

December 2010



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

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

Продовольствен
ная и
сельскохозяйств
енная
организация
Объединенных

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fortieth Session • Cent-quarantième session
• 140° período de sesiones**

**Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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(1 December 2010)

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(3 December 2010)

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F

FAO's role in GFAR and CGIAR reforms

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Innovative financing mechanisms for agriculture and food security

H

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies: FAO, WFP and IFAD

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
29 November 2010

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.47 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.47
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. Procedure of the Session

I. Questions de procédures

I. Cuestiones de procedimiento

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 140/1; CL 140/INF/1-Rev.2; CL 140/INF/5)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 140/1; CL 140/INF/1-Rev.2; CL 140/INF/5)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 140/1; CL 140/INF/1-Rev.2; CL 140/INF/5)

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

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

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

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare donc ouverte la 140ème session du Conseil de la FAO et vous souhaite la bienvenue aux membres du Conseil bien sûr et aussi à tous les observateurs de cette Session. Avant de commencer nos travaux, je donne la parole au Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil pour une brève annonce réglementaire. Monsieur Mékouar, vous avez la parole.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président. L'Union européenne participe à cette session conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. La déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres figure dans le document d'informations CL 140 /INF/5. Ce document est porté à l'attention des Membres du Conseil qui sont priés de noter une rectification à apporter au Point 7.2 qui concerne le rapport de la 22ème session du Comité de l'agriculture. Il s'agit d'une compétence mixte et d'un vote des États Membres et non pas de l'Union européenne. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Pas de commentaires? Merci. Toujours avec vous Monsieur Mekouar et avant de poursuivre, je voudrais vous demander à nouveau de reprendre la parole brièvement pour nous faire un compte rendu, comme prévu, sur la documentation des Groupes de travail à composition non limitée, sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs y compris leur représentation. Il est convenu de faire une représentation rapide en début de séance et l'état de la présentation des dossiers. Vous avez la parole.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président, la liste des documents de cette session du Conseil comprend 21 documents principaux. Sept rapports de réunions ont été achevés après ou juste avant le 4 octobre qui est la date prévue pour la soumission des documents à la traduction. Sur les 14 documents qui étaient disponibles à temps, dix ont été publiés avant le 2 novembre qui est la date prévue pour la publication des documents sur Internet. Trois documents ont été publiés en retard, deux ont été publiés une semaine après la date limite et un a été publié la semaine dernière. En termes de pourcentage, 71 percent des documents étaient disponible en ligne dans les délais et 93 percent l'ont été une semaine après la date prévue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Monsieur Mekouar, des commentaires? Pas de commentaires? Moi j'en ferai simplement un. Merci de l'amélioration de la situation. Mais comme dit le Professeur: «peut toujours mieux faire». Merci au Secrétariat pour le travail réalisé avec les traductions. C'est quand même très long mais comme il y a encore une petite marge de progression, j'espère qu'au prochain Conseil nous ferons

encore mieux. Donc, merci à tous et merci à vos collaborateurs et à tous les collaborateurs de cette maison.

Bien, nous attaquons tout de suite notre déroulement par le Point 1: l'Adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du Calendrier. Le point concerne l'adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du Calendrier de la session présenté respectivement dans le document CL 140/1 et CL 140/INF/1-Rev2. L'Ordre du jour provisoire a été communiqué aux Membres du Conseil en même temps que l'invitation, le 28 septembre. Je vous propose d'éliminer le Sous-point 9.1. « Invitations à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des États Non Membres » et le Sous point 9.2 « Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation » vu qu'aucune invitation n'a été adressée à des États Non Membres, ni aucune demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation n'a été reçue. Le Conseil a-t-il des commentaires sur l'Ordre du jour provisoire? Pas de commentaires. L'Ordre du jour est adopté. Quant au Calendrier de la session, un projet vous est proposé dans le document CL 140/INF/1-Rev.2. Ya t-il des observations à ce sujet ? Pas de commentaires. Le Calendrier est adopté.

Puisque l'Ordre du jour de cette session est relativement chargé mais aussi fort en échanges, j'invite le Conseil à gérer notre temps de la façon la plus efficace possible afin de terminer nos travaux dans les délais prévus. Avant de continuer les travaux et que je reprenne la parole, nous allons regarder une brève présentation vidéo sur les mesures de sécurité en cas d'incendie.

Video Presentation on Security

Présentation du video sur la sécurité

Presentacio de video sobre la seguridad

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, nous allons tout de suite passer à l'Élection des trois Vice-Présidents et la Nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Le Point 2 de l'Ordre du jour porte sur l'Élection des trois Vice-Présidents et la Nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction.

Comme de coutume, après les consultations entre les Groupes régionaux, les trois Vice-Présidents proposés sont: i) Son Excellence M. Li Zhengdong (Chine); ii) Son Excellence M. Pietro Sebastiani (Italie); iii) Monsieur Daniel Garín, Vice-Ministre de l'élevage, de l'agriculture et de la pêche (Uruguay).

Y a-t-il des remarques, des objections? S'il n'y a pas d'objections, vous êtes tous les trois Vice-Présidents pour la durée de ce Conseil. Merci. Je félicite les trois Vice-Présidents.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, les Groupes régionaux ont proposé l'Australie comme Président et pour l'instant nous avons les pays suivants comme membres: l'Afghanistan, l'Australie, la Belgique, le Brésil, la Fédération de Russie, le Canada, le Ghana, le Japon, le Maroc, le Royaume-Uni, la Turquie et les Philippines.

Ce qui nous fait 12 Membres, y compris le Président. Voilà, pour ce qui concerne le Comité, il peut y avoir d'autres membres. Il y a d'autres candidats? Ce n'est pas le cas, pas d'objections? Le Président et les membres sont acquis. D'ailleurs, comme on l'a fait pour les Vice-Présidents, comme ils auront du travail à faire, il faut les encourager, et vous propose de les applaudir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je vous rappelle aussi les Méthodes de travail du Conseil résultant du PAI, qui préconisent efficacité et concision et invite les Membres, comme je l'ai dit dans ma lettre du 3 novembre, à faire des interventions aussi succinctes et ciblées que possible. Les déclarations de groupe de pays, lorsque c'est possible, pourraient permettre d'éviter des répétitions, et je pense que quand un pays veut appuyer un

autre pays il n'a pas besoin de recommencer tout le discours. Même si je peux comprendre que son vœux de le formulaer est tout à fait normal.

Pour ma part, je tirerai les conclusions des débats sur chaque thème afin de faciliter la rédaction du Rapport de la session.

Selon l'Action 2.22 du PAI, le rapport du Conseil consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations. Nous devons donc nous concentrer sur ces éléments, qui devront être reflétés le plus clairement possible dans le projet de rapport, en évitant de répéter les débats, qui figureront dans les procès-verbaux de la session.

J'en appelle aussi au Secrétariat pour que les Rapports soient concis et portent essentiellement sur les conclusions et décisions du Conseil. Cela facilitera la tâche du Comité de rédaction, qui pourrait ainsi achever ses travaux plus rapidement.

En outre, je vous saurais gré de remettre à l'avance vos interventions au Secrétariat, de préférence à l'adresse courriel indiquée dans l'Ordre du jour, afin que les interprètes puissent les rendre au mieux dans les autres langues.

Je vous rappelle aussi que vous pouvez remettre une version intégrale pour inclusion dans les procès-verbaux et présenter oralement une version plus condensée, dans ce cas, une annonce sera faite par la Présidence, dans la mesure où elle est informée.

Je voudrais dire aussi quelques points sur notre Conseil, celui d'aujourd'hui, puisqu'il est important de réussir ce Conseil et la séquence surtout qui démarre jusqu'à la Conférence, c'est-à-dire les six mois qui viennent.

Permettez-moi d'attirer votre attention sur la tâche qui nous revient cette semaine pour réussir cette Session, ce doit être une étape fructueuse sur le chemin qui nous mène à la Conférence du mois de juin. La séquence qui est devant nous est encore longue et comprend d'autres étapes importantes. Bien réussir ce Conseil constituerait un gage de bien réussir à la Conférence, et je pense qu'il est bon de l'avoir à l'esprit.

Je souhaite également souligner que c'est la première fois que les Conférences régionales vont nous faire part du Rapport au Conseil pour les questions relatives au Programme et au budget, c'est un des indicateurs de la mise en œuvre effective du processus de réforme, un témoignage que la réforme est bien en marche et que personnellement j'ai vécu déjà dans les quatre premières Conférences régionales. Enfin, le Conseil lui aussi bénéficie de la réforme, j'ai pris en considération vos observations de la Session précédente et en accord avec le Plan d'action immédiate (PAI). Plusieurs dispositions ont été mises en place pour améliorer son efficacité comme la présentation et la disponibilité des documents, la conduite des débats et la rédaction du Rapport. C'est un processus évolutif et vos nouvelles remarques seront les bienvenues. J'espère que nous aurons quelque temps à la fin de ce Conseil vendredi, pour prendre de façon peut-être informelle, les critiques positives ou négatives sur le fonctionnement de ce Conseil. Si nous n'avons pas le temps de le faire par oral, je vous inviterai à me fournir par écrit vos remarques pour améliorer nos travaux. Donc, je rappelle comme je l'ai fait tout à l'heure, pour que le maximum d'entre vous puissent intervenir de faire les interventions les plus courtes possibles.

J'ai deux petits changements à vous soumettre après les décisions que nous avons pris: pour les Vice-Présidents, Monsieur Sébastiani pour des raisons personnelles et de disponibilité ne peut pas assurer le rôle de Vice-Président. Il est donc proposé que Monsieur Alberto Lopez Garcíá, Représentant permanent adjoint de l'Espagne auprès de la FAO, le remplace. Voyez-vous un inconvénient à ce que le Représentant de l'Espagne remplace le Représentant de l'Italie? Bien.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Deuxième modification, pour le Comité de rédaction, il est proposé que le Chili remplace le Brésil, c'est un accord entre eux. Pas d'opposition là non plus?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, je vous propose de passer à la séquence de sécurité. Si tout va bien, je ne souhaite pas de le reporter à mercredi soir ou vendredi puisque cela fait partie de la fonction.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

III. Regional Conferences**III. Conférences régionales****III. Conferencias regionales****6. Programme and budget matters arising from Regional Conferences Reports:****6. Questions relatives au programme et au budget soulevées dans les rapports des Conférences régionales:****6. Cuestiones relativas al programa y al presupuesto planteadas en los informes de las Conferencias Regionales:**

6.1 Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama, 26-30 April 2010) (CL 140/13)

6.1 Rapport de la trente et unième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Panama, 26-30 avril 2010) (CL 140/13)

6.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Panamá, 26-30 de abril de 2010) (CL 140/13)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour ces informations qui sont nécessaires et que nous ne souhaitons pas mettre en application mais si elles devaient se mettre en application, je peux seulement vous indiquer d'être aussi relax que les personnes qui ont fait cette présentation. Bien, nous allons donc commencer notre séquence concernant les Rapports des conférences régionales et j'invite donc les quatre représentants des quatre régions à venir nous rejoindre à la tribune, donc on va faire un petit mouvement à la tribune, on va dire sur ma droite l'Amérique latine, l'Europe, l'Afrique et l'Asie.

Bien, après ce petit mouvement, mais je crois qu'il était important pour bien montrer aussi l'importance des rapports des Conférences que les quatre rapporteurs soient présents ici puisque c'est bien chaque région qui fait son rapport mais c'est quand même un tout aussi dans notre travail. De même qu'il y a un certain nombre des éléments du rapport des conférences qui ont été fait au Comité financier et au Comité des programmes et qui seront rediscutés demain matin et c'est pourquoi j'attire votre attention dans les discussions qui suivront les conférences de nous arrêter plus particulièrement aux spécificités mais les grands sujets qui concernent l'ensemble ainsi que le comité financier et le comité des programmes seront repris aussi demain matin dans la discussion de façon globale et bien sûr dans le rapport nous ferons une spécificité sur chaque conférence et une globalité sur les sujets qui sont plus transversaux.

Donc nous allons commencer par la présentation de ce point 6 par le rapport de la 31^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes qui s'est tenue à Panama du 26 au 30 avril 2010 et vous avez donc cela dans le document 140/13 et j'ai le plaisir d'inviter Son Excellence M.

Altemir Grégolin, Ministre des pêches et de l'aquaculture du Brésil et vice président de la Conférence régionale à prendre la parole. M. Grégolin vous avez la parole.

Sr Altemir GREGOLIN (Vicepresidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

En nombre de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, es un honor y un placer estar hoy día acá y tener la oportunidad de presentar ante el Consejo de la FAO los resultados de la 31.ª Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, LARC 31.

LARC 31 fue realizada en la Ciudad de Panamá del 26 al 30 de abril de 2010, con la presencia de 28 delegaciones y 20 observadores. El Informe Final incluye un resumen de las principales conclusiones y recomendaciones para la atención de la Conferencia, para la atención del Consejo y para los Estados Miembros de la región-un Informe detallado de la Conferencia, un Informe del Comité Técnico y once Anexos.

Con referencia al Tema de la Agenda, "Asuntos Planteados en la Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria" y al 36.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular la ejecución del Plan Inmediato de Acción con inclusión de la red de Oficinas Descentralizadas, la Conferencia Regional señaló que, antes de tomar decisiones sobre el proceso de descentralización basadas exclusivamente en criterios de ejecución de costos y del logro de economías, debe evaluarse el desempeño de las oficinas descentralizadas. Consideró indispensable una mejor formulación y aclaración de enfoque de flexibilidad para determinar el tamaño y composición de las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

Cons recomendaciones de la 30.ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, la Conferencia Regional tomó nota de los principales desafíos por superar, en particular la desvinculación entre el crecimiento de la producción y la eliminación de la pobreza. Entre las causas estructurales de la desvinculación están las condiciones del empleo asalariado en el medio rural. Señaló que los precios de los insumos, particularmente los fertilizantes, en muchos casos representan severas limitaciones para el incremento en la producción de alimentos y para el logro de rentabilidad de la actividad agrícola, que es particularmente severa en los países insulares. Recomendó que la FAO pueda plantear políticas para atender esta situación. También recomendó fortalecer los mecanismos de comunicación de la FAO en la región, en particular sugirió mejorar la página Web de la Oficina Regional, y sobre todo ampliar la difusión de informes y publicaciones. En relación a las cuatro Comisiones Regionales: Forestal, Desarrollo Ganadero, Pesca Continental y Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-occidental, la Conferencia Regional señaló que el trabajo de estas Comisiones debe tener mayor apoyo de los países y una más amplia visibilidad. Propuso, por lo tanto que traten con mayor profundidad y detalle las actividades realizadas y que puedan tener un papel asesor de las Conferencias Regionales. Recomendó que estas Comisiones intensifiquen la cooperación entre los países de la región para el manejo y el uso sustentable de las cuencas transfronterizas y sugirió que las Comisiones puedan impulsar la Cooperación Sur-Sur. Asimismo se discutió la situación en Haití, y proceso de reconstrucción, como también se realizaron consideraciones sobre seguridad alimentaria y agricultura para programación futura.

Con referencia al Item de la Agenda, "Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, el Derecho Humano a la Alimentación", la Conferencia Regional recomendó a la FAO priorizar la cooperación para la producción de alimentos básicos en la agricultura familiar, enfatizando la superación de los problemas de inserción en el mercado, los elevados costos de transacción y favoreciendo su participación equitativa en las cadenas de valor. La Conferencia Regional respaldó el Informe de la Ejecución del Programa de Trabajo, el Presupuesto 2010-2011 y las sugerencias sobre las áreas prioritarias de acción para la FAO en la región durante el bienio 2012-2013: Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, Cambio Climático y Sostenibilidad Ambiental, Enfermedades Transfronterizas y Fomento a la Agricultura Familiar.

Con referencia a la presentación de informes y propuestas para las Subregiones del Caribe, América Central y América del Sur, la Plenaria reconoció que los resultados de las discusiones de los grupos para la identificación de las prioridades en cada Sub-región contribuyeron significativamente en el

Plan de Trabajo de la FAO para la Región. La Sub-región del Caribe identificó las siguientes prioridades: Manejo del Riesgo, Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, Semillas Certificadas y de Calidad, Sanidad e Inocuidad, Cambio Climático y Enfermedades Transfronterizas. Adicionalmente identificó otros temas que deben ser considerados: Seguro Agrícola, Crédito Agrícola, Cooperación Sur-Sur y Apoyo de la FAO para acceder a fondos existentes para Seguridad Alimentaria. También se enfatizó la solicitud de que la FAO dedique un programa específico de asistencia técnica a Haití. La Sub-región de Centroamérica, México y República Dominicana identificaron las siguientes prioridades: Agricultura Familiar, Desarrollo Rural Territorial, Gestión Integral del Agua, Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de Alimentos, Desarrollo Sostenible de la Actividad Pecuaria con énfasis en la Pequeña Producción, Vinculación de los Pequeños Productores al Mercado. Asimismo, identificó temas transversales que deben ser considerados dentro de la cooperación de la FAO en la región: Desarrollo Integral de los Recursos Humanos vinculados a la Agricultura, Fortalecimiento Institucional con la finalidad de Mejorar la Capacidad de Respuesta Gubernamental, Revisión de la Normativa Relacionada con la Agricultura de la Región, Fortalecimiento la Capacidad de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica, Gestión del Conocimiento y Acceso a la Información creando Vínculos Institucionales Regionales, Fortalecimiento de la Extensión, Capacitación y Transferencia de Tecnología a los Pequeños Productores, Debatir y Consensuar los Conceptos relacionados con la Agricultura Familiar, Fortalecimiento de las Capacidades Institucionales para la Mitigación y Adaptación al Cambio Climático vinculado a la Agricultura, y Desarrollo de la Capacidad Institucional para la Gestión de Alternativas financieras.

La Sub-región de América del Sur identificó las siguientes prioridades: Derecho a la Alimentación Adecuada, Agricultura Familiar, Desarrollo Rural, Tecnologías Sociales, Calidad e Inocuidad, Cambio Climático y Biodiversidad. Asimismo definió dos temas transversales: Género y Juventud.

En el Tema "Cuestiones Relacionadas con las Emergencias Mundiales y Regionales", se focalizó en la Gestión de Riesgos y Respuesta ante las Emergencias en los Sectores Agrícola, Forestal y Pesquero en América Latina y el Caribe. La Conferencia Regional reconoció la necesidad de acciones integradas que permitan simultáneamente la evaluación, el establecimiento de sistemas de alerta temprana para la reducción de riesgos y la ampliación de la capacidad de respuesta a desastres y emergencias socio-naturales. Señaló la necesidad de ampliar significativamente el sistema de seguro agrícola y solicitó el apoyo de la FAO para su desarrollo, particularmente en los países del Caribe y en otras áreas altamente vulnerables. Estimó necesario el apoyo de la FAO para contribuir a identificar los métodos de medición de los efectos de los gases de efecto invernadero. Demandó un mayor apoyo de la FAO para la utilización de tecnologías dirigidas a la prevención y reducción de riesgos, especificando en particular el papel de la Oficina Regional y la necesidad de establecer mecanismos de cooperación entre los países de la región.

Con referencia al Tema de la Agenda "Fomentar Sinergias y Promover la Colaboración entre el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos de la FAO y el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura", la Conferencia Regional solicitó que la FAO apoyara el fortalecimiento de los centros de investigación en biotecnología y las acciones de capacitación del personal especializado en los países de la Región. Indicó la necesidad de que la cooperación técnica de la FAO establezca sinergias en el desarrollo de capacidades para el mejoramiento del sector agropecuario, del medio ambiente y del comercio. Llamó a la FAO a apoyar el desarrollo de la producción familiar, considerando las adecuaciones y adaptaciones pertinentes en cada caso específico. Recomendó que la FAO apoyara el desarrollo de infraestructuras para la preservación y provisión de recursos genéticos, intensificando la cooperación técnica en los programas de producción de semillas certificadas. A continuación de discusiones sobre el cambio climático y sus repercusiones en la producción agrícola, forestal y pesquera en América Latina y el Caribe, la Conferencia Regional solicitó que la FAO evaluara la posibilidad y conveniencia de establecer un sistema de monitoreo de las repercusiones del cambio climático sobre los sectores agropecuario, pesquero y forestal. Enfatizó que la acción de la FAO respecto del cambio climático debería tomar en cuenta la vulnerabilidad derivada de la pobreza y de las condiciones naturales. En particular, destacó los graves efectos del cambio climático sobre las zonas costeras y las comunidades de pescadores, así como la necesidad de considerar el adecuado uso del agua.

En lo que se refiere al desarrollo territorial en las zonas rurales y sus implicaciones institucionales en América Latina y el Caribe, la Conferencia señaló que el desarrollo de la agricultura familiar requería no solamente del progreso de la producción primaria sino de su integración dentro de cadenas productivas, así como de apoyos para el financiamiento y la comercialización. El desarrollo rural debería estar integrado en el desarrollo socio-económico y debería favorecer la diversificación de la producción agrícola, la ampliación de la agricultura suburbana y el impulso a actividades rurales no agropecuarias. Enfatizó que la agenda de cooperación de la FAO en los países de la Región debería impulsar el seguimiento de los compromisos acordados en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, reconoció las acciones de la FAO para promover el Derecho a la Alimentación y sugirió impulsar el derecho a la tierra para favorecer una mayor equidad en su distribución.

Respecto al Informe sobre el Codex Alimentarius y la inocuidad de los alimentos en la Región, la Plenaria manifestó su preocupación por la escasa participación de los países de la Región en las reuniones del Codex, destacó que esta situación se debería a la dispersión geográfica de las reuniones, la insuficiencia de los recursos financieros para la participación y la escasa difusión de la información, reconoció la importancia del fondo fiduciario pero destacó la necesidad de recursos adicionales y la revisión de los criterios de categorización para acceder a las facilidades proporcionadas por dicho fondo. La Conferencia Regional propuso considerar la opción de crear un Fondo Regional Complementario para fomentar una mayor participación de los países de la Región.

Finalmente, me gustaría poner énfasis en lo acordado por la Conferencia Regional respecto a que la Oficina Regional de Santiago de Chile tendrá solamente un equipo multidisciplinario que incorpore el equipo multidisciplinario para América del Sur. Esto mejoraría la gestión del Programa y Presupuesto, así como permitiría ahorros de recursos financieros y humanos.

Con esto concluyo mi informe de los resultados de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y Caribe.

Quisiera aprovechar la ocasión para decirles algunas palabras más. En esa misma 31.^a Conferencia Regional se planteó que la Región de América Latina y el Caribe pudiera lanzar un candidato para la Dirección General de esta Organización, atendiendo a los éxitos alcanzados en nuestra Región en la lucha contra el hambre y en el desarrollo de la agricultura y sabedor de nuestro deseo de compartir esa experiencia con todo el mundo. Como muchos de ustedes ya pueden saber, Brasil ha anunciado su intención de proponer un candidato. La semana pasada, el Presidente de la República Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva y el Presidente Electo Dilma Rousseff han hecho pública su decisión de lanzar el nombre del ex-ministro José Graziano da Silva para esta posición crucial y me han encargado de venir a anunciar personalmente su decisión a los Miembros de este Consejo. El actual Director General Adjunto para América Latina y el Caribe, José Graziano da Silva, Primer Ministro de la Seguridad Alimentaria y Lucha contra el Hambre de Brasil, fue quien lanzó las bases de la exitosa estrategia Hambre Cero que, entre 2004 y 2009, redujo a la mitad la inseguridad alimentaria entre la población más vulnerable.

Graziano da Silva reúne todas las condiciones para conducir esta Organización con eficacia y visión. Los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de toda América del Sur, reunidos en la Unión de Naciones de América del Sur, expresaron su apoyo al candidato de Brasil. Trabajaremos para merecer también el apoyo de ustedes, para eliminar el hambre del mundo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur, pour la présentation du rapport de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour Amérique latine et les Caraïbes. Avez-vous des remarques, des questions, des interrogations ou des interventions? Nous avons la possibilité de le faire selon les textes fondamentaux.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister for presenting an excellent summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the LARC Report. To be more specific, I would like to mention that I was quite impressed by three aspects of this Report: the issue of food security that was discussed

very clearly and the negative impact on food and agriculture production resulting from distorted and unjust international commodity markets, the significance of family farming in the production of staple food, including fish production and the need for easy access to markets, and finally, the overarching hunger-free Latin America Initiative. Indeed these three important issues do provide the interfacing between LARC and the reformed CFS. Moreover, the deliberations of LARC on food security and nutrition do provide food for thought for other Regional Conferences in the future.

I was very much impressed by the three Sub-Regions highlighting their problems and their priorities. The areas identified for action by FAO are 32: 10 for the Caribbean, 14 for Central America - including Mexico and the Dominican Republic - and 8 for South America. Emphasis on climate change and food quality and safety is advocated by the reports of all three Sub-Regions, and family farming, land tenure and territorial rural development and the implications are emphasized in the Report of Central and South America. South-South Cooperation is also emphasized by all three Sub-Regions.

Mr Chairperson, the role of CARICOM, MARICO and Mexico MERCOSUR in the way forward is highlighted in the report of the Caribbean and South American Sub-Region.

Chairperson, on the SSCs, that is the Special Services Centres, the report of LARC calls for further reflection and incorporation of criteria in addition to cost-related factors. The report says that the Services currently provided by the SSC in Santiago show good results in terms of competency, profile of the existing team, languages, local knowledge and time difference.

Sr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brasil)

Brasil apoya totalmente la implementación de las prioridades regionales fijadas por la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y del Caribe, así como las di a conocer el Ministro Gerolin y que son la agricultura familiar, el desarrollo rural del territorio, el derecho humano a una alimentación adecuada, la calidad y la seguridad de los alimentos, los cambios climáticos y la biodiversidad. Agradecemos también la intervención de Afganistán sobre los puntos mencionados y resumidos en el Informe de la Conferencia.

Brasil también apoya, la implementación de todas las prioridades regionales discutidas en las otras Conferencias Regionales de la FAO para África, Asia y Pacífico y la de Europa, que todavía no se han expuesto.

Considerando que todo es prioridad, la descentralización de la FAO y la ejecución de su programa de trabajo, es importante contemplar todas las necesidades específicas de las regiones. Por esto damos la bienvenida a todas las propuestas de fórmulas y resultados que se han obtenido en base a las prioridades establecidas durante las Conferencias Regionales y por las Oficinas Sub-regionales o por los países mismos. Nos gustaría tener más información de parte del Secretariado, sobre cómo este resultado de estas prioridades van a ser implementadas.

Por último nos interesa expresar que a pesar de que en Brasil no tengamos el español como lengua nacional, hablamos un poco de "portuñol", que sto no es oficial. Por esto merece remarcar un último punto en el párrafo 159 del Informe del Comité Técnico de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe, que sugiere de cambiar el orden de las palabras "agricultura y alimentación" en la versión en español del nombre de la FAO, de manera que quede como los demás idiomas oficiales de las Naciones Unidas.

Creemos que alimentación tiene la prioridad, y por lo tanto, deseamos someter a este Consejo de proponer que el título de la FAO en español sea cambiado en Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura a fin de valorizar la prioridad que se le da a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional por la que conferimos todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We acknowledge the presentation made from the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Conference by the Honourable Minister, and we do endorse all the issues that have been touched upon especially, as regard decentralization and family farming which we think are very important and can

be up-scaled through South-South Cooperation. I think it is a way for us in Africa, where we have the small-holder farmers, to enhance our production.

Another issue which was touched upon was the importance of FAO as a knowledge centre in agriculture so as to be in a position to support the countries in their work. This is very important, and we will come across it in various reports where FAO is called to give this support, or to strengthen its capabilities or its skills because in some areas FAO seems to be very weak. We also thank the Region for coming up with a candidate for the position of FAO Director-General.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Quisiera agradecer al ministro de Brasil por la excelente presentación del Informe de la Conferencia Regionale. Hizo llegar a este Consejo todos aquellos aspectos que se debatieron durante la Conferencia y que preocupan y mantienen presente en todo momento el trabajo que la FAO debe hacer en nuestra Región.

Nosotros seguimos sus indicaciones y compartimos plenamente con lo señalado por Afganistán y por el delegado de Brasil, respaldando la propuesta que hace con relación al orden en que debemos poner el nombre de nuestra Organización, lo cual fue ya tratado durante la mencionada Conferencia Regionale.

Sr Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Ante, da todo, deseo agradecer la presentación que ha hecho el Ministro brasileño sobre la Conferencia Regional. Yo pienso que los resultados han sido muy importantes y que servirán de experiencia para otras regiones. Siguiendo sus orientaciones deseamos proponerlo y además manifestar el apoyo a lo expresado por Afganistán, Brasil y El Salvador.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Quiero agradecer al Ministro Gregolin, del Brasil, por la presentación realizada y por todo lo que ha dicho. Mi delegación tuvo la oportunidad de estar en Panamá, a quien también agradezco que haya albergado la Conferencia.

Además del excelente informe que ha presentado el Ministro, creo que el Consejo debe destacar que esta es la primera oportunidad en que las Conferencias Regionales tienen un nuevo rol. En ese sentido, la Conferencia de América Latina y el Caribe se desarrolló en un clima de gran colaboración con la Secretaría. Trabajamos con un nivel de participación muy amplio, muy abierto y quiero destacar el trabajo realizado en el tema de la priorización.

Creo que hemos dado un primer paso en las cuestiones de priorización, que es un tema muy importante para la región y para la FAO. Como todos sabemos, el tema de priorización se va a seguir desarrollando en el Comité del Programa y se encuentra en vía a definir un presupuesto en la Conferencia.

Nuevamente, Sr. Presidente, debemos tener muy en cuenta lo que dicen las Conferencias Regionales, porque en definitiva es el trabajo en el terreno el que efectivamente hace que la FAO tenga un nombre y una presencia que la caracterizan y la han caracterizado a través del tiempo.

Sr Daniel GARÍN (Uruguay)

En primera instancia nos sentimos partícipes del reporte que ha hecho el Ministro Gregolin, el cual representa fielmente lo que han sido las discusiones durante la Conferencia Regional.

Nos parece importante enfatizar lo que se refiere a la adecuación de la priorización de los temas principales planteados, en especial en lo que se refiere a la oportunidad de desarrollo de la agricultura familiar como una herramienta para el abordaje de un tema central que es el combate al hambre y su significativa contribución en el combate a la pobreza.

El mundo tiene este grande desafío por delante y deseamos respaldar y agradecer las adhesiones que hemos tenido de los diferentes países como Afganistán, El Salvador, Cuba, Argentina, sin perjuicio que quizás me estoy olvidando de alguno.

Queremos reiterar la importancia que tienen las Conferencias a nivel regional como elemento de reflexión y para tratar temas de agenda que son necesarios para integrar en forma permanente la visión de las particularidades regionales.

Por último, ratificamos la necesidad de tener una estructura descentralizada que vaya mejorando su eficacia y su eficiencia y reiteramos la necesidad de mantener este tipo de estructura de funcionamiento.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Uruguay, je vous propose de nous arrêter là et de demander à Monsieur Gregolin si il a quelques commentaires à faire sur ce qui a été dit ou des compléments d'informations. Vous avez la parole.

Sr Altemir GREGOLIN (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Agradezco las intervenciones y quisiera destacar que fue una Conferencia Regional muy productiva en el debate sobre la seguridad alimentaria, el desarrollo rural y especialmente el acceso a la alimentación y al mercado. En la Conferencia Regional quedó muy claro la necesidad de destacar el apoyo de la FAO para el desarrollo de la seguridad alimentaria, presentando así la importancia de las definiciones de las prioridades.

Se remarcó la importancia de las Conferencias Regionales, y en el debate la región subrayó la importancia de éstas.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie à la fois de la présentation, de votre contribution et aussi de ces quelques réponses, et je considère donc que le rapport est donc adopté dans sa totalité.

J'ai pris note aussi des réflexions qui ont été faites mais qui reviendront dans la discussion plus générale sur les Conférences régionales en lien avec le Comité des programmes et le Comité des budgets, plus particulièrement au niveau des bureaux, de la décentralisation et de la cohérence sur les Conférences prioritaires. Comme l'a dit Mme Squeff de l'Argentine, les Conférences Régionales doivent être utiles et respectées. J'ai participé pour la première fois à une Conférence régionale à Panama et j'ai été impressionné à la fois par le travail qui a été fait pendant et avant la Conférence. Je sais bien que un des pays de cette région est en grave difficulté à ce moment-là, et j'ai senti une solidarité de l'ensemble de pays de cette région vis-à-vis d'Haïti. Je voulais donc, en conclusion pour le rapport, donner un avis favorable et nous ajusterons quelques autres points plus précis dans le débat général.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Le Secrétariat pourrait faire des commentaires globaux à la fin des présentations des rapports des quatre Conférences régionales. Simplement un point pour répondre à la proposition qui a été faite de changer le nom de l'Organisation en espagnol, d'inverser "agriculture et alimentation" pour que cela soit en phase avec les autres versions linguistiques qui sont celles de l'Organisation.

Cette question mérite d'être examinée à la lumière de ce qui figure dans les Textes Fondamentaux. Pour l'instant, nous avons cette expression dans les Textes Fondamentaux. Donc je pense que cette question devrait être portée à l'attention du Bureau juridique, mais certainement elle sera considérée avec toute l'attention voulue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie, Monsieur Mekouar, de cette précision. Il est important de le faire de façon réglementaire et tout à fait respectueuse des Textes Fondamentaux. Donc, nous en prendrons note.

Je considère que le rapport de la Conférence régionale est adopté, et je vous remercie Monsieur Le Ministre.

6.2 Report of the 26th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa

(Luanda, Angola, 3-7 May 2010) (CL 140/15)

6.2 Rapport de la vingt-sixième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique

(Luanda (Angola), 3-7 mai 2010) (CL 140/15)

6.2 Informe del 26.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África

(Luanda [Angola], 3-7 de mayo de 2010) (CL 140/15)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc à notre deuxième Conférence régionale qui s'est tenue en Afrique, à Luanda, en Angola le 3 et 7 mai 2010.

Le rapport est le CL140/15 et je vais donner tout de suite la parole à Monsieur Amaro Tati, Secrétaire d'État à l'Agriculture de la République d'Angola qui représente son Excellence Monsieur Alfonso Pedro Canga, Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique et Ministre de l'Agriculture. Il a eu l'amabilité d'être avec nous lors du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire.

Donc, Monsieur Amaro Tati, je vous donne la parole pour faire le compte-rendu de cette Conférence régionale.

M José AMARO TATI (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Chers Membres du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs, comme vous a informé le Président indépendant, Monsieur le Ministre n'est pas venu en raison du calendrier, et je vous demande de me permettre de présenter mon intervention en portugais.

(continue en portugais)

Au nom des pays africains, c'est pour moi un honneur et un grand plaisir que de présenter à la 140ème Session du Conseil de la FAO le Rapport de la 26ème Conférence régionale de la FAO des Ministres de l'agriculture de l'Afrique qui s'est tenue à Luanda, capitale de l'Angola, du 6 au 7 mai 2010. La Conférence a élu, après avoir constaté qu'elle avait une bonne participation, 125 délégués de 35 pays membres de la région dont 17 ont été représentés au niveau ministériel. Il y a eu un observateur du Saint-Siège, et 12 observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales et non-gouvernementales.

J'ai le plaisir de souligner que cette présentation reflète un évènement bienvenu et important dans la mise en œuvre de la Recommandation de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO et une action qui vise à intégrer les Conférences régionales aux Organes directeurs de la FAO dans le contexte général de sa rénovation. Cela contribuera indéniablement à une plus grande cohérence entre les domaines prioritaires des objectifs régionaux de la FAO et les objectifs stratégiques mondiaux de notre Organisation.

Pendant la Conférence, on a analysé les éléments suivants : les questions découlant du Sommet mondial sur la Sécurité alimentaire et découlant de la 36ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO notamment la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI) y compris le réseau des Bureaux décentralisés. Deuxièmement, nouvelle vision pour le réseau des bureaux décentralisés. Ces réformes du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et des questions relatives au programme et au budget, à savoir le Rapport sur les activités de la FAO dans la région pour 2008-09 et actions entreprises et découlant des recommandations de la 25ème Conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique, mise en œuvre du Programme de travail et budget 2010-11 et domaines d'action prioritaire pour la région de l'Afrique pendant le biennium suivant et établissement d'un centre mondial de services partagés.

Pour ce qui est des questions découlant du Sommet mondial sur la Sécurité alimentaire et de la 36ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO, notamment la mise en œuvre du PAI, y compris le réseau des bureaux décentralisés, lors de la présentation du document à la Conférence régionale par le Secrétariat, on a mis en lumière les résultats du Sommet mondial sur la Sécurité alimentaire et de la 36ème Conférence de la FAO. On a également indiqué que le Sommet avait appuyé le travail des tableaux de développement régionaux tel que le Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture africaine dans le cadre du NEPAD. On a présenté les progrès généraux réalisés et l'impact que cela a eu sur le réseau des bureaux décentralisés. On a mis en lumière les actions importantes déjà entreprises ou en

cours, à savoir la décentralisation des projets de coopération technique, une autorité plus forte dévolue aux bureaux décentralisés, en matière d'achat et le transfert de la gestion des bureaux techniques régionaux et de supervision, de même que la responsabilité administrative et financière des représentants de la FAO pour le bureau régional.

En présentant l'Ordre du jour, on a fait remarquer que des efforts importants avaient eu lieu en matière de décentralisation ces dernières années. La gestion pour la vision à long terme sur la structure et le fonctionnement des bureaux régionaux a également été mise en lumière et on a demandé les observations et les opinions des uns et des autres sur cette vision, de même que sur les suggestions contenues dans le document en matière de structure et de fonctionnement. La Conférence régionale a entériné la vision de même que les propositions sur la structure et le fonctionnement. La Conférence régionale a dit que les critères sur la couverture nationale étaient théoriquement bons mais fort peu pratiques, notamment dans le cas de l'Afrique et que les mesures prévues pour la gestion représentaient une façon efficace de surmonter le défi structurel dans le budget des réseaux de Représentants de la FAO. Lors des discussions qui ont eu lieu ensuite, la Conférence a mis au point plusieurs recommandations à l'intention de la 140^{ème} session du Conseil qui est invitée à prendre une décision sur les recommandations suivantes, à savoir que les besoins spéciaux de l'Afrique continuent à être maintenus et qu'un réseau vigoureux de bureaux dans les pays était essentiel pour faire face aux besoins de ces pays. L'accréditation multiple pour les bureaux nationaux ne serait pas une chose appropriée pour les pays de l'Afrique qui ont des besoins urgents et permanents d'aide et d'appui.

La FAO devra maintenir et peut-être même augmenter le nombre de bureaux nationaux dans la région. Les bureaux décentralisés devront être renforcés par le biais de ressources financières et techniques et il faudrait une meilleure formation pour le personnel travaillant dans ces bureaux.

Les critères de sélection et de désignation aux postes de Représentants de la FAO devraient être revus périodiquement compte tenu de l'évolution des besoins des pays de l'Afrique. Une évaluation appropriée et en profondeur de la proposition visant à un centre de service partagé mondial devrait avoir lieu, y compris une évaluation de sa durabilité pour que le Comité des finances et le Conseil puisse décider et inclure éventuellement l'idée dans le prochain Programme de travail et budget et que l'on prenne des mesures pour de futures conférences en vue de la représentation des pays et de l'échange d'information.

Pour ce qui est de l'état de l'agriculture et des priorités régionales pour le biennium 2012-13, l'on sait fort bien, que l'économie de l'Afrique est principalement une économie agraire. Dans la majeure partie des pays de l'Afrique, l'agriculture fournit la majeure partie du PIB. Le secteur est une source importante de croissance en Afrique sub-saharienne, représentant 17 pour cent du PIB et même 40 pour cent dans certains pays. Ce secteur représente 57 pour cent de l'emploi et 11 pour cent des revenus provenant des exportations. Toutefois, la pauvreté, la faim et la malnutrition sont largement disséminés, notamment dans l'Afrique sub-saharienne malgré les efforts déployés pour promouvoir le développement. L'agriculture africaine continue à se heurter à des contraintes graves y compris une faible infusion de capitaux, une inefficacité, un manque de compétitivité, une productivité basse et à faible accès aux marchés. L'engagement contracté par les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements consistant à attribuer au moins 10 pour cent de ses budgets nationaux à l'agriculture et au développement rural avait pour objectif de lutter contre le faible niveau d'investissements dans le secteur agricole, mais jusqu'à présent très peu de pays ont atteint ou dépassé l'objectif visé. Après toute une série de consultations, on s'est penché sur les thèmes prioritaires afférant à la situation et aux besoins actuels en ce qui concerne le développement agricole et alimentaire dans toute la région de l'Afrique.

Compte tenu des besoins sub-régionaux et des besoins nationaux, le bureau régional pour l'Afrique a proposé six domaines prioritaires essentiels pour l'assistance technique de la FAO pour le prochain biennium à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique. Premièrement, promouvoir une augmentation durable de la production agricole et de la diversification des cultures. Deuxièmement, promouvoir l'utilisation et la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, y compris l'eau et la terre, la pêche et les forêts. Troisièmement, appuyer l'accès aux marchés et des mesures sanitaires en vue d'une meilleure commercialisation des produits agricoles. Quatrièmement, encourager une gestion de l'information et

de la connaissance. Cinquièmement, incorporer la préparation contre les situations d'urgence et la gestion des risques. Sixièmement, formuler et mettre en œuvre des politiques agricoles efficaces intégrant en même temps les préoccupations d'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes qui est une question transversale.

