since I personally looked at natural fibres markets. Competition with synthetic fibres is a very important strategic issue for all the natural fibre industries and in a number of cases, like sisal and so on in many uses for twine, bags there was a point at which sisal was almost completely wiped out by the availability of polypropylene. The issue of competition with synthetic fibres is a very real one, and one of the themes of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 was the environmental aspect of natural fibres as supposed to synthetic ones. Of course, synthetic fibres are very much closely related to oil prices as well, so there is an issue there.

Cotton was one of the important fibres that was included in the Year and, as you rightly pointed out, there is competition between different qualities of cotton from different locations. The idea of the International Year of Natural Fibres, however, was to provide generic promotion of all cotton and all of the natural fibres, too.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other questions? Mr Hallam.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

12. Outcome of the High Level Expert Forum on “How to Feed the World in 2050”

(C 2009/INF/16)

12. Résultat du Forum d’experts de haut niveau « Nourrir le monde en 2050 »

(C 2009/INF/16)

12. Resultado de la Conferencia de Alto Nivel “Alimentar al Mundo en 2050”

(C 2009/INF/16)

Keith WIEBE (FAO Staff)

I would just like to briefly summarize the outcome of the High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050, which took place here in Rome on 12 and 13 October.

One question we are asked “Why look to 2050 when we are in the midst of a current crisis caused by high food prices in 2007-2008 as well as the current economic crisis and indeed we have seen the number of hungry people in the world increase to one billion in the past couple of years?”

The answer is that even before the recent crisis, more than 800 million people were hungry. If our response at present is only to address the crisis then we will be left with 800 million people hungry even after the crisis passes. So it is important to take a longer-term view.

We also know that the challenges will increase in the future as a result of factors like climate change, new demands on agriculture, new pressures on natural resources and so forth. Therefore, in responding to both the current crisis and those longer-term challenges, it is important to underlying factors.

The High-Level Expert Forum was a new format that we tried here at FAO. It involved 382 technical experts from around the world. They were nominated by Permanent Representatives, by the Secretariat. Some of them also wrote directly to indicate their interest in participating and we invited them to participate as well. They came from a variety of backgrounds, from governments, from academic institutions, civil societies, farmer institutions, as well as from the private sector and very importantly they came not as members of official delegations, but in their personal capacity as experts.

In addition, participants from around 50 Permanent Representations also attended, as well as 45 representatives of the media. Fifteen of those media representatives, as well as 100 of the other participants, had their travel costs sponsored so that they could participate, since they were coming from developing countries.

The Forum was organized around seven thematic sessions, drawing on background papers that had been prepared in a smaller technical meeting earlier in the year. The format consisted of a series of moderated discussions, including panelists, half of whom came from developing countries, as well as discussion by participants from the floor. I would like to note as well that we had contributions from all of the Rome-based Agencies, in particular to acknowledge the financial support of IFAD whose funding helped us sponsor the participation of many of the participants from developing countries.

The seven themes examined were: the outlook for food and agriculture to 2050, taking account of factors like population growth as well as urbanization and growth in income; available resources and new demands focusing in particular on the challenges of climate change and bio-energy but also land, water and genetic resources, more generally; challenges of technology, both those that are already available on the shelf but perhaps not reaching all farmers as well as new technologies that will become important in the future; investment needs, sources and instruments from developing countries as well as internationally and from the private and public sectors; challenges of policy, a special session on the challenges and opportunities facing Africa and final session towards eliminating hunger.

I will try very briefly to summarize some of the findings of the Forum, noting that these are not official recommendations or decisions of the Forum because it was designed as a Forum for discussion, there was not a formal declaration and no formal document that was voted in conclusion. Rather this is a summary of some of the key issues that seemed to gather the broadest support during the two days of discussion.

First of all, there was general agreement that the world could produce enough food to feed itself by 2050 on the important condition that appropriate policies and investments were put in place. Producing enough food would be important and necessary, but by itself it would not eliminate hunger because access to food must also be increased. We see that even today after record cereal harvests in 2008 and harvests that will decline only slightly in 2009, we still have one billion people who are hungry today.

Improving the performance of agriculture was necessary, not only to increase the production of food but because agriculture was an important engine of economic growth, and it was also a source of improved access to food.

So what did the Forum find in terms of investment? Most investment in developing country agriculture came from developing countries themselves and it came from the private sector. Increased public investment and appropriate policies were crucial for attracting private investment and for supporting essential public services. Those public services included: development of infrastructure, research and development as well as extension, and also safety nets for the most vulnerable.

A very important point that was made and widely agreed at the Forum was that it is not only the quantity and amount of investment that was important, but the quality of that investment.

A key factor that would characterize agriculture in the coming decades was increased volatility, both as a result of production conditions associated with climate change and extreme events but also increased market volatility and as a result, policies and measures to improve household resilience and to support risk management would become increasingly important in the future.

A sound regulatory framework was essential to support the necessary investment, both to attract the right types of investment and to protect the interests of farmers who were affected by that investment.

There was general agreement that development plans needed to be country-owned and country-led, but that strategic coordination with development partners needed to be enhanced.

Political will was essential both at national and international levels to address challenges that transcended traditional decision-making horizons.

One final concluding slide on outcomes beyond the substantive discussion itself. The Forum was important as a Forum for diverse and substantive discussion per variety of different view points. It served as an opportunity for knowledge-sharing in context among its many participants, both those that travelled from outside FAO as well as those participants from FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies who were able to take advantage of the opportunity to hear these wide-ranging viewpoints.