Pour ce qui est de la mise en œuvre du programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 2010-11 et les domaines d'action prioritaire pour la région africaine pendant le prochain biennium, la Conférence régionale a apprécié la cohérence existant entre les domaines prioritaires proposés et les objectifs du programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture en Afrique. La Conférence régionale a entériné les domaines prioritaires pour 2010-11 et 2012-13 et elle a recommandé à la FAO d'appuyer les États Membres pour les aider à préparer des plans d'investissements appropriés et de s'assurer que des données suffisantes seront disponibles pour suivre les résultats obtenus jusqu'à la fin de l'année 2013.

D'autre part, la Conférence régionale a pris acte des activités intéressantes entreprises par la FAO en Afrique et l'engagement et l'effort personnel du Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour améliorer le niveau nutritionnel et pour améliorer la production agricole en Afrique de façon à lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté et atteindre une véritable sécurité alimentaire.

En fin de conférence, la Conférence régionale a décidé à l'unanimité d'honorer le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, en proposant que soit établi un prix de la sécurité alimentaire en son nom à la FAO.

Merci beaucoup, c'est un honneur pour moi que d'être parmi vous et je m'attends à des délibérations fécondes.

Mr Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I have the pleasure to thank His Excellency the Deputy Minister for Agriculture from Angola, and I should like to highlight and appreciate the excellent preparations undertaken by Angola which lead to the success of this Regional Conference. I should like to thank His Excellency on his comprehensive report regarding the Conference and its recommendations. The recommendations of the Conference reiterate the importance Africa attaches to the work of the Organization in the coming biennium, and highlight the priorities among which is the decentralization. This falls within the new role of the Regional Conferences according to the IPA and the renewal of FAO.

The Report is comprehensive regarding the recommendations and the activities of FAO in the region, including increasing the support of FAO to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) together with helping the African countries in facing the consequences of climate change and the close collaboration with other UN organizations intervening in the area of food security.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The ARC Report is succinct and focused. I shall focus only on three issues: the special themes, the list of priorities for the biennium 2012-13, and some comments of the ARC on the Global Shared Service Centre.

The Conference addressed two special themes for FAO's work in Africa: one was the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) and the other was the Implication of Climate Change and Food Security and National Resource Management in Africa. On both topics the Report has recommended specific areas for FAO's assistance in Africa. In particular, the Report puts greater emphasis on FAO's role in five areas of work: one, institutional capacity development; two, improved policies and the centering of the national planning process; three, dissemination of new technologies, four, investment promotion, and five, South-South Cooperation.

We commend the clarity with which these two special themes have been treated in the Report of the ARC. The areas emphasized in paragraphs 10 and 13 of the Report correspond with the eight core functions of FAO.

For the biennium 2012-13, the Regional Conference has proposed six areas as priority listed in paragraphs 13 and 35 of the Report. These six areas are already reflected in Strategic Objectives A, C, D, F, G, I and K. However, considering the prominent role of the domestic animals in African agriculture, it is somewhat surprising that paragraph 35 makes no mention of the livestock sector. We do not think it would be difficult to accommodate the six priority areas in the Programme of Work and budget 2012-13.

With respect to the Global Shared Service Centre, the Conference recommended that a proper in-depth evaluation of the proposal of a Global Shared Service Centre including for sustainability be carried out for an eventual endorsement by the Finance Committee and the Council for inclusion in the next programme of Work and Budget.

We applaud Rwanda's declaration on investing in agriculture to ensure food security in Africa.

Finally, we look forward to the next African Union Summit in setting up a Jacques Diouf Prize for Food Security at the African Union. This Director-General has done so much and with great dedication and energy in making the world aware about the urgency of world food security and in particular, in bringing to the top of the agenda just a normal objective of improving food security for the poor and the vulnerable.

Jacques Diouf has not only been talking about food security, but he has been taking several constructive steps towards achieving that goal. For this, we applaud his vision, his devotion and his constant struggle for a good cause.

Ms Sally KOSGEI (Kenya)

The Kenyan delegation would like to make brief comments on the report under discussion which is in respect of the Conference held in Luanda, Angola last May. Allow me to pay tribute to the successful efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the detailed report, and I wish to register our support to the endorsement of the report.

The Conference focussed on matters of key importance on agricultural development on the continent, namely comprehensive African agricultural development programme (CAADP), implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPOA) in the context of new vision for FAO decentralized office networks, programme and budget among others, which limit our comments to CAADP. When African leaders endorsed CAADP in the year 2003 and positioned agriculture at the top of the continent development agenda, they were ahead of current global consensus on the need to focus on agriculture as a way to end poverty and hunger in Africa. CAADP is a vehicle towards pushing for deep changes in how agriculture business is done in Africa while maintaining agriculture as priority for sustainable development. The renewed support to CAADP in the declaration of the Summit on Food Security held here in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009 injected new impetus in this direction. My delegation wishes to add voice to the strong calls to deepen global partnership in support of CAADP.

Mr Chairman, many African countries, including Kenya, have subscribed to CAADP compacts and we are now at the implementation phase. Resource availability is especially critical. Funds and technical assistance from FAO are essential in assisting Member Nations carry out key activities such as stock-taking and analysis of existing policies and strategies, assessing sector performance and adjustment to long-term agricultural development, medium-term investment plans, monitoring and evaluation. Our wish in this regard is captured in the recommendations of paragraph 41.

On the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget and areas of priority for Africa, we see harmony between the six agreed priorities with the objectives of CAADP as well as with priority areas for 2010-11 and 2012-13.

Mr Chairman, on the issue of FAO decentralized office network we believe that as this important requirement of the Reform is considered and implemented, there is need not to lose sight of the point and recommendations highlighted in paragraph 3 of the Report.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

I also would like to thank the Secretary of State, Dr Tati, whom we really welcome to Rome, for the presentation of the Report that reflects the fruitful discussion held in Luanda during the session of the Regional Conference. I would like to associate myself with the interventions made by Egypt and also Kenya, and I would really say that my delegation had the opportunity to participate and recognize the excellent organization of the session and the important conclusions achieved in Luanda.

As was clearly mentioned, the question of decentralization and the prioritization of the programmes, together with the reform of the Committee on Food Security, were the centre of the discussions aimed at accelerating the reduction of the scourge of hunger and poverty that still affects the Continent. Therefore, we would like to really propose the approval of the Report and also the recommendations. We also want Member Nations to really accelerate the implementation of those recommendations by giving appropriate resources to that effect.

M Rigobert MABOUNDOU (Congo)

Je voudrais féliciter très sincèrement Monsieur le Ministre délégué de l'Angola pour la brillante restitution qu'il a fait des travaux que nous avons eu à Luanda, mais surtout pour le sérieux que l'Angola a mis pour la préparation et l'organisation de la 26ème Conférence régionale.

Dans l'ensemble, comme l'on dit mes prédécesseurs, les conclusions ont été bien résumées et je voudrais insister particulièrement sur deux d'entre elles. La première est le point 29: le Continent africain a considéré que c'est sur cet espace que les résultats en matière de sécurité alimentaire sont peut-être globalement les moins brillants. En même temps, on a constaté le rapport efficace qui s'organise entre l'existence des bureaux nationaux et la qualité de l'appui de la FAO aux politiques nationales en faveur de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et du développement rural pour que l'on comprenne le sens de ce point de vue, de cette décision qui a été prise par la Conférence régionale de retenir l'option des bureaux nationaux plutôt qu'une réforme qui irait vers la suppression de certains d'entre eux, cela me paraît être essentiel.

Deuxièmement, ce sont les points 45 et 46 en ce qui concerne la reconnaissance de tout le travail qui a été fait par le Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, pas seulement pour la sensibilisation de la communauté internationale sur les questions de la faim, de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'alimentation jusqu'au niveau des Chefs d'États mais aussi sur l'amélioration de la qualité de l'intervention de la FAO dans les différents pays pour que l'Afrique progresse dans les résultats qui sont, bien sûr, prévus dans le cadre de l'amélioration de cette situation. Je voudrais vraiment que la Conférence régionale retienne cette proposition en ce qui concerne le Directeur général, à la fois pour les perspectives d'avenir pour encourager les directeurs généraux qui vont venir pour poursuivre dans la même voie mais aussi pour exprimer toujours la reconnaissance de la communauté internationale à l'endroit de ceux d'entre nous qui mettent tout le poids de leur énergie, de leur engagement dans le succès du développement de la politique mondiale de l'agriculture plutôt que d'attendre souvent que les gens meurent pour décerner des prix à titre posthume.

Ms Evelyn Anita STOKES HAYFORD (Ghana)

My delegation allies itself on the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group and my previous distinguished colleagues, namely Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique. We support everything that they have said. We stressed first our gratitude to the Government of Angola for hosting this year's Regional Conference and to the Secretary of State for his very comprehensive report.

My delegation wishes to emphasize some concerns made as reported in the document by the Secretary of State. On the decentralized offices network, we share the concerns raised in the report and support the recommendation on the special needs of Africa which have to be taken into consideration in implementing the relevant actions in the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) on the subject matter.

Available statistics and information indicated that: about 30 percent of the population in Africa is suffering from hunger and malnutrition. This tells us of the urgent need to reduce and eventually eradicate this unpleasant and unacceptable condition prevailing in the region if we are serious in the quest to attain MDG 1 and the 1996 World Food Summit target. In this regard, my delegation feels

strongly that Africa should be treated as a special case as far as decentralized offices network is concerned. We therefore wish to emphasize the need to maintain present offices in the region, and possibly increase the numbers. We also emphasize the need to strengthen and adequately resource the offices to enable them to provide the services required efficiently and effectively. These services are required by our farmers to increase agricultural productivity and production in the region.

On the reformed committee on World Food Security, we agree with the recommendation for the sharing group of CFS to assess the quality of improvement in coordination among national, sub-regional, and regional groups. Furthermore, we encourage FAO to continue to collaborate with our governments, sub-regional and regional bodies to build capacity and provide the necessary support in dealing with the numerous challenges that hinder the attainment of food security in the region.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Indonesia)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. The Indonesian delegation appreciates the excellent report of the Regional Conference for Africa. In the context of FAO decentralization, Indonesia emphasizes that FAO needs to continue close engagement and empowerment of the Regional Office for Africa in order to enhance its capacity and capability to assist with countries' needs. Indonesia is looking forward to continue to expand and enhance cooperation with African countries in capacity-building related to agriculture and fisheries in so that CAADP objectives can be met at the earliest time possible. Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

The Zimbabwe delegation would first of all like to thank the State Secretary for Angola for his brilliant exposé of the results of the Regional Conference For Africa and also his Government for hosting this event. We would especially like to thank the Government for their generous hospitality, and the FAO Regional Office in Ghana for organizing this Conference.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the previous statements made by Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Congo-Brazzaville and Ghana in accepting the Report, and in emphasizing certain areas of the Report. The Zimbabwe delegation would like to focus on number six of the six priority areas which is 'to formulate effective agricultural policies while integrating gender concerns as a cross-cutting issue'. We believe that effective policies, based on research, as the way forward for most African countries, and this priority area will provide a framework for renewed investment in the agricultural sector.

A previous speaker spoke about the need to support investment, through the CAADP and the instrumental role that FAO can play in ensuring that countries get the support needed to get the CAADP programmes implemented.

The issue of climate change is a complex one and, we would seek FAO's support in hosting a ministerial meeting on the impact of climate change and adaptation and mitigation.

Lastly, we would hope that the Conference would support the recognition of the Director-General of FAO who has done wonderful work in bringing the attention of the world to the issues of food security and hunger.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I would like to thank the Secretary of State for presenting the Report of the Regional Conference for Africa and I do associate myself with interventions which have been made by Egypt, as well as by other Members of the Africa Group. I would like to thank Afghanistan for the elaboration regarding the proposal made by Africa to create a Jacques Diouf Award for food security in the FAO. I think Jacques Diouf has dedicated most of his life to FAO. By the time he will be ending his tenure, that is next year, he will have served this Organization for eighteen years and he will leave something behind in this Organization. So, we see it as appropriate that this recommendation will receive the utmost attention by the Conference and we see that it will be accepted.

Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Ma délégation tient à remercier Monsieur le Ministre délégué de l'Angola pour le rapport exhaustif et précis qu'il nous a fait et profite de l'occasion pour remercier encore l'Angola pour la bonne organisation de la Conférence régionale.

Nous souhaitons reprendre à notre compte les interventions des délégués qui nous ont précédés et en particulier appuyons les points soulignés par l'Égypte, le Congo, le Kenya, le Ghana et la Tanzanie pour lesquels nous souhaitons mettre en exergue ce qui a été dit sur les bureaux nationaux, le renforcement des capacités, la coopération Sud-Sud, l'égalité hommes-femmes, ainsi que l'hommage au Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En verdad quiero cederle la palabra al Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe en primer término para que él haga la exposición en nombre de todos los países.

Sr Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)

Como representante del GRULAC quiero simple y muy brevemente dar la bienvenida al informe tan sustancioso que nos hizo llegar el señor Vice-ministro de Angola. Comprendemos y compartimos muchos de los conceptos que ha vertido y obviamente también queremos asociarnos con muchas de las intervenciones que efectuarán varios Estados Miembros de la Región Africana. En ese sentido nos sentimos identificados con varios de los comentarios como también de los que han hecho los de nuestra Región independientemente.

M José AMARO TATI (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Monsieur le Président, je voyais qu'un Membre du Conseil avait demandé la parole, c'est pourquoi j'avais attendu pour me manifester. Il représente effectivement le GRULAC donc je voudrais simplement dire que nous nous félicitons ce rapport de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique qui nous a été remis par le Vice-Ministre de l'Angola. Nous partageons un nombre des considérations qui figurent dans ce rapport et qui ont fait l'objet de cette présentation. Nous partageons également les déclarations faites par des Pays membres de l'Afrique, ici-même. Nous nous identifions parfaitement avec plusieurs de leurs commentaires et nous nous identifions aussi avec les commentaires faits par les pays de notre région. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Compte-tenu de l'ensemble des interventions qui ont plutôt conforté le rapport, je vous propose donc d'adopter le rapport de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique. Nous avons aussi pris note d'instituer un prix pour la Sécurité alimentaire en hommage au Directeur général. À l'état actuel, nous ne pouvons que prendre note de la proposition, nous verrons par la suite au cours du Conseil ce qu'il en sera sur une position global du Conseil. Mais, aujourd'hui nous enregistrons la proposition et nous aurons sans doute l'occasion après tous les comptes-rendus de Conférences et les débats de reprendre ce dossier.

Merci au Représentant de l'Angola et merci aussi à chacun pour le travail réalisé. Le travail a été bien organisé et j'ai pu voir comme cela a été dit la bonne relation entre les participants de la Conférence et le Bureau régional d'Accra, à qui j'ai d'ailleurs rendu visite il y a quinze jours. Les points qui ont été votés sur décentralisations, bureaux locaux et CSC seront revus ou nous en discuterons plus à fond demain matin, si nécessaire.

6.3 Report of the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (Yerevan, Armenia, 13-14 May 2010) (CL 140/16)

6.3 Rapport de la vingt-septième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe (Erevan, Arménie, 13 et 14 mai 2010) (CL 140/16)

6.3 Informe del 27.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (Ereván, Armenia, 13-14 de mayo de 2010) (CL 140/16)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous continuons donc, nos travaux. Nous passons au point suivant qui est le Rapport sur la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe qui a eu lieu, à Yerevan, en Arménie, le 13 et 14 mai. J'ai le plaisir de donner la parole à Son Excellence Monsieur Samvel Avetisyan, Premier Vice-Ministre de l'Agriculture de la République d'Arménie et Président de la Conférence régionale qui a présidé cette Conférence avec brio pendant les trois jours. Donc, vous avez la parole.

Mr Samvel AVETISYAN (Chairperson Regional Conference for Europe)

From the 13th to the 14th May 2010, in the capital of Armenia, Yerevan, the 27th FAO Regional Conference for Europe took place, and it took place immediately after the 36th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture.

On behalf of my country, I would like to express gratitude to the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and Mr Luc Guyau, the Independent Chairperson of the Council, for personally attending the Conference.

It is a great honour for me to present to the 140th Session of the FAO Council the Report of this Conference.

I must recognize that the Conference was extremely representative. It was attended by 127 delegates from 40 Member Nations of the FAO, as well as one Member Organization, the European Union. Fifteen countries were represented at Ministerial or Deputy Ministerial level. There were Observers from the Holy See, the United States of America, as well as 25 Observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.

You have an opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the agenda and report so I shall confine myself to the conclusions reached by the Regional Conference in the hope that they may become part of the overall endeavour to reform and renew FAO, while also ensuring consistency and close interaction between FAO's programme and activities in priority areas at the regional level, and ultimately contributing to the achievement of the global strategic objectives of the Organization.

The Regional Conference expressed its full support for the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action to enhance the efficiency of the Decentralized Offices Network. It requested the Secretariat to provide further background documentation on decentralization. The Conference also requested that there be a thorough consideration of the question of a fully-fledged representation and presence of FAO in some countries of the Region, especially in the Central Asian Sub-region, particularly Kyrgyzstan. In the context of broadening FAO's presence, there was also the proposal to appoint an Assistant FAO Representative for Moldova.

The Regional Conference welcomed the presentation of activities in the European Region in the 2008-09 biennium by the Secretariat, the work undertaken within the UN Delivering as One initiative and the different activities undertaken in cooperation with several UN bodies. It also recommended that the FAO report on the effects of these activities to the United Nations High-Level Task Force. The Regional Conference also requested the Secretariat to prepare the future reports on FAO activities using the results-based framework.

As regards priorities in the Plan of Work and Budget for 2012-13, the Regional Conference stressed that FAO was expected to provide a document which would detail the challenges and shortfalls, as well as their analysis. The results of informal consultations, such as the one held in Budapest in March 2010, should also be considered. It was requested that a more detailed breakdown of the proposed

priority activities for each Strategic Objective be given, with an indication of the required regular and extra-budgetary funding, including through partnerships.

The Conference emphasized that priority should be given to regional activities, including advocacy, agrarian policy support, capacity-building, knowledge management and the holding of fora for discussion in the following areas: provision of basic global data and statistics, assistance in determining national economic, social, food and nutrition policies, a normative role at the global level for food security, implementation of food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, including global conventions, preventing animal and plant transboundary diseases, effective action to deal with emergencies and rehabilitation after they have taken place, interface between climate change and agriculture and rural development, gender, conservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources; and sustainable management of forests.

The participants in the Conference agreed that continuation of the present areas of priority action for the 2012-13 biennium was an appropriate approach. This approach would ensure there was linkage with the four-year FAO Medium-Term Plan (MTP), with a view to ensuring partnerships.

The Regional Conference urged the specialized regional commissions to convene their future sessions in line with the Regional Conference for Europe, in order to allow priority action to be identified and submitted in a timely fashion to FAO's Governing Bodies.

The Regional Conference made the following programme recommendations for consideration and/or endorsement by the current 140th Session of Council.

First, it requested the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia to provide to the 28th Regional Conference for Europe the necessary information with reports and decisions on decentralization and restructuring of Decentralized Offices, as relevant for the Region, as well as an inventory of the present structure, staffing and funding of those Offices.

Second, it requested that the working methods and communication related to the work of the Regional Conference be enhanced, in particular with respect to more precise programme priority-setting, including consultation and advisory support from the European Commission on Agriculture. In our opinion, we should also continue to convene informal consultations with Member Nations in the period between Regional Conferences in order better to define programme priorities in the Region, and better prepare Regional Conference documentation and the PWB.

Third, it requested that consideration be given to this establishment of fully-fledged FAO Representations in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as the appointment of an Assistant FAO Representative in Moldova.

Fourth, to give consideration to merging the two Offices: the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, which are both located in Budapest, in order to enhance efficiency of their work and to save resources expended.

Fifth, to endorse the priorities for the European and Central Asian Region, as stated in paragraphs 27 to 35 of the 27th Regional Conference report.

And last, to request review of options and costs and benefits of merging the Bangkok and Santiago Shared Service Centre (SSC) hubs into a Global Shared Service Centre in Budapest.

I thank you for your attention and stand ready to provide further information on the deliberations and recommendations at the 27th Regional Conference for Europe, should the Council deem that necessary.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The Regional Conference is the one opportunity to discuss priorities and challenges from a regional perspective. The excellent organization of the Regional Conference for Europe by the Armenian

Government, as well as the preparatory meeting in Budapest on 23-24 of March 2010, made it possible for us to focus on the substantive issues for our region. Unfortunately, the much appreciated results of that well-planned meeting could not be incorporated anymore into the documents in preparation for the European Regional Conference in Yerevan. It is of importance that the meetings of specialized regional commissions be scheduled so as to provide input for the Regional Conference. Timely documents are vital for an efficient, well-informed debate.

The implementation of the vital ongoing FAO reform is essential for good regional results. Results could be noticed at the Regional Conference, i.e., the main recommendations of the Regional Conference are summarized and addressed to Governments and FAO, respectively. An interesting ministerial round-table took place. However, much remains to be done to further increase and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Decentralised Offices Network. The first step is a detailed inventory of the present structure, staffing, funding and reporting, as is Culture Change. As responsibility is delegated, control of staffing and resources must be delegated as well.

At the recent meeting of the Finance Committee, the Secretariat provided the necessary financial details to understand the rationale of having one global Shared Services Centre (SSC). Furthermore, the evidence for its placing in Budapest is also clear.

To ensure global food security and nutrition, regional activity must be flexible and follow developments in the reformed Committee on World Food Security.

FAO activities in the European region are very appreciated by Member States. We look forward to future timely reports on the work using the results-based framework with impacts of the implementation of the activities, as well as enhanced cooperation between UN Agencies. FAO is expected to provide a document containing such analysis and evaluations, detailing challenges and shortfalls, as needed for optimizing work.

The present FAO activities in the Region are relevant for Member States' food security and economic development. It is expected that they continue. However, today there is a distinct lack of ranking of priorities, i.e., it is impossible to ascertain that resources have been used in the most possible efficient way. We look forward to a detailed breakdown of the proposed priority activities for each Strategic Objective, with the indication of the required regular and extra-budgetary funding, including partnerships. The Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) should maintain a dialogue on this.

Regarding the priority-setting within FAO in general, the EU considers that priority should be given to regional activities involving advocacy, policy support, capacity-building, knowledge management and neutral for a for discussion in the following areas of action: provision of basic global data and statistics; assistance to define national economic, social, food and nutrition policies, with a focus on capacity-building for least-developed countries to meet global expectations and benefit from market opportunities; normative role at global level, as well as capacity-building to reinforce technical and institutional capacity, especially for least developed countries, including implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food; implementation of food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards including global conventions; animal and plant transboundary diseases; emergencies and rehabilitation; interface between climate change and agriculture and rural development; gender; conservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources, and sustainable management of forests.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. First of all we wish to congratulate the Chairperson of the Regional Conference for his presentation. Unlike other Regional Conferences, the 27th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe did not have any special theme on its agenda. However, the Ministerial Round Table in which 24 countries took part was a good forum for policy dialogue on a wide range of challenges facing different parts of Europe. It dealt with climate change mitigation and adaptation, the financial and economic crisis affecting Europe, rural development, land tenure and issues of trade. An important outcome of the Round Table was the recommendation of the creation of an expert group for the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia region to continue this policy dialogue. Another

interesting feature about the Report of the Regional Conference for Europe was the output of the three working groups on problem analysis and prioritization. Working Group 1 dealt with Central and Eastern Europe, Working Groups 2 and 3 dealt with South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia respectively. Each Working Group addressed the specific characteristics of its constituency and came forward with a set of fairly precise priorities, or let us say, areas of emphasis. The approach they adopted resembles the one taken by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The outcome of the three Working Groups culminated into ten regional activities which the European Union explained just now for consideration in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13, as it is said in paragraph 33 of the Report. The priorities proposed by the three Working Groups are in a broad sense reflected in the ten regional activities.

Mr Chairperson, we endorse the recommendation of the Regional Conference for the appointment of FAORs in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, but we do not agree with the integration of the Sub-regional Office in Ankara with the Regional Office in Budapest. This is only possible after an in-depth evaluation of the Budapest office.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, on the Shared Service Centre office in Budapest, the Regional Office states that it has been a success with respect to improved efficiency and the quality of services provided. However, no reference is made to any in-depth study in support of this conclusion. The Regional Conference also urges the Secretariat to pursue the creation of a Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest.

Mr Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

At the outset, we would also like to thank our Host Country for organizing such an effective Conference.

As stated by the European Union, we very much value the consultation process before the conferences. We believe this process should be encouraged for all the regions and, in this respect, I would just like to inform the Council Members that, after the European Regional Conference, an informal consultation meeting for Central Asia has been held in Almaty recently, on 19 to 20 October 2010.

The purpose of the consultation meeting was to evaluate the outcomes of the Regional Conference for the sub-region and to initiate preparations for the work of the next biennium. In this consultation, all countries participated actively, including non-governmental organizations. Staff members from the Regional Office in Budapest and the Subregional office in Ankara were present.

During the consultation, FAO's work and tools for the sub-region were discussed extensively and priority topics for the sub-region proposed by the members were identified for further analysis and evaluation for future work.

M Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse souscrit aux recommandations contenues dans le Rapport sur la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe. J'aimerais simplement faire trois remarques.

La première concerne la qualité des documents qui ont été présentés. À notre sens, la qualité des documents est à améliorer à l'avenir, notamment pour ce qui a trait aux rapports sur les activités de la FAO dans la région. Ce rapport doit se fonder sur le cadre axé sur le résultat et devrait fournir des indications quant à l'impact des activités de l'Organisation dans la région.

Deuxième remarque, nous regrettons que le document fourni sur les domaines d'action prioritaires pour la région de l'Europe au cours du prochain exercice biennal 2012-13, n'a pas permis une réflexion approfondie sur les domaines d'action prioritaires. À notre avis, il est important de fixer les priorités par ordre d'importance. Pour mon pays, les activités régionales de la FAO dans la région d'Europe devraient notamment porter sur premièrement: l'interface entre le changement climatique et l'agriculture avec analyse des aspects de l'atténuation et de l'adaptation, deuxièmement, la conservation et la gestion des ressources naturelles, notamment pour ce qui a trait aux ressources

phytogénétiques et zoogénétiques, troisièmement, la gestion durable des forêts et quatrièmement le développement de l'agriculture durable dans les zones marginales, notamment de montagnes.

Troisième remarque, dans tous les domaines d'activités il est nécessaire selon nous que la FAO renforce la collaboration avec les autres organisations internationales présents dans la région et renforce également sa collaboration tant dans la société civile que dans le secteur privé.

Mr Samvel AVETISYAN (Chairperson Regional Conference for Europe) (Original language Russian)

I would like to thank all those who have spoken, in making viable comments and proposals. I think that there is food for thought in the light of a number of the comments which should be taken into account. I think that the Council will discuss some of this and take the appropriate decisions.

Thank you for your discussion of this Report.

Mr Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I thought there may have been a clarification from the podium, but apparently that hasn't been the case.

Afghanistan's comment on merging the Sub-regional Office in Ankara and the one in Budapest is, I think, a misunderstanding. During the Regional Conference this was not an issue at all. The issue was the merging of the Sub-regional Office for Europe in Budapest and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in Budapest. I think this needs to be clarified, and this is why I took the floor.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Cela ne m'avait pas échappé parce que j'avais bien entendu aussi à la Conférence qu'il s'agissait de la fusion des deux bureaux qui sont à Budapest et non pas d'autres bureaux, ce qui n'exclut pas des discussions futures, mais cela n'était pas l'objet de la Conférence. Merci de l'avoir signifié. Donc s'ils n'y a pas d'autres questions, je pense que toutes les interventions ont plutôt été complémentaires à ce qui a été dit. J'attirerais simplement votre attention sur deux points, qui peuvent sans doute se formuler pour cette Conférence, mais aussi pour d'autres : la nécessité de l'évaluation à tous les niveaux. Je crois que c'est important. Cela a été redit. Ce n'est pas simplement au Conseil et à la Conférence, mais à tous les niveaux, y compris dans la préparation des Conférences régionales sur les activités de la FAO. Donc nous essaierons de le rémuser dans le compte rendu au point concernant les conférences régionales, mais j'en profite pour le signaler ici. Et puis il a été question d'un partenariat le plus ouvert possible avec les autres instances onusiennes, mais aussi avec la société civile et comme vient de le dire le représentant de la Suisse, les organisations privées. Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénients, je vous propose d'adopter ce rapport.

6.4 Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September-1 October 2010) (CL 140/17)

6.4 Rapport de la trentième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, Gyeongju, République de Corée, 27 septembre-1er octobre 2010) (CL 140/17)

6.4 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico, Gyeongju, República de Corea, 27 de septiembre-1 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/17)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc à la quatrième Conférence régionale qui a eu lieu du 27 septembre au 1er octobre à Gyeongju en République de Corée pour l'Asie et le Pacifique. Son Excellence Yoo Jeong-Bok, Ministre de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches de la République de Corée et Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, n'a pu être présent et a nommé Monsieur Jong Chul Kim pour le représenter. Vous avez la parole.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Chairperson Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

I regret that my Minister could not join this Council due to his tight schedule with the National Assembly dealing with the budget for next year. However, for me it is an honour and a pleasure to be

here today and have the opportunity to address the Council regarding the outcome of the 30th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific on behalf of Asia and the Pacific countries.

The 30th APRC was held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 27 September–1 October 2010, and attended by 28 Delegations and 19 Observers. The final report includes a summary of the main recommendations for the attention of the FAO Conference, for the attention of the FAO Council, and for Member Nations in the Region. A detailed report of the Conference and 10 appendices are also included.

In reference to the agenda item on matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network, the Regional Conference called upon FAO to allocate budgetary resources to the Asia-Pacific region commensurate with the challenges of achieving food security in the region, which is home to two-thirds of the world's poor and hungry.

With regard to the establishment of One Global Shared Services Centre, the Regional Conference requested that findings of the in-depth study of the functions of the Bangkok and Santiago SSC hubs, and of regional office administrative services in general being undertaken in 2010 be provided, in full, to the Finance Committee, and to all Member Nations, and urged that the analysis of the SSC structure and functions be carried out in a deliberate manner and include criteria related to quality and effectiveness of services delivered, striking a balance with possible long-term cost savings.

Regarding Consideration of the Regional Priority Framework (2010-2019) and Structural Changes in RAP, the Regional Conference endorsed the Regional Priority Framework and noted the linkages of the Regional Priority Framework with FAO's Strategic Framework which embody the Organization's three global goals and 11 Strategic Objectives and which were translated into regional actions with focused attention on key challenges and priorities of the region. It stressed the importance of maintaining effective linkages between decentralized offices and headquarters staff, and urged FAO to advance the decentralization process accordingly.

Considering the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and areas of priority actions for the Asia and Pacific Region for the following biennium, the Regional Conference endorsed the five areas of regional priority action for FAO work in the Asia-Pacific Region for 2010-11 and 2012-13: i) strengthening food and nutritional security; ii) fostering agricultural production and rural development; iii) enhancing equitable productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization; iv) enhancing the capacity to prepare and respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies; and v) coping with the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security.

The Regional Conference encouraged additional support to priority programmes through extra-budgetary contributions and urged the Secretariat to give more focus to the planned actions, giving full consideration to FAO's comparative advantages. It suggested that special emphasis be placed on the following areas of work: i) sustainable crop intensification and diversification to improve productivity; ii) transboundary animal/plant diseases and emergency response to natural disasters; iii) genetic resources; iv) climate change adaptation and mitigation; v) food safety and nutrition; and vi) agriculture diversification with emphasis on livestock productivity, aquaculture, and sustainable forest management.

The Regional Conference requested that the reports include indications of budget allocation and expenditure by regional result, and progress on the utilization of Country Programming Frameworks (formerly National Medium-Term Priority Frameworks) in guiding FAO's work at country level. It emphasized that the Asia-Pacific Region contained the majority of hungry people in the world, and that Governments faced special challenges in addressing this issue. Delegates highlighted that the FAO budget allocated to Asia and the Pacific was not proportional to the magnitude of undernourished in the Region. The Conference agreed that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals that related to contributions from the agriculture sector could not be met without due attention to Asia and the Pacific.

The Regional Conference requested that additional human and financial resources should be provided and progress in this matter reported at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference in June 2011.

On other matters, the Regional Conference urged FAO and other development partners to give due consideration and adequate resources to address the needs of Member Nations in the Pacific, and other Small Island Nations, particularly with respect to high vulnerability to climate change impacts.

After discussions on integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Region, the Regional Conference requested FAO to continue assisting Member Nations in formulating and implementing sound climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans, facilitating practical actions for technology transfer and building capacities. It requested FAO to provide advice to Member Nations, sub-regional and regional organizations in adjusting and harmonizing policies, programmes and institutions dealing with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Regional Conference requested FAO to facilitate the formulation of a regional strategy for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the agricultural sectors, and the establishment of regional cooperation mechanisms and networks, taking due consideration of differing sub-regional needs and conditions. It also requested FAO, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations, to assist Member Nations in collecting and analyzing reliable data and information on climate change impacts, especially at local levels, and on emissions from different agricultural production systems, in support of planning and informed decision-making.

The Regional Conference requested FAO to provide targeted technical support to Member Nations and build capacities for implementing practical climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the areas of crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, land and water management. It also requested FAO to support Member Nations in the efforts related to restoration of degraded lands and forests, through reforestation, forest rehabilitation and agro-forestry, noting the increased demand for land and water resources. It also requested FAO to continue support for initiatives in Member Nations to test and demonstrate the feasibility of various climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in the agricultural sectors, such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD).

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO, in conjunction with other relevant organizations, provide guidance to Member Nations for establishing and implementing technologically-sound, robust and consistent methodologies for monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon stocks and other parameters related to climate change in the agriculture sector.

After discussions on experiences and policy lessons from the Region in dealing with the global food and financial crises, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO conduct analytical studies and engage in policy dialogue with concerned stakeholders with a view to developing policy options for a more stable global trading system for food, which could enhance food security while providing adequate incentives for food producers.

After discussions on increasing crop productivity for sustainable food security in the region, the Regional Conference recommended that FAO work with Member Nations to increase productivity of crops that are of particular relevance to the diets of food- and nutritionally-insecure people, including starchy staples, pulses, coarse grains, vegetables, horticultural crops and oil crops.

The Regional Conference recommended that FAO work with Member Nations to speed up technology transfer in support of crop intensification through the following measures: i) re-examination of policies on release of new varieties to speed up variety release processes; ii) participatory varietal selection to encourage the speedy development and adoption of appropriate varieties by the end users; iii) empowerment of farmers' organizations to conduct quality control testing on agrichemicals; and iv) revision of extension services to be more demand-driven instead of supply-led. It also recommended that FAO assist Member Nations in the following areas: i) facilitating public-private partnerships in research, extension and marketing; ii) better connecting of producers, particularly smallholders, to markets; and iii) building capacity in food safety and phytosanitary matters.

The Regional Conference requested FAO to support Member Nations' efforts to make increased use of local diversity, conservation agriculture, integrated pest management, integrated plant nutrient management and integrated water management.

Regarding FAO's strategy for and approaches to disaster preparedness, response and mitigation in the Region, the Regional Conference welcomed plans for establishing regional hubs for emergency operations and resource mobilization in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Regarding implementation of REDD and what it means for forestry and agriculture in the Region, the Regional Conference urged FAO to work with UNDP and UNEP to harmonize, simplify and speed up programme delivery, and to prepare for the second phase of the programme.

Before closing my presentation, if I am correct, the Chairperson said that he does not know my name. My name is Kim Jong Chul. I am the acting Director-General for International Cooperation Bureau.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Jong Chul KIM mais sur ma note il était marqué Monsieur KIM, et je n'avais pas du tout de qualificatif alors je n'ai pas osé mais je voulais le faire pour récupérer et vous êtes bien celui qui s'est présenté. Merci.

Bien qui demande la parole sur l'intervention qui vient d'avoir lieu? Bon, je redonne la liste pour ne rien oublier: j'ai les Philippines, l'Afghanistan, l'Australie, la Thaïlande, l'Indonésie, la Chine, l'Inde, le Japon, le Sri Lanka, l'Uruguay et le Canada. Je donne la parole aux Philippines.

Mr Romeo RECIDE (Philippines)

I would like to thank Mr Kim for presenting that comprehensive report on the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. The Regional Conference has given clear and comprehensive guidance on various aspects of FAO governance and my Government aligns with the key recommendations it has adopted. Allow me to highlight a few of them.

First, my Government strongly supports the FAO decentralisation process and the regional priority framework. We look forward to its timely implementation, and for sufficient resources to be provided accordingly to support the process.

Secondly, we note that in spite of the dramatic progress made in the last few years, we need not be reminded that two thirds of the world's poor live in Asia. We, therefore, urge FAO to allocate commensurate resources to address the magnitude of challenges facing the Asia and Pacific countries.

Third, we welcome the proposal for a region-wide cooperation scheme to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation for food security. While recognizing that FAO is not a negotiating venue for climate change negotiations, we believe that FAO has a comparative advantage of providing independent and science-based knowledge resources that could guide Member Nations in reaching consensus on key issues related to climate change.

In addition, my Government agrees with the Conference guidance that FAO should play a lead role in building capacities, facilitating technology transfer in the climate change adaptation strategies for our Member Nations.

Fourth, is to urge FAO to intensify cooperation with the regional bodies such as the ASEAN and the SARC in developing policy options and food security mechanism such as regional food banks or reserves that could respond quickly and decisively in impending food security threats. We also wish to point out that underpinning a nimble policy response and mechanism is a robust statistical database and, in this regard, we request FAO to intensify its efforts to build capacity at the national and regional levels and initiate action at the regional level to facilitate exchange of standardized statistical information.

Lastly, we would like to point out that increasing crop productivity as a key to sustainable food security, especially in Asia, is expected to intensify due to population pressure. We, therefore, support the priority action areas contained in this Report for FAO to assist in addressing this issue. Among

others, we give special attention to public-private partnership as a strategy to attain sustainable food security.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its hospitality and efficient hosting of the Regional Conference.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you, Chairperson, and thank you Mr Kim for your presentation.

I would like to also associate myself with the statement made by the Philippines. Mr Chairperson, the Agenda of the APRC was well-tuned to the challenges facing food security and agricultural development in the countries of Asia and the Pacific. The documentation prepared for the Conference was of high quality. The APRC dealt with 14 topics and for each topic the Report puts forward important points for consideration by Member Nations, by the Council and by the Conference.

Some sixty points have been raised for consideration. The concentration of the points are in the areas of: climate change adaptation and mitigation (15 points); crop productivity for sustainable food security (8 points); lessons learned from the recent food and financial crisis (7 points); and priority actions for the biennium 2012-13 (6 points).

Out of the 60 points mentioned, 23 are addressed solely to the Council and 21 more go to the Council and Member Nations of the Region. For priority-setting in the biennium 2012-13, the Regional Conference has suggested seven areas of work which Mr Kim already explained but I would also mention, namely: crop intensification and diversification, transboundary plant and animal diseases, emergency response to national disasters, genetic resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food safety and nutrition, and mixed farming. The first six areas of emphasis are covered by strategic objectives A, B, D, F and I, though it may require retuning to accommodate further areas of emphasis proposed. Perhaps a new area for inclusion in the PWB 2012-13 will be mixed farming. The other good features of the APRC work were 1) the Round Table on the Follow-up to the L'Aquila Initiative, where the issues of country ownership, the critical role of smallholders producers and increased investment in agriculture were considered as most crucial; 2) the Side Event on "Responsible Agricultural Investment" and 3) the frank statement by the representative of seventy CSOs to the Plenary.

Mr Chairperson, on the establishment of the Global Shared Service Centre, the decision of the Regional Conference was expressed. It requests that the findings of the in-depth study of the functions of Bangkok and Santiago Shared Service Centre hubs and of a Regional Administrative Office in general, being undertaken in 2010, be provided in full through the Finance Committee and to all Member Nations. It further adds that the analysis of the Shared Service Centre structure and functions be carried out in a deliberate manner and include criteria related to quality and effectiveness of services rendered, striking a balance with possible long-term cost savings. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Kim for his comprehensive presentation on the outcomes of the Regional Conference. They certainly covered many issues I intended to speak on.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kim and, through him, the Host Government, the Republic of Korea, for organizing the events. I personally attended the Regional Conference and was extremely impressed with the quality of arrangements made for it. Certainly in Regional discussions with many Members of my region who aren't present and here today, I know they were also very satisfied with the arrangements.

As a participant country in the Regional Conference, Australia fully subscribes to the Report of both the ministerial and the official meetings held at the Conference. In this regard, I would also like to quickly align Australia to the comments made prior to my intervention, both by Afghanistan and by the Philippines. We do not propose to comment on all aspects of the meeting. Instead we wish to reiterate our support for the five areas of the Regional Priority Action Framework for FAO in the Asia Pacific to the periods of 2012-13: Strengthening Food Security; Fostering Agricultural Production and

Rural Development, Enhancing Equitable Production and Sustainable Natural Development Resource Management; Improving Capacity to Prepare and Respond to Food and Agricultural threats and Emergencies and Coping with Impacts of Climate Change. We know, however, that this Framework is extremely comprehensive and covers all major issues confronting agriculture in the region. For that reason it is very difficult to disagree with any points in it.

We do, however, note that the Conference specifically noted that special emphasis be placed on the following areas of work and rather than re-reading those they are points already announced by my colleagues from Afghanistan and by Mr Kim.