It promoted visibility of the long-term challenges and opportunities facing agriculture through the media participation and coverage. There were over 2000 stories around the time of the High-Level Expert Forum on the discussions here at that Event, both in major global media outlets as well as in media outlets throughout the world.

Finally, the Forum provided inputs to the World Summit on Food Security in the form of issue papers that served as background papers for the Summit, and a synthesis paper for the Summit Declaration itself which noted the call of the Expert Forum for increased investment, both in terms of quantity and improvement of quality.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Keith, for that succinct presentation. I would like to open the floor for interventions or statements from Member Nations.

Sweden, you have asked for the floor. Go ahead.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Community, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

The European Community appreciated the High-Level Expert Forum that was held at FAO on 12 and 13 October 2009. We would, therefore, like to express our gratitude to the Organization, its staff and to all others who were involved in making this meeting a success.

We recognize that the challenge of How to Feed the World in 2050 is immense and that solving it will require sound policies and actions in many fields. It was, therefore, good that the Expert Forum provided the possibility to discuss a range of issues relevant for food security in the years to come.

The European Community notes that the substantive outcomes of the High-Level Expert Forum have been fed into the policy papers and background documentation for the World Summit on Food Security that was concluded earlier this week. While we agree with the approach that has been taken in this regard, we would be interested to hear if there are any other ways in which the Secretariat plans to follow-up on the discussions that were held at the High-Level Expert Forum.

The European Community, for example, used the deliberations from the Expert Forum as an excellent background to the start-up to the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security.

The European Community and its Member States will continue to engage constructively with FAO and all of its Members, as well as with the wider multilateral system, to ensure that we succeed in feeding the world in 2050.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

I liked the presentation made by the gentleman who introduced the subject but he did not mention anything concerning prices. Do we consider that all these projections, all these scenarios are made on fixed prices for the future and which prices, which base period? Do not forget that since

1974 until the 2007-2008 biennium, we have had declining prices for agricultural products, and for food products, and this was an incentive for farmers to produce more. Now prices of agricultural commodities are starting to decline again, without coming back to the previous period.

Therefore, I think some analysis should be made by the Department of Mr Ghanem, especially by my colleague Kostas – by the way Kostas and Cortas, they go together. Some analysis should be made by his Division, the Commodities and Trade Division, on this subject.

I would like to have a response to this point.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Lebanon. I do not see any other flags raised. United States, sorry, go ahead.

John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Just briefly. The United States welcomes the Report of the High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050. The Forum and the preparatory process made a contribution to our understanding of the complex interaction of issues affecting long-term food security.

We commend the organizers and the participants in the Forum, and the preparatory experts' meeting for the high calibre of their analytical work.

The United States concurs with the Report's conclusion that agriculture is a critical driver of economic growth and hunger reduction. Our concerted efforts to address global food insecurity through the framework of the Rome principles adopted earlier this week at the World Summit on Food Security will help to ensure a world free of hunger in 2050.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, United States. Any other flags? There does not seem to be any at the moment. Can I give the floor to Mr Ghanem?

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

Thank you for the three comments and questions. The EU's point about follow-up work is extremely important because a great deal of effort went into this Forum and there is a huge amount of very rich material that we would like to follow-up on. I can give you two examples of follow-up. On the substantive side, the first one is on price volatility. One of the major conclusions of the Forum, one of the consensus points for all of those Experts, was that we are going into a period where there will be more volatility, especially more price volatility. And so, as a follow-up to that, we actually started the whole program of normative work on price volatility. We have already had one Workshop, and we will be following-up on this question, working in partnership particularly with IFPRI and with the World Bank.

The other important area has to do with small-holders and support to small-holders, and the Forum has come up with many ideas. As you know, under Strategic Objective G, you asked us to have a special focus on small-holders and rural development, and much of the work that came out of that Forum feeds directly into this, and it is helping us improve and enhance our work on small-holders.

We are also, after the Forum, now moving out of the substantive side and more into the structures and procedures in FAO. As a result of that Forum, we are asking ourselves the question of how to improve our long-term prospective work. What did we learn from this Forum regarding the way we operate, and how can we organize ourselves – better to do better long-term prospective works? These are just some examples of the follow-up that is coming out of the Forum, and I am sure there will be much more. Having said that, I also agree that the idea that the Representative from Sweden raised, somehow using the High-Level Panel of Experts and linking that process to this Expert Forum, is an excellent one and we will follow-up on it.

Now considering the question from Lebanon on prices. The discussions at the Forum had a lot to do with prices, especially on price policies. Keith focused on the investment side of the story, but there is also the policy side of the story and as I like to keep repeating, unless we get the policies right, unless we get the incentives to farmers right, investments alone will not solve the problem. We need the right incentives, and farming must be profitable for it to work. So the Forum had a lot to say, and I would be happy to point out to you some of the analytical papers regarding this issue.

As far as projections for future prices are concerned, we perform an annual exercise for medium-term projections jointly with OECD, through the Joint OECD-FAO Outlook which is done in the Trade and Commodities Division, and actually the projections are for the prices to rise but not as sharply as in the previous two years.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Ghanem. Would anybody else like to take the floor? Mr Stamoulis.