I would, however, draw the attention of the Council to the Regional Conference Report which notes that FAO give due consideration to the special needs and challenges of countries in the Pacific. The Pacific is a region that struggles to get sufficient support and resources from FAO. It is a small region, far distant with a comparatively small population, yet we are still important in critical issues that need FAO assistance. For this reason, the APRC recognizes the special needs of the Pacific.

This concern extends also to the issue of climate change where the Regional Conference noted the specific challenges and needs of Members Nations in the Pacific and other Small Island Nations, particularly with vulnerability to climate change impacts. It urged FAO and other development partners to give due consideration and adequate resources to address these needs.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation thanks Mr Kim for his very comprehensive presentation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Republic of Korea for the successful arrangements made during the Regional Conference, and for the warm hospitality extended to participants. Like the colleagues from Australia, I personally attended the Conference and was very impressed by the excellent arrangements.

Thailand endorses the Report and has some parts to underline as follows: first, as noted by the Philippines delegation, Asia is still home for more than two thirds of the world's under-nourished. Therefore, there is still an urgent need to intensify FAO's operation in the region for the next biennium. In this regard, the Regional Office should be provided with sufficient human and financial resources. We look forward to receiving reports on any changes that have been made or to be made in addressing this concern.

Second, negative impact of climate change is evidently observed in many Asia and Pacific countries. Capacity for response should be given top priority in FAO interventions, especially for developing the countries. Adaptation of agricultural production to climate change should focus on small farmers who are the most vulnerable.

Third, protection and conservation of biodiversity in developing countries should be carried out in a manner that ensures the sovereignty of those countries. It is paramount that their national laws and intellectual property rights of their genetic resources be respected.

Fourth, the Regional Priority Framework should be used as inputs in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, which will respond to the needs of the Region.

Last but not least, on the proposed consolidation of the Shared Services Centre, the APRC has taken a clear and strong position. We wish to recall that the new and important role of the Regional Conference as a Governing Body and urge due consideration to this clear position being made.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. J'ai encore l'Indonésie, la Chine, l'Inde, le Japon, le Sri Lanka, l'Uruguay et le Canada. Il est exclu de faire cela avant le déjeuner.

Je vous propose de recommencer nos interventions à partir de 14h 30 sur le suivi de ces interventions et de tirer les conclusions et pour passer au point de l'Ordre du jour suivant.

Mais avant de vous libérer pour le déjeuner, plusieurs informations. Première chose, un changement au niveau du Comité de rédaction puisque le Japon se retire pour laisser la place à la Thaïlande. Vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénients? Donc, c'est acquis.

Je vous informe aussi, pour ceux qui sont concernés, que le Groupe Afrique se réunit immédiatement après cette réunion dans la salle du Canada A-356 et qu'après la fin de ce point, les deux premiers points concernant le compte-rendu du produit et de l'agriculture seront présidés par le Vice-président Alberto López García Asenjo, le Représentant permanent de l'Espagne, pas tout à fait au début mais peu après, d'ailleurs, avec une partie de ma présence malgré tout, mais il faut aussi pouvoir partager et je vous souhaite un bon appétit.

The meeting rose at 12:40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:40 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
29 November 2010

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. Regional Conferences (cont'd)

III. Conférences régionales (suite)

III. Conferencias regionales (*continuación*)

6. Programme and budget matters arising from Regional Conferences Reports: (cont'd)

6. Questions relatives au programme et au budget soulevées dans les rapports des Conférences régionales: (suite)

6. Cuestiones relativas al programa y al presupuesto planteadas en los Informes de las Conferencias Regionales: (continuación)

6.4 Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 27 September-1 October 2010) (CL 140/17)(cont'd)

6.4 Rapport de la trentième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Gyeongju, République de Corée, 27 septembre-1er octobre 2010) (CL 140/17) (suite)

6.4 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Gyeongju, República de Corea, 27 de septiembre-1 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/17) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Prenez place pour continuer notre session de cet après-midi. Comme convenu avant le déjeuner, nous continuons nos échanges concernant la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique et comme je vous l'ai dit tout à l'heure, nous avons sept interventions successives avant que Monsieur Kim puisse donner quelques commentaires et que nous tirions les conclusions globales des différentes Conférences régionale.

Je donne donc la parole à l'Indonésie. Indonésie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Mohamad OEMAR (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to associate itself with the Report just made by the distinguished representative of the Republic of Korea on the outcome of the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. We would also like to express our appreciation for the hospitality and generous arrangements made by the Republic of Korea during the last Regional Conference.

Indonesia would like to reiterate our firm support for the proposal to maintain the existence of a Shared Services Centre, the SSC, in the Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, to help FAO's field operation and emergency food programmes in Member Nations in need. We consider the establishment of the SSC Centre outside the Asia Pacific Region is not in line with the spirit of decentralization of FAO, and would disregard the fact that the largest number of populations in need still occupies this very region.

With regard to the issue of a regional priority framework, we support the conclusions taken during the APRC, particularly in the field of partnerships with relevant organizations to produce breakthrough technologies in food and agriculture in the face of extreme weather change.

Indonesia is prepared to host the fourth Governing Body of the IPBGRFA in Bali from 14-18 March 2011, which will be preceded by a Ministerial Conference related to climate change, biodiversity and food security on 11 March 2011. These meetings we expect will be able to provide parties and non-parties of the IPBGRFA with a venue to discuss and review the policy that has been taken since the first meeting of the IPBGRFA five years ago on this issue in Spain.

Mr LI Zhengdong (China) (Original language Chinese)

As a member of the Asia Pacific Region, China, of course, supports the Report which has been made by South Korea. We hope that our Council meeting would be able to adopt the Report.

I fully share the interventions of proceeding delegations but I would also like to emphasize of additional points.

First, I would like to draw the attention of all of our colleagues to the fact of the specific situation of the Asia Pacific Region which could be summarized in the following points: firstly, it's the most populated region of the world, secondly, this region has the highest population suffering from malnutrition, thirdly, our region also suffers enormously from natural disasters, and fourthly, our region has very high agricultural production- the highest in the world in fact. Consequently, and in light of the region's specific characteristics, we believe that it is necessary to strengthen food security there. It is this effort which is essentially important because the food situation security in the region has a direct impact on the food security situation in the wider world. So, I would like to reiterate this particular specific characteristic of the while also emphasizing goals worthy of particular attention being given to the region.

Secondly, I would like to emphasize that FAO should support our region actively to facilitate the establishment of courses and strategies in favour of agricultural productivity. Priorities need to be established through this effort in the agriculture sector. As far as I understand, each region has its own specific characteristics. Consequently, in agricultural development, each region should be able to match its priorities to strategies and policies in order to clearly define appropriate priorities in the area of agriculture

Thirdly, I would also like to emphasize the wish to see FAO strengthen its support to Asia and the Pacific through technical assistance in the agriculture domain, by building capacities to withstand natural disasters, etc. Through various resources, the attention given to the Asia and the Pacific Region can be and should be enhanced.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. We compliment the Report presented by Dr Kim, and express our gratitude to the Republic of South Korea for the generosity in hosting the Regional Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to us during our visit.

We welcome the priorities identified and endorse the recommendations made by the Regional Conference. A visit to the Republic of South Korea was an eye-opener for all of us, especially knowing fully well that the Republic of Korea was, until 1966, importing food grains. Today, it is not only self-sustaining, but it has a surplus in rice production. It is the movement that was started in the 1970s, and today the Republic of Korea has demonstrated that smallholder agriculture can be profitable, and productive. This is a lesson which in the region all of us must and can learn from the Republic of Korea. It has also embarked on a low-carbon economy and green growth, which is something which we all are speaking about but have yet to start in our own countries.

Apart from this, the Regional Conference really highlighted one of the most serious issues, that is, that it is home to more than two-thirds of undernourished, poor and hungry people. Yet the allocation of resources to this area is not proportionate. We would urge FAO to devote its resources, both financial and human, to address the problems of this Region. The Report has placed great emphasis on specific challenges and needs of not only the Member Nations, but also the Small Island Nations and the coastal areas, which have a high degree of vulnerability to climate change impacts. We especially need an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to climate change for adaptation, mitigation, and food security.

The greatest challenge, as my friend from China pointed out, is the population. The agriculture of this Region faces enormous population growth. The most critical of the dimensions is in the context of our growing population. To take the example of India, we are 1.1 billion people now, but by 2030 we will have 1.5 billion people. Beyond these round numbers our demographic profile shows that the calorific needs of the population will increase at the fastest ever pace in history, as the medium age moves from 25 to 35 years.

Rising incomes and changing eating habits will dramatically alter what we consume. Beyond rice, wheat and coarse cereals, we need more protein, more edible oil, more sugar in different forms, including pulses, meat, dairy, vegetables and fruits. A rising population itself has many other dimensions. The most important one is pressure on land. The exponentially-rising population will necessarily seek to increase fragmentation of land holdings, making them uneconomical and of low

productivity. Conflict between land for agriculture and for other purposes, like industry and housing, will further aggravate the situation. Besides land, the pressure on water resources will also increase exponentially. My delegation is convinced that we will have to produce more per square inch of land and per drop of water to fulfil the growing requirements of our vast population.

Besides population, the development deficit in agriculture can be best understood when we review our agriculture and find a need to bridge the investment and credit deficit, the infrastructure deficit, the market accessibility deficit and, last but not the least, the knowledge and research deficit.

It is in the area of knowledge and research deficit that the role of FAO is considered very important. Therefore, we must strengthen FAO's knowledge and research strength. We must extend its support to the Asia and Pacific Region because if poverty can be eradicated, if the hungry millions of people living in this Region can really find solutions to their hunger, then we can be in a hunger-free world.

With these remarks I thank you Chairperson and also Mr Kim, for having succinctly put our demands before all of us. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

Thank you, Mr Kim, for your comprehensive presentation and for hosting the Thirtieth Session of the APCR.

Japan, in particular, would like to stress the importance of the reform of Decentralized Offices Network which is essential to manage FAO's entire work in an efficient and effective manner. The upcoming challenges are strengthening FAO's capacity to respond to the increased tasks and responsibilities, and to ensure that staff are highly qualified. Therefore, training and rotation of staff should be strategically conducted.

Country Offices are fundamental to FAO's activities, but not every office performs well enough to meet the expectations of Member Nations. The improvement of the evaluation mechanism should be dealt with at first for the sake of evaluating that country, and the status of collaboration with other international agencies should be reviewed. The performance of Country Offices and their desired capacities should be reviewed, and the outcome of projects and programmes conducted in the country and extent of collaboration with other international agencies should be taken into account. Moreover, as the scales of the sub-regional Offices' work do not attain their critical mass, we are worried that this may not be acceptable in dealing with local needs and requests, and resources will be wasted. The relevance of a three-layered Decentralized Offices Network of Regional, Sub-regional and Country Offices should be revisited based on the medium- and long-term perspectives.

Taking this into account, a drastic redevelopment of Offices and the strengthening of collaboration on the ground with other international agencies should be reconsidered.

Mr Saman UDAGEDARA (Sri Lanka)

I thank Mr Kim for the comprehensive Report presented for the 30th Session of the APCR. The Report contains vital recommendations relating to the specific challenges faced by the Region in eradicating hunger.

Sri Lanka supports the key recommendations to the Council made by the 30th Session of the APCR, in particular with regard to allocation of budget resources to a specific region that is home to two thirds of the world's poor and hungry.

The establishment of one Global Service Centre, reform of the CFS and a , regional priority framework that would increase crop productivity for sustainable food security in the Region.

With regard to the implementation of the PWB 2010-11, and areas of regional priority action for the following biennium, the Report has endorsed five areas for FAO work in the Asia and Pacific Region. Sri Lanka encourages additional support to these priority actions through extra-budgetary contributions and through partnerships.

Sra. Gabriela CHIFFLET (Uruguay)

He solicitado la palabra en nombre del GRULAC el agradecer el exhaustivo Informe presentado por el Sr. Kim sobre la Conferencia Regional de Asia y el Pacífico. El GRULAC comparte mucho de los conceptos vertidos en las conclusiones de la Conferencia en particular lo referido a la labor emprendida respecto a la descentralización y a la necesidad de contar con mayor información sobre el Centro de Servicios Compartidos.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada, on behalf of North America, would like to thank all the Regional Chairs for their reports and perspectives. North America strongly supports the ongoing process of FAO reform. One key element of this is the establishment of clear and concise priorities for the Organization. The contributions by the Regional Conferences to the PWB process are important, especially in ensuring that FAO's field work better reflects regional priorities.

While North America is pleased with the initial phase of FAO's results-based approach, it is at this moment when both Management and FAO's Member Nations must show true leadership in its implementation and that means having a considered debate on prioritization of FAO policy and programming activities.

The Regional Conferences provided the FAO with a sense of their areas of interest and where further work is required. Unfortunately, as noted by the EU earlier this morning, the inputs from Management do not lend themselves to the establishment of a hierarchy of priorities. The FAO Secretariat should better engage with Member Nations, including through Regional Conferences, to help in the identification of priorities by setting out where FAO has comparative advantage and to advise as to the resources required to support proposed courses of action, including possibilities for reallocation of resources from low to high priorities.

Mr Chair, on a separate note, I would like to draw the kind attention of distinguished representatives to a letter from Canada and the United States of America reporting on our informal Regional Conference held on 16-17 November 2010. It is available at the Documents Desk outside and on the US Mission Website and will also be on the Permanent Representatives Website. We will not speak in detail about this today, under this item, but tomorrow under Item 4.1.

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

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the Regional Conferences because we consider them to be bodies which set the priority areas of activity for agricultural policy in the regions in the immediate and in the medium- and longer-term. We recognize the responsibility of Member States for dealing with the implementation of decisions taken at Regional Conferences in specific areas.

In the informal conference document submitted by the USA and Canada, there are very interesting points relating to the contributions of Regional Conferences on discussing and dealing with the global problems and issues relating to agricultural development and to agricultural policy at world level.

The Russian Federation in the course of this year has become a full member of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We have participated in the 27th Regional Conference for Europe as well. First of all, let me say that this has been dictated by our desire to expand cooperation with other countries and to enhance the potential of Russia in this region to cooperate in promoting the development of the agricultural sector with countries inter alia which were once part of one single agricultural policy. There is also the issue of countries requiring population needs assistance, such as Kyrgyzstan Republic and Tajikistan.

We support many of the decisions which have been adopted, indeed the majority of the decisions which have been adopted, at both the European and the Asia and Pacific Regional Conferences. The purpose is to help us achieve the major aim of this Organization, in other words building and keeping food security worldwide. We also agree with the decisions of the European Regional Conference with respect to the proposals and the appropriate area of the FAO budget for the European Region. These are very focused and important decisions to assist small-scale farmers and to expand cooperation to

help them get better market access and also to boost and sustain employment in the agricultural sectors, thereby alleviating poverty. These points are very important, as is the protection of genetic resources and the protection of biodiversity, not to mention the development of early warning systems for possible food crises so as to help us anticipate them, take the necessary measures to tackle them and reverse the trend towards their increase.

The Russian Federation wants to cooperate internationally to ensure that we can increase security at the world and regional levels. We want to make a contribution to that in scientific and technical terms, including developing genetic resources, both agricultural and others. As a result of all the Regional Conferences, it has become clear that they have made a substantial contribution to the work FAO is undertaking to ensure that it achieves specific results at regional and other levels, and we support the growing significance and importance of this Regional Conference, as well as the decisions taken which we have just heard.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres interventions? Si cela n'est pas le cas, je demanderai à Monsieur Jong Chul Kim de faire des commentaires ou des remarques sur ce qui a été dit sur la Conférence pour l'Asie et le Pacifique.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Chairperson Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

I'd like to thank the Secretariat, and in particular the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok for their dedication to the preparation of the APRC. I listened to the comments very carefully, although it does not seem to be appropriate for me to respond comment by comment. I also would like to thank all the Members who made comments regarding the APRC Report. As the Host Country of the APRC, I am given the new role of Regional Conference as a Governing Body. We think it is very important that all the recommendations and decision regarding regional priorities made in the APRC are duly considered and reflected in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur cette Conférence régionale, je crois qu'il n'y a pas eu d'opposition ni de commentaires négatifs sur le travail global. Je crois que comme pour les premières Conférences, il y a un accord global qui a été apporté à cette démarche et je vous propose là aussi d'adopter ces éléments de la Conférence. Je vous demanderais si sur l'ensemble des quatre Conférences vous avez des remarques à faire de façon globale, en sachant, je le rappelle, que demain lors de l'examen du Rapport du Comité du programme, du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, nous aurons aussi des sujets qui reviendront et qui nous permettront de tirer des conclusions plus globales. Je pense plus particulièrement aux aspects de la décentralisation et des bureaux ainsi que sur le service commun, et bien sûr, sur la cohésion, puisque c'est cela qui est important, entre les priorités régionales et les priorités globales de notre Organisation. Je vous propose aussi que la demande formulée par la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique concernant l'institution un prix de sécurité alimentaire que nous avons agréé dans le rapport de l'Afrique et dont nous pouvons rediscuter demain, de savoir si au-delà de l'accord où de la présentation Afrique cela devienne un accord ou un avis global, mais je vous propose plutôt de le garder en fin de réunion après avoir parlé du programme et du budget.

Que personne ne se sente frustré parce que l'équilibre ou plutôt l'exercice que nous réalisons là est un petit peu difficile. Je vous rappelle qu'au départ dans l'Ordre du jour nous avons prévu le Rapport du Comité financier, le Rapport du Comité du programme, et puis les Conférences régionales. A la demande d'un certain nombre de pays, en particulier le Japon, nous avons inversé cet Ordre du jour, et je crois que c'est aussi bien. Je souhaite que les Rapporteurs, les Ministres, ou Présidents de Conférences régionales puissent être encore là demain lorsque nous parlerons avec le Comité du financier et le Comité des programmes des différents sujets. Nous verrons cette discussion les points les plus significatifs qui correspondent aux quatre Conférences régionales.

Avec regrets, mais les regrets ne servent à rien puisque c'est toujours trop tard, la Conférence pour le Proche-Orient n'a pas pu avoir lieu auparavant parce que ça nous aurait permis de tirer des conclusions plus définitives. C'est dans l'intérieur de notre programmation puisque le Comité du

programmes et le Comité financier se réuniront à nouveau avant le prochain Conseil que nous adapterons de façon définitive au Conseil d'avril tous ces éléments là.

Donc, voilà, je m'arrêterai là pour que nous adoptions l'avis des quatre Conférences régionale et que nous mettons à l'Ordre du jour pour cohésion avec le Comité du programme et le Comité financier demain les points plus précis. À moins qu'il y ait bien sûr quelques remarques ou questions sur le global.

Je vois que la Tanzanie souhaite intervenir.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. This is my general observation, maybe I can get feedback from Management on this. It's my feeling that these Reports being presented could have included Management reflections, because they are part and parcel of this process.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, c'est bien notre difficulté apprentissage. Les rapports qui ont été faits, j'allais dire sont presque trop complets. Cela veut dire qu'ils font état de la mission de la Conférence régionale sur le budget et sur le programme mais aussi d'autres commentaires plus politiques et plus larges qui correspondent à la Conférence. Je crois qu'il est bon de faire le lien avec tout cela. Mais avec l'approche demain des interventions sur le Comité du programme et le Comité financier qui eux-mêmes ont eu rapport de ce travail, nous devrons être en mesure de tirer des conclusions plus cohérentes sur l'aller-retour entre le programme, le budget et les régions.

Bien sûr et bien entendu, les Conférences régionales ont travaillé, globalement sont resté tout à fait dans leur mission et dans les orientations qui pourraient être prises par rapport à la FAO, parce que bien entendu, la pire des choses ou la difficulté que nous pourrions avoir, c'est s'il y avait des Conférences régionales qui avaient donné des positions qui étaient complètement en dehors de la stratégie de la FAO avec la difficulté d'unité. Mais, à ce que j'en ai perçu autant en participant aux Conférences Régionale, qu'avec les rapports qui ont été faits tout de suite ça n'a pas été le cas. Donc, le travail que nous aurons à faire demain est justement de globaliser cela dans des conclusions qui nous permettent d'avancer et de mettre en application de façon cohérente ce qui a été décidé dans chaque région.

Voilà donc, l'esprit dans lequel nous travaillons. Il peut y avoir l'impression qu'on a fait les Conférences Régionale et ensuite on attend. Non, on n'attend pas. Il y a un aspect et on l'intègre vraiment dans la politique de la maison. Voilà, comment je perçois le travail.

Voilà, je vous propose sur cet élément-là et je demande au Secrétariat et en particulier à Monsieur He s'il veut bien faire quelques commentaires sur le travail global d'une part et sur l'éléments de fonctionnement en particulier.

Mr HE Changhui (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

We still have time to discuss synergies by reviewing the agenda items for tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. Nevertheless, in response to the requests by our distinguished delegate from Tanzania, and there are several generic issues the Members have raised this morning, I intend to inform the delegates of some of the processes. Before I do that, first of all I would like to note that we are so happy to see that the Members have endorsed the Regional Conference recommendations and Reports. This is indeed the very first opportunity for all Members to review and to consider the Regional Conference Reports as a result of the reform. The Secretariat very much appreciates the fact that all Members so seriously prepared for and participated in the Regional Conferences. We especially wish to thank the Host Countries for their great contributions which have all been appreciated.

Now coming back to several comments, particularly about how we are moving ahead in the implementation of some of the recommendations by each of the Regional Conferences. In this

connection, as I said, I wish to inform you of some of the processes which might contribute to better understand how we are prepared to move ahead.

First, after receiving the Regional Conference reports, the Secretariat undertook an in-depth review and analysis of each of the reports. As you know, we have five Regional Conferences, but one, that is the Near East Regional Conference, is still going to be organized a week after this Council. Therefore, our analysis had to be based on what was available from the four Regional Conferences. Based on this, some actions have already been undertaken.

One, many of you have mentioned about how we are going to look into the regional priorities, particularly as each region has some peculiarities and some special situations. The Director, OSP has already been leading a team to look into the modalities as to how to formulate regional priorities according to the recommendations of the Regional Conferences. Meanwhile, some delegations requested that we look into results-based reporting systems for the next Report, and indeed we are also developing these.

Other actions that we have undertaken in connection with some of the recommendations of the Regional Conference regard the need for optimal arrangements at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. As many of you recall, the Finance and Programme Committees, as well as the CoC, had recommended that full vision papers on the decentralization network be presented – how to enhance it, what kind of functions and what kind of structures are needed to be developed – based on the Regional Conferences recommendations. Almost all Regional Conferences have emphasized the strengthening of the decentralized network, and many of you have also emphasized how to strengthen and improve the country level presence for better, efficient and effective FAO decentralized network.

These recommendations have been taken into consideration in conjunction with those of the Regional Offices. Once we receive the recommendations from the Regional Conferences for the Near East we shall produce so-called vision papers in response to the results from Finance and Programme Committees requests, as well as the CoC.

We have noted that strong observations have been made on the SSC-related issues. As these matters will be discussed in tomorrow's meeting again, I wish to draw your attention to the Finance Committee on paragraph 68.3. It notes that this matter, after receiving further recommendations and observations from all five Regional Conferences, will be reviewed, reported and decided by the Council at its next session. I think we have already noticed that all these recommendations, suggestions and observations will lead the Council to take a further final decision on this matter.

I think this has been a very rich discussion on the Regional Conference Report so far. My colleagues have been taking note of some of the specific issues, such as the status of the Sub-regional Office in Ankara, as well as several other matters requiring clarification.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'en profite pour vous remercier après cette séquence autour des Conférences régionales, de tous ceux qui ont contribué à leur bonne réussite, les États Membres qui ont accueilli ces réunions, le Secrétariat aussi pour la participation et les comptes-rendus qui ont été faits puis comme l'a dit Monsieur Hé, c'est une construction progressive, bien sûr avec les différents autres Comités et pour des engagements futurs au prochain Conseil. Je vous propose d'en arrêter là pour ce point à l'Ordre du jour, concernant le point 6.

Comme je vous l'avais dit tout à l'heure je vais passer la Présidence momentanément à Monsieur Alberto López García pour les deux prochains points, le point concernant le Comité des produits et le COAG, après quoi je reprendrai la séance pour le Comité des forêts et le Comité de sécurité alimentaire. Voilà donc comment nous allons travailler cet après-midi.

IV. Technical Committees

IV. Comités techniques

IV. Comités técnicos

7. Programme and budget matters arising from Technical Committees Reports:

7. Questions relatives au programme et au budget soulevées dans les rapports des comités techniques:

7. Cuestiones relativas al programa y al presupuesto planteadas en los informes de los comités técnicos:

7.1 Report of the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (14-16 June 2010) (CL 140/2)

7.1 Rapport de la soixante-huitième session du Comité des produits (14-16 juin 2010) (CL 140/2)

7.1 Informe del 68.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (14-16 de junio de 2010) (CL 140/2)

Mr Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA ASENJO, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, took the chair

M Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA AASENJO, Vice-Président indépendant du Conseil, a pris la présidence

Sr Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA AASENJO, Vice-Presidente Independiente del Consejo, tomó la presidencia

EL PRESIDENTE

Señoras y señores, continuamos con el Tema 7 del Orden del día que concierne los Informes de los Comités Técnicos.

Como ustedes saben, según lo dispuesto en el Plan Inmediato de Acción los Comités Técnicos informan al Consejo sobre el presupuesto y las prioridades de los programas.

Comenzaremos por el Tema 7.1 que concierne el Informe del 68.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos que se llevó a cabo en junio de 2010, y que se encuentra en el documento CL 140/2.

Tengo el honor de invitar al Excelentísimo Sr. Mohamad Oemar, Presidente del Comité, a presentar el Informe del Comité.

Mr Mohamad OEMAR (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

I am pleased to present the Report of the 68th Session of the CCP held in June this year. I would like to draw your attention to the list of matters requiring your attention at the beginning of the report and make a few remarks about these. The Council is not expected to make any decisions in relation to this report but may wish to comment and endorse the views expressed by the CCP.

The CCP made a number of recommendations concerning FAO's work falling under the terms of reference of the CCP. Some of these recommendations involve additional work and carry budgetary implications.

In particular, the Council may wish to endorse the CCP's request for prioritization of work on smallholder access to markets, price volatility, foreign investment in developing country agriculture and African agricultural trade. The Council may wish to note the progress made by the Secretariat in its work on these priority areas, and to stress the need for these priorities to be fully reflected and resourced in the remainder of the PWB 2010-11 and, as appropriate, in the PWB 2012-13.

With respect to price volatility, the CCP recommended additional analysis of its nature and impacts and of policy responses. This recommendation was important and timely in light of current market developments and the high priority given to volatility problems by the G20. The Secretariat has scaled up its ongoing work in this area, and is playing a significant role in meeting the request of the G20 Seoul Summit to develop options for responding to price volatility. In this context, the Council may

also wish to note the importance of the Secretariat's commodity market information and analysis in enhancing market transparency and the CCP's request for assistance to Member Nations in improving their own capacity for providing information and analysis.

With respect to foreign investment, the CCP requested further development of the principles for responsible agricultural investment developed by FAO together with UNCTAD, the World Bank and IFAD for endorsement at the next session of the CFS. The G20 Seoul Summit also highlighted the importance of these principles and called on the four organizations to develop options for promoting responsible agricultural investment. The Council may further wish to emphasize the need for ensuring that adequate resources are made available to support the consultation process.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the request by the CCP for the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group under the chairmanship of the Chair of the CCP to review the roles and working arrangements of the CCP and its Sub-committees. The first meeting of this working group will take place on the 13 December, and will be focused on defining the scope and modalities of the work.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Doy la palabra a las delegaciones que quieran intervenir o plantear alguna cuestión.

Mr Alessandro VILLA (European Union)

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

The European Union would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the Report on the Committee on Commodity Problems, which refers to a series of issues which have been high on the international agenda during 2010.

The European Union welcomes the presentation by the Secretariat on the current situation and outlook, and recognizes the importance of FAO market information and analysis, especially for developing countries, in promoting market transparency and in supporting policy formulation.

The report reflects adequately the concern expressed by the Committee over the uncertainties created by the recent changes in factors that affect the world food markets. The European Union shares the views that further analysis to continue monitoring and analysing world agricultural commodity markets, including volatility, are necessary. The European Union is aware of tightening on many markets, as some harvest prospects seen in the summer did not materialize. Consequently, additional upward pressure on price increases cannot be excluded.

As expressed during the last CFS in October, the excessive price volatility is one of the key parameters we need to focus on in order to monitor food security. It can considerably affect food security at the local, regional and international level, destabilizing agricultural economies and creating severe consequences on food security for vulnerable population groups.

Furthermore, in its extraordinary joint inter-sessional meeting in September 2010, the Intergovernmental Group on Grains and the Intergovernmental Group on Rice identified five causes for volatility that need to be addressed, namely: (1) the lack of reliable information on crops; (2) insufficient market transparency; (3) growing linkages with external markets; (4) unexpected changes triggered by national food security situations; and (5) panic buying and hoarding. This confirms that information, market transparency and public governance are issues that need to be urgently addressed.

The report also underlines that export restrictions should be avoided since they increase global price volatility and discourage market signals for much required agricultural investments. On drivers for food prices increases, there is a general recognition of what the causes and effects are and of the supply and demand factors that impact commodity prices. The European Union remains strongly opposed to export restrictions and bans, as they exacerbate price volatility and have negative effects on world food security.

While we acknowledge that the Council should focus on budgetary issues, we cannot ignore broader political issues. On multilateral trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization, the European Union continues to demonstrate its long-standing commitment in these negotiations, with a balanced approach. This applies to provisions of particular interest to developing countries such as preference erosion, tropical products, special products and the special safeguard mechanism for developing countries. Thus the European Union recognizes that an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations can contribute to the recovery of the global economy and to the improvement of food security, including better resilience for the small-scale farmers. Other bilateral or regional trade negotiations should be considered as a potential complement, but they certainly cannot replace them.

The report examines the financial crisis and its impacts on agricultural commodity prices. The European Union shares the views that more focused analysis at the country or regional level can be valuable for a better understanding of the problem.

The difficulties faced by many farmers that hinder a supply response to higher prices are a remaining problem. Constraints associated with lack of access to capital and other inputs, to the structure of value chains, endemic market failures and weak infrastructure, of security of access to resources, influence strongly whether a supply response will or will not occur.

The European Union supports the inclusive process of development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources, and strongly encourages a prompt conclusion of the process and swift implementation of the Guidelines. In this context, the European Union welcomes the decision made by the CFS to submit these Guidelines for consideration at the 37th Session of the CFS, and urges all stakeholders to collaborate in order to endorse them on that occasion. In addition, the European Union supports the on-going process of developing Principles for Responsible Agro-investment that Respect Rights, Livelihoods and Resources initiated by the World Bank, FAO, IFAD and UNCTAD. The European Union insists on the consistency and complementarity between both processes and therefore welcomes the inclusive process of consideration of the principles that will take place within CFS.

The EU welcomes the priorities proposed for the working programme of the CCP 2010-11, and appreciates in particular the focus on policies for smallholder farmers and the integration of their production in the value chain, as well as the attention for market volatility and its impact on food security. In this context, we also would like to address the importance of MYPOW.

With regard to the Food Financing Import Facility, the European Union supports the view that there is a need to conduct further analysis on the potential merits and added value of such a facility compared to existing facilities, in order to ensure that we avoid duplication. Furthermore, the European Union believes that the WTO by nature is not the right institution to pursue the creation of such a facility.

The EU welcomes the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group to focus on technical and administrative matters in order to improve the relevance and efficiency of the CCP and its subsidiary bodies, taking into account the more general review of the FAO work programmes and priorities and the efficiency of FAO Governing Bodies. The functioning of the IGGs can be improved with regard to relevance and level of participation and, while remaining intergovernmental, could take into account valuable contributions made by the private sector. Reporting procedures need to be examined, preferably by designating a Rapporteur. The European Union supports the further strengthening of links between the CCP and other relevant international organizations, such as the ICBs and entities from the UN System, to work on technical issues.

In the meantime, the European Union remains fully committed to the work of the CCP and to the review of its functioning.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I will limit my comments only to the matters requiring the Council attention. I will not make a long statement talking about CCP. We support the eight matters requiring the attention of the Council on Roman page iii) of the document. However, if priority has to be made, we hope that in the Programme

of Work and Budget 2012-13, priority will be given to the following four matters: 1) Further analysis of the impact of price volatility and linkages between domestic and international markets (point 2 of the works), 2) further work on the establishment of an effective food import financing facility in collaboration with other partners (point 5 of the works), 3) further development of the principle for responsible agricultural investment in collaboration with other partners (point 6 of the works) and 4) further work to facilitate the integration of smallholders in value chain and the role of primary investment in this regard. This point is also raised in the COAG Report which you will discuss next.

Finally, this is not in the report but I would like to make one suggestion. The CCP Bureau in collaboration with the CSF Bureau and in cooperation with the WFP could study the feasibility of establishing a grain reserve in one or two Sub-regions, perhaps for the Horn of Africa and for Central Asian countries.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, Afganistán. Habíamos percibido que Gabón había solicitado la palabra pero nos corrigen, por lo que damos por tanto la palabra en estos momentos a Japón y advertimos que los siguientes oradores serán Brasil, Sri Lanka y Estados Unidos de América. Japón tiene la palabra.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

First of all, Japan wishes to express its position on the report of the 68th CCP including the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group and the FAO's trade-related capacity-building programme which is to be endorsed by the Council. Based on the above recognition of the delegation, we would like to make comments regarding the prioritisation issue. We have 4 points. The first point regards information and analysis on commodity markets and trade. While these are components of FAO's important mandate, it is also crucial to forecast on the really necessary duties and on whether the FAO has a relative priority, including through promoting partnerships with relevant Agencies and avoiding duplication. To be concrete, it is essential to concentrate on knowledge sharing, on contribution of human resources and analysis on agriculture markets, and to leave the other duties to the CFC which has relative priority in the field, such as project assistance project and funding for commodities.

The second is regard the OEWG. Our Government is afraid that Agencies and other international commodity body mandates overlap each other considerably. For example, the International Grain Council also analyzes the international grain market situation, and Japan appreciates its swift and accurate work. Our Government requests the OEWG to consider whether FAO actually has relative priority to set ICBs on each commodity and to leave the less priority issues to ICBs. Japan is ready to participate in the OEWG to be held on Monday, 13 December.

The third point is multiplication of COAG agenda items, in particular, ensuring access to agricultural markets to smallholder farmers. Japan requests the CCP Secretariat to better coordinate, with the COAG Secretariat their respective agendas.

Finally, Japan wishes that the FAO give high priority to analysis on the price volatility of agriculture markets. Other political needs on this issue have increased as a result of the food prices soaring once again.

Mr Olyntho VEIRA (Brazil)

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Brazil welcomes the Report of the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) and it takes note of its conclusions. The Committee was held some months before a new spike in food prices threw the world into another round of worry about volatility. Nevertheless, many of its conclusions go the right way in dealing with this problem, such as: better market analysis and sharing of information; a request for further analysis regarding a food import financing facility; a prioritization to support smallholder producers; and a call for open trade and removal of trade barriers and distortions in agriculture and commodities.

The Brazilian delegation has some specific comments on some of the points brought by the CCP to the attention of the Council. The CCP's request for further analysis of the nature and impacts of price

volatility, the effects of policies, the effects of variations in costs of production, and the linkages between domestic and international markets, are perfectly aligned with the CFS call for a High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) study on the same subject. In order to avoid duplication of work and ensure an efficient use of resources, we would appreciate that FAO, based on the mandate given by the CCP, provide support for the HLPE study, in particular by supplementing the HLPE Trust Fund with the necessary resources, whether human or financial. In this way, we can ensure that both the CCP and CFS directions are observed and we provide the necessary boost to the work of the HLPE.

We also take note of CCP's request to further develop the principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) formulated by FAO, the World Bank, UNCTAD and IFAD which are based on extensive consultation with Member Nations and other stakeholders, including through meetings of Permanent Representatives in Rome, the Committee on World Food Security and FAO Regional Conferences. It's our understanding that this request is also in line with the process called by the 36th Session of the CFS, and we suggest that the Council take note of this development. We look forward to further consideration of the RAI principles and of an open process led by the CFS.

On the proposal of the CCP to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to consider the roles and working arrangements of the CCP and its committees, while we welcome the initiative, we also move that the Council suggests that the work of this Group avoid the duplication of mandates, especially with COAG, and to clarify the role in the face of other specific commodity fora and organizations.

Thank you so much.

Mr Saman UDAGEDARA (Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka welcomes the Report of the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We support the request of the Committee to the Secretariat to continue to monitor and analyze world agriculture commodity markets, including further research into the nature and impacts of price volatility, the effect of policies and variations in crop productions and the linkages between world and domestic markets. It is important that such analyses consider the implication of market development for small farmers and food security.

We also endorse the Committee's request for further development of principles for responsible agricultural investment formulated by FAO, World Bank, UNCTAD and IFAD based on extensive consultation with all stakeholders.

We welcome CCP's express preference to prioritize work on supporting smallholder integration into the value chains, foreign investment in developing country agriculture, African trade policy and import dependence and market volatility.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the 2010 State of the World Commodity Markets Report. We agree that there is still a need for continuing analysis and monitoring the reasons causing price fluctuations and food insecurity in many countries.

We also agree with the view of the Committee that some policies introduced by Governments in response to high food prices have not been effective and, in the case of export restrictions, have made things worse.

We would like to encourage FAO to facilitate investments from public and private sectors to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in developing countries.

Finally we note that the Committee on Commodity Problems has taken on agricultural investment and price volatility as subjects for further research.

We believe that whatever work the Committee assigns to the Secretariat on these subjects must be closely coordinated with the High Level Panel of Experts who were assigned these very topics by the CFS just last month.

Ms Josephine Wangari GAITA (Kenya)

Kenya fully welcomes and supports the report tabled as a true introduction of the deliberations that took place during the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. My delegation wishes to make these brief comments as part of our contribution to the debate.

We are keen to note that, like the 67th Session, it focused tightly on the core mandate and terms of reference of the CCP, especially in reviewing the state of world agricultural commodities markets, policy developments, markets and trade. We therefore want to thank the Secretariat for the way it highlighted the state of world commodity markets, which in our view provided a useful perspective on the global commodity situation and outlook.

However, we would like to briefly underscore some issues that were mentioned in the Report. The review of current situation and outlook was very much dominated by the recent trade in exports and imports, and the experience of the high food prices and the varied responses, more so in relation to staple foods like cereals, meat and dairy products.

My delegation notes that the current commodity situation and outlook does not send a very positive message to us in the developing countries. Although lower than the 2007-08 period, prices are again up after falling only very briefly as at mid-2009. In view of the recent developments related to the extreme weather events in different parts of the world, we are concerned the situation may continue to deteriorate. We, therefore, emphasize the need for continued further analysis of the nature and impacts of prices for volatility, diverse variations in costs of production and the linkages between domestic and international markets.

Acknowledging the impact of fluctuations in food prices, we recognize the degree of importance of data on agriculture as well as on trade. We would, therefore, encourage FAO to facilitate the exchange of this related information for an effective branding and added response to any uncertainties or imagined incidents. We share the views expressed in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Report, especially on the importance of FAO commodity market information and analysis for the developing countries.

We are requesting FAO to continue supporting and working with Governments to find the appropriate long-term solutions to price volatility. This support is much needed at the country level.

On the capacity to provide information on global commodities, again we feel that the Sub-regional Offices need to be strengthened so that they can put in place a programme to generate this capacity at country level.

The Doha Round is a development agenda which is critical and should be concluded, mindful of the diverse partners and their varying levels of development in catering for the specific trade and development needs of the developing countries.

FAO has an advantage over other bodies and it has this important role to provide independent and analytical information and support to Member Nations and, more importantly, technical support to enhance negotiation skills.

This assistance is urgently required for the current Doha Round negotiations. FAO's assistance in building capacity of developing countries to cope with the WTO negotiations should remain one of the top priority requirements, and it very much appreciated.

Lastly, internally, the Committee also recommended that there should be a review of its own rules and working arrangements, and we are therefore looking forward to these discussions in the next context of the Open-ended Working Group on Measures to Improve Efficiency of the Governing Bodies.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Thailand endorses the Report of the CCP and its recommendations. We would like to highlight some parts as follows: firstly, information on international markets for agricultural commodities is essential since it can affect the functioning of domestic markets. An in-depth study is therefore required on the current situation and projection of the international market scenario. The outcome should be made available to assist developing countries forecast their production trend and marketing strategy.

Secondly, we encourage FAO to increase the capacity of developing countries in the WTO negotiations.

Thirdly, we welcome the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group of the CCP, and look forward to participating in its meetings to review the role of the CCP and provide guidelines in reforming its role.

Fourth, we support the development of the principles for Responsible Agricultural Investments taking into account any possible negative impact on developing countries. Developing of the RAI Guidelines should take into account not only transparency but also fairness and environmental friendliness. Prior to foreign investment in developing countries, for establishing management mechanisms capacity-building of the national government could be promoted by FAO.

Fifth, we support free and fair trade which reduces any types of trade barriers and brings small farmers in the food production and marketing chain.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada would like to begin by expressing its appreciation for the overview provided by the Chairman of the CCP this afternoon.

We are certainly very supportive of the CCP Report, and generally in agreement with the areas of emphasis identified in the FAO document. Canada strongly concurs with the elements identified in paragraphs 11, 18 and 20 of the Report and highlighted in the summary text points 1, 2 and 5 on page iii. Having said this, we would like to reinforce and stress two elements that are not well expressed in the documentation: the need for the Committee and the work undertaken within Strategic Objective (G) to be better reflective of the linkages and inter-dependencies across the multitude of Strategic Objectives especially when we are discussing items such as smallholder farming and its links to livestock, sustainable crop production, fisheries, natural resources, just to name a few.