Kostas STAMOULIS (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

Lebanon asked specifically about the role of prices. Our projections, as you know, are based on population, income and changes in taste and demand for food, and then we try to go country by country and see how much of that can be produced. We are now going through a review of our global perspectives work to make sure that we take better account of what you mentioned – prices – but also other modules that will help us get a better grasp on how climate change or the demand for bio-fuels can affect all of this, and this is one of the areas that we are involved in.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Stamoulis. I hope that satisfies the questions of Lebanon. If there are no other comments and if there are no objections, then we can take note of the outcome of the High-Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050.

Thank you very much. I think we can move on to the next Agenda Item which is Item 13 Evaluation of the International Year of the Potato 2008. The main document here is C 2009/INF/19.

Is the presenter ready? May I invite Mr Shivaji Pandey, Director of the Plant Production, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department to introduce this item? Sorry, Mr Kueneman please go ahead.

13. Evaluation of the International Year of the Potato 2008 (C 2009/INF/19)

13. Évaluation de l'Année internationale de la pomme de terre 2008 (C 2009/INF/19)

13. Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Papa, 2008 (C 2009/INF/19)

Eric KUENEMAN (FAO Staff)

It is a pleasure for me to be with you today to present the Evaluation Report of the International Year of the Potato. Again, I would like to recall that the Resolution 4/2005 was adopted during the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference in 2005 right here, and that resolution led to the declaration at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2005, declaring 2008 the International Year of the Potato. This was in order to focus world attention on the importance of potato in providing food security and alleviating poverty. The Resolution was submitted by the Government of Peru and co-sponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Group of countries Golog, and they invited FAO to facilitate the International Year of the Potato in collaboration with governments, the International Potato Research Centre, CIP, based in Peru, and in collaboration with other UN Agencies, non-governmental organizations and private sector. CIP was FAO's principal external partner and acted in unison with FAO through this whole process.

Today this presentation will look back on what we have achieved, and look forward to the prospects of potato development beyond 2008.

The International Year of the Potato had two objectives. First, to raise global awareness of potato's key role in agriculture, the economy and world food security, and number two, to lay the foundations for national potato development programmes in developing countries. So let me begin by first reviewing the approach to the first objective, raising awareness.

To raise awareness of the potato we needed to capture people's attention so we needed a striking logo and we needed a good slogan and these are the ones that we chose. The logo was developed by an Italian graphic artist, Giancarlo de Pol, we are very proud of this logo, and the slogan was derived, that is "Hidden Treasures" was derived from discussions from the International Year of the Potato Steering Committee in a meeting held in March 2007. Both of these we think were good choices and helped us move forward in a way that enhanced recognition.

With our logo and our slogan in hand, we launched the information platform early in 2007, well in advance of the official launching which was in October 2007. One of our first priorities was to create the IYP website and since the IYP was the United Nations International Year, we published the Website in all six UN languages, in Russian, in French, in Spanish, in English, in Arabic and in Chinese. Of course, in the course of the past two years, the IYP Website has grown into one of the Internet's strongest sources of information on potato. It was the first Website to publish detailed statistics on world potato production and from those statistics we discovered some interesting information that had not been well known before. In this Website we were able to clearly illustrate that since 2005 the developing world has been producing more potatoes than the traditional producers of Europe and North America. Potato production in Asia, Africa and Latin America, has grown from less than 30 million tonnes in 1960 to more than 165 million tonnes in 2007; that is a four-fold increase in forty years, rather remarkable. Today, more than 40 percent of the world's potatoes are grown in China, the Russian Federation and in India.

We also produced, in time for the launching of the International Year in October, a video and this video was produced in all of the UN languages, and in addition in Dutch and in Italian.

We also produced several thousand copies of a brochure in six languages. It is a nice brochure and it was very well-received. In addition, we developed a series of fact sheets, again in all UN languages, dealing with potato and science, potato and water, potato and nutrition, potato and gender, all imaginable areas where potato enters into society. Those fact sheets are on the Website in all the UN languages and about 80,000 of these were downloaded during the International Year. So, having established the logo, built the Website, published brochures and other information materials, we were really ready for the launch in October 2007 at the UN in New York.

The launch was a crucial event and we were pleased to see that, during and afterward, the International Year of the Potato began to attract a lot of media attention, including a very favourable editorial from *The Economist*, and our confidence began to grow that this would be a success. The Government of Peru was very helpful during the launching of the International Year of the Potato in New York, they hosted several receptions and were very supportive in the process.

Another high point of the year came in March 2008 when FAO and CIP, the International Potato Research Centre in Peru, hosted in Cuzco, Peru, the Global Conference on Potato Science for The Poor, which was attended by more than 100 scientists from around the world. Through press releases and media contacts, we began to attract a lot of global news media at a time when potato was being rediscovered as an ideal crop for food security. This map shows some of the hundreds of IYP events that we heard about during the year. Here are a few examples of some of these, we will not go in to detail, but they are from all over the world, more than thirty countries, all sorts of activities and this helped create a great deal of awareness about the Year.

As a close to the year, FAO itself hosted, as some of you probably witnessed, a Potato Exhibition in our Atrium here in Rome consisting of eight separate displays which brought together a vast

store of knowledge about potato and its importance in a global food system. Many Rome children came to a guided tour of the Atrium, they learned a lot about potato, a lot about agriculture and a lot about food. We thought this was a very fitting activity.

Another important part of the information programme for IYP was a World Photographic Contest which attracted more than 2000 applications from more than ninety countries, and here you see the winning professional entry from a Peruvian photographer. We think it is very nice.

This is a brief overview of what we have done in awareness-raising but, of course, IYP had a very practical and long-term objective, and let me just highlight a few of these points quickly.

Our second objective, as I said, was to build on this new awareness to help lay a foundation for vigorous, national potato development programmes in developing countries, and, of course, this is a long-term challenge that has to be met step by step. One initiative was to review and deepen the knowledge on the nutritional benefits of potato and during 2008 we collaborated with the International Network of Food Data Systems to produce a special issue of the Journal of Food Composition Analysis dedicated to potato, providing an invaluable consolidation of information and technical data to those seeking greater insight into potato nutritional issues.

The International Year of the Potato has also encouraged, and in some cases provided funding for, scientific conferences around the world to address pressing issues on potato development and, for instance, the Global Potato Conference that was held in New Delhi, India, in December 2008 looked for ways of enhancing potato productivity, its quality and value addition at a time of diminishing availability of land, water and of biotic and abiotic stresses in a fast-changing world of consumer preference. We also provided seed funding for fifteen national committees in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which we believe provided the impetus for potato development in the world in the years ahead. I do not have time to go in to the details, but it is quite promising.

During the International Year, FAO launched three major studies aimed at policy decision-makers to support the best agriculture practices in the potato sub-sector. There was a case of Sub-Saharan Africa, there was a case of North Africa and the Middle East, there was a case of Latin America, and this work resulted in the release of guidelines for sustainable potato production in the developing countries. These guidelines present a compilation of potato management practices used in tropical and sub-tropical developing countries that have helped increase potato production and productivity in sustainable ways. The book provides indicators of sustainability and highlights potential areas for improvement of potato development. The second study was on strengthening potato value chains and support of growing market segments and types of potato products, particularly in the case of Asia. The study also shows that almost half of Africans are expected to live in urban areas by 2015 and the boom in production and the demand for potato in Africa, particularly from the highlands, looks like it will continue for quite some time to come. Learning to innovate, engage with markets and become more competitive are the main challenges facing small-scale potato producers in Africa and elsewhere.

The International Year of the Potato has been a truly memorable year and with very limited resources, we have raised awareness of potato and helped give a new impetus to potato development. This was possible thanks to funding of about USD one million provided in cash and in kind. This came from the Governments of Ireland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland and a number of private sector companies also helped a bit, as well as non-governmental organizations. Some of these included McCain Food Ltd, Nikon of Europe, Scott Simplot Cotton in the US, and the Holland potato seed manufacturing and marketing company from the US Potato Board.

In conclusion, the implementation of the International Year of the Potato confirmed that potato will continue to play an increasingly important role as a global food crop, and billions of people around the world will continue to depend on potato as a staple food and cash crop. We have a number of recommendations in the Report.

I wish to mention the broad participation of the staff at FAO and especially our colleagues in KCI who guided the information, the media and presentation materials. FAO's Regional Offices and FAO Representations also helped a great deal. The CIP, the International Potato Research Centre,

played a very important role and it was an invaluable partner. I would also like to take this opportunity to mention exceptional efforts of an individual in AGP who took this on. He worked day and night, seven days a week for more than two years to do this job in addition to his other work on root crops for you. This is Mr NeBambi Lutaladio who is sitting at the back of the room, thank you very much. Please help me show appreciation for the work of Mr Lutaladio. Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention and the contribution of FAO Member Nations to the success of the International Year of the Potato.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Manuel Antonio ÁLVAREZ ESPINAL (Perú)

Queríamos por su intermedio agradecer al Señor Eric Kueneman por su presentación y a él y a todo su equipo por la inmensa e importante labor realizada en el año 2008 en la celebración de actividades por el Año Internacional de la Papa, que impulsó el conocimiento de este producto de cultivo en la comunidad internacional.

Los objetivos fueron alcanzados, como lo había mencionado el Señor Kueneman, y podemos ver a partir de ahora, que con esta celebración se puede entender que significará un punto de inflexión en la promoción de los beneficios de la papa, tanto en su valor nutritivo como en su valiosa contribución de antes, de siempre, de ahora y en el futuro, para la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Queremos, al felicitar nuevamente al equipo del Señor Kueneman de la FAO por tan importante iniciativa, solicitarles que ahora que se ha concluido el Año Internacional de Promoción de la Papa, se mantenga el nuevo espíritu y el nuevo deseo por promover e impulsar tan importante cultivo que, como todos sabemos, en épocas de crisis, sobretodo alimentaria, estamos seguros que será un aliado importantísimo en la lucha mundial contra el hambre.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the document C 2009/INF/19 on the Evaluation of the International Year of Potato 2008, which provides a balanced picture of the event. In the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference in 2007, the European Union welcomed the United Nations' initiative to proclaim 2008 as the Year to focus on this significant crop due to the fundamental role that the potato has played in human nutrition for millennia in the Americas and for centuries in Europe. In recent decades, the potato has had a very important role in food security in poverty alleviation at the global level as the recognition of International Year points out. The European Union and its Member States agree with FAO and the United Nations that the International Year of Potato was an opportunity to exchange information and views about the use of potato and its role in sustainable development, namely in the poorest rural areas. It was also an opportunity for the private sector and for private stakeholders to make their contributions for the international community. The document rightly points out that in order to improve potato production in the future, we will need good quality planting material and potato varieties that are more resistant to pest diseases, water scarcity and climate change. The EU shares the belief stated on the International Year of the Potato official Website that, beyond 2008, the International Year of the Potato will serve as a catalyst for potato development programmes worldwide that can make a real contribution to the fight against hunger and poverty.