The Committee must do a better job in highlighting the need to ensure its focusing on its core strength and its comparative advantages. The promotion of increased partnerships with other Agencies or institutions is encouraged. FAO programming with this Committee is essential and should be elaborated. For example, IFAD does support smallholder integration along the value chain, and FAO will thus need to specify in what ways it intends to pursue this area for the coming biennium and ensure complementary not duplication. We would be very grateful if the FAO Management could shed some further light and insight on these two points.

Mr Romeo RECIDÉ (Philippines)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. We would like to begin by expressing our appreciation for the Secretariat and the Chair of the CCP for presenting the report of the 68th Session of the Committee. Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the effort to revitalize the Committee on Commodity Problems through a reform process spearheaded by an Open-Ended Working Group.

Without pre-empting the outcome of the ongoing process, we would like to see the strengthening of relevant existing intergovernmental groups (IGG) on various commodities, especially those that have direct impact on food security of developing countries. The recent emergency meeting of the IGG on Grains and Cereals was a step in the right direction as it demonstrated that proactively filling in information gaps at critical periods can yield positive results in addressing volatile market situations. We would like to see this proactive role replicated by the other IGGs on commodities.

Mr Chairman, the private sector plays a critical role in the global commodity markets, and hence we urge FAO to explore further linkages and partnerships with this sector. We highly appreciate the excellent work of FAO in developing capacity for developing countries on trade-related issues and we suggest that FAO continue its assistance in this field despite of the stalled negotiations process in the WTO.

Mr Chairman, we clearly value FAO's work on global commodity market information and analysis, which has assisted governments in formulating the appropriate responses to the recent volatility in commodity markets. I would like, however, to see FAO exert more efforts in assisting national

governments or regional organizations to develop their own capacities in this field. We believe this is the way forward to improve the dissemination and analysis of market information.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

India welcomes and endorses the Report of the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

My delegation is also deeply concerned about rising commodity and food prices. Sharply rising food prices can slow down poverty alleviation, impede economic growth and retard employment generation. The global economy can also be hurt by this process. We in the developing world will, of course, be seriously hurt by it. Efforts to promote reforms and more open economies would be derailed in the face of persistent food shortages and rising food prices.

In most developing countries, including India, food prices are the kingpin of the food structure. A steep rise in food prices will make inflation control more difficult and can thereby hurt the cause of macro-economic stability.

The constitution of economic reforms, so necessary to stimulate economic growth, would diminish and pressures would mount for restrictive trade practices. It is our belief that we cannot react to such a situation by returning to an era of blind controls and by depressing agriculture's terms of trade that would hurt the welfare of our farmers as well, as the long-term growth of the economy as a whole. The non-farming economy cannot prosper on the back of impoverished farm sectors. Therefore, as suggested, apart from finding causal relationships for the price of a utility, we urge FAO to find creative, imaginative and innovative solutions that increase agricultural productivity and farming incomes, while increasing food production and contributing to a greater purchasing power for the poor.

M Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie) (original language Arabic)

Je remercie le Secrétariat de nous avoir présenté le Rapport de la 68ème Session du Comité des produits et j'ai deux observations par rapport à ce Rapport.

Premièrement, concernant la résistance de l'agriculture à la crise financière mondiale, je pense que tel qu'il est indiqué à la page 3, cela peut prêter à confusion dans la mesure où il est dit que l'agriculture avait mieux résisté à la crise financière mondiale que les autres secteurs. Cela veut donc dire que l'agriculture a fait une certaine résistance à la crise financière mondiale. Il se trouve que bien avant la crise financière mondiale, les prix des produits agricoles étaient en perpétuelle augmentation, notamment dans les pays en développement. Si on voit cette assertion et qu'on la compare avec le chapitre précédent l'on dit que l'analyse des marchés mondiaux des produits ne reflétait pas nécessairement la situation effective de tous les marchés intérieurs, je pense qu'il serait bien de tenir cela un tout petit peu parce qu'il risque d'y avoir une certaine contradiction. Nous observons bien une augmentation du coût des produits agricoles et que cela s'est accentué avec la crise financière. L'agriculture dans les pays en développement est surtout publique et beaucoup moins privée. Aussi, je pense que la mise en place proposée du Groupe de travail à composition non limitée doit permettre davantage d'approfondir cette question afin que l'on ait la corrélation exacte entre la crise financière et la production agricole, notamment au niveau de petits producteurs.

Deuxièmement, pour ce qui est de l'encadré, tous les points qui ont été évoqué me semblent pertinents mais je vois le point 6: Principe pour un investissement responsable. Dans le texte, tout comme dans le discours d'ouverture de la FAO, on parle d'investissements étrangers, alors à partir du moment où l'on parle dans tout le texte d'investissements étrangers, autant parler clairement, au niveau des recommandations, d'investissements étrangers. Il faudrait aussi connaître la corrélation qu'il y a entre les investissements étrangers et la sécurité alimentaire, parce qu'on peut avoir un investissement, tel que c'est écrit ici, responsable et je trouve que ce terme responsable n'est pas tellement approprié, parce qu'on peut avoir un investissement responsable qui a une incidence sur la balance commerciale d'un pays et ayant peu d'incidence sur la sécurité alimentaire, parce qu'on peut investir dans les productions agricoles des productions industrielles qui n'ont pas une instance directe sur la sécurité

alimentaire. L'idée est d'avoir un investissement approprié qui peut avoir une incidence directe sur la sécurité alimentaire. Je pense qu'au niveau de l'intitulé qui a été mis ici, il serait bien de le modifier un tout petit peu en insistant sur les investissements étrangers les plus appropriés.

EL PRESIDENTE

El Servicio de Interpretación solicita que seamos capaces y sobre todo los futuros intervinientes puedan respetar el ritmo y la cadencia en sus exposiciones de tal manera que favorezca y se pueda realizar la interpretación de sus discursos y de sus exposiciones. Igualmente, recordamos la conveniencia de poder poner a disposición de la Secretaría estas declaraciones que se están realizando. Doy la palabra a Tanzania, posteriormente intervendrá China.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We support the issues brought by the CCP to the decision of the Council.

Nevertheless, we would like to highlight and emphasize a few issues: one, the work of FAO in monitoring and analyzing the world agricultural commodity prices market is of importance, and its complex nature needs to be appreciated.

As noted by the CCP, the reported global picture, in particular for the price movements, does not necessarily reflect the actual food security of domestic markets. This was also emphasized by Mauritania. This is a missed and very important area which calls for strengthened capacities in the market information linkages and capacity-building at the country level for enhancing countries' capabilities in Africa in reporting on domestic market prices. This was also referred to by Kenya.

The impact of price surges in developing countries, many of which are food importers, is enormous and adverse. At the start of the price surges, mechanisms to cope with the situation including use of food buffer stocks and importation, were short-lived.

Therefore, we reiterate our strong support for a food import financing facility which would provide a mechanism to address short-term food financing difficulties faced by low-income, importing countries during price surges, Africa being one of them.

FAO's work in their role of foreign investment in agriculture production is important. We feel that agriculture should be given a broader look, that is crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries, with much reference to the impact foreign investment has on the level of food security on the small farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen.

The principles for responsible investment in agricultural being developed by FAO and the partners should, as much as possible, be fact-based. Broad consultations with relevant stakeholders is therefore very important as has been emphasized by other delegations.

We note that on the working arrangements of the CCP, work is still in progress and we hope to discuss this issue in the Open-Ended Working Group on the 13 December. Nevertheless, we want to emphasize our earlier call for an increased duration of the CCP Session meeting, and holding it back-to-back with COAG for cost-effectiveness reasons.

EL PRESIDENTE

Corresponde a China, y quisiera advertir a Egipto, Gana y la Federación Rusa que serán los siguientes oradores.

Mr LI Zhengdong (China) (original language Chinese)

Firstly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report on the 68th Session of the CCP. As for investment in agriculture and land ownership mentioned in this Report, the Chinese delegation will further elaborate on these two issues during the item on the Committee on Food Security.

Here, I would speak briefly on the fourth part of the Report on the working arrangements for the Committee. This delegation supports the establishment of a Working Group to discuss the issue. At the same time, we believe that, this being a technical committee, CCP should maintain its independence and the efficiency of its work. This is a key point and that is why we believe that, firstly,

Technical Committees, as with the composition of the bureaux of these committees, should be decided on by the Committees themselves, in line with their special missions and the characteristics of their work.

Secondly, the issue on the reporting system. Currently I think it is best to maintain the mechanism of a Drafting Committee. It would be more practical than appointing a Rapporteur because a Drafting Committee would ensure the quality of the report. The Technical Committees have methods of work that are different from IFAD and from WFP. The Technical Committees provide a forum of a higher technical nature, and that is why we need wide-ranging and detailed discussions at these Technical Committees at FAO.

Also, a Drafting Committee would take on board all the views and viewpoints of the parties concerned. It would be in a better position to represent an equitable Report and its objective nature. It would also reduce the time of the Committee in preparing for the report, so that work efficiency would also be raised.

As for the duration of the meetings, I think we should have very clear-cut themes, and fewer items on the agenda and, on that basis, we would decide on the duration of the meetings of Technical Committees.

Mr Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I would like to emphasize the importance which we attach to the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems as a setting for discussing the various challenges which we face in respect of trade in commodities. This is particularly important in light of what has happened in the markets for these products recently and their very considerable impact on food security in developing countries. This is why we support the efforts made by this Organization to make available the information we need on agricultural product markets. And we also appreciate the studies it prepares and the predictions it makes on future movements on agricultural markets. We also welcome the research already undertaken by FAO and that which will be undertaken on price stability and volatility and how they can be dealt with while strengthening the programmes it provides to assist and boost the capacity of developing countries. This will help them adjust their policies in dealing with the situation and in taking effective measures to protect themselves against price fluctuations effects. We support the Committee's recommendations to the Secretariat to increase the number of studies prepared on a financing mechanism which could be used to assist developing countries that are also net food and agricultural product importers. This would help them cope better with the financial problems which arise as rise of price increases. These issues dealt with in detail in paragraph 17 of the Report and were also dealt with by the Tanzanian delegation.

Lastly, we support what has been said by the delegations of Kenya and Thailand concerning the positive and important role by the FAO in supporting and boosting developing countries capacity to participate fully in ongoing WTO agricultural negotiations.

Mr Ram BHAVNANI (Ghana)

The Ghana delegation will be very brief because most of the issues have been raised already. The Ghanaian delegation, however, welcomes the report on the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and wishes to commend the Secretariat for the papers presented.

The delegation notes the various analyses that have been carried out by the Secretariat, and the comments made by the Committee and wants to be very brief on this. Ghana acknowledges the importance of FAO's commodity market analysis in guiding policy decisions at national level, especially for developing countries. In this regard, we support the observation made by the Committee in paragraph 7 of the Report which refers to the analysis of the Secretariat, as not really reflecting the situation in most developing countries since we know that some developing countries have registered an increase in food prices compared to the figures included in the analysis. Furthermore, the delegation supports the observation made by the Committee in paragraph 10 where the analysis of the impact of the financial crisis featured developing countries as a homogenous group. We are of the view that lumping developing countries together in such areas does not bring out the

true picture of what actually transpires in some of the countries. Different developing countries have different stages of development.

We also believe that additional work has to be carried out including consultation processes and we are aware that this has budgetary implications. If additional budget provisions will increase the quality of work, then we need to go for it.

Ghana also endorses the Committee's appreciation of the need to invest in the agricultural sector. The delegation feels that this investment should be complemented by analysis of private investment which has been ignored for a long time. During the preparation of the matter of quality investment projects, under the CAADP there was a request to FAO, and to other donors, to do a critical analysis of the private investment which the public investment was supposed to complement. This became very difficult, and challenging and what we have presented as countries under the CAADP were simply public investment initiatives that would attract private investment. As to the level of private investment that will come onboard, we have no details, and we believe that FAO and other institutions could take this up very seriously to let us have a comprehensive investment profile in the agricultural sector. The delegation also wishes to encourage FAO to continue with analytical work and to build capacity at the local level to enhance its global analysis. This is very critical. Recently countries were involved in preparing The Global Agriculture Food Security Programme to draw up the Trust Fund being managed by the World Bank. There was FAO support to country teams and together they were able to come up with their Global Agriculture Food Security Programmes (CAFSP). This support is necessary and it should be encouraged.

The delegation recognizes the importance of investment in agricultural production, especially in the developing countries. We recognize the mutual benefit that could be derived by the countries and investors. However, there is a need for in-depth knowledge and understanding of the increased investment in this area and the long-term effect this might have on the developing countries, and especially on smallholder farmers. In this regard, we support the development of principles for a responsible investment in agriculture.

In conclusion, the Ghanaian delegation recognizes the importance of the CCP and that it should be strengthened and supported to be more efficient.

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

The Russian Federation supports the conclusions reached and recommendations made at the 68th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems. We would also like to offer our support to the Representative of Afghanistan and what he said about the need for more active participation of the Committee regarding problems of agricultural commodities and the need to enhance food security and this as part of cooperation with the Committee on World Food Security above all. The High-Level Panel of Experts on food and nutrition should also be involved as indeed should other bodies and organizations. It is particularly important to ensure that we take note of the information provided by the CFC, particularly when we look at what is going to be done in the future at country, regional and global levels.

When it comes to agricultural commodities, price volatility is obviously something caused by many things. In 2007 and 2008, we had a structural crisis which had an impact on agriculture, but there was also an energy crisis and financial crisis underway. At the moment however, price volatility is more related to the effect of natural disasters and climatic conditions. Therefore, I think it is extremely important that the Committee take into account all these many and varying factors because they all have an effect on price volatility and to an extent they all influence the policies applied by Governments.

I think the Committee is taking the right steps in the right direction, but I think its cooperation with the other bodies I mentioned should be enhanced, and that cooperation has to go in both directions. The Committees that will be working on global food security will no doubt also be interested in the information that can be provided by this Committee. We would also like to be sure that the Committee keeps Members Nations constantly informed through the Secretariat about trends on the markets, and about what obstacles may be about to arise, what price surges may occur on agricultural commodities,

etc. It is important that Member Nations have this information and it is important that this kind of analytical material is constantly provided. If it is, then it will give Member Nations the opportunity to predict what is going to happen better, but it would also help them to take the appropriate counter-measures to deal with the volatility. For example, it would also help them to fight market speculation, and prevent unnecessary panic-buying of foodstuffs, and other events that may not ever need take place if they could be prevented.

Therefore, the Russian Federation supports the measures being taken by the Committee with respect to agricultural commodities as part of an attempt to attain a more stable world for agricultural commodity markets.

M Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse soutient les priorités proposées par le programme de travail du Comité en 2010-11. Pour nous, la priorité numéro 1 doit clairement être donnée à la question de la volatilité des prix. Nous soutenons également les consultations menées concernant les principes pour un investissement responsable de l'agriculture et nous estimons qu'il convient d'assurer la cohérence et la complémentarité de ce processus avec celui concernant les directives en matière de gestion foncière des terres et des ressources naturelles.

La Suisse estime que le mandat du Comité des produits est encore valable mais que la contribution et l'organisation de cet organe et notamment de ces sous-groupes sont encore insuffisantes. Il nous paraît à cet égard souhaitable, premièrement, de renforcer la collaboration avec d'autres organisations internationales, notamment l'OCDE et de promouvoir une coopération avec le secteur privé ainsi que de prévoir une participation de ce dernier aux réunions du Comité.

Deuxièmement, à notre avis il convient de remettre en question la pertinence de l'existence des groupes intergouvernementaux sur les produits ainsi que du sous-comité consultatif de l'écoulement des excédents.

Troisième point, nous pensons qu'il est souhaitable d'améliorer encore les méthodes de travail du Comité en instituant par exemple un système de rapporteurs au lieu d'un Comité de rédaction.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, no veo ninguna otra petición de palabra. Señor Presidente del Comité o Señor Secretario: ¿quieren hacer algún comentario a las observaciones y cuestiones que se han planteado? Tiene la palabra, Señor Presidente.

Mr Mohamad OEMAR (Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems)

I would just like to express my appreciation and thanks for all the comments which overall will be very useful for CCP's work. I would also like to ask the Secretariat of the CCP to provide further elaboration on matters related to the issue of CFS work. With your permission, Mr Chairperson, we would like to invite the Secretariat to give some clarifications.

Mr David HALLAM (Director, Commodities and Trade Division)

There were a large number of very helpful comments, I think, which perhaps indicates the relevance and importance of many of the topics that the CCP is currently dealing with.

There are just two or three points I would like to make. A number of speakers mentioned the fact that on certain issues that the CCP and the Secretariat are working on, notably price volatility, international investment and so on, that the High-Level Panel of CFS has also been delegated to look at these issues. I would just like to reassure the Members here that obviously we are entirely in support of the work that the High-Level Panel of Experts will be doing and, in fact, we had a brief meeting within the ES Department this morning to discuss that very issue. So rest assured that we will be collaborating fully and supporting the CFS processes.

Similarly, a number of Members commented on the need to avoid duplication with work going on in other international organizations. I would just like to again stress the fact that within the Secretariat a very significant part of our work is undertaken in close collaboration with the other organizations. On

investment, we are working closely with the World Bank, with IFAD, with UNCTAD. On volatility and on market outlook, we work very very closely with OECD and will continue to do so. We also work very closely in collaboration with the CFC, not on analytical work because the CFC is a funding body. It is not set up to do analytical work and, in fact, it does not do that, but we work very closely on commodity development issues.

I think these are the only points I would like to make. I think the comments made were all very constructive and helpful, and will be taken into account in developing our work programme.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias. Quisiéramos agradecer el trabajo realizado por el Presidente del Comité, Sr. Mohamad Oemar, así como del Secretario de este Comité, el Sr. Hallam.

Quisiera concluir este punto señalando que el Consejo aprueba este informe del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, destacando y siguiendo en las prioridades que aquí se han suscitado en relación con los pequeños agricultores y el refuerzo en la cadena de valor, la inversión responsable en la agricultura, en el contexto de volatilidad de mercados, la necesaria coordinación del trabajo del Comité de Problemas Productos Básicos con las actividades del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria así como la necesidad de mejorar los métodos de trabajo en este Comité de Problemas Productos Básicos.

7.2 Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (16-19 June 2010) (CL 140/3)

7.2 Rapport de la vingt-deuxième session du Comité de l'agriculture (16-19 juin 2010) (CL 140/3)

7.2 Informe del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (16-19 de junio de 2010) (CL 140/3)

EL PRESIDENTE

Concluido este punto, vamos al Tema 7.2 relativo al informe del 22.º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Agricultura que tuvo lugar del 16 al 19 de junio de 2010. Encontrarán en el documento CL 140/3 la documentación que nos va a presentar el Presidente de este Comité, el Sr. Shobhana Kumar Pattanayak cuando se incorpore a la mesa. Sr. Presidente, tiene usted la palabra.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture)

It is my pleasure to introduce the Report of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Agriculture which was held in June of this year. The Session had a full Agenda, developed in close consultation with the COAG Bureau, and was supplemented by two side events. This time, the Session benefitted from preparatory work of an ad-hoc extended Bureau composed of seven members ensuring regional representation.

The Committee reviewed and generally endorsed the priority areas of emphasis presented for the nine Strategic Objectives of relevance to COAG (SO A, B, D and F which fall fully within the mandate of COAG and aspects of SO G, H, I, K and L). The Committee stressed the importance of FAO's work in the core functions of global standard-setting; statistics, policy advice, capacity-building, knowledge exchange and technology transfer, and underlined the importance that COAG provide guidance on priorities and areas of emphasis, in particular in view of limited resources. In this respect, it was recommended that future documentation on priorities more clearly identify the proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within each Strategic Objective, taking into account emerging issues, implementation performance reports, major evaluations, cost considerations and work being undertaken in partnership.

The Committee supported the FAO Strategy for Sustainable Crop Production Intensification through an eco-system approach and an enabling environment and requested the Secretariat to refine the programme timetable, provide a financing plan and establish programme indicators.

It recommended FAO to significantly strengthen its soils-related capacities and invited FAO to explore the possibility of establishing a global soil partnership. In this respect, it requested the Secretariat to prepare the terms of reference.

The Committee recommended that FAO continue to provide technical assistance and advice on agro-ecological zoning, promotion of carbon sequestration techniques, land use and tenure and related statistics in partnership with IFAD, the World Bank and the CGIAR. FAO's plan to support and contribute to the Rio+20 process was endorsed, and the Secretariat was requested to inform the Member Nations on the preparatory process.

The Committee requested that FAO, together with actors at all levels, establish the research, technical, institutional, financial and policy conditions necessary for the delivery of goods and services by the livestock sector. Furthermore, it agreed that FAO engage in consultations to establish a global dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to sharpen the definition of the livestock sector's objectives and to identify issues that could require intergovernmental action.

With regard to the formulation of policies and strengthening of institutions to support small-scale agriculture, the Committee recommended that FAO undertake a study of the impact of private standards on smallholder market participation as well as analytical and policy assessments on smallholder integration in market organizational structures. It also recommended that FAO collaborate with relevant ministries to develop their capacity to support market access by smallholders, support business-oriented activities by farmers' organizations and promote development of value chains that are inclusive of smallholders. The Committee recommended to develop close relationships with the private sector that best serve the needs of smallholders, and report on progress and results of the analytical and policy assessment project, as well as on the capacity building activities, to both the CFS and the COAG.

Chair, distinguished delegates, these are the main results of our recent meeting. I commend to you the Report of the 22nd Session of COAG (CL 140/3), and look forward to the debate on its conclusions and recommendations.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente por su Informe. Quisiera dar ahora la palabra a los distinguidos delegados en caso que quieran hacer alguna pregunta o matización. Tiene la palabra la Unión Europea y posteriormente Tailandia. Unión Europea, por favor.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU thanks the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the 22nd Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture. In this context, the European Union would also like to reiterate the importance of a Rapporteur and the necessity of a Multi-Year Programme of Work for efficient reporting, respectively guiding the discussions. The European Union also would like to thank the Chairman for efficiently conducting that meeting.

The European Union welcomes the recommendations of the Committee regarding the FAO strategy for sustainable crop production intensification through an eco-system approach and an enabling environment, and it supports the requests of the Committee to refine the programme timetable, providing a financing plan and the establishment of programme indicators.

The European Union fully agrees with the recommendation to strengthen significantly FAO's soils-related capacities, and encourages FAO to take leadership in establishing a global soil partnership, stressing that this should be done through close collaboration with other institutions where capacity already exists.

The European Union appreciates FAO's involvement in agro-ecological zoning and related analysis to support the UNFCCC's processes, as well as with the coordination of piloting of relevant climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to identify opportunities for smallholder farmers.

The European Union welcomes the planned support and contribution to the Rio+20 process, as it should ensure sufficient emphasis is placed on sustainable use of soil and land resources as part of the sustainable growth pathways for the agriculture and food sectors.

The European Union affirms the importance of the livestock sector as a contributor to economic development and food security, and therefore emphasizes the importance of strengthening the governance of the livestock sector and of developing and enacting appropriate policies in order to ensure that its development is sustainable and that it both adapts to and contributes to mitigating climate change.

The European Union recognizes that there is a need for a more comprehensive oversight and improved inter-sectoral collaboration in order to address all issues relevant to the livestock sector. In this regard it sees FAO as the key UN organization with the capacity and mandate to address, in a comprehensive and inclusive manner, the complex social, economic and environmental issues and trade-offs associated with the livestock sector. The EU would support raising the profile of the global dialogue on a sustainable livestock sector in the deliberations of the FAO Governing Bodies, but is not in favour at this stage of establishing a subsidiary body to the Committee of Agriculture on livestock. Further discussion is still needed based on a clear proposal on the role and function, as well as the costs and benefits, of such a body, to be presented at the next session of the Committee of Agriculture, taking into account the recommendations of FAO's Reform and the already existing bodies on livestock.

The European Union agrees that agriculture remains the economic base for the majority of developing countries, and that most agricultural production comes from small-scale farmers, with women playing an extremely important role. Therefore, the formulation of policies and strengthening of institutions to support small-scale agriculture, increase agricultural productivity and competitiveness and facilitate smallholder integration in markets should be an FAO priority.

The European Union urges FAO to continue working as a platform to promote, encourage and support the dissemination of knowledge, training and cooperation, in particular for the benefit of smallholder farmer communities, focusing especially on women.

The EU agrees with the priority areas of emphasis presented for the strategic objectives for the programme of work 2012-13, as well as with the importance of FAO's work and core functions as stressed by the COAG.

Finally, the EU takes the opportunity to reiterate also the importance of FAO's comparative advantages and work in support of global conventions and voluntary guidelines, with special attention to the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Tenure of Land and Other Natural Resources, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation thanks the Chair of COAG for his presentation. Thailand endorses the Report and recommendations of the COAG. We wish to highlight the important of capacity-building and technical assistance provided to Members. In addition to strengthening farmer institutions, focus should also be given to promotion of community enterprises. We support the establishment of a global soil partnership as a mechanism to broaden the network of soil and production system at national, regional and global levels. Thailand is actually implementing its land use plan and is ready to be part of the network.

We welcome the global dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders to sharpen the definition of livestock sector's objectives as referred in paragraph 13, as it will cover all aspects of our previous and current discussions and concerns. This mechanism will enhance intergovernmental cooperation to address our common concerns. In future COAG sessions, we insist that the livestock sector be given greater attention as a contributing factor in economic development, food security, health and sustainability.

As far as expectations from FAO are concerned, we encourage FAO to play a leading role in the following: first, in conducting a scientific base study on GMOs and their impact on consumer health, soil and environment; second, in being a core centre of excellence in the development of plant varieties and animal breeds; third, in technology transfer; fourth, in sustainable water and irrigation management for agricultural reviews; and fifth, in developing community enterprises in addition to farmers' institutions.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We endorse the Committee's observations and recommendations, and we have a few comments.

FAO Strategy for Sustainable Crop Production and intensification through an eco-system approach is important and we would like to see the strategy benefitting the small farmers in the agriculture practices and supporting institutions among other things.

Secondly, we underscore the need for FAO to be strengthened in the soil-related capacities. At the same time, we urged also to assist countries and enhance their work in this area through strengthening country Sub-regional and regional centres in equipment and skilled manpower.

Thirdly, as a leader on soils, FAO should continue to contribute and advocate the importance of soils, agriculture and land use in the Climate Change negotiations.

Lastly, we are glad that during the 22nd Session of COAG, livestock was given prominence in the time to discuss the conflicts and issues surrounding this sector. We hope this practice is maintained in subsequent years.

Mr Chairman, therefore, we endorse the highlighted work proposed by the Committee to be taken by FAO regarding of livestock.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and my thanks to the Secretariat for its work in producing the document. We likewise endorse the Report and have just a few comments. The United States remains committed to active cooperation with FAO, in particular at the technical level. We believe that as a key technical organization in agriculture, it is important that FAO leverage the Organization's resources to maximize the impact of all of its activities.

We are pleased with the Committee's recommendation that future documentation on priority should more clearly identify the proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within each Strategic Objective. Most Member Nations are operating under significant budget constraints that we must take into consideration as we identify priorities in planning for future work. We believe that FAO has a comparative advantage in helping countries increase their technical ability to produce enough food globally to feed the world in the future. Some of the tools for this task include transfer and management of production practices as well as the transfer of technologies. Therefore, in the 2012-13 biennium, emphasis should be given in the areas of building frameworks for technology transfer and managing plant genetic resources, including seeds systems through the work of IPPC and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, among other bodies. Without renewed focus, we are deeply concerned that insufficient financial and human resources are being used to support the IPPC. We would like to see budgetary support for the IPPC restored to a more appropriate level.

In closing, we are pleased that FAO continues to give more visibility in efforts to partnerships with other UN Agencies, international organizations, national institutions and the private sector. We believe that FAO and the COAG should emphasise the importance of creating an enabling environment for the private sector and the importance of public- private partnerships. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The Report of the 22nd session of COAG lists eleven bullet points for attention by the Council. Many of the bullet points cover a wide range of activities and some also relate to the work of the CFS.

Given the limitation of resources, the need for prioritization is self evident, especially for the Programme of Work and budget 2012-13.

Partnerships with other stakeholders is another feature inherent in most of the eleven bullet points listed. In our opinion, out of the eleven points, six are of high priority.

Firstly, intensive work on various aspects of smallholder agriculture as presented in points A to F of bullet point 8; put more impetus into refining the operational aspects of sustainable crop production intensification programme, bullet point 1. In partnership with other stakeholders, strengthening FAO's work in sharpening the objective and activities of the livestock section within the overall context of agricultural development in environmental concern and improved livelihood, bullet point 6 and 7. Building FAO's capacity in soil-related activities, bullet point 2, and continued active involvement of FAO as provider of technical assistance in standard-setting statistics, policy work, environment, including carbon sequestration, technology transfer, land use and land tenure, genetic resources and IPPC.

Finally, we wish to endorse the Report, but we also wish to register the point that the duration of COAG should be changed to a week.

Mr Johnson Irungu WAITHAKA (Kenya)

The Kenyan delegation supports the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and associates itself with the comments made, especially by our African colleagues.

The Committee's role, as we all know, is to provide recommendations on the programme priorities and therefore we, as beneficiaries of FAO's programmes, are very much interested in its work. The success, of the work of this Committee is the key to the realization of the objectives of the Organization in realizing global food security.

My delegation is pleased to note that, as we have requested, the last session, gave feasibility to some key areas, namely sustainable crop intensification, soil for food security, policies to support smallholder agriculture among others. With respect to policies to support smallholder agriculture, we support the arguments in paragraph 15 and 19.

Having said this, we are keen to see how all this feeds into discussion on the work programme of FAO as guided by the decisions of the recommendations of this Committee. Under Strategic Objective A, sustainable intensification of crop production, we are pleased that COAG recognizes FAO's comparative advantage in supporting Member Nations in crop production and diversification, surveillance, monitoring and control of transboundary pests and diseases, implementation of international instruments in plant protection and enhanced use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Support to technology transfer and capacity-building for improved productivity focusing especially on smallholder farmers, is also of importance in this regard. Resources for these areas need to be adequately guaranteed.

On Strategic Objective B, we wish to bear in mind and underline that livestock issues of the global concern in trade should remain a standing issue for COAG as there is no Technical Committee on livestock, and here we go along with the point of paragraphs 27 and 28.

I wish to say briefly that under Strategic Objective L, the increased and more effective public-private investment in agriculture and rural development, we view that private cross-border investment in agriculture is potentially an opportunity, and we encourage FAO to continue with this all-inclusive tool to guide countries on this matter.

My delegation may wish to comment on this when we consider the Report of the 96th Session of the CFS where we dealt on this matter in greater depth. We strongly support the eleven conclusions contained in the Report.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I would like to thank Mr Pattanayak and congratulate him on his appointment, and also thank the outgoing Chair, Mr Düsünceli, for his efforts as the Chair of the previous session of COAG.

As a participant in the COAG we, of course, support the Report and agree to the endorsement of that Report by this Council. In fact, we are a very strong supporter of the importance of COAG altogether and despite the other activities of this Organization, we really feel that at its heart this Organization remains a technical agricultural organization, and this Committee is absolutely its core business.

On that basis, we support efforts to improve the scope and emphasis of this Committee, and look forward to again participating in its expanded bureau. Like the EU, we do not, however, support the proposed Subsidiary Body on Livestock at this point.

In the context of this meeting, the most important activity of the COAG, and where we will confine most of our comments, was its priority-setting activities. Of all the Technical Committees, the COAG has by far the greatest responsibility to prioritize the Organization's activities. It cuts across most of the Organization's Strategic Objectives, and has sole responsibility for many of those.

We feel that the box at the front of this paper somewhat undersells the important step forward the Committee made in its prioritization. This was a key objective for the meeting and needs further consideration as part of this Council. In particular, we draw the Council's attention to the priority areas of emphasis identified from paragraphs 25-39, and we particularly focus on the need for greater emphasis on the normative activities of this Organization, particularly the transboundary plant and animal pests and diseases, the International Plant Protection Convention, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the EMPRES, the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases.

We note with significant concern the recent announcement about a shortfall of funding for the IPPC. The Convention is a critical component of effective and viable plant industries across the world. It is a building block for food security and a fundamental element of regional and global trading systems. Despite the importance we have all attached to it in the COAG Report, this Committee still seems underfunded.

We note however that it remains extremely difficult for Member Nations to give clear guidance to the Organization on priority-setting when the level of detail provided in the priority-setting documentation is too high. For that reason, we recommend a special session of the COAG be held prior to the next session of the COAG to provide enough time and scope for deep discussions on priority-setting beneath the Strategic Objective Organizational Results level.

It is also vital that the paperwork for prioritization be received on time, as this has been a significant problem over the course of this year.

Finally, while we see priority-setting as a significant advance on previous efforts, we still see there is great potential for improvement, particularly as the Reform of the FAO continues and we consider a results-based framework. For this reason, we strongly support the recommendation that future documentation and priorities more clearly identify the proposed area of emphasis and de-emphasis within each Strategic Objective.

Ms Lisa GUINDON (Canada)

Let me begin by thanking management for the COAG Report provided to the Council Members. The infancy stage of implementing the results-based management approach has also led to some growing pains. Unfortunately, the documentation that was provided by FAO to the Technical Committees did not in many cases provide sufficient information for Members to effectively and efficiently assess Management's intentions in identifying areas of focus with each of the respective Strategic Objectives. While Member Nations did engage in a lively discussion on some specific programming activities, Canada strongly believes more can be done in prioritizing the organizational activities, including the ongoing need to review outdated programming activities and those that have generated less-than-desired results and outcomes, in essence to de-prioritize for stock activities that are not central to the FAO's mandate or lack positive results. This was not evident as can be observed from the respective Technical Reports. We anticipate Management will ensure this improves throughout the PWB development process, key elements outlined in the COAG Report on page 20. While the North America Region will provide additional areas of specific priorities under Item 4, to be discussed

tomorrow, we are very supportive of the components and key core functions identified in paragraph 22 of the COAG Report, highlighting the need to focus on standard-setting, statistics, policy advice and technical transfer, including capacity-development.

Within the current global economic environment, we must expect financial restraint and therefore there is absolutely no benefit in stating that all activities are deemed priorities, which is the underlining theme in many of Technical Committee reports, including COAG. As a member of the Programme Committee, Canada is of the strong opinion that the Organization can do more and must do more to advise the Programme Committee and Council on the effective use of FAO's core comparative advantage. We hope the work undertaken over the next few months incorporates this approach prior to the tabling of the draft PWB in March 2011.

Mr Boaventura NUVUNGA (Mozambique)

First of all, Mozambique would like to join the previous speakers to commend the Committee on Agriculture for their very comprehensive Report. Mozambique is asking to take the floor to comment on paragraph 9 and paragraph 25 of the Report of COAG. We note with satisfaction the recommendation by COAG for FAO to significantly strengthen its soil-related capacity. The crop production intensification that developing countries must undergo in order to increase crop yields needs to be accompanied by training of farmers and soil-related capacity which, as much as possible, must be close to the farming community so that farmers apply fertilizers based on actual soil analysis. This position was strongly mentioned by Tanzania. This way we believe that farmers will only apply the required amount of fertilizer and hence avoid soil degradation. In Mozambique, and we believe in many developing countries, this capacity is still lacking and we support the work of FAO in this direction as pointed out the Report.

Turning to paragraph 25, the Government of Mozambique has developed, in 2008, a Plan of Action for Food Production which aims to increase production and productivity of the main food crops. Within the framework of this Plan, the Government in collaboration with the private sector and other competent partners, is revitalising the national seed system, including production of basic seeds, provision of seeds to small-scale farmers, rehabilitation of irrigation systems, strengthening of the extension service and monitoring and control of major pests diseases among other interventions.

Mozambique would like, therefore, to support the recommendation made by the Committee in paragraph 25 and the Strategic Objective A on sustainable intensification of crop production. This position was also strongly mentioned by the Kenyan delegation.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURAN (Venezuela)

En primer término, también Venezuela felicita y agradece a la Secretaría del Comité por el rico Informe que nos han presentado. Creemos que Venezuela puede señalar algunos aspectos muy focalizados que nos parecen fundamentales del Informe.

Específicamente, el apoyo que se propone de parte de la FAO para desarrollar todo lo que tiene que ver con el enfoque sistémico que se persigue para la producción agrícola. Esta línea de tratamiento implica la aceptación de ciertos elementos expresados en el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica. A este respecto, y en este enfoque, está comprendida la gestión de los eco-sistemas y de los recursos que en ellos se encuentran, por lo que es conveniente asegurar que las políticas de gestión estén en concordancia con las políticas de las comunidades y de los sectores rurales más necesitados. Esto propiciaría el desarrollo de una agricultura sustentable que responda a las necesidades propias de dichas localidades.

Es imperativo incorporar en pleno a los pequeños agricultores en el desarrollo de cada una de las actividades que implica la gestión de los recursos de los eco-sistemas. El tema planteado sobre el cuidado y manejo de los suelos es importante, ya que éste influye directamente en el aumento de su capacidad productiva a la vez que mitiga los efectos del cambio climático. En este sentido, el factor de mayor importancia es el de promoción de la asistencia técnica y el establecimiento de las zonas agro-ecológicas para que ese estudio y esa asistencia se encuentren al alcance de las comunidades de los

agricultores rurales. De esta manera, se estaría otorgando las herramientas necesarias a esas comunidades y éstas podrían adecuarlas a sus necesidades.

Sobre el asunto, que es en el mismo sentido que venimos expresando, de la agricultura en pequeña escala, Venezuela considera que debe funcionar como un eje fundamental para el desarrollo de la agricultura sustentable. En este sentido, la integración de los pequeños agricultores al mercado es fundamental para alcanzar la soberanía agrícola, la producción interna y el abastecimiento en los países. De este modo, las condiciones propias de la cadena de distribución que afectan a los pequeños agricultores deben ser atacadas con la implementación de políticas adecuadas para facilitar el diálogo entre agricultores, sus organizaciones y las asociaciones restantes que también están inmersas en la cadena.

En el caso de Venezuela, tanto la ley de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria ya genera un marco jurídico para normar esta comercialización más justa entre los sectores más agraviados del sistema. Igualmente, tenemos implícita y llevamos a cabo, como parte de esa misma legislación, un sistema que permite un sistema logístico que va dirigido a la distribución de alimentos, que nosotros llamamos mercado de alimentos, y esto atiende de manera intensiva y permanentemente sostenida a las comunidades más desasistidas. Con ello está previsto entonces que se incorporen los productos de los pequeños agricultores en esa misma cadena comercializadora fungiendo así como una institución de apoyo a la agricultura a pequeña escala. Este aporte lo queremos hacer para reforzar, repito, aspectos señalados muy focalizados sobre ambos temas.

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

The Russian Federation supports the outcome of and the results achieved by the Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We consider the Committee to be a key committee within this Organization because it is here that all the major areas of strategic activity and the strategic priorities of FAO are concentrated. It also covers various inter-sectoral problems such as climate change, biodiversity, gender issues and so on. I would like to point out that this very fundamental committee which deals with the real foundations of building the house of food security so to speak, needs to take into account that farming and the training of those involved in farming using the best regional practices is being followed. The same goes for training in the use of agriculture technology. This is all part of the Committee's activities, and it supports the approaches taken.

Sustainable development cannot be guaranteed by the Committee on Agriculture, it must be guaranteed by Governments. The Committee on Agriculture is a very important link in the chain of what Governments are doing to achieve sustainable development in the agricultural sector. Its recommendations on the implementation of programmes are important in making certain that they are in line with the global progress regarding food security and in ensuring that there is a strong foundation for building so that there is a legal framework within which the building can be continued. This basically implies that documents are essential. In other roles, it is essential in plant development genetic resources and livestock development, etc., and also in the preparation and implementation of programmes at regional level. The latter are very very important and the Committee on Agriculture plays a key role with respect to those two. It is rightly so that it does this and that it establishes priorities.

Here I agree with what has just been said by the Representative of Australia. Selecting priorities is a very difficult thing to do because different regions have different ideas of what priorities should be, and you cannot have a "one-size-fits-all" approach. However, having said that, there are shared means, directions and approaches which are set by this Committee. At the moment, this work – as it seems to us - is being done in the correct way and in the correct direction. But, having said that, further consultations will be required, and we need to understand how we should organize the work in agriculture and production, to reduce the number of hungry people worldwide and to ensure that each country can reach its full potential helping us to achieve that shared goal. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

Based on FAO's limited resources, it is impossible to increase simultaneously the budget for crop production and livestock. The Council and Committee on Agriculture need to consider which is to be

prioritized. In other words, it is important to prioritize not only organization results in the Strategic Objectives (SO), but only among the SOs. In this regard, our Government thinks it crucial for FAO to devolve its resources to agriculture statistics, setting global standards, such as CODEX and IPPC, monitoring of transboundary pests and diseases and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, for which FAO has the comparative advantage.

Japan would like to point out that promoting partnerships between relevant agencies, such as CGIAR, OIE and WHO, is crucial.

Mr Ram BHAVNANI (Ghana)

We just want to make a few endorsements. First is to appreciate the quality of the Report from COAG and to endorse the sharing of the conclusions and recommendations. Second, to share the emphasis placed by the Kenyan delegation that paragraphs 15-19 are worth looking at as they are going to support and strengthen smallholder participation. Third, is to also appreciate the recognition of the Committee that one should not characterize smallholder just by land size but by skills and also the capacity and level of capital. The fourth is that it is also important to recognize the need to emphasize market access ahead of production. Small-scale farmers, historically, have produced crops but when markets they did not find markets, they incurred huge post-harvest losses. At least now we are pushing or making awareness of market and value chains ahead of production. In Ghana, we have established what you would call a National Buffer Stock Company which provides last resort markets to these small-scale farmers.