John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank Members of the FAO in this successful joint effort which sought creative ways to emphasize the important role that potato has in reducing poverty, hunger and creating new opportunities. We have been strong supporters of efforts to help increase food security and alleviate the growing problem of world hunger. The vital role that inexpensive,

widely available and nutritious crops, specifically the potato, play in combating world hunger and poverty are best promoted through programmes like this in which educational and creative events hosted by the FAO have highlighted the importance of this crop. With efforts like this, world populations' susceptibility to poverty, natural disasters, and malnutrition can be significantly reduced.

We in the US have been engaged in research aimed at efficiently utilizing the usefulness of the potato. Because the potato is rich in nutrients like vitamins, fibre and potassium, it plays an important role in food consumption. This is complemented by the versatile nature of the potato. Because of its capability to grow in almost any climate, it is a good crop for rural regions where economies are often entirely dependent on agriculture. We would like to once again applaud the steps in creative efforts taken by the FAO.

Adel CORTAS (Lebanon)

While we are discussing potatoes, there is one aspect I would like to discuss with the Deputy Director, AGP, related to the potato seeds industry. As you know, there is some monopoly in the potato seed industry by Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Spain and France to some extent. While, in the developing countries, we are already in the Twenty-first Century, and I take the example of the Arab countries, for the 24 Arab countries there is no one single Arab country that is able to produce certified potato seeds. Therefore, can we raise this question here at the FAO, especially at AGP? You have the seed service. Can you help the developing countries, and specifically the Arab countries, in building up the certified seed industry for potatoes?

Francisco COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Agradezco a la Secretaría por la presentación sintética y muy completa sobre lo que significó el Año Internacional de la Papa.

Como se mencionó en la Resolución de la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas y también en la Conferencia, esta manifestación fue apoyada por nuestro Grupo Regional y en particular nuestro país fue uno de los que más patrocinaron este evento.

El cultivo de la papa representa una parte muy sustancial de nuestro sector agrícola, al agradecer la presentación y respaldar completamente la declaración que previamente ha hecho nuestro colega del Perú, así como las otras intervenciones que se han hecho enfatizando el papel de la papa en la estrategia de superación de la pobreza y en la lucha para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria.

Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

L'exposé que nous avons eu effectivement était un exposé assez édifiant sur la production de pommes de terre. En 2008, nous avons vu effectivement, que depuis quelques années, il y a eu une baisse de la production globale dans les pays développés et une augmentation de celles-ci dans les pays en voie de développement, suivant la courbe qui a été projetée tout à l'heure.

La question que je voudrais vous poser est la suivante: en 2008, y-a-t'il eu une augmentation de la production de la pomme de terre dans le monde par rapport à 2007, vu que l'année 2008 était l'année de la pomme de terre. Cela a-t-il, en quelque sorte, stimulé la production de pommes de terre? On l'a dit, la pomme de terre intervient beaucoup dans les équilibres alimentaires. Il serait intéressant de voir si cela a servi à relancer cette production.

Par ailleurs, une forte recommandation, est que la FAO nous vienne en aide, à travers un programme de soutien de semences améliorées de la pomme de terre dans le but d'accroître la production et de réduire les importations. En Mauritanie, par exemple, tout comme dans les sous régions, nous importons beaucoup de pommes de terre. Cela coûte en devises et cela serait beaucoup plus simple si on produisait la pomme de terre localement, car, comme on la dit auparavant, les conditions de production de la pomme de terre sont favorables de partout dans le monde.

D'une part, les producteurs des pays en voie de développement pourront-ils bénéficier de semences améliorées de pomme de terre. D'autre part, pourrait-on assurer cette production durant toute l'année étant entendu que, nous avons des périodes très favorables à la production de la pomme de terre, notamment pendant la période où il ne fait pas très chaud, nous sommes l'un des pays où il fait parfois très chaud. Est-ce qu'il y a des variétés qui peuvent s'adapter plus facilement à ces conditions climatiques afin que l'on puisse assurer une production durant toute l'année de pomme de terre pour entrer dans notre équilibre alimentaire.

María Isabel NÖLCK (Guatemala)

Solamente para agradecer el trabajo sobre el Año Internacional de la Papa. Creo que es una iniciativa muy buena. Lo vimos ahora en la presentación y considero que esta es una idea genial para dar a conocer los cultivos, específicamente para difundir su importancia y sobre todo para la seguridad alimentaria.

Tal vez sería una idea para seguir, un modelo para otros cultivos, por ejemplo el maíz en nuestra región o el café o todo lo que es importante para la seguridad alimentaria.

Considero que esta página Web puede ser muy positiva y hasta otra ideas por ejemplo como hacen en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos que tienen en las páginas Web una recaudación de fondos para lo que son los alimentos. La tecnología hoy en día ayuda mucho para difundir la información y crear sinergias, entonces agradezco mucho esta presentación.

Dmitry MIRONCHIK (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

As a representative of a country that produces the greatest amount of potatoes per capita in the world, I am glad to express the very great appreciation for this International Year of the Potato. Our country aspired to be actively involved in this Year, and held two events devoted to the International Year of the Potato. I would also like to express gratitude to the creators of the Website devoted to the International Year of the Potato, for the rich information contained therein, for its objectivity and its user-friendliness. Indeed, it is a good source of information, and I am sure that it will stay very useful and helpful, so I would like to thank you once again.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Belarus. Any other countries who would like to take the floor? There seems to be none. Can I give the floor to Mr Kueneman?

Eric KUENEMAN (FAO Staff)

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who expressed your gratitude and commented positively on the work that was done for the International Year of the Potato. We appreciate that very much. We worked very hard to make this a success, and we were pleased that it was appreciated and useful.

We had a few comments that I might be able to respond to you that were a bit on the technical side. One was about seed potato and the opportunity and the need for seed potato to be produced in developing countries to reduce the amount of potato seed importation that has to be done year after year to have disease-free seed. This is certainly a major issue that has been around for a long time. It is difficult to produce disease-free seed in environments where the diseases have a head start so to speak, but it is not impossible. Approaches have been developed in recent years, and it looks that, with well-managed seed systems, we can produce a quality seed in many developing country environments. Certainly the International Potato Research Centre is investing a lot in this particular area, as are other research and development institutions globally. Also it is important to know that the potato genome has been sequenced in the Netherlands with participation from many research and development institutions, and this will also lead to new developments and perhaps, in the not-too-distant future, for improved disease resistance in potato and this will also help, in the long-run, developing countries to be able to produce their own seed potatoes.

There was also another question, if I can find it. If I did not answer your question, then please see me afterwards. I do not recall at the moment, and I thought there was one more question.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Eric, for the clarifications. I hope everybody is satisfied. If there are no other comments and if there are no objections we can go ahead to take note of the evaluation of the International Year of the Potato 2008. With that we can go ahead, hopefully, to the last Agenda Item of our Session, and this is Item 30.8, which is the Report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The main presenter here will be Mr Mueller, the Assistant-Director General for Natural Resources Management. Mr Mueller go ahead.

OTHER MATTERS QUESTIONS DIVERSES OTROS ASUNTOS

30. Any Other Matters

30. Autres questions

30. Otros asuntos

30.8 Report of the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 19-23 October 2009) (C 2009/24)

30.8 Rapport de la douzième session de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 19-23 octobre 2009) (C 2009/24)

30.8 Informe de la 12.ª reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 19-23 de octubre de 2009) (C 2009/24)

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held its Twelfth Regular Session from 19 to 23 October here in Rome. The Session was attended by delegates from more than a 100 FAO Member Nations, and let me say it very clearly from the beginning, it was very constructive and extremely fruitful.

The Commission did not only adopt a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, but also endorsed the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and requested FAO to publish it. It agreed in the Resolution 1/2009 policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture and requested the Director-General to bring this Resolution to the attention of the 36th Session of the Conference and of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It also adopted the Strategic Plan 2010-17 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and it approved the Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources. It further established an inter-governmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources, and it adopted its own rules of procedure. It considered also its current status within the constitutional framework of FAO and requested its Secretary to prepare analysis of advantages and disadvantages of a change of the Commission's status to a Technical Committee.

I should like to focus in this Report on three items. First, the Resolution on Access and Benefits-Sharing; second, the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and two sentences on the Commission's consultations regarding its status within the Constitution of FAO.

Let me start with access and benefit sharing. This resolution goes back to the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in September 2002 where the Plan of Implementation was adopted which called for action to negotiate within the framework of the CBD an

international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. This was adopted in 2002.

Since then, numerous efforts have been made under the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish such an international regime for which the Conference of the Parties of CBD have set a deadline and this deadline is October 2010. Depending on its scope, and this is still unclear, this international regime may have major implications for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Commission in 2007 had agreed on the importance of considering access and benefits-sharing and has decided that work in this field should be an early task within the Multi-Year Programme of Work and accordingly the Commission had decided to consider arrangements and policies for access and benefits-sharing for this Twelfth Session.

The Commission, at this Session, finally considered an indepth analysis on the use and exchange patterns for different types of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as current national policies and arrangements for access and benefits-sharing.

Let me highlight that it was a real milestone in the work of the Commission for Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture that the Commission agreed on a Resolution which emphasises the special features and needs of the food and agriculture sector, and points out a number of considerations important for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

This Resolution is not just remarkable because the Commission, notwithstanding heated debates and complex negotiations in other fora, reached consensus on a number of important considerations but also this Resolution is part of an important response to the IEE, the Independent External Evaluation, where, in Recommendation 4.5, FAO was invited to review international instruments being drafted elsewhere in order to influence the decision-making fora of those Agencies. So you can see, all your negotiations linking the Independent External Evaluation with the ongoing work of FAO really has found a major output in this Resolution and the Conference here may wish to adopt a Resolution which is contained in Appendix P of document C 2009/24 and, if you want to do so, this Resolution has to be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.

My second item, Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work, was also adopted and is seen as a planning framework to assist Members of the Commission, the Bureau, the Secretariat, FAO as a whole and other organizations to plan their contribution to the implementation of the MYPO. This is, as I said, a seven-year framework. It was adopted in June 2007, and a more detailed plan was necessary to set out the processes needed to achieve the different outputs and milestones.

The Conference, at its 2007 Session, endorsed the Multi-Year Programme of Work and the Conference of FAO, through Resolution 12/2007, it might wish to do the same with the Strategic Plan which will be reviewed together with the MYPO at the Commission's Thirteenth and Fifteenth Sessions.