The other thing that I was trying to find when I looked through all the documents regarded find issues related to financial institutions coming up with innovative financial products to support small-scale farmers. I did not find it. Financial institutions have always said that smallholder farming is risky and therefore shy away from it. It is important that they come up with a real innovative financial product to support small-scale farmers.

M Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Merci Monsieur, le Président. Monsieur le Président, la Suisse soutient le rapport du COAG. J'aimerais tout particulièrement relever que la Suisse entend fournir une contribution financière substantielle aux travaux et à la contribution de la FAO au processus de préparation de Rio vingt ans après. Par ailleurs, mon pays soutient également la mise sur pied par la FAO d'un programme d'action pour le secteur de l'élevage tendant au développement durable de ce dernier.

Nous appuyons également la stratégie de la FAO pour une intensification durable de la production agricole par le biais d'une approche éco-systémique et nous serons également favorables au renforcement des capacités de la FAO dans le domaine des sols. Merci Monsieur, le Président.

Ms Thenjiwe Ethel MTINTSO (Observer for South Africa)

The South African delegation would like to join all those that have thanked the Chairperson of COAG and the Secretariat for a job well done.

There is just one main point that the South African delegation would like to raise. Firstly that in noting that gender is a cross-cutting matter, particularly because patriarchy in all countries is still dominant, that any problems in society like food shortages, land hunger, high prices, poor access to finance or to markets and all such agricultural problems negatively impact more on women than on men. This is particularly so in the developing countries. Noting that the majority of the smallholder farmers in most countries are, in fact, women, and agreeing with the point that is raised in Strategic Objective K in paragraph 38 on page 6, South Africa therefore recommends that gender should be mainstreamed in all policies, programmes and so on of FAO, including in the approach and work of COAG itself, rather than mentioning it in paragraph 23 on page 4, so that it is not only raised as a subset. It should run across any other matter that is being raised by both COAG and any other Committees, so that FAO can then be helped to look at everything with a gender lens to avoid gender mainstreaming being only lip service.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, no veo otra petición de palabra. También me he permitido observar que el Presidente del Comité, el Señor Kumar Pattanayak, así como la Secretaría del Comité, la Sra. Jutta Krause, han tomado muchas notas y supongo que querrán hacer alguna valoración y comentarios sobre las intervenciones que aquí hemos escuchado.

Por favor, Señor Presidente del Comité, tiene la palabra.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture)

I thank all the delegates of all the Member Nations for invaluable contributions and useful suggestions. We will definitely fully take into account your guidance, while we develop the programme of work. Having said that, one thing has clearly come out. Most of you have welcomed the initiatives on global soil partnership, the emphasis on livestock, and the special emphasis on smallholder agriculture. We do understand that there has been a matter of concern regarding the formation of the Subsidiary Body in the area of livestock. We shall undertake a cost-benefit analysis to assuage the concerns expressed by EU and supported by Australia, we will take into account their viewpoints in our deliberations informally, and then come to a conclusion.

I am happy to note that the emphasis on livestock was welcomed by many of you, as well as the need to develop capacity, especially in the developing countries, in Africa. Our friend from Mozambique gave the example of soil testing and making the right quantity of fertilizers to be used. This is something which we need to carry forward in other areas. We have highlighted in our Report when we spoke about prioritization that we will discuss the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in our future work, and that should perhaps assuage some of the concerns expressed by some of the countries.

We do understand transfer of technology and the framework for such a transfer to take place. The need to use the existing framework for transfer of seed resources is important, and needs to be further elaborated. The shortfall on funding of IPCC activities has been highlighted by Australia, and I think we will take up in this particular area with management as well.

Everyone has emphasized that FAO should concentrate on the comparative advantage it has, and we all know what is the comparative of FAO. We will definitely give importance to it.

Afghanistan suggested that the duration of COAG need to be increased to one week. We will definitely discuss this in the informal discussions that we will have and take a decision. Another suggestion which came forward was to have a special session of the COAG before the next Council session. That is also another area which we need to discuss. The emphasis on management of natural resources by Venezuela is something which we will have to take into account in the eco-systems approach. Most of our friends in Africa would like to really know about the policy to support smallholder agriculture, that is, how it will unfold in the future. I would urge the Secretariat to develop this framework soon. Market access, involving the various stakeholders and others in the value chain and market chains are other areas of concern which we will definitely address.

Last, but not least, I must compliment Switzerland for the contribution for the Rio 20+ programme and especially their keen interest in helping in the livestock sector. Certain cross-cutting issues like gender were emphasized by some of the Member Nations. We are sensitive to it, and we will definitely take care of it. Women in the agriculture sector is one area which has to be especially emphasized. With these words, I give the floor to our Secretary of COAG to perhaps supplement what I have not covered in my address.

Ms Jutta KRAUSE (FAO Staff)

Thank you very much, delegates, for your valuable contributions to the Report of the 22nd Session of COAG. I think the Chair covered all areas that were highlighted here by the delegates so I just would like to mention a few general things. In the future work highlighted in the COAG Report, there was broad support by the Members, although there were some differences on emphasis, and some key areas considered of more importance by certain groups of countries.

While the conclusions of the Report are widely supported, we understand that there is need for future work, that priorities need to be more clearly identified by better explaining areas of emphasis for our future work, and this is certainly something that the Secretariat will try to improve for the next COAG Session while looking at FAO's comparative advantages, indeed in the area covered by COAG.

It was also mentioned in the context of priority-setting that COAG is the key technical committee of FAO and, in this sense, it is also important to look at the differences of priorities as envisaged by the different regions. We have to look at the global context on how to take into account of these different regional positions. I think the differences have been very well-reflected today in this discussion of the COAG Report, and we will have to see how we can balance these views.

Finally, I would certainly like to underline that we have made an effort to mainstream our agenda in a number of documents presented to COAG, but I also see there is a scope for improvement in considering more, especially in the context of small-scale farmers, and the role of women. Regarding the future working arrangements of COAG, that is both the duration of COAG but also the possibility of an additional session, these arrangements will certainly be discussed in the Open-ended Working Group but also in the Bureau that will accompany the process between the two sessions of COAG.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, señores delegados. Permítanme concluir diciendo que el Consejo aprueba este Informe del Comité de Agricultura en el que se destaca la labor de la Organización para el establecimiento de normas mundiales, en la elaboración de estadísticas, en el asesoramiento sobre políticas y creación de capacidades, así como en el intercambio de conocimiento y transferencia tecnológica.

También se señala la importancia de la estrategia de la FAO para la intensificación sostenible de la producción de cultivos a través de un enfoque eco-sistemático y así como el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de la Organización relacionadas con la gestión de los suelos y el asesoramiento en materia de zonas agro-ecológicas. Consideramos que de cara al futuro se necesita intensificar con mayor claridad las áreas prioritarias en el ámbito del Comité de Agricultura, teniendo en cuenta los recursos disponibles y, tal como se ha señalado por muchas delegaciones, marcando prioridad sobre los pequeños productores y teniendo en cuenta los aspectos de género que se han citado.

Se aprueba por tanto este Informe.

Muchas gracias, veo que el Señor Luc Guyau se ha incorporado también a la reunión por lo que recuperamos el formato con la presidencia del Señor Luc Guyau. Gracias.

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

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

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

7.3 Report of the 20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (4-8 October 2010) (CL 140/4)

• Fourteenth World Forestry Congress 2015

7.3 Rapport de la vingtième session du Comité des forêts (4-8 octobre 2010) (CL 140/4)

• Quatorzième Congrès forestier mondial 2015

7.3 Informe del 20.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (4-8 de octubre de 2010): para debate y/o decisión (CL 140/4)

• 14.º Congreso Forestal Mundial 2015

LE PRÉSIDENT

Alors, nous passons donc au Point 7.3 qui est le rapport de la 27ème Session du Comité des forêts qui s'est réuni du 4 au 8 octobre 2010. J'attire votre attention sur le point mis en évidence dans l'Ordre du jour qui concerne le 14ème Congrès forestier mondial en 2015. Dans son compte-rendu, le Comité des forêts a recommandé que le Conseil examine les candidatures de l'Inde et de l'Afrique du Sud comme pays hôtes du 14ème Congrès forestier mondial et, à noter, qu'aucun Congrès n'a jusqu'à présent eu lieu dans un pays du continent africain. Ceux sont les termes du rapport. L'Inde a récemment eu

l'amabilité de notifier le retrait de sa candidature en faveur de l'Afrique du Sud, afin de donner à un pays Africain l'opportunité d'accueillir le Congrès forestier mondial.

Je voudrais au nom du Conseil remercier l'Inde de cette décision et souhaiter tous les vœux de réussite à l'Afrique du Sud pour la préparation de ce Congrès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je donne la parole à Monsieur Anders Lonnblad, Président du Comité des forêts pour nous présenter le Rapport du Comité.

Mr Anders LÖNNBLAD (Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry)

In accord with the new timetable of FAO's Governing Bodies, COFO held its most recent session from 4-8 October, just a year and a half after the previous session.

The event was organized in conjunction with the second World Forest Week, an innovative mechanism to combine policy and technical discussion in a time- and cost-efficient way. A further innovation for this year was the inclusion of a scientific conference on emerging economic mechanisms allowing much-needed interaction between the science and policy communities.

COFO had, as its overarching subject, the contribution of forests and forestry to sustainable development.

The agenda of the 20th Session was built from the deliberations of the Regional Forestry Commissions held earlier this year. The Committee focused attention on the 2010 global forest resources assessment, biodiversity, fire and water in the context of climate change, emerging opportunities and challenges in forest finance and forest governance, the role of forests in sustainable development, and the opportunities of the International Year of Forests. COFO also considered the implications of the decisions taken by other FAO bodies, decided on its programme priorities for FAO in forestry, and welcomed presentations for hosting the next World Forestry Congress.

COFO addressed recommendations to multiple actors. Document CL140/4 provides a detailed account of proposals and recommendations addressed to Member Nations. Let me mention here some of these very briefly.

The Committee addressed the consequences of forest fires and stressed the need to enhance fire management in land use policies, and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

It underlined the role of law enforcement and good governance in promoting sustainable forest management and saw these as pre-requisites of any successful REDD-mechanism and substantive resource allocation to forestry.

COFO noted the linkages between forests and water, and the need to address their transboundary dimension.

The Committee recognized that furthering the forest issue requires coordinated actions across the international arena and invited countries to initiate these concerted actions in the Governing Bodies of various organizations.

The Committee also noted the need for adequate resources to support the agreed actions.

Additionally, COFO made strong recommendations for using the opportunities offered including by UNFF and the Rio+20 Summit to highlight the role of forests in sustainable development, and integrate SFM into the broader development strategies.

COFO carefully examined the full breadth of FAO's work in forestry. It recommended that the next forest resources assessment be prepared by 2015, and that FAO develop a long-term strategy for the

FRA process. It further recommended that FAO continue to take the lead on streamlining and coordinating reporting.

The Committee recommended that FAO continue the elaboration of the report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and its important work on guidance for implementing phytosanitary measures, promoting regional cooperation on vegetation fires, and reviewing critical issues and knowledge gaps on forests, water and soils.

The Committee requested FAO to continue working with CPF members on forest financing and support the work of the *ad hoc* expert group on the UNFF and requested the elaboration of an analytical framework for the assessment and monitoring of socio-economic and institutional indicators at country level and a report on this work at its next session.

FAO was requested to continue promoting SFM, including through developing tools, to quantify and value the full range of goods and services, thereby documenting forests' contribution to major social and economic objectives. Enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation and policy and programme coordination through efficient and proactive communication was underscored.

COFO recommended that FAO build capacities in countries in the use of remote sensing data and tools for their interpretation, facilitate transboundary and regional exchange of information on forest health, fire and water issues, support national efforts in strengthening public and private sector finance for forests, as well as improving domestic forest law enforcement and governance.

The Committee requested FAO to assist countries in their efforts to value and utilize the potential contributions of forests and trees outside forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including in REDD-plus. COFO requested FAO to assist countries in integrating forests in national climate change strategies, support forest and climate change related monitoring and information exchange, help implement best practices in forest management, and overcome root causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

COFO stressed system-wide cooperation and invited the 14 international organizations that comprise the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue supporting the FRA process and work together in helping countries to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in sustainable management of forests. As forest communication was seen as an area of significant, but so far not fully utilized opportunities, the Committee recommended coordinated actions in this regard to ensure synergies and the best use of resources.

Some of FAO's products are intended for the benefit of a broad range of actors. Especially FAO flagships, such as FRA or the World's Forest Genetic Resources, were drawn to the attention of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations. UNFF was in particular invited to use FRA 2010 and 2015 as a tool for measuring global progress towards sustainable forest management.

The Committee identified priority areas for each of the organizational results of Strategic Objective E for the 2012-13 biennium, based on FAO's comparative advantages. The Committee successfully incorporated the recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions in these priorities.

In response to the request from the Governing Bodies, COFO decided to develop a multi-year programme of work for the period 2013-15 to be considered at its next session in 2012, and reviewed its Rules of Procedure, which is now fully in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

In response to the invitation by the Director-General, India and South Africa submitted proposals for hosting the next Congress. The Committee, while also thanking the host of the previous Congress, Argentina, noted the high quality of the proposals and recommended that the Council considers these submissions for decision, noting that no Congress had taken place on the African continent yet.

I have been informed that very recently, the Government of India has generously withdrawn its candidature, noting the relevance of having the first Congress on the African Continent. As Chairman of COFO, I would like to thank India for the superb submission presented at COFO, and the generous

gesture towards South Africa, and through it to the African Continent. With this, I offer the South African submission for the Council's consideration.

Finally, COFO recognized the importance of the International Year of Forests as a unique opportunity to increase the visibility of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development. It recommended that FAO build communication activities around the IYF and provide support to countries. It further recommended that countries and FAO participate actively in the International Year of Forests. Looking beyond the Year, COFO recommended that countries and FAO consider the strengthening of the idea and profile of the observation of an international day of forests.

As a personal note, I would like to underscore the potential of FAO to support and facilitate country initiatives within the context of the International Year of Forests. The Member Nations, including my own, have many positive stories to share about progress and achievement in their forest management. FAO has a role to play in helping us spread the good news about our forests and their improving condition and the role they play in our economic and social development, stories that can be found in every corner of the world and these stories need to be shared.

I can only encourage FAO to play an active and visible role in helping countries support the International Year of Forests.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est nous qui vous remercions pour votre présentation de ce rapport que je mets maintenant à votre discussion, vos remarques, vos propositions, afin que nous puissions l'adopter.

Alors, qui demande la parole? l'Union européenne. Et bien, nous commençons par l'Union européenne.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU welcomes the results of the 20th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. The complementarity with the meeting sessions and events organized during the second World Forestry week, was well-balanced and was highly-appreciated by the participants of the COFO meeting. The quality and the quantity of the documentation and reports that were available at the COFO session were also appreciated. We thank the Secretariat and the FAO Forestry Department for the preparation and organization of the Session. The EU would also like to thank the open way the Assistant Director-General of Forestry, guided the meeting and reacted to the inputs from the Members of the COFO.

COFO 20 was held only 18 months after COFO 19, in fact 6 months earlier than originally-planned. The EU understands the reasons for moving the timing of COFO was that it would fit the FAO cycle better. The EU acknowledges that a better sequencing should be envisaged with the meetings of the United Nations Forum of Forests. We feel that in doing so we can better underline the complementarities of the COFO and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).

The EU considers the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) as the most comprehensive assessment of the world's forests and appreciates the evolution of the process of continuous improvement in data quality and supports the modalities for preparing the next FRA by 2015. The EU insists on the need for preparing a consistent long-term strategy for the FRA programme.

The EU welcomes the recommendations of the Committee on biodiversity, fire and water concerns and would like in particular to highlight the importance of the preparation of the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources Report. In this regard, the EU would be grateful if FAO could strengthen its capacity to assist Member Nations in more effectively integrating biological diversity related policies, into forest policy planning and sustainable forest management and to give more emphasis to the promotion of integrated land use planning and practices.

The EU is convinced that it is difficult to pursue REDD-plus actions of SFM objectives without an overall vision and strategy on forest financing and governance. The EU strongly supports the call for innovative financial approaches in those fields, and the recommendations of the Committee to consider National Forest Programmes underpinned by financing strategies as key to progress in these areas. The EU would appreciate if FAO could support national efforts in those fields and encourages FAO to participate actively to international initiatives in particular to the process on forest finance established by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

Concerning the request of the Committee on the preparation of a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2012-15, the EU would like to stress the need for clear demonstration in which way it implements the FAO's strategy for Forests and Forestry and in which way it materialises the priorities.

The EU strongly supports the call for closer cooperation between the Forestry Department and relevant Committees in order to enhance a more cross-sectoral approach in all relevant areas including agro-forestry, soil and water.

The EU is pleased to see that the FAO strategy for Forests and Forestry is now being implemented. The EU supports the FAO in being a strengthened, efficient and effective organization, playing a vital role within the multilateral system. In this regard, the EU strongly supports the Committee's remarks concerning the priority-setting process, especially the recommendations about operational results indicators that should focus on the performance of the Organization and include baseline information. Therefore, it will be important to sharpen FAO's profile also in the forestry sector by putting more emphasis on those areas only where FAO has a clear comparative advantage. The EU believes that the COFO indicated priorities for FAO's activities and looks forward to the next COFO meeting where we hope full documentation, including a draft PWB and Programme Implementation Report, will be available. The EU feels that it would help to better evaluate the priorities for 2014-15 based on a report synthesizing the state of implementation of the work programme and results of the current biennium.

The EU supports the recommendations of the Committee asking FAO to raise the profile of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development at global level by highlighting the contributions of forests to the global developmental agenda at the 9th Session of the UNFF and in preparations for the Rio 20+ Summit. The EU would also highlight the relevance of the International Year of Forests in contributing to better integrate forests within broader development strategies.

The EU welcomes the proposal to organise the XIV World Forestry Congress in 2015. As we just heard your announcement, the EU welcomes the offer from the Government of South Africa to bid for the privilege of hosting the Congress. We are pleased to see that the next World Forestry Congress will take place on the African Continent which will host this important event for the first time. This is capital given the importance of the African forests in relation to, among others, climate change. We are convinced that South Africa will make of this Congress in 2015 a big success, matching the perfectly organized World Cup of last summer. Thanks.

Mr Indroyono, MSc SOESILO (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to thank the very informative and comprehensive presentation of the Report of the 20th session of the Committee on Forestry that gives us a clear view on the role of forests as our concern.

We would also like to express our gratitude to FAO for the opportunities of experiences shared and lessons learned gained from other Member Nations during the 20th Session of COFO and 2nd World Forest Week two months' ago. As one of the countries blessed with abundant forests and years of experience in managing forests through sustainable forest management, we would like to re-emphasize Indonesia's strong commitment of the importance of forests for our nation and the world.

Touching upon today's presentations, we would like to raise the following matters.

Indonesia welcomes the published global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2010 and feels the well-designed preparation should be made in a way to improve the next Global Forest Resource

Assessment (FRA) of 2010 through a comprehensive consultation process, involving national focal points and the Regional Forestry Commissions.

As regards the issue of forest governance, Indonesia recognizes the importance of preventing and combating illegal transboundary trade of logs and timber as one of the ways forward in strengthening international forest law enforcement and domestic governance.

Indonesia supports FAO in prioritizing national efforts to rehabilitate degraded forests through community plantation forests, village forests, forest tenure and small-scale forest-based enterprises for timber and non-timber products.

It is critical to bring the concept down to earth that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) cannot be realized without Sustainable Forestry Management (SFM) and should be internalized into SFM. We also have taken note that the process of global negotiation of REDD-plus is a bit slow in the implementation. As a Member of FAO, we strongly request FAO to assist the smoothing process of the incoming REDD-related meetings.

Taking into account FAO's areas of strength, Indonesia supports that FAO continue to assist Member Nations in filling the gaps of capacity in a more effective manner, such as in land-use planning and the use of remote-sensing as well as in providing technical support to promote technology transfer and changes to shifting economic forest-based technology, by actively involving national experts and relevant stakeholders.

Finally, we foresee that there must be a long list of urgent programmes of Indonesian forestry related to FAO recommendations that need immediate action. We believe FAO can play a useful role here.

Indonesia also appreciates that South Africa shall be the host of the next World Forest Congress.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

Japan wishes to express some concern regarding the 20th COFO Report although it thinks the Report is to be endorsed by the Council.

There is no doubt that the FAO's results-based management is still under the process. However, the priorities written in this Report extend so far and wide. We are worried that every business might lose its critical mass if their limited human and budgetary resources are widely distributed. It is not good for FAO to aim to carry out all their duties. It is crucial to examine the allocation of duties with the relevant agencies that participate in the UN Forest Forum or UN-REDD and to focus on the duties that only FAO can fulfil, such as global statistics, assistance to developing countries and information platform.

Japan is also of the idea that adaptation of and mitigation of climate change and the reservation of biodiversity should also be given high priority. We know that all the above-mentioned duties are written in the Report, but our clarification of which duties are more or less important is necessary. In this context, regarding the assistance the developing countries, the FARE issue should have the top priority. On the other hand, FAO should focus more on the infrastructural assistance including remote sensing rather than by human resources training systems.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Tanzania delegation endorses the observations and the recommendations presented in this paper by the Committee on Forests. The few comments we have are as follows:

First, the building blocks of global forestry source assessment are the respective national forestry source assessments. Therefore, generation of high quality information at that level is a necessity. Capacity-building at the national level in terms of knowledge and equipment is essential. For that matter, we welcome the creation of a voluntary open-ended Trust Fund with a strong focus on country capacity-building. The serious needs of Africa in this area need to be given special consideration

Second, we also welcome FAO's work to develop a comprehensive Report on the State of World Forests' Genetic Resources. As FAO undertakes this work, it should also enhance capacities to

countries for effectively integrating the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity in management of forests.

We would like to be informed to what extent the distribution of the guidelines to develop phytosanitary standards in forests has been undertaken to date, including capacity-building in this area at country level.

Lastly, we congratulate the Government of the Republic of South Africa, who offered to host the next World Forest Congress in 2015. This will be an honour for the African Continent to hold this session for the first time since 1954. We thank the Government of India who had also shown interest in hosting the Congress for another round.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

We would like to thank the Committee on Forestry, the Secretariat, and the Forestry Department for its work. We endorse the Report of the 20th Session of COFO. In addition, the United States would like to emphasize the following recommendations that are included in the Report: continuing priority and forest information including refining indicators and expanding remote sensing for the 2015 global forestry resources assessment; the continuing leadership by FAO in the collaborative partnership on forests, and the supporting of REDD-plus in particular through strengthening capacity for forest monitoring and exploring linkages with other areas of FAO including the Committee on Agriculture.

We appreciate the continued leadership of FAO's Forestry Department in implementing reforms. We believe that the Forestry Department should receive adequate resources from the overall FAO budget, including support for forestry-related positions in Regional Offices.

In addition, the United States welcomes the decision to hold the 2015 World Forestry Conference in South Africa, and we look forward to a successful event.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First, we fully support the COFO Report.

Second, among the nine points listed for the attention of the Council, we feel the following matters deserve higher priority: support for the next global forestry resource assessment in 2015, including the preparation of a long-term strategy for deepening the FRA with the support of an adequate voluntary Trust Fund; preparation of a comprehensive report on the State of World Forest Genetic Resources a point that was also raised by Tanzania; technical support to Member Nations in addressing the nexus between forest, water and soil; a deepening collaboration with members of the collaborative partnership on forests, a point also raised by Japan, and assistance to countries in neutralizing the potential contribution of forest and trees outside forest in climate change mitigation and adaptation including REDD-plus, a point raised by many delegations.

Finally, we wish to see the further armers strengthening of the work of the regional forestry commissions.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Gracias a la Secretaría y a los miembros del COFO por la presentación de este documento referido a su 20.º período de sesiones. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela le coloca la importancia que le corresponde debido a que esta sirviendo sus conclusiones como una ante-sala de la declaración del año 2011 como Año Internacional de los Bosques.

Entre las decisiones que se adoptan algunas tienen una importancia estratégica para nuestros países en el manejo forestal sostenible y en la mitigación del cambio climático. En este aspecto, nuestro país enfatiza el rol que deben asumir los Países Miembros para la asociación de colaboración en materia de bosques, para que trabajen conjuntamente con los países en desarrollo en la implementación de la ordenación forestal sostenible, como marco eficaz previo para diseñar políticas para la mitigación y adaptación de los bosques naturales y de las plantaciones en relación con el cambio climático. En este sentido los incentivos económicos, así como proveer medios alternativos de vida, constituyen

mecanismos esenciales para reducir la deforestación y la degradación a los que están sometidos los bosques en nuestros países.

Creemos que se deben propiciar escenarios de asesoramiento y de las deliberaciones técnicas entre los países en desarrollo que no disponen de una cultura y tradición forestal en cuanto a la interrelación efectiva sobre manejo de bosques versus una mitigación del cambio climático. Resultado de esas deliberaciones y compromisos podrían adaptarse esquemas y medidas de adaptación e inclusión de políticas públicas con recursos financieros oportunos y suficientes tanto internos como externos aplicables al manejo forestal sustentable.

La FAO por tanto debe reforzar sus capacidades y, en colaboración con otros organismos internacionales, intensificar los esfuerzos con el fin de proporcionar apoyo oportuno a los países en la aplicación de sus políticas y en las reformas de sus instituciones forestales.

Creemos que el manejo forestal sustentable en el caso de Venezuela fortalecería el sector forestal e induciría a una certificación con estándares internacionales aprobados, lo cual nos colocaría con ventajas comparativas y competitivas con los demás países del mundo que disponen de este instrumento. Igualmente, pensamos que es importante reconocer los recursos genéticos forestales del mundo y tenerlos como referencia para accionar en la misma medida las tareas en el ámbito nacional y regional.

Creemos que el Comité Forestal en sus futuras sesiones debe afianzar la necesidad de fomento, desarrollo y protección de la producción primaria agrícola forestal y sistemas agro-forestales como medios de producción alternativos que contribuyan en gran medida a disminuir los efectos negativos a los que están siendo sometidos los bosques por las intervenciones y ocupaciones legales. Enfatizar estos temas que son vitales para evitar precisamente los efectos negativos a los que están sometidos los bosques y obviamente con su intervención y ocupación su posterior desaparición y riesgos permanentes.

Venezuela particularmente lo señala con la mayor claridad, es uno de los países que tiene interés en asesoramientos en relación con la retención de carbono por la biomasa forestal propiamente dicha, por sistemas agro-forestales y por tanto su determinación, empleo y valorización.

El Gobierno Bolivariano, en el marco de sus estrategias, está planteando la inclusión de la participación comunitaria como un factor clave para asegurar el uso sustentable de los recursos forestales y además, abrir la posibilidad a las comunidades de poner en práctica alternativas que satisfagan sus necesidades al mismo tiempo que fomente la conservación de los bosques.

Por último, con respecto a los retos emergentes sobre recursos financieros y la gobernanza forestal, nuestro país posee una gran superficie boscosa con la cual puede obtener financiamiento inmediato como contrapartida a la preservación de esos bosques. Sin embargo, Venezuela está llevando a cabo ese proceso de evaluación interna sobre esta materia, por las implicaciones de creación de un mercado de carbono y se está a la espera y, hacemos un llamado enfático, ya que en este sentido se ha tomado en el Informe algunos temas como definitivos siendo que Venezuela quiere señalar que estamos a la espera del resultado de las negociaciones que sobre estos temas se adelantan y están en curso en la convención del marco de Naciones Unidas sobre cambio climático, específicamente sobre el tema REDD+, o sea reducción de emisiones, de reforestación y degradación.

Mr Langa ZITA (Observer for South Africa)

The South Africa Delegation welcomes the COFO Report. On behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Council and everybody involved for providing us with the opportunity to express our desire to host the 14th World Forestry Congress in 2015. It was an honour to be given an opportunity to present our interest in hosting the 14th World Forestry Congress to the Committee on Forestry in October this year. I am honoured to accept on behalf of our country and Africa the responsibility to host this Congress in 2015. Let me state that the confidence the world is giving to South Africa in staging world events has led to success at all times, hosting world events in other fora like the World Summit

on Sustainable Development, World Congress on Rural Women and recently the World Football Cup just to mention a few. The same success can be expected for the upcoming World Forestry Congress.

While aware of the challenges and the expectations South Africa is going to face in preparing for this Congress, we however count on the same support the FAO Membership has always given to us in staging world events. Our success, we hope that will be measured, among others, against the increase that forests can make in changing the livelihood of rural communities in reducing food insecurity, eradicating poverty, and mitigating negative climate change effects. The Congress will be expected to address challenges, such as control of pests and diseases. As an African country working together with the world, we can create a programme and the atmosphere that will favour a positive approach towards the policy, institutional, economic and scientific challenges that face the forest sector and the efforts necessary for successful sustainable development in Africa and the developing countries to take hold.

South Africa was actively involved in the two previous World Forestry Congresses held in Canada and Argentina in 2003 and 2009 respectively, and provided some scientific papers, posters and general participation. This led to the evolution of policies for forestry management strongly motivated by participatory forest policies and practices.

The country has been actively involved in the forestry development global dialogue as early as 1992 and the trust contributed immensely to the development of international discussion on forest through the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.

This experience has helped South Africa to contribute to the sustainable development agenda for SADC and Africa. The hosting of the WFC will therefore enhance the sustainable forest development ratio for Africa and in particular help South Africa contribute to the development of the Congo Basin Forest. Our African brothers and sisters working together with you will create an atmosphere that will be suitable for participants from the cross sectors of world societies concerned with forests. This includes individuals from rural communities, private forest owners, NEPAD movement, indigenous people, youth, industry, environmental and other non-governmental organizations, the scientific and academic community. We hope that levels of commitments in international organizations can facilitate effective participation in this Congress.

Looking back at the theme of the 12th Congress held in Canada “Forests, Sources of Life” and the theme of the 13th World Forestry Congress held in Argentina “Forests in Development: a Vital Balance,” South Africa will also be able to develop a theme that would be relevant to the work of this Congress.

To the FAO Forestry Department, we would like to thank you for all your support in assisting us regarding the correct procedures and requirements for hosting of the Congress. We can assure you now that we will work very closely with you to make an event such as the WFC on African soil a great success.

We wish to thank India for graciously withdrawing from the bidding process. You were a worthy competitor. We hope that Argentina, as the last host of the Congress in 2009, will share their experience with us. We are looking forward to seeing you all in South Africa in 2015. Thank you very much.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURAN (Venezuela)

Disculpe y gracias Señor Presidente, debo tomar la palabra solo para señalar y lo dejé por último, y es la felicitación a Sudáfrica por haber sido seleccionado para celebrar el Congreso en el 2015 y además con las palabras dichas en la intervención del Representante de Sudáfrica con mucha más razón pues tendremos grandes expectativas sobre ese Congreso y esperamos que su celebración sea todo un éxito en ese hermoso y querido país sudafricano.

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

The Russian Federation supports the Report on the work of the 20th of the Committee on Forestry, as well as the recommendations contained therein. We consider that the decisions taken on sustainable forestry management are very important for the world community.

We intend to work upon the initiative of the International Year of Forests which has been proclaimed for 2011. We, for our part, would like to report that Russia is planning to strengthen further its cooperation with FAO in the field of forestry, especially in the fight against forest fires since, as you know, this summer the Russian Federation experienced a disaster as a result of forest fires. We think this is a very important area of work, and we will be developing our cooperation with FAO in this field.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Russie. Y-a-t-il d'autres intervenants? Je n'en vois pas, je passe donc la parole au Président du Comité des forêts et aussi au Secrétariat pour des réponses ou des compléments d'information.

Mr Anders LÖNNBLAD (Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry)

I want to thank you for your valuable contributions. I won't respond in detail but I can assure you that all comments and suggestions will be taken into consideration. With your permission, Mr Chairperson, I would like to hand over to the Assistant Director-General for Forestry, Mr Rojas-Briales, for further comments.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

First of all, I would like to thank all the delegations that made very constructive comments and proposals regarding the Report of the past 20th Session of COFO.

There are several issues to be commented on. The occasion of the International Year of the Forest was highlighted by several of you and it is a very good opportunity to note the relevance of forests and the three axes that we are working on.

First, in the frame of the collaborative partnership of forests, we assigned different responsibilities to each of the 40 international organizations to be able to mobilize all the capacity of this international setting chaired by FAO.

Second, we are preparing a toolkit for the Member Nations that will be sent out during December to support preparations in all countries and so that officers in charge of this issue in your countries may have support from our side. We will, of course, maintain contact with the corresponding officers during the year. So we will ask you, when sending you this toolkit, to provide us with the name of the liaison person in your country so that we can work with them during the year.

Third, of course, FAO is going to organize its own activities in several outreach fields to highlight the International Year. We will work closely with colleagues in collaborative partnerships on forests and with the Member Nations to recover a proposal that was approved by COFO in the early 1970s, on the International Day of the Forest. Unfortunately the FAO Conference - we don't know for what reason since there is nobody here from that time - did not approve it, and we think that it would be important that we keep the momentum of the International Year of the Forest beyond 2011-12 by having a day in the calendar which focuses on forests for the future. So we will bring this through the United Nations Forum on Forests in January to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations, so it can be included in the UN calendar. I do count on your support.

We appreciate very much the different comments made, especially the first one by the European Union. We think it is very important what was said regarding cooperation inside FAO on several issues, and I would highlight what was said by Indonesia on the need to strengthen FAO Headquarters, but also the capacity in countries, specifically as regard integrated land management. It is very important to fight against deforestation and to work towards an optimal use of the different demands on land. We take account of this issue, as well as of the need to strengthen our work in agroforestry.

Regarding REDD, we are working in the Collaborative Partnership of Forest to highlight the potential. In this regard, next Sunday in Cancun the Fourth Forest Day will take place with more than 2000 persons attending to highlight the relevance of forests in the climate change debate. Regarding the different issues of mitigation and adaptation, I am sure that this work will have its fruits. In fact, the initial debate on REDD started from the first Forest Day in Bali in 2007.

Regarding the priorities, it is always a very difficult issue because we constructed the priorities proposed to COFO from the inputs of our six Regional Forest Commissions. Member Nations requested a very a broad range of issues, but I can assure you that our minor resources from the Regular Programme are devoted primarily to FRA since it has been identified as a major element for statistics and our statutory bodies. What we have in the other fields are normally a kind of seed structure with an officer who is able to upscale if there are demands from countries to receive assistance regarding genetic resources, forest fires, water, community forestry and so on. If there is the demand from a country of this kind then, if we have financial support, we take action.

We are also working on establishing a strong weapon that is able to satisfy all requests regarding forest inventory and REDD, because we are receiving many requests. We have currently 23 percent allocated of the project budget of the Organization to forest projects. About 60-70 percent are in this area, and we are preparing to bundle all these projects into a Trust Fund or another structure that is able to deliver products as a result of the strong growth of REDD.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the support of the US regarding the need to give more resources to forestry in Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices to be able with a small Regular Programme to respond to all these demands.

Finally, many Member Nations commented on the need to highlight forestry management, which is very important. I would also like on behalf of the Forestry Department to thank you for the strong proposals for the World Forest Congress brought by South Africa and India, both of which were of high quality, and backstopped by COFO. We greatly appreciate India's decision to withdraw its offer to host the Congress, thereby enabling us to avoid a very difficult election because both bids and both applications were really of high value.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie les uns et les autres de votre contribution dans le cadre de ce rapport, ceux qui ont travaillé, ceux qui se sont réunis dans le cadre du Comité des forêts. Aussi, je vous propose comme conclusion de ce rapport, d'approuver le rapport du Comité des forêts, en soulignant plus particulièrement la nécessité d'élaborer une stratégie à long terme pour l'évaluation des ressources forestières mondiales mais aussi pour établir un rapport exhaustif sur l'état des ressources génétiques forestières. Et dernièrement, affirmer l'appui de la FAO aux pays Etats Membres en matière de gouvernance forestière, d'avis techniques sur les questions relatives aux forêts, à l'eau et aux sols et, aussi aux politiques relatives aux rôles des forêts à l'égard des changements climatiques, comme cela a été dit dans le cadre du Programme REDD et plus largement d'apporter l'appui au développement des capacités nationales.

Et puis bien sûr, le Conseil a convenu que le quatorzième Congrès forestier mondial aura lieu en Afrique du Sud en 2015.

Voilà les conclusions que je voulais tirer en votre nom et bien sûr, en répondant aussi à la demande d'appui concernant l'Année internationale de la forêt en 2011 nous étudierons comment nous pouvons éventuellement envisager d'autres instances mais, ce n'est pas là que nous pouvons le décider.

Voilà ce que je vous propose comme conclusion en vous remerciant une nouvelle fois. Ceci est ainsi établi. Merci.

*7.4 Report of the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security
(11-14 and 16 October 2010) (CL 140/5)*

*7.4 Rapport de la trente-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale
(11-14 et 16 octobre 2010) (CL 140/5)*

*7.4 Informe del 36.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial
(11-14 y 16 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/5)*

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au dernier point de l'Ordre du jour. Nous avons encore pour une heure et demie et nous avons tout le temps disponible pour discuter du Comité de sécurité alimentaire. Je demande donc à

Monsieur de Luna de nous rejoindre à la Tribune ainsi que son Secrétariat pour la présentation du quatrième rapport de cet après-midi.

Nous avons un espace jusqu'à 20 h 30 mais nous ne sommes pas obligé d'aller jusqu'à 20h 30. Il vaudrait mieux que nous ayons fini à 20 h 30 pour des aspects matériels et en particulier d'interprétariats.

Bien, nous ne faisons pas relâche et je donne la parole tout de suite au Président de Luna.

Mr Noel de LUNA (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

Allow me to present to you the report of the 36th Session of the Committee World Food Security held last October 11-14 and 16 2010. I am referring to document CL 140/5 but before doing so, let me underline the vision that led to the Reform of the CFS in 2009.

The reformed CFS as a central component of the evolving global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition, will constitute the foremost inclusive international and inter-governmental platform for broad grains of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensurance of food security and nutrition for all human beings.

Guided by that vision, the reformed CFS was destined to change in a number of ways. I wish to highlight a number of such changes which I consider to be major achievements of the CFS. One is the inclusiveness of the new CFS. All stakeholders, Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, other United Nations Agencies, international financial institutions, international agricultural research centres, the private sector and private philanthropic foundations come to one table and discuss food security and nutrition issues in a coherent way with a scientific basis. Another is that the new CFS is now being supported by a Secretariat composed of the three Rome-based Agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Another is that the agenda for the new CFS was developed and owned entirely by Member Nations through the Bureau with the support of the advisory group and the joint Secretariat. In this regard the agenda for the 36th Session and the Programme of Work for 2010-13 were developed to support the roles of the CFS which are to coordinate a global approach to food security and nutrition, to promote policy convergence, and to facilitate support and advice to countries and regions through the exchange of experiences and best practices. Another is strengthening linkages with the FAO Regional Conferences so that eventually food security and nutrition issues could be addressed, taking into account the specific characteristics and needs of each region involving a wide range of stakeholders. Yet another, is the establishment of the High Level Panel of Experts Steering Committee to provide more scientific credibility to CFS debates and outcomes. Finally, while reporting to the UN General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the new CFS develops and strengthens linkages with other international initiatives and fora so that all are aware of what actions are undertaken by other institutions enabling them to build on each other's efforts in a mutually reinforcing way.

In order to ensure that the discussion topics of the 36th CFS were relevant, the Bureau decided to develop agenda items with a strong linkage to the field and based on reality on the ground. In a nutshell, the 36th Session discussed the State on Food Insecurity in the world, otherwise known as SOFI, as well as the impact of grain prices and extreme weather on food security, global, regional, national initiatives, with the view to strengthening linkages and lessons learned, three policy Round Tables that covered key issues such as food security in protracted crises, which is also the theme of SOFI 2010, land tenure and international investment in agriculture, and managing vulnerability and risks especially price volatility, climate change and the role of safety nets. We also had a global coordination to support national processes, including the development of a globally strategic framework for food security and nutrition and mapping food security actions at country level. Finally, we had discussions on the further implementation of the reform, the CSO mechanism, rules and procedures, programme of work as well as the budget.

With the risk of repeating the items brought to you for your consideration this evening, suffice it to say that the major outcomes of the 36th Session included in the case of the SOFI, organizing a Round

Table on Methods to Estimate Hunger and Statistical Methodologies next year. At a global level, we also agreed to include the Standing Committee on Nutrition in the advisory group. At the regional level, we are strengthening linkages and communications with the regions during intersessional periods and developing or strengthening multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder frameworks at national and regional levels plus South-South Cooperation. And at the national level, we are analysing and consolidating lessons learned from case studies and developing mapping tools.

The major outcomes from the Policy Round Tables are: from the food insecurity in protracted crisis, we are looking into the possibility of organizing a High Level Expert Forum on Protracted Crisis for 2012, possibly developing an agenda for action for food security in countries in protracted crisis. From the Policy Round Table on Land Tenure and International Investment in Agriculture, we encouraged the continuation of the inclusive process for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources, building on existing regional processes with the view to submitting the Guidelines for the consideration of the 37th Session of the CFS. We are also initiating an inclusive process to consider Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment, and we have requested the High Level Panel of Experts to study roles of large-scale plantations and small-scale farming, review of tools for mapping available land and aligning large-scale investments with country food security strategies. From the Policy Round Table on Managing Vulnerability and Risk, we have requested the High-Level Panel of Experts to study price volatility, social protection and climate change.

The new methods of work such as focused discussion and outcomes, which means during the CFS, if you still remember, focusing the discussions on the decision boxes. The other methods of work, balanced intervention by civil society organizations through self-appointed spokespersons and a wholly engaged Bureau Advisory Group Joint Secretariat, all of this method of work are working very well for the new CFS. Now that the High-Level Panel of Experts is in place, we can expect sound analysis to aid us in our critical understanding of food security and nutrition issues this coming year.

Taking these factors into account as well as the huge amount of good will emanating from the Members and participants, I believe that the tasks laid out for the CFS for 2011 by its Members and participants are doable. However, there are still a number of challenges to be overcome. These include maintaining food security and its governance high on the international agenda. In this regard, I am pleased to inform that the recent G20 Summit in Seoul, Republic of Korea, gave prominence to agriculture food security and to the CFS. Another challenge is strengthening partnerships within FAO with the Rome-based agencies and through global and regional initiatives, as well as through the private sector. Another challenge is maintaining a balance between participation, ownership and efficiency, both in Plenary and in the international period. Another challenge is how to extract lessons from country and regional case studies more effectively so that more time can be allowed for Policy Round Table discussions before the Plenary. We also need to address how best to ensure adequate funding to fulfil all CFS roles, whether through Regular Programme or extra-budgetary contributions. These will include supporting participation of NGOs, CSOs and hopefully also participation from delegations from the least developed countries. We shall also need to develop a resource-based framework for CSF that is linked to the Strategic Objectives of all the Rome-based Agencies. Finally, one other challenge is approving the new rules of procedures which strike a balance between the new CFS and the Basic Texts.

I am convinced that with all the positive atmosphere in place, these challenges can indeed be resolved. In this regard, a meeting of the Bureau and a joint meeting of the bureau and advisory group had already been held to agree on a work plan and associated responsibilities to meet such challenges as well as other specific tasks identified by the plenary to be addressed before the 37th Session of the CFS.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous vous remercions de cette présentation à la fois rapide mais, surtout aussi complète pour le travail qui a été réalisé lors du Comité de Sécurité Alimentaire il y a à peine un mois.

Bien, je vous donne donc tout de suite la parole pour intervenir.

Alors, j'ai l'Union européenne, l'Uruguay, les États Unis d'Amérique, le Japon, la Thaïlande, la Chine, le Venezuela, l'Afghanistan, la Russie, le Brésil et la Tanzanie.

Bien, l'Union européenne vous avez la parole.

M Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU considers the 36th Session of the CFS, the first session under the Reform, a success and a big step in the right direction in terms of inclusivity, ownership and relevance of the discussions. Some of the elements contributing to the positive outcome of the CFS Session were: the inclusive way in which the agenda was established, the organization of Policy Round Tables allowing free discussion, the use of decision boxes directing the discussions towards concrete decisions, highly facilitating the reporting work, and the two reports, one focused on decisions and recommendations, while the Chair's summary reflected the discussions which took place.

However, there are lessons to be learned and there is still room for improvement such as: the speed of the decision-making process, the incorporation of elements of the Round Table discussions into the decision-making process, an increased participation of the private sector and from other international organizations outside Rome, a better coordination with World Food Day, and a better prioritization of subjects to be dealt with during the inter-sessional period leading to the 37th Session. In addition, developing an effective communication strategy will be important in highlighting the outcomes of the next CFS session. Equally, a resource mobilization strategy should be worked out. The EU notes with satisfaction that the Bureau is dealing with these subjects.

A significant number of tasks have been given to the Bureau, Advisory Group, Secretariat and HLPE by the 36th Session, and the next 12 months will be crucial for the CFS to further establish itself as the foremost inclusive platform at global level for a broad range of stakeholders regarding food security and nutrition, while maintaining efficiency and effectiveness. The EU therefore welcomes the development of the CFS 37 Results Matrix by the Bureau and Secretariat, clustering the 35 action lines resulting from the Final Report of the CFS into 12 main tasks to be performed in the inter-sessional period, and the establishment of at least four Open-Ended Working Groups led by the Bureau, on land issues, the rules of procedure, the development of the Global Strategic Framework and the Programme of Work and Budget of CFS. The EU also welcomes the mandates which have been given to the HLPE on price volatility, land issues, social protection and climate change and looks forward to the meeting of the Bureau with the Steering Committee of the HLPE to clarify and prioritize the given mandates and to establish a roadmap and timeline for the HLPE on those issues.

As regards the Programme of Work and Budget, the EU would like to make the following four remarks.

The EU appreciated the information provided in the document of Programme of Work and Budget as presented during the 36th Session of the CFS in document CFS 2010/5. As far as the Programme of Work is concerned, the vital element still missing in order to be able to evaluate the impact of CFS activities is a clear set of indicators which would signal to which degree the activities performed by the CFS are contributing to the attainment of the objectives as set out in the CFS Reform document. The EU therefore welcomes the endorsement by the CFS plenary of the proposal to develop a results-based framework for CFS in the shape of a detailed MYPOW (Multi-year Programem of Work) to be preferably presented at the 37th Session of the CFS in 2011.

On the budget, the EU takes note of the endorsement by the CFS plenary of the PWB for 2010-11 and welcomes the decision that the proposed 2012-13 PWB will be further reviewed by the Bureau and submitted to the consideration of FAO, IFAD and WFP in accordance with their respective financial rules and regulations. This implies that the budget proposal needs to be subject to technical review by the financial review committees of the participating organizations before being included in the overall priority-setting and budget proposal for the next biennium.

The EU welcomes the cost-sharing arrangements between the three Rome-based UN Agencies, but wants to stress once more the need for full transparency and a clear delineation and identification of the CFS budget and activities within the FAO budget. The budget is currently an unidentifiable part of the Strategic Objective H and within the budget of WFP and IFAD. There should also be more transparency in the use of the budget to allow the Bureau to play its monitoring role while avoiding micro-management. In the context of the reformed CFS, the EU feels it is essential that serious accountability mechanisms be put in place. Moreover, continuous funding of the HLPE activities should be ensured, namely by including at least the fixed costs linked to the functioning of the HLPE into the regular budget of the CFS. Last but not least, the EU welcomes the idea of a rotating Secretary among the three Rome-based Agencies, although more information is needed on how this will work in practice.

As mentioned earlier, the EU highly welcomes that one of the working groups that has been established will be focused on the Programme of Work and Budget of the CFS. The EU will actively and constructively participate in this Working Group, which will have to act swiftly in order to provide timely input for the discussions on the FAO PWB discussions for the 2012-13 biennium as well as into the budget discussions within WFP and IFAD.

Sr Daniel GARÍN (Uruguay)

Gracias por concedernos nuevamente la palabra. En primera instancia agradecemos los aportes y la presentación de los contenidos del 33.º Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Queríamos hacer una presentación de Uruguay desde la perspectiva de considerar nuestra misión de aportes para la alimentación a la población y su contribución a la seguridad alimentaria.

Nuestro país está ubicado en la región templada de la América del Sur y es uno de los países que contribuye en forma regular a la alimentación en el mundo, generando excedentes importantes de alimentos que se vuelcan regularmente al mercado internacional. En el marco de esas cadenas de valor que están asociadas a la producción de alimentos, en nuestro país la agricultura familiar contribuye significativamente a los volúmenes totales de producción y tenemos cuantificado que las cadenas de valor pueden llegar a tener un 60 por ciento del volumen total producido con integración de ésta.

Una de las problemáticas que nos llena de preocupación en forma permanente es que la agricultura familiar tiene problemas frecuentes de sostenibilidad y exclusión, que impacta posteriormente en la emigración hacia los conos urbanos. Esta también impacta sobre los indicadores de pobreza y muchas veces expresándose a través de pérdidas por parte de esos pobladores, de sus pautas de alimentación, en algunas ocasiones de sus ingresos y muchas veces en la calidad de vida de aquellos individuos que han nacido y han crecido en el medio rural y que después son trasladados en un medio urbano que les quita oportunidades y que contribuye a la generación de indicadores de pobreza.

La emigración hacia los conos urbanos, repercute en la amenaza de la preservación del trabajo y de capacidades locales que requiere la gestión de la agricultura y la ganadería en los procesos de producción de alimentos para las cadenas de valor. Por esta razón es que nosotros entendemos que analizando la seguridad alimentaria desde una perspectiva mundial queremos la consideración que la FAO contribuya a fomentar el acceso equitativo de la agricultura familiar a los mercados. Cuando hablamos de los mercados, nos referimos al acceso equitativo de la agricultura familiar, a los mercados nacionales y cuando sea posible, a los regionales e internacionales. En el entendido de que hayan posibilidades de que esta agricultura familiar con sus excedentes, pueda estar contribuyendo a nivel internacional a cubrir necesidades de la población que tiene insuficiencia de acceso al alimento en forma regular y permanente.

Nosotros también consideramos que los apoyos hacia la agricultura familiar y su impacto a las cadenas productivas de generación de alimentos que se ha mencionado pero que deberían seguir contribuyendo a mejorar la producción y la productividad en el marco de hacer inversiones y tener políticas públicas que permitan la reorganización de los propios productores para gestionar en forma integral esas cadenas, para que tengan posibilidades de tecnologías modernas, para poder expresar esa productividad y esa mayor producción de alimentos y que además deban ser alcanzados por las

innovaciones tecnológicas que correspondan al desarrollo de innovaciones tecnológicas asociadas a la mitigación y la adaptación hacia cambio climático y, en especial, a la adaptación.

Es importante que la FAO siga sensibilizando sobre la necesidad de modelos de desarrollo rural sostenible donde estos modelos puedan dar oportunidad para un desarrollo económico distributivo que permita a las familias tener los ingresos que les de la oportunidad a permanecer en la tierra y mantener sus niveles de producción y, además de asegurarles el acceso a bienes y servicios que reconfortan una calidad de vida adecuada de esa población.

Vemos que en las políticas desde un modelo de desarrollo rural sostenible, se pueden enfocar políticas públicas hacia la promoción de la juventud y el género como políticas centrales en la preservación de capacidades de producción de alimento y su contribución a seguridad alimentaria. Además que en la dimensión ambiental se permita que la agricultura familiar pueda acceder a la tierra y una vez que acceda a ésta se puedan aplicar estos métodos y prácticas culturales para el uso sostenible tanto del suelo como de los recursos hídricos y de la biodiversidad.

Por último queríamos dejar planteado de que si viene un documento y hace referencia a políticas o acciones hacia los Países Miembros que tienen crisis prolongadas, queremos dejar a consideración que existen situaciones en las cuales nos sentimos parte, situaciones donde somos productores regulares de alimentos y que podemos llegar a tener disponible capacidades y soluciones de los arreglos de las cadenas productivas que puedan ser objeto de consideración para seguir contribuyendo a una cooperación Sur-Sur, en la medida que estas regiones del sur del mundo existan todavía oportunidades de fomentar y mejorar las capacidades de producción de alimentos y su distribución.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Il y a encore 10 intervenants inscrits. Si nous voulons finir dans l'heure un quart avec une réponse de Monsieur de Luna, je vous demanderai de restreindre un peu vos interventions avec la remarque que nous avons formulée. S'il ya des interventions qui sont un peu plus longues, nous acceptons qu'elles soient intégrées dans le compte-rendu du Conseil. La parole est aux États-Unis d'Amérique.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

We would like to thank the CFS Chair, the Bureau and the Advisory Group and the Committee itself for a successful 36th Session, the first Session held following our decision to significantly reform the Body. We endorse the Report of the Chair of the CFS for approval by the Conference. We have covered a lot of ground since 2008, and we believe that we have achieved a good model, that working together in the spirit of cooperation and goodwill, we can all continue to improve upon.

We look forward to working with the Committee on such important issues as land investment, vulnerability and risk, assisting countries in protracted crises, the mapping of inputs and outcomes on food security and discussions surrounding a potential process for a global strategic framework.

We are also pleased the Committee members have agreed to raise the profile of nutrition with regards to food security. Though improved, the CFS is still a work in progress. We believe that the CFS can be further improved in matters related to the preparation of draft decisions, including the decision boxes, by increasing clarity in what is expected from presenters, participants and members by encouraging more open dialogue and reporting and finally by increasing the participation of non-governmental actors, including the private sector.

We look forward to working with Committee members together to continue to improve the functioning and output of this important body.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Japan recognizes that this year the new CFS reforms have shown a very good start and are going in the right direction, namely with rich and focussed discussion and participatory approach.

With this Japan is glad to support the Report in front of us, however, next year the CFS is expected to provide us with concrete results. For that, I have to emphasize that the CFS Bureau, Advisory Group,

joint Secretariat and High-Level Panel of Experts have to do a lot more work. So the important thing is to be realistic and prioritization of work is essential. Having said that, Japan is happy to continue to work together with the CFS Chair and the other members of the Bureau.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation thanks the Chair of the CFS for his comprehensive presentation.

We endorse the Report and agree with all the recommendations. As for the future work of CFS and FAO, we have two points to make as follows: first, although we support the arrangement in 2011 for a Round Table to identify methods used in estimating the number of hungry, it is advisable that potential participants of the Round Table should be officials from the capitals who are using those methods. Current data obtained by FAO from different sources for these estimates may not always be accurate. Special attention should be paid to different national and regional contexts because we have here diversity of food sources in tropical countries and household consumption culture.

Second, we underline the importance of inclusiveness and consultations with all stakeholders at any level in developing Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other National Resources, as well as the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition.

In addition, careful consideration should be given to any possible impacts on small-scale farmers or small landowners.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat and the Chairman of the CFS for the Report of the 36th Session of the CFS.

We believe that this Report is very comprehensive and detailed. We therefore welcome this Report. The Chinese delegation believes that the reformed CFS is progressing at a steady pace towards the goals that it set, and the success of its 36th Session and the launch of related work bear witness to this.

The Chinese delegation would like to make the following comments. Firstly, with the full support of its Member Nations and with the help of the High-Level Panel of Experts, the CFS will be able to conclude the development of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition as soon as possible. Secondly, we hope that the CFS, on the basis of meticulous preparatory work, will launch its work on mapping for food security at country level. Thirdly, with regard to the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and other Natural Resources and principles for responsible agricultural investment that respects the right to livelihoods and resources, the CFS should take due account of the diversity that exists in terms of social and legal systems in its Member Nations. Instead of trying to conclude this work in haste, the CFS should, under the aegis of governments, launch a broad consultation negotiation within the framework of the FAO in order to reach a consensus decision.

We hope that at the next session of the CFS we will be able to reduce the number of items to be dealt with on the agenda and to have them more focused, and reduce, as much as possible, the incidence of parallel and side events on the margins of the meeting to ensure the participation of all delegations, particularly small delegations, in debates and important meetings.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En atención a sus requerimientos de las limitaciones de tiempo, le haré entrega del planteamiento que está haciendo Venezuela respecto a este tema, del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, con el deseo de que lo coloquen en las actas, en las memorias de este Consejo.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURAN (Venezuela) ¹

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea expresar su agradecimiento a la Secretaría, a los miembros del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, y asimismo manifiesta que el documento no hace

¹ Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa.

referencia a las causas estructurales de la crisis alimentaria derivadas de la implementación sostenida del sistema capitalista, que mantiene relaciones entre el poder oligopólico del mercado y los consumidores, que promueven la especulación, la liberalización del comercio agrícola y las prácticas monopolísticas, reflejadas en las instituciones del Bretton Woods como sus máximos promotores (BM y FMI) y en las políticas comerciales impuestas por la OMC.

La crisis de alimentos no es una crisis adicional a las crisis financiera y energética como se puede inferir del documento. En realidad es una sola crisis que se ha venido manifestando por etapas donde el factor clave está determinado por el incremento de los costos de producción y la volatilidad de los precios de los alimentos, sin tomar en cuenta las circunstancias propias de cada país; así como por la disminución de las inversiones en el sector agrícola y alimentario por más de veinte años; la especulación financiera de productos básicos en el mercado internacional debido al traslado de capitales de inversión bursátil a este sector y; la cultura de consumo promovida por los países capitalistas.

Adicionalmente, este efecto se ve agravado por las consecuencias del cambio climático y la utilización de tierras cultivables y otros recursos con fines energéticos.

Para la República Bolivariana de Venezuela la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, así como la garantía de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional son aspectos fundamentales concebidos en la constitución nacional y de nuestras políticas de Estado.

Si bien es cierto que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela cumple los ODM, especialmente en lo que se refiere al Objetivo No. 1 “Erradicación del Hambre y Pobreza,” observamos con preocupación el riesgo sobre algunos países que han sido afectados fuertemente por la crisis no han podido alcanzar los compromisos internacionalmente adquiridos.

Igualmente, lamentamos la ausencia de un verdadero compromiso por parte de los países desarrollados para contribuir al logro de la erradicación del hambre y la búsqueda de justicia e inclusión social, lo cual se evidencia en el incumplimiento del compromiso de aporte del 0,7 por ciento destinado a la AOD, así como también el incremento de la proporción de AOD destinado para el desarrollo agrícola.

Consideramos necesario evaluar con mayor detalle todas aquellas iniciativas que bajo el velo de contribuir con la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de los países más vulnerables, esconden intereses económicos a favor de sectores excluyentes en perjuicio de la soberanía de los pueblos.

En relación con el tema V del Informe presentado (párrafos 14-18) sobre las iniciativas regionales a favor de la seguridad alimentaria, vale destacar que la política exterior venezolana tiene una visión integracionista que impulsa la cooperación Sur-Sur. Por lo tanto promovemos y participamos activamente en los programas enmarcados en la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América tales como ALBA-Alimentos, Petroalimentos y la ALCSH. Estos esfuerzos multilaterales se complementan con la implementación de convenios bilaterales con países de la región.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Because of the lack of time, I would also like to expedite the debate and also submit my intervention for insertion in the Verbatim Records and .

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan) ²

We thank the Chairperson of the Council of the CFS, Mr. Luna, for this excellent presentation of the main elements of the reformed CFS and of the highlights of the 36th Session. We also share many of the points raised by EU and other speakers. However, we have to recognize that this was the first session after the Reform of CFS, and it can be considered as the case for future CFS sessions.

Given the enhanced role of NGO's, CSO's and other stakeholders in the work of CFS, one can confirm that the session was truly inclusive and interactive. However, the agenda of the 36th Session was indeed heavy, and the three parallel Round Tables, the four parallel country case studies and the many Side Events made it impossible for small delegations to attend several of the events, and we

² Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

consider this to be a serious matter. Another factor was the lack of adequate time in Round Tables to enable the audience to react to the statements of the panel members. The panel members interacted with each other quite well, but not with the audience. In future, the Round Tables should be limited in number and should last for 4 hours with one and half hours set aside for interaction between panel members and the audience.

Finally Chairperson, we support the report of the CFS and we are pleased to note that the Bureau under the wise leadership of Mr. De Luna has reflected on the lessons learned from the 36th Session of the CFS as recorded in the minutes of its meeting of 4 November. We are pleased that the Bureau has planned its work during the intersession period, including the preparation of the multi-year programme of work. We are confident that this meticulous preparation will lead to a well planned and efficiently managed CFS 37. Thank you Chairperson.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vois que vous avez bien remarqué ce que je vous ai dit. Vous gagnez du temps, c'est bien. Mais il y a du travail pour répondre au Président alors il vaut mieux lui laisser un peu plus de temps. La Russie. La Russie est absente. Donc nous passons au Brésil.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes and supports the Report of the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. In our view, the first session of the reformed Committee was indeed a success. While the impact of the decisions taken by the last session of the Committee are still to materialize, we, the members of the Committee, are in a position to say that the Session set a new standard in terms of openness, participation and the quality of debate while also tightening the decision-making process and achieving high clarity and objectivity in terms of outcomes. Some of the procedures adopted by the reformed CFS, such as draft decision texts for the more substantive agenda items, are already being partially adopted in this Council, and should be fully adopted in our next one.

The CFS is no longer a Technical Committee of the Council and therefore it has not gone into the exercise of suggesting priorities for the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. The CFS, however, continues to report to the Council with respect to the programme and budget matters of FAO and it has indeed done so. Several of the initiatives cited by all Member Nations in the CFS have programme and budget implications for FAO. We support that the Organization gives full priority to those activities to the extent that they contribute to the achievement of several of its Strategic Objectives. The CFS has gone one step further and recommended a budget to support those activities and has as a clear indication of the priorities suggested by the CFS for its work and the work of FAO as its host organization. This proposal of budget should be taken into account in the preparation of the PWB 2012-13.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We congratulate the CFS for its work and in particular for successfully holding its first meeting in its reformed working modalities. The attendance of members and other stakeholders, the level of discussion and deliberations made were impressive. We therefore endorse the Report tabled and ask the CFS to implement the recommendations which are made, as elaborated in this Report.

We also call the CFS to establish and to keep robust linkage at the country and the regional level. Mr Chairman, for Africa we ask the CFS to maintain cross-communication with NEPAD on regional food security issues.

We appreciate the challenges tabled by the Chairman of the CFS but under his able leadership and the interest that members and other stakeholders have in this Committee, we hope they will be overcome. The challenges are clear and important for the success of the work of CFS.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

We agree with all of the kudos to you, Mr Chair, the Bureau, the Advisory Committee and Secretariat for the success of the first reformed CFS, and really commend the initiative you have taken to survey Members on how to improve next year.

We can support pretty much all that has been said, especially regarding transparency, budgets being realistic and prioritizing the work, reducing the number of items on the agenda next year and so on. One exception is that we believe that the costs of the High-Level Panel of Experts, including the fixed costs, should be met through extra-budgetary trust funds, as had been agreed by Members. Other than that, we are really satisfied and we commit to support the process in the future.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

We also endorse the Report brought in front of this Council. We align ourselves with comments brought by most delegations, including the United States, Japan, Brazil, Canada and others.

I wish to make two additional comments: one is that it is actually very hard to balance an ambitious agenda with the need to keep everything in plenary sessions without having an extraordinary number of sessions. While reducing the number of items is one possibility, it results in a much smaller agenda and much less progress during the year. I think one of the points we made about the CFS regards its need for inter-sessional work, so in the view of my delegation, the meeting this year struck the right balance between ambition and workload. I think the one mistake we did make was not to have two sessions to bring it all back together. But I think cutting the number of items significantly would be a mistake, simply because we would only choose one item to deal with during the Session, and we would fall behind the pace elsewhere on the debate on food security.

Secondly, we note the extensive work programme the Committee has set out for itself. We have some concerns about the practicalities of such a huge work programme but, of course, remain very communicative with other members of the Bureau and other countries to see it through. The issue of budgets and how we align between the available resources and the work programme we have set is an interesting one, and one that the Bureau will work through I think that in this regard, we align ourselves with Canada that the work of HLP should be financed through trust funds.

I think in conclusion it is fair to say that Australia is very pleased with the CFS Reform, and remains even more pleased now that we have had the first Session to the CFS since the Reform.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Nos felicitamos por el trabajo realizado. Como aquí se ha dicho, vamos por buen camino.

Los resultados de esta primera reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial Reformado son muy satisfactorios. Queremos agradecer al Sr. Noel de Luna por el Informe que nos ha presentado esta tarde, el cual la delegación de El Salvador refrenda.

Nosotros compartimos muchas de las observaciones que aquí se han hecho en este debate y habíamos pedido la palabra para solicitar una cuestión de menor importancia: en la versión en español del Informe que se nos ha presentado, la lista de los Países y Organizaciones representados no está completa, ya que de la página 14 pasamos a la 15 y nos faltan muchos países y sobre todo, las organizaciones que fueron muy numerosas, que participaron en el Comité. Agradeceríamos la corrección en la versión en español.

Mr Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Despite the importance of the regional dimension as far as food security is concerned, we have to bear in mind the international dimension, and thus the need to involve international stakeholders in this process. We do need a comprehensive and global approach as stated in numerous parts of the Report, namely in paragraph 29. Therefore, we would like to place emphasis on the first draft of the Global Framework for Food Security (GFFS) with the deadline of October 2012 for implementation. However, we would also like to urge the Organization to strengthen the assistance given to capacity-building, in putting in place policies for food security, and in adopting necessary strategies and specific studies on food consumption patterns so that we can properly assess the needs for specific foodstuffs.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

The Zimbabwe Delegation welcomes the Report of the Committee on the World Food Security of the 36th Session and the renewed focus on nutrition and food security, South-South Cooperation and sharing of best practices. The overview of the FAO Secretariat on food and security in the world was welcomed as it helps us to focus on the tasks ahead in order to meet the MDG goal on hunger.

We, however, welcome the setting up of the Round Table to review methods used to estimate the number of hungry people. This will lead to more targeted interventions as current indicators do not fully capture the variety of coping strategies that families used in dealing with hunger.

Turning to this SOFI Report on countries in protected food crisis, while fully appreciating the importance of deepening our understanding of the underlying causes of crisis in order to ensure that they do not become protracted crisis, the Zimbabwe delegation feels that the Report is based on 2007-09 data, and can therefore not be used as a basis for present action.

Zimbabwe is listed as one of the 22 countries in protracted crisis, but it has seen a surge in agricultural production which is estimated to increase by 34 percent during this current year.

The Zimbabwe Delegation fully endorses the view that food insecurity should encompass both emergency responses and support for sustainable livelihoods. The smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have certainly benefited from the provision of inputs through FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies, which also resulted in availability of more grains on the market and reductions in food inflation.

Mr Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I will refer to the work of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on food security. In this regard, the Organization has two major events in October just before and after the CFS, and one in Istanbul, one in Sudan. The Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, and the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agriculture Development have also been held. Many of decisions were taken and most were in parallel to what was discussed during the CFS. We believe that work of the OIC on food security is substantial and should be taken into consideration as part of the international and regional initiatives in the future work of the Committee.

M Hubert POFFET (Obsevateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, je serai très bref.

Je tiens d'abord à exprimer notre satisfaction concernant la 36ème Session du CSA. Globalement cette réunion a été selon nous positive et nous tenons à exprimer nos remerciements à tous ceux qui ont oeuvrés à la réussite de cette session.

Ceci dit, pour que le CSA acquiert sa pleine légitimité, il est indispensable, selon nous, que premièrement on fixe des priorités, deuxièmement que le secteur privé soit associé encore plus étroitement à ces travaux et troisièmement que le CSA s'ouvre encore davantage aux autres organisations internationales actives en matière de sécurité alimentaire et qui n'ont pas leurs sièges à Rome. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETZOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I was compelled to leave the room so I have not heard all of the statements from Switzerland, but from what I heard with respect to what was said by the European Union at the start, I have the feeling that there is a quite serious consensus with respect to what we wish to do with the Committee on World Food Security, how we wish to conduct this work in the future and how we wish to reform this body.

The most important thing is the goals and tasks which we are going to set for this work, so I am inclined to be optimistic - this is very important. On the whole, I support many of the proposals which have been voiced on behalf of the European Union. At the same time, we support the decisions adopted at the CFS and as an active participant in this process, since Russia, as a member of the Bureau, was a co-sponsor of all of these decisions, we naturally shoulder responsibility for these decisions. However, it seems to me that in the work of the CFS at present, we have struck a very

solicitous, successful balance between the intergovernmental nature of this international Committee, and the inclusive format for participation of all interested stakeholders. It seems to me that the decisive role of Member Nations should undoubtedly be maintained because it bolsters the legitimacy of the CFS decisions. At the same time, naturally, it is very important to have the broadest possible membership of non-governmental participants who contribute so much to the overall groundwork which is performed.

We would also like to stress the global partnership on food security and nutrition that is the body, platform, and process that will give legitimacy to the decisions of the Committee on World Food Security, and an even broader international hue. Important decisions have been taken and at present, and indeed the Representative of the EU referred to this as have Representatives of other countries, it is very important for us to not lose momentum. The first Session was, I think, a great success because a major stride forward was taken. At the same time, all of us, the Member Nations, and those representing the Bureau of the Committee on Food Security, are involved in an active and transparent dialogue. We must not lose momentum. We need to keep the pace so that at the next Session, we can come forward with the same sorts of decisions which will bear fruit.

It is also very important that, thanks to the CFS, Rome and the Rome-based Agencies are recognized as the key leading participants in the dialogue on world food security. The documents of representative important international fora give us grounds to say that the role and influence of the Committee on World Food Security as an authoritative international specialized body is increasingly being strengthened and consolidated. In this regard, I would like to express support for those who have said that the Committee on World Food Security has a very promising future. When it comes to criticisms, however, I will refrain from commenting because quite a lot have already been expressed by other participants in this debate.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie. Pas d'autres interventions. Avant de donner la parole à Monsieur De Luna, deux remarques: la première: voyez quand on veut faire rapide, en trente minutes vous avez été vingt intervenants, et je crois que vous avez eu l'occasion de vous exprimer. Donc on peut faire plus vite encore dans nos travaux. Merci. Et la deuxième, Monsieur De Luna, vous pouvez être un Président assez heureux, parce que vous ne laissez pas insensible. La satisfaction tout le monde l'a exprimée. Mais les critiques ou les améliorations, on vous en a données aussi. Donc, prenez le temps maintenant qu'on a gagné pour y répondre.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security)

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to all the distinguished Members of the Council and to everybody else for their very kind statements and support to the CFS.

We have taken note of all these concerns and our advantage is that since the CFS has an inter-sessional process, your comments can immediately and easily feed into the CFS decision-making process.

The success of the 36th Session of the CFS has raised the bar of expectations for the CFS. I believe that these lessons learned, such as those that were raised by the United States of America, Japan, China and, I think, Turkey, can also be taken on board by the Bureau when it designs the agenda and methods of work for the next CFS.

There has been a lot of interest in engaging the private sector in various international fora and, of course, here in the CFS, so the Bureau will look into that and try to develop a strategy, invite them to the table and engage them in a full discussion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to Member Nations, especially to those who have participated in the last session of the CFS, to reply to the evaluation questionnaire that we have sent out so that we can improve the CFS further.

El Salvador raised a specific point in the list of Member Nations in the Spanish version of the report. We will take due note of that it will be corrected.

I do not have anything much to say really, so may I ask the Chairperson to give the floor to the Secretariat for additional comments.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (FAO Staff)

Just very briefly. There were comments made first on the Round Table on Measurement of Hunger. As we try to prepare a concept note for this Round Table, we take the suggestions that this should be both user-oriented and also oriented towards those that provide us with data. The ultimate purpose is in our annual State of Food and Insecurity publications to better reflect the latest information available on measurement of hunger. So thank you for your suggestions.

Regarding the comment by Zimbabwe on hunger, the 22 countries which are classified as being in protracted crisis, the classification is based on some criteria that we put together and, indeed, according to those criteria, countries may come in and out of the list as their situation improves. So we used the data that we had available. As new data come out, there is a possibility that some of those countries will be out of the list, and some others will be in. So we take that opportunity to clarify this.

The issue regarding the World Food Day and better synchronization with CFS has been identified by the Secretariat, not only the CFS Secretariat but the FAO Secretariat in general. We are having discussions to make proposals on how to make sure that those events are coherent with each other. We fully agree that there is quite a bit more to do in the way of consultation with respect to the right principles. Although there have been a number of Side Events, discussions at Regional Conferences and more to come, we fully agree that this is a very important issue and we should give due attention to during subsequent consultations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est moi qui vous remercie.

Je vous propose puisque nous n'avons pas de décisions à prendre sur ce rapport de l'approuver.

Je vous propose d'approuver ce rapport avec 6 points de mise en relief que je pourrais citer ainsi.

D'abord, exprimer la satisfaction de la mise en œuvre réussie du CSA réformé et de son rôle renforcé dans l'examen des politiques de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition.

Un deuxième point concernant le soutien au processus d'élaboration des directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des terres et autres ressources naturelles.

Troisième point et vous avez insisté là-dessus: l'appui au processus de consultation ouvert et consensuel visant à élaborer un cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition d'ici 2012.

Un quatrième point serait l'appui au processus de préparation du Programme de travail et de budget du CSA pour 2012-13. Cela concerne aussi toutes les instances.

Un cinquième point pour insister sur la poursuite de l'examen des amendements requis aux dispositions régissant le CSA, notamment son règlement intérieur, puisqu'il y a encore des évolutions à faire.

Et le dernier point, qui a été évoqué par un certain nombre d'entre vous: le soutien à l'élaboration d'un cadre axé sur les résultats sous la forme d'un programme de travail pluri-annuel pour les CSA y compris aux fins d'évaluation et de suivi des activités du Comité.

Bien sûr, comme l'a dit le Président De Luna, il y a beaucoup de choses qui ont été dites qui seront prises en compte, mais ceci est ce que je vous propose de tirer comme conclusion globale du travail et de cette relation. Je pense qu'il était opportun que nous ayons ce débat et cet échange entre nous. S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, je considère donc ce rapport adopté, si je puis dire avec les conclusions que j'ai tirées et qui seront mises, bien sûr, dans le Rapport et que nous élaborerons par la suite.

Merci au Président.

Merci aux Directeurs et à toute l'équipe pour le travail réalisé et votre présentation.

Nous en arrivons au terme de notre Ordre du jour de la journée. Avant de clore cette session, je vous annonce que demain nous reprendrons les travaux à 9 h 30. Nous terminerons un peu avant midi trente pour participer à la présentation des résultats de la pétition lancée dans le cadre de la campagne «Un milliard d'affamés» à laquelle vous êtes bien sûr conviés.

Et puis, en ce qui concerne l'Union européenne, je vous rappelle qu'une Réunion de coordination interne a lieu dans la salle Allemagne dans les 5 minutes qui suivent la clôture de cette session, à vingt heures.

Merci, bonsoir, bon dîner, bonne nuit et bon petit déjeuner et à neuf heures et demi en pleine forme. A demain.

The meeting rose at 19:57 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 57

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:57

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
30 November 2010

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:47 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.47
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. Programme Committee and Finance Committee

II. Comité du programme et Comité financier

II. Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas

3. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 104th Session of the Programme Committee and the 135th Session of the Finance Committee (27 October 2010) (CL 140/9)

3. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe de la cent quatrième session du Comité du programme et de la cent trente-cinquième session du Comité financier (27 octobre 2010) (CL 140/9)

3. Informe de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 104.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 135.º período de sesiones (27 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/9)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour à tous, Mesdames et Messieurs et bienvenus à ceux qui n'étaient pas là hier et qui sont arrivés aujourd'hui et pour tous les autres bienvenus pour le travail à réaliser. Nous allons donc commencer notre session de ce mardi par les Points 3, 4 et 5 qui sont prévus dans la matinée. Comme je vous l'ai dit hier, nous devons écourter quelque peu notre séance à 12 h 05 - 12 h 10 pour avoir notre événement concernant « 1 billion hungry » mais cela ne doit pas nous empêcher de travailler et, bien sûr, nous travaillons au rythme que nous avons établi hier. Je vous rappelle les félicitations que je vous ai adressées en fin de soirée hier après-midi, la concision et la précision de vos interventions ont fait qu'en moins d'une demi-heure nous avons pu être 18 à intervenir tout en restant bien sur le fond. Donc, je vous invite une nouvelle fois à être concis en vous rappelant que si vous avez un document écrit vous pourrez le transmettre au Secrétariat pour les interprètes mais aussi, si vous avez un document plus long, il peut être intégré dans le compte-rendu. Merci d'avance pour votre discipline en la matière pour que chacun puisse s'exprimer le plus largement possible.

J'invite Mme Laatu, Présidente du Comité du programme, qui a présidé la Réunion conjointe du Comité du programme à sa 104^{ème} session et du Comité financier à sa 135^{ème} Session de nous présenter son Rapport.

Mme Laatu, vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

There are a few slides to help this presentation of the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 140th Session of the Programme Committee and 135th Session of the Finance Committee. You all have the Report in front of you and you, also all have been distributed the Programme Implementation Report which we discussed in the meeting.

To begin with we focused on two sets of issues during the meeting. One was on programme implementation, and that was the discussion on the Programme Implementation Report, and the other was on Reform issues. As you know, the Reform issues are being discussed in various fora and we are going to touch upon them also in this meeting during various Agenda items. There is also a separate agenda item on IPA later, but the role of the Programme and Finance Committees in the Reform at the moment as has been decided by the Governing Bodies is to discuss the outstanding items where we did not decide yet how to proceed, and that is what we discussed in the Joint Meeting. We also decided to have the main Reform discussions in the Joint Meeting rather than discussing them in the Programme and Finance Committee meeting separately. There will be three Reform issues that I will be touching upon in my presentation. However, I will start with the Programme Implementation.

First of all, concerning the Programme Implementation Report for 2008 and 2009, the Joint Meeting endorsed the Report. We had a big discussion because the format of the Report is going to change. That is something that will be discussed in other fora as well, and we will be coming back to that in this meeting. We thought the Programme Implementation Report was interesting and had a lot of interesting contents, but we did not go into any detail because we realized that next time it will go to be different. The second issue that we discussed under the programme implementation part of the Joint Meeting was the progress on the implementation of the TCP. This has been a regular item on the Joint Meeting agenda. The Joint Meeting recommended that the Secretariat ensure that all countries

receive information on revised procedures of the TCP which are now in place. The Country Offices and the Decentralized Offices have played a role in this. The Joint Meeting also recommended that that Decentralized Offices have enough capacity to deal with the TCP. Further, it was recommended that gender issues are fully taken into account in the TCP implementation, and finally it was recommended that the results of the TCP programme implementation are also included in the Reports of the Governing bodies.

Let us now turn to the Reform issues discussed in the Joint Meeting, the first one was results-based work planning, monitoring and reporting. The meeting particularly focused on the monitoring and reporting because we have already discussed and decided on the planning part. We have a background paper describing the proposed three elements of the monitoring and reporting which is partly the workplan monitoring, and more of an internal instrument to continuously monitor the workplan. Secondly, we have the mid-term review of the work and budget and, thirdly, the end of biennium assessment of the implementation. The Joint Meeting endorsed these three elements. We then went on to discuss the mid-term review particularly, and the Joint Meeting wanted to include and consider information on financial matters as in best practice cases. We also wanted to have regional and sub-regional dimensions and we wanted the report to discuss current and future efficiency, savings and as well as lessons learned from evaluations.

In that same discussion, we also considered that it would be very important for all the reports to consider timeliness and comparability of information in successive reports so that we can see which way the Organization is moving in its implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. We finally recommended that some additional information would be provided to the entire Membership on the transition to a full Results-Based Management system, including priority-setting and budgeting. A second Reform-related issue that was discussed in the Joint Meeting was the resource mobilization and Management strategy of the Organization, where the Joint Meeting first noticed progress but requested further information for the March meeting, especially regarding the outline of the strategy and the strategy for partnerships with the private sector, which is a separate strategy paper being developed by FAO. So in March we are expecting to have an outline of the strategy and the resource mobilization strategy for discussion, as well as the other strategies for partnerships with the private sector. We also discussed the forthcoming meeting which is scheduled for the first of March and on the extra-budgetary financing matters and made some recommendations that are included in the reports. I am not including them now because they are rather detailed.

Finally, the Joint Meeting requested updated information on funding of FAO priorities to be provided to Member Nations.

The third and final Reform-related issue that was discussed in the Joint Meeting is the progress on Decentralization. We had discussed in the Programme Committee several evaluations which I will present later in the next presentation on the Programme Committee meeting. It was noticed in the Joint Meeting that many of those evaluations actually had made recommendations on the functioning of the Decentralized Offices. As a result of the discussion, a request was made for the Secretariat again to prepare a comprehensive vision of FAO's network of Decentralized Offices including information on the roles, mandates and functions of all different Decentralized Offices. The relation between different FAO Offices, including of course the relation between the Country Offices, Regional Offices and the Headquarters. We requested information on human resources issues, the delegation of authority, resource levels and on the foreseen Decentralization timetable, for the March meeting. Decentralization is going to be discussed in the CoC-IEE in spring, as well as, in Programme and Finance Committees in March.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Laatu de cette présentation très structurée qui nous permet d'engager à la fois des discussions et sans doute de faciliter les conclusions. Donc, sans plus attendre je donne la parole à ceux qui veulent la prendre. Alors, le Brésil, l'Union européenne, les États Unis d'Amérique, la Tanzanie et la Norvège. Nous allons commencer par le Brésil.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the report of the Joint Meeting of the 140th Session of the Programme Committee and the 135th Session of the Finance Committee, and takes note of its conclusions and recommendations.

In particular, we hail the progress made by the Organization on a number of points related to its Reform, namely, the results-based work planning, monitoring and reporting system, the implementation of the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme in a decentralized environment, the resource mobilization and Management strategy, and the progress on decentralization. All of these points in the end are nothing more than ways to ensure that FAO is an organization that is able to provide a faster, better response to the needs of countries, that this response generates positive, lasting results, and finally that it is accountable to its Member Nations, reporting its results in a transparent way.

While acknowledging progress, we also urge FAO to fully deliver on these points, all of which are still works in progress. By fully delivering we mean completing and implementing those strategies and policies in a way that promotes real, positive changes in the work of the Organization, not just producing separate pieces of paper that do not really work together. To this effect, we endorse the many recommendations in the Report of the Joint Meeting requesting more detail from the Secretariat about those issues. In particular, we look forward for more information about the Decentralization process, including the reinforcement of Decentralized Offices and a comprehensive vision of how those offices would function within the whole work of FAO as is mentioned in paragraph 14 of the Report.