Two sentences on Item 3, Status of the Commission. The Commission also considered its own status within the Constitution of FAO. The Commission stressed the important role within the institutional structure of FAO and noted that with 171 Member Nations, the Commission for Genetic Resources was the body with the second highest number of Member Nations after the FAO Conference, and it had played a crucial role in the development of international policies for genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission emphasised the need for raising its profile and requested the Secretary to prepare an analysis of potential constraints of the Commission's current status and to analyse and assess advantages and disadvantages of a possible change of the Commission's status. Within the next years, the Commission requested the Secretariat to explore creative and innovative mechanisms, approaches and tools to raise the profile of the Commission, in addition to reviewing its status within the Constitution of FAO. We

may expect that the Commission of Genetic Resources will revisit this issue at its next meeting, which is likely to take place in 2011.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for a very comprehensive Report. May I now open the floor for the comments. Alright, I have Canada and then Cuba, Sweden, U.S. I am sorry about that, I think there is some interpretation problems.

Adair EUCHAN (Canada)

Thank you, Mr Müller, for an excellent Report, and I apologise for repeating a little bit of what was said yesterday in a different context but we think it is important. Canada would like to commend FAO and its Commission on their efforts relating to access and benefits-sharing as it relates to genetic resources for food and agriculture. In particular, the Resolution 1/2009 adopted by the Twelfth Commission highlights the unique and special nature of agricultural bio-diversity. In particular, genetic resources for food and agriculture, their distinctive features and problems needing distinctive solutions such as differential treatments of different sectors or sub-sectors.

Global food security is a critical issue and genetic resources provide an important resource for the future in addressing this challenge, including adaptation to climate change.

Further to Resolution 1/2009, Canada supports the call for the FAO Conference to invite the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to work closely with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, regarding access and benefits-sharing in the areas of genetic resources for food and agriculture in a mutually-supportive manner.

Furthermore, Canada suggests that this important Resolution should be adopted by Conference and forwarded to the attention of the Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to bring these critical issues to the attention of the Convention with an aim to explore and assess options for the international regime on access and benefits-sharing that allow for adequate flexibility to acknowledge and accommodate existing and future agreements and arrangements relating to access and benefits-sharing developed in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Loipa SÁNCHEZ LORENZO (Cuba)

Mi delegación agradece la presentación realizada por el Sr. Müller y las informaciones útiles que aparecen en este Informe. También quisiéramos apoyar la adopción de la Resolución 1/2009 adoptada por la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos titulada Políticas y Mecanismos para el Acceso de la Instrucción de Beneficios en Relación con los Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura que aparecen en el Apéndice B del Informe y en especial, apoya la solicitud del Artículo G de esta Resolución, donde se pide al Director General que señale estas recomendaciones a la atención de la Conferencia y del Secretario del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica.

Petter NILSSON (Sweden)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank you for the comprehensive Report and the European Union highly appreciates the excellent results from the Twelfth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Based on good collaboration between the regions as well as on very good preparatory work by the CGRFA Secretariat, the access to and benefits-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture is a very important matter related to food security and climate change.

The European Community welcomes Resolution 1/2009 from the CGRFA on this subject, and we also want it to be forwarded to the Resolutions Committee and to the Conference. The EC urges

the Director-General to bring the Resolution to the attention of the Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the CBD and believes that doing so without delay will be of assistance to the further process on access and benefits-sharing under the CBD.

The detailed Multi-Year Programme of Work, the MYPO and the Strategic Plan for its implementation adopted by the CGRFA at its Twelfth Session are a major achievement. The EC notes with particular satisfaction that the Commission decided to establish a new Sub-chapter on Climate Change in its MYPO. The EC shares the view, forwarded by the CGRFA, that priority should be accorded to the implementation of the MYPO within the Regular Programme of the FAO and expresses its concern with regard to the high dependency of the extra-budgetary funds to implement the MYPO.

The EC welcomes the second report on the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources as a high quality document. The EC underlines the importance to speedily develop a Report to make use of its full potential and to convey its messages to decision-makers and others. Reiterating the Report from CGRFA, the EC recommends the Director-General to review the role of the Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources. In the view of the EU, the Panel should be discontinued to avoid duplication of efforts assuming that the Inter-Governmental Working Group of Forest Genetic Resources is provided with a similar mandate.

Finally, the EC is convinced that the Commission's role as a cross-sectoral policy development body will further evolve, especially in relation to the global issues of food security and climate change. With this in mind, we consider it important that the Commission should maintain high status in the future, and look forward to the Secretariat's forthcoming analysis of the Commission's status to be made available at the earliest possible time to the relevant FAO Bodies for consideration at the next respective decision-taking meetings.

Harriet SPANOS (United States of America)

Like others, we thank Mr Müller for a very useful Report. May I say we appreciate the opportunity to review the Report of this very important Commission on Genetic Resources.

Let me just join others in saying the United States very much supports adoption by this Conference of the Resolution on Access and Benefits-Sharing, drafted and adopted by the Commission on Genetic Resources at its Twelfth Regular Session last month. This Resolution affirmed the role of the Commission with respect to conveying to the Conference and to the Convention on Biological Diversity the need for special consideration for food and agriculture genetic resources.

Let me just say for those who were not there that this Resolution was the product of many hours of intensive work by the Commission and as a consensus document represents the informed position of all Commission Members. As such, we believe this Resolution merits adoption by the Conference. It specifically requests the Director-General to bring it to the attention of both the Conference and Secretary of the CBD. Adoption by the Conference will send a clear message that this Body values both the work of the Commission and also the role it must play in promoting the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of food and agriculture genetic resources.

Let me also add that we look very much forward to a review of the status of the Commission within the FAO. We believe the work is quite important, and we look forward to the comments of the Legal Office and other Members about its future status.

François PYTHOUD (Suisse)

Tout d'abord, la Suisse remercie M. Müller pour le Rapport sur les résultats de la dernière session de la Commission sur les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Nous saluons, en particulier, la finalisation du deuxième Rapport global sur l'état des ressources phytogénétiques et demandons à la FAO de le publier dans les plus brefs délais.

Nous soutenons également la Résolution 1/2009 sur les politiques et arrangements pour l'accès et le partage des bénéfices des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Cette

Résolution arrive à un moment critique de la négociation en cours sur l'élaboration d'un Régime international par la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Comme les délégations qui nous ont précédées, nous demandons, dès lors, que cette Résolution soit adoptée par la Conférence comme une Résolution de la Conférence puisque qu'elle remplit deux critères importants, d'une part, cette Résolution adresse une question de première importance pour les programmes en cours au sein de la FAO. Je crois que M. Müller dans sa présentation des travaux de la Commission l'a confirmé. D'autre part, elle adresse également une question politique de première actualité, une négociation en cours sur le Régime assurance vieillesse et survivante (AVS) étant à l'heure actuelle la priorité dans le cadre de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

Ensuite, en faisant de cette Résolution de la Commission, une Résolution de la Conférence de la FAO, elle envoie un message fort à la dixième Conférence des parties de la Convention sur la diversité biologique qui aura lieu en octobre 2010 à Nagoya au Japon, et qui aura la responsabilité de finaliser les négociations sur le Régime international.

Dès lors, comme les délégations précédentes l'ont confirmé, il est important que la FAO, pour qui les ressources génétiques sont une priorité, envoie un message fort à la Conférence des parties de la Convention sur la diversité biologique.

Pour conclure, M. le Président, nous souhaiterions également que le Rapport de la Commission sur les ressources génétiques devienne un élément régulier de l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence de la FAO, étant donné que la Convention, comme je l'ai déjà mentionné, adresse un domaine extrêmement important pour notre Organisation.

Javad S. TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Let me join the others to thank very much, Mr Müller, for the excellent presentation regarding the Report which he made.

Considering the excellent and good progress in the meeting which we had last month here in this room regarding genetic resources, and due to the importance of genetic resources as the basic material for food security, again taking into account the climate change which we face at the moment, we need different varieties and genetic resources to be able to combat this climate change and to be able to meet the requirements of the needy people for the future and present time. I would like to refer to paragraph 81 of the Report. With your permission, I would like to quote this concern raised by the Commission: "The Commission stressed that priority should be accorded to the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work within the Regular Programme of the FAO. Some Members of the Commission expressed concern about the high dependency on the extra-budgetary funds to implement the Multi-Year Programme of Work and to support the work of its Secretariat. The Commission emphasised the need to provide clear guidance in the future to the Governing Bodies of the FAO on the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work so that this can be sufficiently reflected in the Programme of the Work and Budget of FAO" end of quote. My delegation would like to fully support the Resolution 1/2009 in Appendix B.

Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Mi delegación agradece al Señor Alexander Müller la presentación del presente Informe, y respalda las declaraciones que me han precedido, que resaltan la importancia de los recursos genéticos. Todo se ha aceptado.

Asimismo respaldamos se adopte la Resolución 1/2009 sobre las Políticas y Mecanismos para el Acceso y la Distribución de Beneficios en Relación con los Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

Asimismo solicitamos que la Secretaría revise el posible cambio del Régimen jurídico de la actual Comisión, debido a su importancia.

Renato GODINHO (Brésil)

Je voudrais faire écho aux orateurs précédents et remercier M. Müller pour son Rapport qui nous a été fort utile.

Premièrement, je voudrais parler du procès de révision du Plan d'action mondial qui est, selon nous, très utile comme élément d'appui au Traité des ressources phytogénétiques.

Deuxièmement, concernant les ressources génétiques forestières, nous sommes très satisfaits de la création d'un Groupe de travail qui est, en effet, un thème très important pour un pays fort diversifié.

Ensuite, je voudrais parler du contact entre la Commission de la FAO et le CDB. Il est très important que la FAO n'interfère pas négativement dans les travaux de la CDB, que le contact avec la CDB soit constructif et technique. C'est la position du Brésil.

Enfin, nous appuyons la Résolution que nous avons conclu au sein de la Commission qui a été un thème de discussion très fort entre les Pays Membres. Nous avons su trouver un consensus et les mots pour cette Résolution que nous appuyons.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Brazil. I do not see any other speakers in my list. Colombia, you have the floor.

Francisco COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Muy brevemente, solamente para apoyar las declaraciones que han precedido especialmente Guatemala y Brasil, en el sentido de apoyar la Resolución 1/2009 de la Comisión e igualmente lo mencionado por la declaración de Guatemala sobre la revisión del régimen jurídico de la Comisión.

Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

I would like to thank all delegations for the support and also for the intensive work because as some of you had mentioned, the Commission meeting was not only very successful, it was a real, very intensive work. We had a Special Seminar before the Commission, where all of you contributed to the success. So I would like to thank you for all of your contribution which made all the success for the Commission possible. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Müller, if there are no other questions and if there are no objections I would take this to mean that we can adopt the Report of the 12th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This Commission likewise supports the adoption by the Conference on the Resolution on Access and Benefits-Sharing. The Commission likewise agrees with Strategic Plan.

The meeting rose at 18.32 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.32 horas