We are worried by the lack of clarity and detailed information with respect to the reinforced roles and attributions of the Decentralized Offices.

With respect to the resource mobilization and Management strategy, we want to stress that, aside from fighting new ways to mobilize resources, its ultimate goal should be to start moving the Organization as much as possible towards a needs-based model of programming and resourcing. For now, FAO is excessively dependent on extra-budgetary funding earmarked according to the whims of the donors and not according to the needs of the beneficiaries. This is an agreement with the principle of country ownership that we approved in the Summit last year, with the conclusions of the MDG Summit last September and with all recent international consensus decisions.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The European Union welcomes this excellent Report that presents in a clear and, in a brief manner the recommendations made by the Joint Meeting. The EU agrees with all the recommendations and recommends that the Council accept this Report.

We welcome the proposed monitoring and reporting system, and attach particular importance to the timing of the Mid-Term Review Report which will be an important element for the preparation of the next PWB. The EU asks the Secretariat to adopt the best practices in the UN regarding the financial information included in the Mid-Term Review and in the Programme Implementation Report. As all major FAO activities should be fully integrated in the Results-Based Management Framework, the EU will be looking with particular interest for not only financial information but for what additional qualitative and quantitative information will be provided regarding the FAOR Programme, Capital Expenditure, Security Expenditure and TCP in the Mid-Term Review Report. The format and the content of the new reports are quite satisfactory, but could benefit from further exchanges of views especially on the way to integrate the impact element in the Report.

Concerning the draft of the resource mobilisation and Management strategy, the EU considers that the document represents elements of such a strategy rather than a strategy in itself, and that it needs to be

improved. We insist in particular on receiving as soon as possible the draft strategy on partnerships with the private sector.

The EU recommends that in its presentation at the information meeting on resource mobilisation, which will be organized on 1 March, the Secretariat will take into account the link between resources mobilisation and impact focus areas. These issues need more attention and should help the Organization in priority-setting and resource mobilisation for voluntary contributions. The meeting will be the opportunity for FAO to present best practices to ensure alignment between voluntary contributions and the Strategic Objectives and Core Functions of the Organization. We would like to understand how the voluntary contributions will be allocated to the units, in coherence with the Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results Framework.

The EU invites FAO to investigate the possibility to have access to innovative financing with new partners.

Concerning Decentralization, the EU welcomes the Secretariat's intention to present at the next session of the Joint Meeting as well as to the CoC-IEE meeting, a comprehensive vision on the Decentralization process, which will include the various items, as listed in the Report. In our view, the paper should be different from the papers received until now. It does not need to be voluminous but strategic.

The EU would also welcome comprehensive information from the Secretariat concerning all FAO Decentralized Offices that are currently active, including information about their staffing and financing.

The EU is convinced that a careful Management of the decentralization process is vital for the Organization. This is also supported from evaluation findings which draw attention to the critical role of the Decentralized Offices. An improved Decentralized Network has the potential to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the FAO work in the field, taking into account also the concept of "FAO functioning as One".

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Thank you, Madame Chair of the Programme Committee, for your introduction and review of the Joint Meeting. We welcome the meeting's emphasis on results-based work planning, monitoring and review and stress the need for results-based Management to be extended also to the TCP, which constitutes 13 percent of the assessed budget. We also look forward to a discussion of the programme implementation report under Item 17, which we see as an important tool in the RBM - results based Management - efforts. We can also associate with comments of the EU just made on the need for a careful review of the decentralized structure and the importance of accountability stressed by our Brazilian colleague.

We would also like to point out that the lack of discussion noted under Item 7 in the Joint Committee Report "Savings and Efficiencies in Governance" does not imply a lack of interest in this crucial topic. While we look to implement the Reforms and strengthen programmatic and technical capacities, the Organization and its Members must strive to elicit additional savings and efficiencies across the operations of this Organization. With the caveat that future Joint Meetings include a fulsome discussion on savings and efficiencies on governance, we request the Chair of Council with the assistance and proposals of Management to consider this Item also under the Open-ended Working Group on Governance.

With that note we can endorse the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 135th Session of the Finance Committee and the 104th Session of the Programme Committee.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We will comment on the proposed monitoring and reporting arrangements under the new FAO results-based framework, and we endorse the joint Programme Committee and Finance Committee recommendations.

Nevertheless, we have a few remarks to make. We would be satisfied to have a mid-term review report which is concise and focussed, not overcrowded with so many details and elaborations. This may as well apply to the Programme Implementation Report. What is more important is to clearly trace how resources have been allocated and utilized and impacted towards realizing the Strategic Objectives of FAO.

Apart from the new Technical Cooperation Guidelines being made available to the Member Nations, the FAO Representatives should make deliberate efforts to inform and discuss with the respective ministries or institutions in their countries of representation, on the new Guidelines for resourcing TCP funds. TCP funds should contribute to enhancing country programmes.

Resource mobilization and Management strategies are now more important corporate issues than before, in view of the budget cuts and search for savings by many of the resource partners, thus affecting their voluntary contributions.

We therefore urge FAO to prepare concise information and communication material, clearly indicating the priorities of FAO and the desire to identify a mechanism within the FAO framework for the March meeting with resource partners. We hope Members will have an opportunity to be appraised of the preparations before the meeting.

Decentralization is one of the complex projects in the Reform, and we appreciate the steps and progress being taken. Decentralization is very much dependent on progress being made and the human resource actions. The comprehensive vision to be drawn should, as much as possible, draw on the recommendations from Regional Conferences.

The African Regional Conference consent, with regard to decentralization, should be given consideration.

Mr Arne HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

We certainly want to thank the Joint Meeting for a very good report and we appreciate the reporting format and the introduction made this morning by Ms Laatu.

On general terms we support all the recommendations from the Joint Meeting. I am just going to make a few remarks on certain points. Of course, the work planning, monitoring and reporting system are the basis for the whole Reform process, and we are pleased that the progress is being made in that respect. But we also see from the risk assessment underway that there are real and serious risks for and in the process. One of them is the introduction and the installation of the IPSAS and when that is linked to upgrading and renewal of the IT system in the Organization to Oracle. We know from other organizations, such as the World Food Programme about the difficulties that they have encountered and the delays and the cost overruns that they had in that process. I think it is a general experience in all national administrations too that when you are making a total revamp – it certainly happened in my Ministry – you will have delays, cost overruns and many many problems. That being said, a new line-up for results-based planning, monitoring and reporting looks very good.

To progress on the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme, this is an issue that is linked much wider than we can see in this Report. We have other Reports from the Programme Committee looking at the TCP. We have an evaluation report and also a recommendation from the Programme Committee that TCP should be linked to a country programme and to new guidelines for a country programme. I think that many of the issues that we really should discuss are included in the Programme Committee's Report. I want to mention it here because the Technical Cooperation Programme cannot stand alone. It has to be a strategic, programmatic programme linked to all FAO's activities at the country level. It is also important to get the TCP into the One UN partnership cooperation, the UNDAF. I think that this is the point that was mentioned and that should have been more strongly emphasized in the Report and in the recommendations from the Joint Committees.

There is another matter in that Report. When you look at the Strategic Objectives - that is, Table 4 in document JM 2/3 - you will see that Strategic Objective K, Gender, has no requests for projects. This means that other partners have shown very little interest in that very important Strategic Objective. During the discussion in the CoC-IEE, Working Group 1, Norway was one of the countries that really

supported a separate Strategic Objective for gender. A number of other countries said the same thing, it is not only a question of a strategic objective in itself. Gender must be mainstreamed in the Organization in all its functions, in all its projects, in everything it is doing. When I see this now, that we have no request whatsoever in the TCP for Strategic Objective K, Gender, I have to say it is even more important that we fulfil that goal of mainstreaming gender in everything this Organization is doing.

As regards, progress on Decentralization, again the most important thing is, of course, that all activities have national ownership and the partnership takes place with, not only the other UN organizations – One UN – but that poverty reduction strategies are implemented with the World Bank group and private partnerships.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Buenos días, gracias Señor Presidente. Venezuela desea expresar su agradecimiento a la Secretaría y a los miembros del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas por el Informe presentado. Como lo hemos hecho anteriormente en esta Organización, estamos conscientes de la necesidad de dar pasos más seguros para afianzar el proceso de Reforma iniciado hace dos años para que la FAO pueda cumplir con los Objetivos Estratégicos que le han sido definidos a fin de enfrentar los desafíos que afronta la agricultura en la actualidad y garantizar el derecho a la alimentación.

Como es de conocimiento de todos, la actual crisis financiera y económica que abate a países desarrollados y que con muchísima más incidencia ha venido afectando a los países en desarrollo, no ha permitido a nuestro país ejecutar e implementar las políticas de contribución voluntaria a diversos organismos internacionales, en el marco de los cuales estamos contribuyendo a erradicar la explosión, el hambre y la miseria.

En este sentido, sugerimos al Consejo que se estudie la posibilidad de implementar mecanismos alternos de financiamiento que permita a los países en desarrollo honrar parte de los compromisos financieros adquiridos, en este caso específico, con la FAO.

En relación al tema sobre la Estrategia de Movilización y Gestión de Recursos, Venezuela si bien ha soportado en cierta forma los embates de esta crisis, ratificamos que no está en capacidad de efectuar contribuciones extraordinarias. Al igual que cuanto se refiere a las contribuciones voluntarias, Venezuela ha expresado la necesidad de tomar en cuenta la procedencia de las mismas y que en ningún caso representen un condicionamiento para los países en desarrollo más vulnerables y con mayores necesidades hacia los cuales estuviesen dirigidas esas contribuciones.

Con referencia al Tema 6 sobre los Progresos en el Proceso de Descentralización, Venezuela ratifica que dicho proceso es uno de los pilares fundamentales sobre el cual está sostenido el Proceso de Reforma de la FAO y en base a ello la elaboración del Plan Inmediato de Acción. Ahora bien, para evaluar con certeza que las acciones llevadas a cabo a través del PIA en materia de Descentralización hayan estado bien orientadas y estemos obteniendo los resultados que se requieren y que merecen los países, para que sea más efectiva esa contribución de la FAO en el terreno, coincidimos con el Informe que solicita una reunión conjunta para poder analizar en profundidad los progresos alcanzados hasta el presente y los pasos a seguir en materia de Descentralización. Por ende, para el funcionamiento de las Oficinas Descentralizadas de tal manera, requerimos la presentación de ese Informe, que contenga las recomendaciones que se sugieren en el 104.º período de Sesión Conjunta del Comité de Finanzas y del Comité del Programa. Gracias, Señor Presidente.

Ms Mary Sibisiswe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

We appreciate the clear report made by Madame Laatu and the Committee's work. Zimbabwe endorses the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, and fully endorses the proposed monitoring and reporting arrangements and the new FAO results- based framework comprising three main elements: work plan monitoring, mid-term review and the end of biennial assessment. We, however, hope that the lessons learned at the end of each cycle will be shared at all levels in order to improve the operations of FAO.

With respect to the implementation of TCP, we welcome the fact that the decisions are going to be made much closer to the field of operations and are convinced that this development will foster better dialogue on ownership by the Member Nations. We would, however, hope that FAO Headquarters would find the mechanism to ensure that gender issues remain a priority in programming implementation.

I would like to join previous speakers, namely Brazil, Venezuela and Tanzania in hoping that discussions with resource partners on agreed priorities and expectations in FAO's mandate would be the focus of resource mobilization to ensure that attention remains on the agreed plan and programme of work of FAO. In this regard, we welcome the Committee's recommendation that there should be an ongoing dialogue with resource partners to ensure that there is priority convergence, which should be guided and informed by the needs of Member Nations. We would also call on FAO to initiate a dialogue with other UN partners and donors at country level to facilitate more effective country-level assistance on attaining food security.

Lastly with regards to Decentralization, we hope that FAO will increase Country Offices rather than reduce Offices in Sub-Saharan Africa, as the continent remains one of the most hard hit in terms of the food crisis. Countries continue to need country-specific technical financial support in order to come up with appropriate policies to increase food security.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Previous speakers have already raised the issue. I want to touch upon a point, including the Decentralized Offices and their functions. I believe we have to discuss this issue a lot more in the future. This time I want to focus on only on the style of the Report. The Report in front of us is very concise and very clear. It focusses on decisions and recommendations in accordance with the IPA. I hope that the report of this Council meeting will follow this style.

Sr Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Mi delegación quisiera que se presentara una información un poco más detallada en lo que se refiere a costos y finanzas. En el Comité de Finanzas, hemos repasado este texto en varias ocasiones, y como ya lo hemos mencionado, creemos que hasta el momento carece de total claridad.

Por otra parte, quedamos a la espera del Informe sobre la Descentralización, el cual también refiere una parte a centralización. Creemos que algunas funciones se harán mejor en forma descentralizada y otras tendrán una eficiencia mayor si hay una mayor centralización en algún tipo de decisiones.

Mr Amr RAMADAN (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Can I begin by paying tribute to this Report of the Joint Meeting which has covered many of important challenges facing the Organization: budgeting, resources, the overall vision for Decentralization and the two studies on evaluation of FAO activities vis-à-vis Africa as far as efforts to overcome Avian Influenza.

I would also like to extend an appeal to the Organization to continue programmes and projects to do away with such diseases.

The Report has reflected progress made in the Reform, as well as in the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. Once again, I would like to support the recommendation with respect to Decentralization and the support required for this. I also support the idea of bolstering Decentralized Offices in light of the resolutions which have been passed to this effect. The Regional Conference taking place next week will doubtless be making a similar appeal.

We attach special importance in Egypt to the TCP. That is why I would like to express our concern with respect to what is said about the challenges of Decentralization in this Report. We hope that the Organization will rise rapidly to all of these challenges, and also clarify the situation with respect to aid programmes for beneficiary countries, especially new measures, so that they can benefit from TCP-projects and programmes.

Furthermore, we hope that the Near East Region will obtain more substantial funding, and that we will see more accelerated implementation of aid programmes through the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13.

M Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse est favorable à l'adoption de ce Rapport et souscrit aux recommandations qui y sont contenues. Nous aimerions particulièrement insister sur trois points. Premièrement, demander que le Secrétariat nous fournisse des informations claires sur la transition vers un système de gestion axé sur les résultats, et notamment, sur l'établissement des priorités avec un classement par ordre d'importance des priorités. Deuxièmement, nous insistons également sur l'établissement par la FAO d'une stratégie en matière de mobilisation et de gestion des ressources ainsi que l'établissement de partenariats avec le secteur privé. A cet égard, nous aimerions savoir où se trouve l'Organisation dans ses travaux d'élaboration d'une stratégie de collaboration avec le secteur privé. Troisièmement, nous souhaitons également que le Secrétariat nous présente une vision globale du fonctionnement et des avantages du réseau des Bureaux décentralisés de la FAO.

Ms Thenjiwe Ethel MTINTSO (Observer for South Africa)

The South African delegation appreciates the Report, agrees in general with it and can endorse it. We also agree with the views expressed by the Representatives of Tanzania, as well as Zimbabwe. South Africa, however, just wants to point out one matter.

In the reports that we received, including the Report of COAG yesterday and the Report of the CFS, there is a consistent mention of gender which needs to be mainstreamed. The Report of COAG referred this matter to the Programme Committee to say that they are going to recommend to them that they ensure that their agenda is mainstreamed. Now the Report that is in front of us says that gender issues are fully taken care of. But we actually do need details of what are these gender issues, and how are they being taken care of, and demystify the notion of gender mainstreaming. In that way we will also be able to know what has been done and what needs to be done by who, and what resources are needed or provided and what skills are given for the implementers of this matter particularly because it is not an automatic understanding that if we said "gender must be mainstreamed" all those who are implementing that decision or that recommendation, know firstly what gender is, and secondly how to mainstream it in policies or programmes. Therefore, South Africa feels that perhaps there will be a need, when a paper is produced on details on this gender mainstreaming, for every country, programme and policy to incorporate gender mainstreaming, and we will move as one in that aspect.

South Africa agrees with other issues raised regarding Decentralization because our Regional Conference in Africa was very keen on this being resolved, and the sooner the better.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Mtintso. Y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Je n'en vois pas. Donc, je vais donner la parole à Madame Laatu pour répondre dans un premier temps aux questions posées, que ce soit sur les aspects d'évaluation, de financement ou tout particulièrement aussi de décentralisation. Madame Laatu, vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Actually the questions were addressed to the FAO Management mainly, so I will just touch on three issues in my response. The first one regards the gender issue taken up by South Africa and many speakers before that. Just to make sure that what the Report said and what my presentation said was that the Joint Meeting recommended that the Secretariat ensure that gender issues are fully taken into account and, indeed, I only took it up once. This was, however, an issue which was actually discussed under several agenda items both in the Joint Meeting and in the Programme Committee meeting. There were evaluations discussed there and almost each of them pointed to the gender issues, so indeed this is an important matter and I think Management should respond to steps taken or about to be taken in this regard. The Programme Committee will be happy to have a Joint Meeting to discuss it again.

The second issue I wanted to touch upon again was brought up by the United States. They wanted savings and efficiencies to be included in future Joint Meeting agendas and, of course, this is an issue which is also discussed normally by the Finance Committee. We are taking that into consideration, and certainly Savings and Efficiencies will be closely followed by the Joint Meeting.

The third issue that I think was somehow address was the format of the Report. Indeed, the Report of the Programme Committee of the Joint Meeting this time was very brief and concise and it is a work in progress. We are in the middle of the Reform and the Report is different from what it has been in the past. I have a feeling many who felt this was a good development. This is an issue that we will discuss in the February Programme Committee meeting when we will be looking at our monthly programme of work, and seeing how we are making progress in our ways of working and what would be the best ways of working in the future. So we can still make improvements on these and other methods of work of the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting.

Thank you for the comments on that particular issue at this meeting but the other questions I think it should be for the Secretariat to respond.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

Thank you Members of the Council for your kind words on our report. As the Chairman also mentioned, I am standing in for Mr Yasser Sorour, who has been unable to be here today. So I have two quick remarks on the interventions made by the Members of Council.

First on Norway's remarks regarding IPSAS, I would like to mention that the Finance Committee is dealing with this issue on a regular basis. It is a standing item on our Agenda, and we will deal with it when we present the Report of the Finance Committee, which is the next item on our Agenda.

On Mexico's questions relating to the costs of Decentralization, like the Chairman of the Programme Committee, it is my understanding that this is a question for Management to answer.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous le permettez et avant de donner la parole au Secrétariat, suite à la proposition des États-Unis de discuter des gains d'efficacités dans le cadre du Groupe de travail, j'en discuterai avec le Président et la Présidente du Comité financier et du Comité du programme pour éviter que nous fassions deux discussions et donc pour assurer la complémentarité car nous avons convenu, à chaque fois que c'est nécessaire, de nous concerter pour éviter que l'on discute deux fois des mêmes choses. Le Comité commun pour la prochaine fois sera tout à fait habilité pour en discuter.

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

Thank you, delegates for the very constructive comments on the Report and the deliberations of the Joint Meeting. The Secretariat and the meeting itself made very concise recommendations. This gives very clear guidance to the Secretariat on the way forward.

I would just like to comment on three aspects of your interventions.

First, on the monitoring and reporting system. We are in the process of preparing the Mid-Term Review for 2010, to present the first version of this report to the Programme and Finance Committees in March 2011. You have given clear guidance on how that report should be structured but, as said by several delegates, we are in the process of learning how these reports will best serve the needs of Members and Governing Bodies, as well as Management, so we will look forward to your comments on what we are able to provide in March. This also holds true for the Programme Implementation Report at the end of the current biennium.

Secondly, for the resource mobilization and Management strategy, the Impact Focus Areas (IFA) are designed as a mechanism to communicate to Members and partners, the areas of priority for mobilizing resources contributing to the Organizational Results and the Strategic Framework. The design of our overall Strategic Framework is intended to bring in resources to those Organizational Results where there is a requirement for additional funds beyond the Assessed Contributions. This is reflected in Functional Objective X under Organizational Result X1, there is an indicator with a target

of 20 per cent of extra-budgetary resources to be mobilized around the Impact Focus Areas after the first four years of implementation of the Strategic Framework. So we have set ourselves a fairly ambitious target, and will be reporting on that to you in the monitoring and reporting system.

I won't comment specifically on the private sector strategy, other than to say that it is in preparation and we have committed to presenting it at the Joint Meeting Session in March 2011.

Finally, in terms of the issues on gender, I am not in a position to comment on the substance.

However, I think it is important to inform you that there is now ongoing both a Gender Audit and an Evaluation of FAO's work in gender. These will be provided to the Programme Committee in October 2011 and should provide a good evidence base for handling the issues of better mainstreaming of FAO's attention to gender within the Strategic Framework and in all of our work.

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

Thank you Mr Chairperson. I wanted to recognize the comments that were made by several delegates regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme. Of course, as Members know, we are going through a period of transition with the TCP following the substantial re-engineering and delegation initiatives since the beginning of this year. This regards delegations to the Decentralized Offices. We have shared proactively with the Joint Meeting and the CoC-IEE the challenges that we are facing in this regard, and the positive Management actions that are being taken.

I wanted to emphasize the attention that the Organization pays to linking the Technical Cooperation Programme to country programming, as this comment was made by a couple of Members. Firstly I would recall that the Technical Cooperation Programme is used for the formulation of the national medium-term priority frameworks and the contributions to the UNDAF process.

Secondly, in the Programme Implementation Report you will note a specific example of Lao where a national nutrition strategy was prepared using TCP resources, and where TCP resources are used for building capacity for food security programme development at country level.

And finally, I would also like to recall the importance of the TCP for regional programmes. Here again, the Programme Implementation Report recalled the case of a regional programme for rinderpest surveillance in Africa where, within regions, we also have a case of the Technical Cooperation Programme being established with a strong level of country ownership. Thank you.

Mr HE Changchui (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I wish to supplement some information on issues that have been raised about the Decentralization. As I informed you yesterday, following the recommendations of the Finance and Programme Committees, the Secretariat began a thorough review of the Regional Conference Report, although we are still waiting for the last Regional Conference report from Near East, which is going to take place next week. There is already some basis for us to proceed with our work to develop a Vision Document which would include various aspects of Decentralization, as requested by the Finance and Programme Committees. I believe that in the afternoon when you are considering the IPA implementation, you will be discussing some similar matters. The Secretariat will provide you with some further clarification and information on related matters. So this is just to assure you that we are not ignoring this important question which you have raised.

Now back to the TCP matters. My colleague, Manoj, has already provided you with some clarifications. Let me add some further information. As reported by Mr Sumpsi, ADG, TC during the Finance and Programme Committees, we did encounter several difficulties in TCP Decentralization in this transitional period. However, various procedures have been put in place to increase the TCP approval rate, and I am happy to report to you that now we are reaching something like 47 percent approvals. We expect that by the end of the year, the TCP approval will be about 50 percent—a good level taking into consideration the transitional difficulties encountered.

On points raised about the Revised Guidelines, you have requested to communicate with Member Nations. Indeed this has been taking place. There are two aspects here: first, FAORs have been

further empowered to consult with the Member Nations, looking into the prioritization to reflect their exact needs. This priority has also been linked to the country programmes, as has been mentioned already. I am also pleased to inform you that concrete action has been taken to emphasize that the TCP programme is results-based and is going to be linked to the Organizational Results on one hand, and, to country needs and priorities on the other hand.

As far as regional capacity is concerned, we have also enhanced the capacity in the Regional Offices for TCP Management. TC has taken a number of actions to assist those Regional Offices in need to enhance the capacity to manage TCP resources, and to speed up recruitment for two TCP officers in two of the Regional Offices.

More importantly, a three-level consultation/review on TCP has been completed, with the involvement of Regional Offices, Sub-regional Offices and FAORs in joint consultation with Headquarters. The joint review has indicated that it is important to work together as one on identifying constraints and solutions. The ADG, TC has been able to take issues from FAOR reviews back to the Technical Departments so that assistance may be more effectively coordinated to the Decentralized Offices in implementing TCP.

I thank you very much for allowing me to provide you with this supplementary information, and hope that this clarifies some of the issues that you had in mind.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je voudrais vous remercier, à commencer par la Présidente du Comité conjoint, mais aussi vous tous, pour la profondeur et la pertinence des discussions et des échanges qui montrent que les sujets que nous avons évoqués ce matin sont au cœur de la vie et des projets de la FAO. Je vous propose comme conclusion de dire que le Conseil approuve le rapport de la Réunion conjointe dans lequel il a, bien sûr, avalisé le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2008-09. C'est la confirmation, mais aussi le Conseil a fait des recommandations précises en ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre du Programme de coopération technique, ce qui vient d'être évoqué, puis il a approuvé les trois éléments du système de planification des activités, de suivi et d'établissement des rapports accès sur les résultats. Vous avez insisté fortement là dessus.

Nous demandons au Secrétariat des informations complémentaires concernant la stratégie de mobilisation et de gestion des ressources pour la prochaine réunion des Sessions des Comités en mars 2011, en vue d'une articulation entre les ressources ordinaires et extra-budgétaires. Donc, il n'est pas suffisant de ne parler que des ressources et extra-budgétaires mais de voir la coordination.

Et enfin, noter les progrès en matière de Décentralisation et demander au Secrétariat de présenter au Comité et au CoC-IEE en mars 2011, une vision globale du fonctionnement efficace et efficient et des avantages du réseau des bureaux décentralisés fournissant des informations complètes et structurées sur leurs rôles, leurs mandats et leurs fonctions. Enfin, je n'ai rien mis concernant la parité hommes/femmes car je pense que nous n'allons pas remettre une conclusion à chaque comité mais dans le cadre du Comité du programme. Je vous propose que l'on fasse un paragraphe express en la matière, qui regroupe cette question qui, bien sûr, ne concerne pas un comité, pas une action, mais toutes les actions de la FAO.

Voilà donc les conclusions que nous pouvons tirer de nos travaux concernant le comité commun.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Sorry to intervene. The Programme Implementation Report was already touched upon. Should we then discuss this under Item 17?

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brésil)

Merci à tous de vos réponses. J'ai seulement une petite suggestion à faire au sujet de la Stratégie de mobilisation des ressources et nous aimerions ajouter à la fin un commentaire qui tienne compte de la nécessité de garantir un modèle de programmation des ressources basé sur les nécessités ou quelque chose comme cela, c'est-à-dire, baser le modèle de la programmation des ressources sur les nécessités «needs-based model for programming and resourcing».

LE PRÉSIDENT

Moi je vous propose puisqu'à la fin de cette intervention j'ai indiqué qu'il fallait assurer l'articulation entre les ressources ordinaires et budgétaires de prendre dans ce paquet là l'aspect que vous évoquez qui pourra être discuté.

Je préfère ne pas rajouter ce que vous avez dit parce que cela va compliquer la phrase, mais soyez assurés que c'est à l'intérieur de l'articulation entre les différentes ressources ordinaires et extra-budgétaires planifiés bien sûr par la suite.

Voilà, je vous propose donc cette conclusion.

Merci à chacun d'entre vous. Je ne remercie pas Madame la Présidente puisqu'elle va continuer son travail. Je crois, Madame la Présidente, vous êtes partie pour toute la matinée, c'est clair, vous aurez durant le déjeuner l'occasion de vous reposer un peu mais je sais que vous êtes en pleine forme, vous me l'avez dit ce matin.

4. Report of the 104th Session of the Programme Committee (25-29 October 2010) (CL 140/8; CL 140/8-Add.1)

4. Rapport de la cent quatrième session du Comité du Programme (25-29 octobre 2010) (CL 140/8 ; CL 140/8-Add.1)

4. Informe del 104.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (25-29 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/8; CL 140/8-Add.1)

4.1 Priorities for the technical work of the Organization in the 2012-13 biennium

4.1 Priorités relatives aux activités techniques de l'Organisation pour l'exercice 2012-13

4.1 Prioridades para la labor técnica de la Organización en el bienio 2012-13

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de passer au rapport de la 104^{ème} session du Comité du programme. Comme le vous le savez c'est le Point 4, avec un Point 4.1 et nous avons convenu avec Madame Laatu de présenter globalement les deux points et ainsi d'avoir une discussion globale.

Madame Laatu, vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

Let me now present the highlights of the meeting of the 104th Programme Committee Session. Again, you have the Report in front of you so I am not going through all the details. As the Chairman just said, the idea is that we are going to discuss both Item 4 and Item 4.1 together, particularly focusing on Item 4.1 which is the priority-setting. Therefore, I am going to present the Programme Committee discussions on both of these issues together in the same presentation.

The first slide presents the main themes or main areas of work of the Programme Committee where we also have discussions now. The Programme Committee, as you well know, focuses on programme planning and priority-setting of the Organization as well as the programme implementation, but we did not have any items on that this time. So from programme planning priority-setting, we went on to consider a number of evaluations again, and finally we did discuss some items related to the IPA implementation and integration in the Programme of Work and Budget.

So, I start with the programme and planning priority-setting issues which pertain to the Item 4.1, but the Programme Committee was still focusing on process when we discussed this matter. We were in a situation where one of the Regional Conferences and one of the Technical Committees had still not taken place, as they still have not taken place today, so the idea is actually to come back to the priorities in terms of the substance in the meeting that we are having in early February. By that time, we will have the results of the remaining Regional Conference and the remaining Technical Committee included in the matrix that was already presented to us this time. Now we are focused on progress.

On the progress itself, first of all the Programme Committee recommended that the basis for the Programme of Work and Budget should be the Medium-Term Plan which we agreed. I think it was a year ago in the Conference, for the 2010-13 timeframe, and the results framework presented in the Medium-Term Plan, so we should not change the basis now. The Medium-Term Plan is supposed to be for about four years, for two biennia, and it will guide the Programme of Work and Budget on a more general level during that period of time.

The Programme Committee also requested that the Secretariat carefully analyze the results of the Regional Conferences, the Technical Committees and other Governing Bodies including this Council conclusions in their background paper which is going to be presented to the Programme Committee session in February. We particularly requested that country, Sub-regional, and regional priorities should be reflected in that paper. Further on, we requested that the Secretariat take into account the evaluations and lessons learned from implementing the present Programme of Work and Budget in the proposal for the next Programme of Work and Budget.

Then as regard the next discussions in the Programme Committee session in February and how to prepare for them, we requested that Organization-wide strategy teams should have a lead role. By Organization-wide strategy teams, we mean both strategy teams at Headquarters which are sectoral, as well as strategy teams in the Regional Offices. The meeting also recommended that for future biennia, this take place from this meeting to the next round in preparing for the Programme of Work and Budget. This is the first time we are doing that after the Reform, the Secretariat should improve the documentation being presented to the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees in the future, as there shall be more consultation with strategy teams in preparing those documents in the future.

Finally, we recall the important role that the Independent Chair of the Council plays in facilitating priority-setting. Building on the practice that we have now assumed after the Reform and further developing it, there will be a continuing and further discussion: the first discussion on the substance during the meeting of the Programme Committee in February, to be followed by the discussion during the March meeting as well.

So, let me now move to the item on programme planning and priority-setting issues. That was the Corporate Strategy on capacity development that was discussed in the Programme Committee meeting. We actually had two items on capacity-development, I will come to the other one later on, as that was an evaluation on capacity-development activities in Africa. This one now was the Corporate Strategy and, of course, they were very much interlinked and there were many lessons to be learned from the evaluation of the Strategy, but they were already taken into consideration in the background paper. So on the Corporate Strategy on Capacity Development, the meeting gave its general support to the corporate approach and principles. However, we were missing at this point in time an Implementation Plan, and therefore it was requested such an Implementation Plan, together with a Strategy, be presented again to the Programme Committee. That this plan would include aspects of sustainability, the role of the Decentralized Offices, country programming, funding sources, South-South Cooperation, partnerships and internal coordination cooperation within the FAO and among others. So the Strategy together with the Implementation Plan is requested to be resubmitted to the Programme Committee with this additional information.

Let me now move to the evaluations. We discussed four different evaluations in the Programme Committee. Again, and just for your information, since we have within the IPA approved more funding for the Evaluation function of FAO, we are expecting more evaluations in the future. The first evaluation we discussed was one on the FAO Country Programming. We felt that it was a very interesting and very important evaluation for the Organization, and the evaluation report as such was very well done. It was well-presented and the Management response was also good. The Committee requested for the Session, a paper on country programming guidelines, which is of course one of the recommendations of the evaluation itself, focussing on policies and principles of country programming for next October's Session. We also suggested that it should ultimately be approved by the Governing Bodies. The Committee requested that Management identify next steps, including emergency activities, in the country programming guidelines. There was also discussion on the TCP

with Members recommending a gradual approach to the integration of the TCP in the country programmes.

Let me now turn to the next evaluation which was the one that I already referred to, the evaluation of FAO's activities on capacity-development in Africa. Again, it was a very interesting evaluation, and we had an extremely interesting discussion resulting in a few recommendations. The first one was to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of FAO work in capacity-development. In general, many of the recommendations can also be applied to other regions. The second recommendation was to accord special attention to strengthening the capacities of institutions with a long-term impact. The evaluation found that a lot of FAO work had been, not so much on strengthening institutions, but on strengthening individuals' capacity, and there was a suggestion to change this focus. This was also recommended by the Committee. The Committee further recommended to reconsider the role of TCP. We just discussed TCP and now there is a recommendation to reconsider its role in capacity-development and its use in a more strategic manner. Finally, the Committee recommended that the findings of this evaluation be considered when envisaging capacity-development projects.

The third evaluation on our agenda was the second real time evaluation of FAO's work on highly-pathogenic Avian Influenza. Again, this evaluation was very much appreciated by the Committee and there was a request for the Secretariat to provide the Programme Committee in March the prioritized and sequenced workplan with funding alternatives, including the IFA on transboundary threats to production, health, and environment. Further on, we gave some guidance as to what sort of elements we would like to see in that workplan, and we recommended that it should include issues on sustainability, country ownership, regional perspectives, private sector engagements, risk-based approaches, transition from emergency to development and partnership opportunities.

Now the final evaluation that was discussed in the Programme Committee meeting was a synthesis evaluation on post-conflict and transition countries. This was based on three individual evaluations that have been made earlier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudan and Tajikistan. We were presented with a synthesis of these three evaluations. The Programme Committee recommended that in these post-conflict situations and transition countries, FAO should promptly implement the evaluation recommendations, and should demonstrate strong leadership and presence in the countries concerned, as well as good coordination with other actors to promote interventions while also considering gender aspects.

Now that we come to gender, I would like to mention that we discussed gender issues under each of the evaluations. I did not mention them in my brief summary here on each occasion but those were touched upon in each evaluation, as was the role of the Decentralized Offices. Those were the recurring issues that came under each of the evaluations. Finally, the Programme Committee agreed with the recommendations of the 2010 SOFI Report, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security.

I have another final slide on IPA implementation-related issues discussed in the Programme Committee, and there were two issues that we discussed in particular. One was access to TCP on a grant basis, and the other was the eligibility criteria. It was recommended by the Programme Committee that regional consultations be carried out on this issue before the March meeting of the Programme Committee. We are also asking the regional groups to consider this issue and give their recommendations so that we can have another discussion on the topic in March.

Finally, we had a discussion on the preliminary review of Article 16, Bodies, and their relationship with the FAO. It was recommended that the agreed consultation process be completed and then the proposals referred back to the Programme Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Madame la Présidente de cette présentation rapide malgré tout, puisque le travail qui a été réalisé est très dense, plus particulièrement sur les évaluations et les différentes priorités et je dois dire que le travail intense que vous avez mené au Comité a pu l'être aussi grâce aux réunions informelles que vous avez eu auparavant, puisque c'est quand même un sujet très large. Merci bien pour cette présentation et ce travail.

Vous avez la parole pour intervenir sur ces sujets. Je prends note: l'Union européenne, le Brésil, les États Unis d'Amérique, la Norvège, l'Australie, le Canada et la Tanzanie. Je donne la parole à la Norvège. Ce n'est pas toujours normal que l'on prenne toujours dans le même ordre, alors j'ai repris un ordre différent. Il faut vous habituer. Merci.

Mr Arne HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Thank you Mr Chair, very kind of you. We would like to thank the Programme Committee and its Chair for a very good job, a job well done certainly.

When you look at what they have been discussing in the last meeting, I think we can conclude that they have touched upon the most important functions, the core functions of this Organization, and we certainly appreciate the evaluation report, the good work that has been done there. Of course, on the strategy for the Programme of Work and Budget and how to prioritize within it, this also includes, in the wider sense, the technical work of the Organization. When you look at – and we can discuss that a little later with the Finance Committee too - when you look at how it is being done today, after we have the new Strategic Framework and the results-based framework, there is something that we need to consider carefully -- how we disburse the different budget costs in the budget to the different departments. I do not see the flexibility that we need to really go for the Strategic and Functional Objectives. So, is there a way that we can better allocate resources to the Strategic and Functional Objectives without undermining the process that we have today, that we are slowly changing? I think that the Programme Committee has hit on a very good idea by proposing that we get Strategy Teams involved into that process.

I feel that we are now talking about what the IEE Report called the silo culture in this Organization, and I see this new budget procedure as another way of breaking up that silo structure - greater flexibility in the Organization, means of allocating the resources and also using systems with existing project groups working horizontally between different Departments. How can you put together on a short notice an action-team to solve a problem and basically have the flexibility and the budget means to do that, without writing PMs for the next three months? So the Strategy Teams are a very good start to get the planning process underway we certainly support the recommendation from the Programme Committee in that respect.

As regards a cooperative strategy on capacity development, we are looking for more information, perhaps through a revised paper that also looks at the financial aspects and links us to the strategic evaluation of FAO's country programming. We will certainly support that we have a paper, the new guidelines, for review by the Programme Committee and the Council. I think that Council will receive country programmes for review and decision. These country programmes should be strategic, programmatic and encompass all of FAO's activities. The normative, the technical cooperation in its wider sense, the technical cooperation programme and emergency should all be included, and the country programme should above all be fully integrated financially.

This is also a question of integrating the voluntary contributions and the Regular Programme monies Budget as one package on the regional and country side. The Organization needs a programmatic strategic approach to everything it does - in the Decentralized Offices for the whole Decentralization process. If you don't have that kind of package that goes to the Council for discussion, and discussion with all the elements, what do we have then? We will have what we have today, hundreds, hundreds and hundreds, thousands of individual projects not tied together in a programmatic way.

This will be a new way for the Organization to work. I think it is a very important way to go, and I'm dismayed at seeing in the Strategic Evaluation of FAO Country Programming that recommendation 17, on the Technical Cooperation Programme is rejected by Management. I don't like that at all, and I think is a wrong way to go. I think that should be reconsidered and I would ask my fellow Council Members to really think through what this means, that FAO will have a programmatic Strategic Programme for the regions and the countries.

But I think that the recommendations given here by the Programme Committee and for the country programme guidelines are very good and a very important start on that process.

I will stop there Mr Chairman, thank you very much.

Mr David RITCHIE (Australia)

I would like to thank also the Chair of the Programme Committee, Ms Laatu, for this presentation.

Australia has been a long-term member of the Programme Committee and we see this role as absolutely fundamental to the success of the Organization. Setting clear priorities and then measuring progress and achieving them is vital to the success of any organization.

In this Council, we find ourselves in a difficult situation due to timing. We know work has already begun in preparing the 2012-13 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). One of the Regional Conferences – the Near East one – and one Technical Committee – Fisheries – have not yet met. The Programme Committee has commenced, but not yet finished its work on priority-setting, yet this is the last real chance we have for significant engagement on priority-setting through this Council.

The new arrangements introduced during the Reform mean that the next meeting in April of next year will be expected to endorse a PWB for the consideration of the Conference in June. On this basis, we would like to take this opportunity to make a number of clear points about the forthcoming PWB and priority-setting process.

As we noted yesterday, this Organization remains at its heart a technical agricultural organization. While its role may be expanding to take on additional roles, we must not lose sight of the core technical business that this Organization must fulfil. Issues such as managing plant and animal pests and diseases, genetic resources, food safety, global policy and technical work and standard-setting are fundamental building blocks for food security and the future of this Organization. These are the comparative advantage of this Organization. There is no other organization that can perform these roles. It is crucial that they are adequately resourced and not left behind. These issues have gained significant support from the COAG, the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference and, I understand, the North America Regional Priorities.

At the same time, this Organization cannot do everything. At the moment, it does everything from negotiating binding treaties on fisheries to handing out seeds and shovels, from food safety standards to small-scale irrigation work in specific countries. As we all know, when everything is a priority, nothing is a priority. In Australia's view, we should focus on a small number of key activities. If we stretch too thinly, we simply do it all badly.

Australia recognizes that Reform of FAO has successfully resulted in greater efforts to prioritize and develop strategic documents for the Organization. We welcome the Strategic Framework and its objectives as a clear guide for prioritization.

Australia urges FAO and all Members to follow the Strategic Framework in the PWB, and resist creating additional work areas that will detract from the overall effectiveness of FAO.

The final factor that needs careful consideration in preparing the PWB is the global financial situation. The effects of the global financial situation are still being felt across the world. We strongly urge the Secretariat to recognize this pressure when preparing the draft PWB and to set the budget parameters accordingly.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Committee for the Report. We thank the Programme Committee Chair and we fully support and endorse this Report.

We believe that one of the most important responsibilities of the Programme Committee is to assign priorities of the technical work, particularly given the budget constraints that FAO, like any other organization, faces and will continue to face. As many of you know, there is no North American Regional Conference. However, we, like all the Member Nations of this Organization, recognize the importance of formally providing input regarding the FAO programme priorities. To meet this objective, Representatives of the North American Region met in Washington, D.C. early in November

to agree on a common set of programmatic and technical priorities. We ask that FAO and all the representative Member Nations give these priorities your full consideration.

We submitted a letter to the Director-General outlining our priorities. This letter was signed by the Permanent Representatives of the United States and Canada. We asked that the letter be translated into all the FAO working languages before this Council Session. Despite this request, our letter is still not available in all the working languages of FAO. Therefore, with my apologies to you, my colleagues, for the record, I will summarize the letter and our priorities.

FAO estimates that global food production must increase by 70 per cent by 2050 just to meet the expected needs of the world's forecasted population. During the same period, the total amount of arable land in the world will increase by less than five per cent. In addition, global fish stocks which account for up to 20 per cent of the animal proteins in people's diets are in rapid decline with many species, as many of you know, on the verge of extinction. Climate change and the degradation of other natural resources compound this situation.

There are other challenges beyond the physical environment. Inadequate infrastructure, inefficient markets and farming practices result in post harvest losses of 15 to 50 per cent of production. Further compounding these pressures, it has been forecast by a number of experts that the price of energy and transportation is expected to remain well above the averages seen prior to 2006-2008 spike in food prices. To overcome these challenges, a business-as-usual approach will not be sufficient. Change is needed to innovatively increase production, better integrate farmers, forest communities and fishers with markets, improve economic access to food and promote sustainable forest and natural resource Management.

We believe that FAO should increase its focus on the provision of evidence-based technical analysis, guidance and assistance to Members to better enable countries to make informed decisions. In our opinion, FAO should increase its technical analysis and knowledge-based guidelines on:

First, the science-based trade rules and guidelines that govern food, fisheries and aquacultures such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;

Second, adopting innovative practices such as zero tillage, improvements to food safety throughout the value chain and wildlife Management;

Third, adapting the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors to climate change and mitigating their impact on climate change;

Fourth, the propagation and regulation of improved agricultural products including those derived from biotechnology;

Fifth, data and information sharing such as global forest resources assessment;

Sixth, practices that reduce post-harvest losses and post-harvest utilization for agricultural fisheries and aquaculture, and

Seventh, the development of trade investment extension and land tenure policies that support farmers, forest owners and fishers, and integrate food security considerations.

Lastly, emphasis should focus on assisting Member Nations to improve the quality of statistics and information concerning agriculture, fisheries, forests, food security and nutrition.

At our informal Regional Conference, we also agreed on the need for FAO to better utilize the financial and human resources within the current regular budget level. The Secretariat can and should better engage Member Nations to clearly identify priorities and align resources to support those priorities, including through documentation that clearly identifies possible budget implications of issues brought to all Governing Bodies. This will also mean that resources from lower-priority activities should be re-assigned to higher-priority activities.

Based on the ongoing prioritization process, we ask that the Secretariat present recommendations on which the FAO activities could be reduced or eliminated at the next Session of the Programme

Committee. We recognize this can be a difficult endeavour, but this endeavour is critical to improving the effectiveness of this Organization. Other organizations have been through this process, and we believe that it is important that FAO do so as well.

The annex attached to the printed letter which includes this intervention identifies our priorities by Strategic Objective, to be used by FAO in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.

Mr James Arthur FOX (Canada)

Ambassador Cousin has shared with you the main points of North America's informal Regional Conference. I would like to add a few general remarks.

This was the first such informal Regional Conference and the fact that it was held reflects the importance the IPA has given to listening to the voices of FAO's regions. The letter has been shared out of our desire for transparency, and to help foster a broad and inclusive dialogue on the major directions for this Organization.

Not surprisingly, North America's priority has emphasized the global work of the FAO. These provide the main reasons for having a global organization. Of course, the global work has to translate into clear benefits for Member Nations and the world's citizens. FAO's field presence should facilitate the transfer of knowledge, in particular an improved coordination with regional actors, as well as national Governments.

Canada is concerned that in trying to do too much and by trying to fly the flag everywhere, the FAO is at risk of losing critical mass in many key technical areas and of not optimizing the use of resources already decentralized. Transferring resources from low-priority areas to high-priorities is never easy, but it is necessary. This is especially true in the current global circumstances. As my Australian colleague said, if everything is a priority, nothing is a priority. My Government has been through this difficult process and as a result, Ministries have a much clearer idea as to where they need to focus, and why. We believe the FAO would benefit from the same.

Turning back to North America's letter, it includes an Annex demonstrating a concerted effort to identify areas of FAO comparative advantage from within the scope of FAO's existing Strategic Objectives and work. This includes, although is not limited to: increased support to the IPPC and plant and animal, genetic instruments to build effective frameworks for technology transfers, contingency planning, prevention and control to combat animal diseases and plant pests by strengthening EMPRES, GLEWS and GMC platforms, provision of science-based advice on the development of food safety standards, reinforced through stronger partnerships, policy and capacity-development advice on the agriculture input side of nutrition, provision of global information, advocacy, evidence-based policy guidance on effective land and water usage, and climate change adaptation strategies.

There are no new or additional suggested areas into which we ask the FAO to venture. These may happen in the future as the world evolves, but for 2012-13, the Programme of Work and Budget needs to demonstrate a rigorous focus on results and on what the FAO does best.

Letter from the Permanent Representatives of Canada and the United States of America to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies



**Permanent Representation of Canada to the UN
Food and Agriculture Agencies
Représentation permanente du Canada auprès des
Agences pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture de l'ONU**



**United States Mission To The United Nations
Agencies For Food & Agriculture
Rome, Italy**

24 November, 2010

Dr. Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome

Dear Dr. Diouf,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the FAO's North American region – Canada and the United States – to share with you the conclusions of our recent informal regional conference, which took place at the FAO offices in Washington on November 16-17, 2010. We would like to thank you for your support, and the support of the Organization, in helping make our first such meeting possible and such a success.

The North American region of the FAO does not have a regular conference in the same manner as other FAO regions. Nonetheless, the regional members have a significant stake in the Organization and wish to be full participants in the FAO's collective priority-setting exercise. We would like to share the conclusions of our meeting with you and, through you, with the other member states.

The FAO's comparative advantages – namely, its world class technical expertise and ability to integrate diverse technical specialities, its capacity to provide neutral information and analysis for countries and other parties, and its convening power – give the Organization a vital role in addressing problems of global food security and the sustainability of the fisheries and forestry resources that are critical to human well-being. These challenges demand that every effort be made to focus the FAO's resources on knowledge-based approaches, where it has a comparative advantage.

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As you know, the FAO estimates that global food production must increase by 70% by 2050 just to meet the expected needs of the world's forecast population. During this period, the total amount of arable land in the world will increase by less than 5%. In addition, global fish stocks – which account for up to 20% of the animal protein in peoples' diets – are in rapid decline with many species on the verge of extinction. Climate change and the degradation of other natural resources compound the situation. The FAO's own analysis documents that over 5 million hectares of forest are lost every year due to deforestation and forest degradation, threatening watersheds, eroding soil, destroying habitats for flora and fauna, increasing risks from natural disasters, and eliminating a critical source of subsistence and income for hundreds of millions of people.

There are other challenges beyond the physical environment. Inadequate infrastructure, inefficient markets and farming practices result in post-harvest losses of 15-50% of production. Further compounding these pressures, it has been forecast by a number of experts that the price of energy and transportation is expected to remain well above the averages seen prior to the 2006-2008 spike in fuel and food prices.

At our informal regional conference we agreed that, to overcome these challenges, a "business as usual" approach will not be sufficient. Change is needed to innovatively increase production, better integrate farmers, forest communities and fishers with markets, improve economic access to food, and promote sustainable natural resource management.

The annex attached to this letter identifies North America's priorities for each of the FAO's Strategic Objectives in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. We believe that the FAO should increase the provision of evidence-based technical analysis, knowledge and guidance to member countries on:

- 1) Adopting innovative practices such as zero tillage, improvements to food safety throughout the value chain, and wildfire management;
- 2) Understanding and implementing the science-based standards and guidelines developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which govern international trade in food, fisheries and aquaculture;

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- 3) Adapting the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors to climate change, and mitigating their climate change impacts;
- 4) Developing and adopting improved agricultural products that increase agricultural production, including those derived from biotechnology, and implementing science-based regulatory systems that facilitate the safe development and propagation of these products;
- 5) Improving the quality of statistics, data, information and information sharing systems concerning agriculture, fisheries, forests, food security and nutrition;
- 6) Adopting practices that reduce post-harvest losses and improve post-harvest utilization for agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture; and
- 7) Developing trade, investment, extension and land tenure policies that support farmers, forest communities and fishers, and that integrate food security considerations.

At our informal regional conference, Canada and the USA also agreed on the need for the FAO to better utilize the financial and human resources within the current regular budget level. The Secretariat can and should better engage member states to clearly identify priorities, and align resources to support them, including through documentation that clearly identifies possible budget implications of issues brought to all governing bodies. This will also mean that resources from lower priority activities should be re-assigned to higher priorities. Based on the ongoing prioritization process, we would also ask the Secretariat to present recommendations at the next Programme Committee meeting on which FAO activities could be reduced or eliminated. This can be a difficult endeavour, but is critical to improving the effectiveness of the Organization. Others have been through this process, and believe it is important that the FAO do so as well.

During the informal regional conference, we discussed a number of other issues important to the future of the FAO. We support the delegation of authority and the Technical Cooperation Programme to field offices, as well as their better linkage with headquarters. The global work of the Organization needs to be translated into tangible benefits for all members. In this regard, the field presence has to be rationalized to deliver the greatest possible benefit within existing reference levels. There should be no net transfer of resources from headquarters to the field. In addition, FAO representatives should be identified through the internal rotation policy or through a transparent, merit-based external recruitment process.

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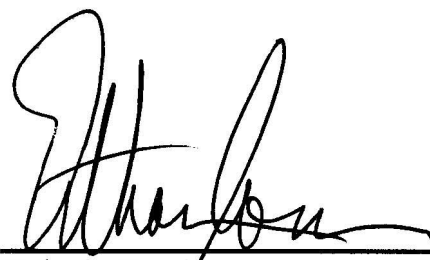
We would again like to thank you and the Organization for supporting North America's informal regional conference. Our countries, which account for about 25% of the FAO's assessed contributions and very sizeable voluntary contributions, have a significant stake in the Organization. We look forward to working with the Secretariat and member states to maximize the results achieved through the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-'13.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that you provide this letter and annex to the membership through the Council meeting taking place November 29 - December 3, 2010

Yours sincerely,



James A. Fox
Ambassador and Permanent
Representative of Canada to the UN
Food and Agriculture Agencies



Ertharin Cousin
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the UN
Food and Agriculture Agencies

ANNEX – NORTH AMERICAN PRIORITIES FOR THE FAO

A – Sustainable intensification of crop production

This Strategic Objective is, we believe, a very important area of the FAO's work. Increasing crop productivity and quality in an environmentally sustainable manner will be critical to improving food security. Achieving this while facing increasing climate change, as well as comparatively high input and energy costs, underlines the challenge. Now more than ever, efficient and resilient production systems using appropriate farming practices will be essential.

Emphasis should be placed on using the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to build effective frameworks for technology transfers and managing plant genetic resources, including seed systems. This should consist of ensuring sufficient resources (human & financial) are re-directed towards achieving the stated performance indicators required to address the sustainability of FAO's plant protection programmes and the use of international standards.

B – Increased sustainable livestock production

As noted by the FAO, the livestock sector creates livelihoods for one billion of the world's poor, and accounts for 40% of the agricultural gross domestic product. To help improve this sector's productivity, the FAO should focus its attention and resources on the work it does to help contain and combat animal disease, pests, and the associated human health risks.

Reducing the risk of animal and zoonotic diseases will be increasingly important as livestock practices continue to evolve, as population growth increases humans' proximity to livestock, as increasing travel facilitates the transmission of pests and diseases, and as climate change increases the risks for pathogen introduction and rapid spread.

Consequently, contingency planning, prevention and control should be FAO's priority focus and its comparative advantage within this strategic objective. This includes strengthening the EMPRES and GLEWS platforms, along with ensuring an effective and sustainable Crisis Management Centre (CMC) that quickly responds to transboundary animal disease outbreaks. We further support the continued strong partnership with OIE in this regard.

C – Sustainable management and use of fisheries and aquaculture resources

In order to maintain sustainability of fisheries resources and secure the role of fisheries and aquaculture as a long term solution to food security, we support more focused efforts to broaden and deepen the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related instruments, primarily through the prioritization and development of effective policy guidance, good governance and the promotion of best practices.

D – Improved quality and safety of food at all stages of the food chain

We believe that the normative work under this Strategic Objective is one of the most important areas of FAO's work. It is one of the activities where the FAO's technical knowledge and collaborative approach genuinely gives the Organization a comparative advantage to facilitate the improvement of food safety at all stages of the food chain. The FAO must continue to put an emphasis in this area of normative work and more specifically, continue working with the World Health Organization on implementing the Codex Alimentarius Commission programming activities.

Provision of science-based advice on the development of food safety standards is of utmost importance. In addition, reinforcing an appropriate level of technical capacity development (i.e institutional level) is strongly supported by our region. This could be undertaken through the further strengthening of existing partnerships at the global/regional/national levels (e.g. the FAO-IICA relationship) and the creation of new alliances within other regions as a means of forging new models for increased food safety cooperation.

Food safety intelligence gathering, forecasting and early warning systems, either through EMPRES-Food Safety or CMC – Food Chain (Animal/Plant/Food Safety) must also be prioritized as a key element of this strategic objective.

E – Sustainable management of forests and trees

The FAO should focus on continued support for the Forest Department's excellent work in data management and reporting, with emphasis on further refining the governance and designated functions indicators of the Global Forest Resource Assessment and further expanding the type of data collected to allow for an improved understanding of the full benefits that forests have to livelihoods and society. The FAO should also focus on its comparative advantage in climate change matters, in particular developing forest adaptation and mitigation strategies, for example on issues like wildfire management. In addition, the FAO should work to enhance cross-sectoral integration of forest with other issues, in particular food security and water.

F – Sustainable management of land, water and genetic resources and improved responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture

The North American region can certainly appreciate the urgent need to ensure sustainable management of natural resources as a result of various global drivers, be it climate change effects, water scarcity or soil degradation. As this Strategic Objective has significant cross-sectoral impacts, it is imperative the FAO further refine its areas of comparative advantage and allow for the necessary shifting of human and financial resources to areas of utmost need.

We believe the FAO should focus its efforts in this Strategic Objective on the provision of global information, advocacy and evidence-based policy guidance on effective land and water usage and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. We support FAO's continued role in ensuring agriculture is prominently featured as a vital element in mitigating key climate change challenges, with the caveat that it focuses on areas where it has a distinct comparative advantage and complements the activities undertaken by other international players.

The North American region also requests that work in genetic resources, be it the implementation of key policy instruments on biodiversity or in strengthening partnerships and cooperation with relevant international institutions, be seen as a priority. We note that genetic resources do play an extremely important role in addressing food security challenges and in adapting to climate change impacts.

G – Enabling environment for markets to improve livelihoods and rural development

We believe that the FAO should focus on providing technical and policy assistance in the analysis of food and agriculture markets and related impacts on food security, regional and global agricultural trade policy analysis, and strategies and/or proposed policies to maximize smallholders' access to markets. Consequently, it will be important that FAO assess the coherence of its policy interventions with country-level policies that support smallholder farmers.

H – Improved food security and better nutrition

We recognize the added value the FAO provides in policy and capacity development advice, especially on the agriculture input side of nutrition. We agree that FAO's role in nutrition should be to focus on promoting sustainable improvements in nutrition, especially among infants and pregnant/lactating women, nutritionally vulnerable households and population groups; to provide

information, assessments and analysis to combat hunger and reduce malnutrition; to collaborate with appropriate partners in assisting Members to identify food insecure populations and those vulnerable to nutrition-related problems; to promote food safety/quality, to prevent food-borne diseases; and, to focus on consumer protection and fair practices in food trade. Emphasis under this SO should also focus on helping member states to improve rural and agricultural statistics and information by providing technical and policy assistance to support national agricultural and nutrition statistics systems.

I – Improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies

We support the FAO's work to improve preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies. But given that other United Nations agencies are already mandated and resourced to work in this area, in our view the FAO's role should focus on the provision of knowledge, policy and technical advice/assessment, agriculture rehabilitation and extended recovery, rather than the stockpiling and delivery of supplies.

More generally, we recognize that there is a need for the FAO, and the broader community of United Nations agencies, to better articulate and define roles when responding to emergencies, particularly with respect to FAO's participation in future UN "clusters" dealing with emergencies. The FAO does have a role to play in prevention and mitigation, particularly as it relates to agricultural and crop threats.

K – Gender equity in access to resources, goods, services and decision-making in the rural areas

The North American regional members believe that gender equity is extremely important for food security and agree with the overall intent of the initiatives in this Strategic Objective. However, we also believe that by mainstreaming gender considerations we would be better able to achieve the remainder of FAO's strategic objectives. Therefore, we recommend FAO further identify opportunities to fully incorporate gender in all its programming activities, both at HQ and in its field operations without the necessity of a stand-alone strategic objective.

L – Increased and more effective public and private investment in agriculture and rural development

The North American region strongly supports a renewed effort to foster innovative private/public partnerships, increased FAO investment policy advice and assisting national governments in developing their strategic investment plans. The North American regional members believe, as with SO K, the work currently undertaken under this Strategic Objective should be mainstreamed into the work of the Organization, and managed by an empowered Partnerships office that has a clear mandate to strengthen ties between the Organization and a variety of relevant private sector partners, as well as to enhance value-chain development in the food sectors to include small and medium-sized enterprises in addition to multinationals.

X – Effective collaboration with member states and stakeholders

&

Y – Efficient and effective administration

We believe the Organization must find every opportunity to ensure increased efficiency in its operations, be it with respect to the interaction with partners and stakeholders or in its administrative services. While the North American region recognizes FAO's ongoing work to establish strategic plans for its core functions, it will be imperative to identify appropriate progress measures and baseline indicators in order to assess improved performance over time. The Program Implementation Report should serve as one vehicle to provide relevant information to members and the public.

Effective and efficient collaboration and administration should be further integrated within existing Strategic Objectives to more accurately reflect the true cost of its operational requirements. This should be taken into consideration within the development of the next Medium Term Plan.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I also would like to thank Madam Chair of the Programme Committee for her excellent presentation of very good work that has taken place that committee. Brazil is not a member, but was present at several points as an Observer.

We were prepared to make two interventions. One on Item 4 in general on the Report of the Programme Committee, and another specifically on prioritization and the PWB. Since we are dealing with both items together, I would beg your allowance to make the two interventions in sequence.

AS far as the Report of the Programme Committee is concerned, Brazil welcomes it and takes note of its conclusions. As was the case with the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, this Report includes debate on important issues for the future of this Organization. Chief among them is the Corporate Strategy and capacity-development that should be understood along with the evaluation of FAO's capacity-building activities in Africa. But I can also mention the follow-up to the independent evaluation of FAO's role and work in statistics, the strategic evaluation of FAO's country programming, and the evaluation of FAO's effectiveness at country level.

With regard to capacity-building, it is our view that the Report could do more to reflect one of the main issues raised by the evaluation at that time: the need for long-term planning, sustainability and follow-up. Allow me to quote from the evaluation on capacity-development. I quote, "Despite many effective and relevant interventions, the evaluation found that FAO capacity-development activities are, for the most part, unsustainable. There is very little emphasis given to sustainability and too much given to immediate results and outputs. This is evident in the project timeframes and modalities. The lack of understanding by FAO staff of the importance of process to capacity-development, lack of focus on institutionalizing capacity-development activities and building the political will to sustain them, and also to the limited motivation and opportunity for follow-up and for monitoring and evaluation by FAO staff". In the ensuing debate in the Programme Committee that Brazil had the opportunity to watch as an Observer, it was made clear that the Technical Cooperation Programme rules are not conducive to long-term sustainability and follow-up in capacity-development, as was said at that time by the Assistant Director-General, Jose Maria Sumpsi himself. For example, the rules do not allow for the follow-up of actions after the conclusion of the initial project, and they favour short-term reporting of outputs over long-term strategy and coordination with national governments. These are the reasons why we welcome the new FAO Corporate Strategy for capacity-building which proposes to address many of these shortcomings. That strategy correctly intends to favour long-term

approaches to interventions in country and sub-regional programmes and projects along with integrated approaches that address not only the capacity of individuals, but also considers organizations and the general institutional environment.

This is why we strongly share the view expressed by the Programme Committee to request an Implementation Plan that, for now, is lacking. We also move that this Council request the Secretariat to propose to the Governing Bodies revisions to the TCP rules, in line with the Programme Committee's recommendations in paragraph 18 of its Report.

Finally, we also share the Committee's recommendations with regard to the preparation of country programming guidelines that should carefully take into account the roles of Regional, Sub-regional and Country Offices and we welcome the progress in enhancing FAO's work in statistics.

Now, if you allow me, I would also say some words specifically on the Programme of Work and Budget and the prioritization process. As we said during the consideration of the Reports of the Regional Conferences, we fully endorse the priorities set by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference, namely family agriculture, territorial rural development, human rights to adequate food, social technologies, food quality and food safety, climate change and biodiversity. We also acknowledge and welcome the priorities set by the other Regional Conferences and also the informal North America Conference that was just disclosed to us by the Representatives of North America. Each one of those Regional Conferences, of course, has its own priorities, and each one of them needs to be taken into consideration.

To that effect, we strongly support the Programme Committee request of the formulation of regional results for 2012-13 as a means to reflect country, Sub-regional and regional priorities and their contributions to Organizational Results. This will ensure that the formulation of the regional results reflects the priorities expressed by the Regional Conferences. This is in line with the necessary flexibility and responsiveness to local needs that should be reinforced in this Organization.

We ask the Secretariat for more information about how they intend to accomplish the formulation of regional results, and what would be its proposed impact in the preparation of the PWB 2012-13. The discussion of the PWB and of priorities is a new process, and we must recognize that it is a work-in-progress. We should keep improving the way we deal with this exercise.

Therefore, we endorse the recommendations made by the Programme Committee in paragraph 11 of its Report, that in future biennia the Secretariat improves the documentation submitted to the FAO Governing Bodies, based on consultation with the relevant Strategy Teams in FAO.

We endorse what was said by our colleague from Norway about the Strategy Teams that should have the main role in the planning process for the PWB. We also would add the need to reinforce a bottom-up approach to prioritization by ensuring that guidance from the Regional Conferences, but also from the Decentralized Offices, is observed. Those Offices are the ones most open to the direct needs of the countries, and we cannot achieve a meaningful Decentralization process if the PWB is formulated and imposed using a top-down approach.

Finally, we need to ensure full ownership by the Governing Bodies of the PWB 2012-13. We would like to ask the Secretariat about what steps have been proposed to do that in the months ahead, leading to the final approval of the PWB by the FAO Conference.

Since admittedly I have made a long intervention, I would like only to recapitulate three of the action points that were proposed there. First, is to move that the Council request the Secretariat to review TCP rules in line with the recommendations about capacity-development strategy. Second, a request to the Secretariat to explain how the regional results would fit in the formulation at the PWB 2012-13. Third, a request for information about the next steps to ensure full ownership of the PWB in the months leading up to the FAO Conference.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I wish to thank Madam Chairperson of the Programme Committee for a clear presentation of the outcome of their meeting. I also want to express appreciation for the intervention of Brazil. It is very thorough and expressed all of our concerns.

We agree with the observations and advice given by the Programme Committee regarding priorities for the technical work of the Organization in the 2012-13 biennium. We also concur with aligning the Technical Committee meetings and Regional Conferences in line with the new programming so that Regional Conferences can benefit from Technical Committee discussions. These conclusions and recommendations will be of great value.

We are in a transition phase, but we should do the right things. A structured guide is important so that we continue to do our work as much as possible with long endless lists of priorities. We had concluded that corporate strategies on capacity development, as indicated by the Programme Committee, are key to FAO's Reform and in particular to Decentralization.

The evaluation of FAO's activities on capacity-development involvement in Africa and the Programme Committee's recommendation calls for enhanced capacity involvement in our region. We underscore and welcome their recommendations that special attention should be given to activities of longer-term impact.

We also reiterate that FAO identify the most effective ways to produce and disseminate technical information in our region.

Regarding the criteria for TCP, we agree that regional consultations should be carried out but we would further like to suggest that the Independent Chair of the Council also to call a meeting of regional chairs to be informed of the outcome of their consultations.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

Like Brazil, I would like to combine the Items 4 and 4.1 as you suggested. It makes it a bit longer but as you know, these statements placed together underlie the concerns of quite a number of Member States.

The EU welcomes this excellent Report of the Programme Committee, and recommends its adoption by the Council.

The meeting of the Programme Committee demonstrated the important role of the Independent Evaluation Office, and the need for a serious follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations by the Secretariat. The EU welcomes the fact, that in general, the Secretariat agrees with all the recommendations of the evaluation reports. A follow-up of the measures taken by the other actors involved in the programmes and projects in applying the recommendations of the evaluation related to their role should also be envisaged through political dialogue with partner countries and donors to increase the impact of the process.

The strategy of capacity-development, which is at the heart of the work of FAO as a normative agency, needs to be improved. The general principles can be agreed, especially the new paradigm "from capacity-building to development building". The EU recommends that a well-defined plan of action should be prepared for the March 2011 Session.

The EU appreciates the high quality of the evaluation of FAO capacity-building activities in Africa. The evaluation report highlights the fact that the most important challenge is to ensure sustainability by assuring follow-up activities that adopt a multidisciplinary approach and by working in partnership with others. Good examples and success stories described in the Report should be widely disseminated.

Concerning the evaluation of FAO effectiveness in post-conflict and transition countries, the EU appreciates the work done by FAO in often very difficult circumstances. The country evaluation is in line with the recommendation of the last SOFI, addressing food security in protracted crises, which was endorsed during the 36th Session of the CFS. The EU stresses the importance of linking emergency and rehabilitation work at a very early stage. FAO has to adapt its own modalities and working methods to increase efficiency in these countries, through cooperation with relevant multilateral actors. The EU agrees that the modalities for financing activities in post-conflict and protracted countries should be modified to allow a long-term approach and to increase the efficiency and sustainability of the actions.

Concerning the strategic evaluation of FAO countries programming, the EU considers that this evaluation is of major importance to increase the efficiency of the FAO work at country level and to reinforce leadership and ownership of partner countries.

The EU welcomes the announcement to present the country programming guidelines during the Session of the Programme Committee in October 2011. Those will have to take into account all the recommendations of the evaluation, including the recommendation of the future inclusion of the TCP in the country programme. In particular, the EU notes that the Technical Cooperation Programme should be more strategically identified, and that the Secretariat needs to analyse the way to integrate Technical Cooperation Programme in Country Programming.

The EU recommends that the timing of the Regional Conferences should be examined to encompass the country priorities in the preparation of the country programme. This agenda should also take into account the sequencing of the preparation of the PWB to make sure that the conclusions of the Regional Conferences can be taken into consideration.

The EU notes that all these evaluations have the same concern regarding effective functioning of the Decentralised Offices. This question was also addressed during the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, which concluded with a clear commitment of the Management to provide Members States with a Vision Document on Decentralisation.

Concerning the Second Real-Time Evaluation of FAO's work on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), the EU recognizes that the work done by FAO in this field is unique. It needs strong support and special attention in the priority-setting. The EU expresses its concern about the sustainable financing of these FAO key activities and encourages FAO to develop new partnerships such as with the Regional Development Banks. The collaboration with the private sector could also be a way to increase financial resources. The EU urges FAO to come up with a workplan outlining priorities and their sequencing within the three pillars of the budget for the period 2011-2015, with proposals for priorities and sequencing that should be discussed in the next session of the Programme Committee.

Concerning the access to TCP and the eligibility criterion, the EU is in favour of Option 2: "any country that falls in the high-income category can receive national non-emergency TCP assistance on a full cost-recovery basis only, even if it is also included on the list of "special attention countries". The EU recommends that the Independent Chair of the Council play a facilitating role if no solution is found after the regional consultations.

Now let me turn to the technical work of the Organization.

The EU appreciates the report on this issue and agrees with all the recommendations.

The EU thanks the Secretariat for the work accomplished to date. It is work in progress. It is a difficult process, and much still needs to be accomplished to achieve true priority-setting for the next PWB.

Results-based Management and priority-setting are not just "buzz-words" of the EU. They are important working tools for FAO in order to deliver better results within the available resources. It is the way to raise the effectiveness and efficiency of FAO in partnership with Governments in a sustainable way. The EU would like to underline that addressing sustainability is a matter of primary concern for FAO in improving its results.

Priority-setting has to take into account the recommendations of the Regional Conferences which have strongly demonstrated their commitment to engage in this process. The recommendations of the Technical Committees and the MYPOWs of these Committees are likewise of paramount importance. The EU hopes that more concrete recommendations in these areas of emphasis and areas of de-emphasis are made by the Technical Committees in the future. Finally the lessons of the Corporate Evaluation which often emphasize the need for the Organization to establish priorities will provide guidance for this exercise.

The EU requests Management to provide in a timely manner for the session of the Programme Committee in February 2011 all the documentation listed in the Report and, in particular, an indication of proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within and between Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results for the 2012-13 biennium, as well as an indication of the financial resources required to achieve these objectives, which is essential to the Results-Based Management approach adopted by Conference.

The EU is convinced that the Strategic Teams have to play a leading role at all stages of this process and suggests that the Strategic Team leaders participate in the next meeting of the Programme Committee in February 2011.

For the future, the EU supports the recommendation that the documentation submitted to the Governing Bodies should be improved. A more uniform approach to link recommendations with the Strategic Objectives or Core Functions of the Organization would help the Secretariat in preparing the PWB 2014-15.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Firstly, as a Programme Committee member, I have to frankly say, that priority-setting is a very heavy burden for the Programme Committee members. I feel that the Technical Committees did not carry out enough priority-setting work.

One of the reasons may be that the documents prepared by the Secretariat are not well-prepared. The general tendency, as other people pointed out is to say that everything is important. So I want to say that the Secretariat should support on this priority-setting process more emphatically, and I expect the Strategic Teams to do a good job by time of the next Programme Committee meeting in March.

Secondly, I want to touch upon the evaluation reports. I want to emphasize the quality of the evaluation reports presented by the Evaluation Office. This quality is so high and I recommend that all Members, not only the Programme Committee Members, read these evaluation reports, in particular, those of country programming. This Report includes full observations in considering the role of Decentralized Offices and the report for capacity-development in Africa. This is also a very good report, and it emphasizes the importance of continuous sustainable support. As Brazil pointed out, follow-up is very important but the current regulations of the TCP prohibits FAO from carrying out the follow-up projects. This is a very serious programme and I support Brazil that we should as much as possible change the role of the TCP because of these regulations. The TCP should be a useful tool for people who need support.

Along the same lines, I want to comment on the comments made by the DDG, Mr He, under the previous agenda item. You note that results-based management is now ongoing for the TCP and I am very happy to hear that. But I believe that this should be reflected in the allocation of the TCP funds for the future as a matter of priority.

Finally, I just want to second the view expressed by the European Union that the TCP criteria for the high-income, small island countries. This is a very important point, and Japan has been raising this issue again and again in the Programme Committee meetings, I hope that you will help us to reach consensus regarding this issue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme il était convenu, nous devons suspendre la séance, mais avant de la suspendre, je vais demander quels sont les pays qui souhaitent de nouveau intervenir, puisque j'ai l'Afghanistan et la Corée pour l'instant. Si d'autres pays veulent intervenir, ce sera en début d'après-midi.

Comme il était convenu pour l'action concernant la pétition qui doit avoir lieu tout de suite à 12 h 15, il faut aménager un peu la salle, je vous propose de suspendre notre session et nous nous retrouvons impérativement ici à 14 h 30. Mais compte-tenu de l'évolution de l'Ordre du jour, je vous informe mais vous êtes informés automatiquement que nous aurons une séance qui continuera un peu plus tard dans la soirée puisque nous aurons du mal à faire de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30 donc prévoyez au moins jusqu'à 20 h 30.

Restez à vos places puisque seule la tribune va changer.

The meeting rose at 12:10 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:10

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
30 November 2010

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

II. Programme Committee and Finance Committee (cont'd)

II. Comité du programme et Comité financier (suite)

II. Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

4. Report of the 104th Session of the Programme Committee (25-29 October 2010) (CL 140/8; CL 140/8-Add.1) (cont'd)

4. Rapport de la cent quatrième session du Comité du programme (25-29 octobre 2010) (CL 140/8 ; CL 140/8-Add.1) (suite)

4. Informe del 104.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (25-29 de octubre de 2010) (CL 140/8; CL 140/8-Add.1) (continuación)

4.1 Priorities for the technical work of the Organization in the 2012-13 biennium

4.1 Priorités relatives aux activités techniques de l'Organisation pour l'exercice 2012-13

4.1 Prioridades para la labor técnica de la Organización en el bienio 2012-13

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons pouvoir continuer nos travaux. Comme je vous le disais tout à l'heure, si on est très optimiste on finira dans trois heures, si on est réaliste on finira dans six, mais nous aurons fini dans six heures, donc que chacun s'organise.

Avant de commencer notre séance, deux petites communications, la première pour me satisfaire de l'opération que nous avons eu en matière de communication tout à l'heure et vous inviter, chacun à votre place, à continuer la pression pour la communication dans le cadre de «1 billion hungry». Je crois que c'est une bonne opération de communication et comme j'en ai parlé avec le Directeur général, c'est une opération médiatique qui se multiplie et qui, si elle devait être faite uniquement aujourd'hui, coûterait très cher mais comme elle s'est multipliée par les communications c'est une bonne opération pour sensibiliser les personnes.

La deuxième communication j'ai été destinataire, par Monsieur Ali Mekouar, d'un document interne transmis à l'ensemble du Personnel de la FAO, puisque comme il me l'a dit, il y a eu une enquête qui a été faite auprès du Personnel pour savoir s'ils connaissaient le fonctionnement de la FAO et je crois que l'enquête a montré qu'un certain nombre de nos collaborateurs ignoraient un peu ce qu'était le Conseil ou le fonctionnement des instances dirigeantes et donc, il y a eu une interview qui a été faite et qui explique à l'ensemble du personnel ce que nous sommes, ce qu'est le Conseil. J'ai demandé à Monsieur Ali Mekouar de vous le communiquer et vous trouverez cette information dans vos boîtes. Je voulais dire que c'est aussi important que nous sachions, que tout le monde sache, ce que nous faisons et que nos collaborateurs soient vraiment engagés. Bien sûr, le Personnel, en particulier, est au courant mais l'ensemble du Personnel pas forcément, mais nous formons quand même une grande famille.

Nous continuons donc nos travaux cet après-midi sur le Comité du programme et j'ai pour l'instant trois interventions qui sont prévues: l'Afghanistan, la Corée et le Ghana. Y a-t-il d'autres candidats? Je demande à l'Afghanistan de faire son intervention.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

As a member of the Programme Committee I should not be speaking when the said Report of the PC is discussed, but don't worry I'm not asking for the floor to speak about the Report of the PC. I just want to say a few words about a note on prioritization emerging from the informal Regional Conference of North America, which was introduced by the distinguished Ambassador of the United States and supported by the distinguished Representative of Canada, and perhaps I can also say by the distinguished Representative of Australia. So please treat my intervention as part of the discussion of yesterday regarding Regional Conferences.

We thank Canada and the United States for making their views on prioritization known to the Members. It completes the regional outlooks on prioritization, which is helpful for the work of the PC

in the February meeting and, of course, also to Mr Boyd and his colleagues. The Annex attached to the letter of the Ambassadors deals briefly with all the 11 Strategic Objectives, as approved for the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13. From the reading of the Annex, one can draw a general conclusion that the thrust of the proposals is to give more emphasis to certain areas of work. I was unable to detect any new area of work outside the framework of the MTP 2010-13. For example, for Strategic Objective A, the Annex puts more emphasis on IPPC and ITPGRFA as the two main knowledge-bases for technology transfer. We fully share this opinion. In fact, more topics are dealt with by the Organizational Result A2 and Organizational Result A4 of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. Together, these two Organizational Results make up 47 percent of the net appropriations, 53 percent of core voluntary contributions and 30 percent of the Field Programme, excluding emergency allocated to Strategic Objective A.

Naturally, to accommodate for more emphasis in certain areas of work would demand cuts in areas of low priority. Therefore, ranking among priority remains a decisive factor and will be a great challenge for the Programme Committee next year.

However, this does not mean that one should exclude the need for additional resources that can be justified on a case-by-case basis. We are all aware of the erosion in the critical mass of expertise of FAO in several key technical areas. This point clearly came out yesterday with respect to soil work and the understaffing of the Decentralized Offices. We fully agree that the transfer of resources from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices is not practical, so other ways will have to be explored. Some resources may come from efficiency savings, but the bulk of fulfilling the need demands additional resources. Here we fully agree with the essential point raised this morning by my colleague from Brazil, who reminded us that extra-budgetary resources must be need-based.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea thanks the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Madame Laatu, for the Report which is clear and to the point. We can endorse this Report. Since previous delegates have already touched upon the areas we have in mind, the Republic of Korea will limit its comments on two issues which relate to priority-setting.

First, incorporating guidelines received from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees and then formulating them into single organizational priorities is a new challenge for this Organization and a key element of FAO Governing Body reform. As Australia has pointed out, we believe it is important to set up priorities in areas where FAO has core competence and where FAO works while reflecting priorities recommended in the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees in a balanced manner.

In this regard, we would appreciate it if the Secretariat could provide detailed information regarding procedure and schedule for establishing the PWB for 2012-13.

Second, as was recommended in the Programme Committee Report, to allow Members to have more structured discussions regarding priorities in the Regional Conferences in the limited time, we feel that the documentation submitted to Regional Conferences needs further improvement, and it should be more concise and to the point.

Mr Ram BHAVNANI (Ghana)

The Ghanaian delegation wishes to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for the presentation of the Report. Our intervention is focused on the evaluation reports which we find very useful. The conclusions and recommendations will enhance the work of the Organization if implemented.

We further limit our intervention, therefore to Item 5 and to recommendations 18(c) and (e), in the Report. We recognize that Africa needs effective institutions that use evidence-based strategies to enhance competitive and efficient food production systems in order to address the deteriorating food and nutrition security in the region. In Africa too many interventions seems to be ad-hoc and non-sustainable while the demand for food increases in these nations. However, we believe that FAO has a unique opportunity and a platform now to engage countries in capacity development. Countries have

developed their national investment plans under the CAADP compact, have signed a compact, which is more medium to long-term. It is now easy for FAO to engage countries, based on the medium to long-term investment plans that they have; and the institutions that they have identified to use in implementing the medium to long-term national investment plans. We believe that when this engagement is solidified and is strengthened we then can get better returns on our engagement with FAO in the area of capacity building.

Sr Daniel GARIN (Uruguay)

Gracias Señor Presidente. Pedimos la palabra para intervenir en nombre de los 33 Países Miembros del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, el GRULAC. Quisiera referirme en forma breve sobre el tema de Descentralización, Centro de Servicios Compartidos y el papel de las Oficinas Regionales, tal como lo consigna el documento CL 140/21.

En primera estancia, el GRULAC ha apoyado en todos sus términos el consenso alcanzado sobre este tema por el Grupo de los 77, y que esperamos sea apresado por este Grupo en su documento.

Sin embargo, el GRULAC quiere reafirmar la posición asumida en las diversas reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición abierta sobre la eficiencia.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Excusez-moi, je pense que vous intervenez là sur le Comité financier alors que nous n'avons pas fini le Comité du Programme, il vaudrait mieux que vous repreniez la parole par la suite. Excusez-moi de vous interrompre.

Sr José Roberto ANDINO SALAZAR (El Salvador)

Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. Mi delegación agradece el informe que nos ha presentado el Presidente del Comité del Programa sobre el 104.º período de sesiones de ese Comité. Los temas que vamos a abordar nosotros ya han sido planteados por Brasil, por lo que nos limitaremos a decir que compartimos sus puntos de vista sobre estos temas. Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

En primer lugar quiero agradecer la presentación realizada por la Presidenta del Comité del Programa, señora Riikka Laatu. Argentina es miembro del Comité del Programa y creemos que estamos haciendo un trabajo muy fuerte dentro del Comité. Le agradezco la presentación porque ha sido muy clara y muy precisa. También quiero decir que estamos trabajando muy bien con la Secretaría. La Secretaría apoya permanentemente el trabajo del Comité.

Con relación a la cuestión de la priorización, entendemos que la priorización es un trabajo que compete básicamente a los Estados Miembros, a las Conferencias Regionales y a los Equipos Estratégicos. Nosotros no podemos delegar la función de priorización en la Secretaría. Es un trabajo que nos compete a nosotros, y tenemos que asumir esta responsabilidad.

También tenemos que tener en cuenta que es un trabajo en construcción, por lo tanto, los elementos que nos han brindado las Conferencias Regionales, que han hecho un trabajo excelente, y que es la primera vez que las Conferencias Regionales, como también los Equipos Estratégicos, hacen este trabajo nos dan suficiente material y elementos para poder realizar ese trabajo de priorización. Entendemos que dentro de esos elementos ya hay una serie de llamados temas prioritarios o ámbitos de trabajo, como lo ha dicho la Representación de Afganistán. Dentro de esos ámbitos de trabajo incluso tenemos herramientas que nos van a permitir alcanzar el objetivo final de la priorización.

Por último, queremos remarcar el concepto expresado por Brasil. Este concepto nos interesa mucho, y que se refirió a la utilización de los recursos. Así como decimos que tenemos que planificar en función de los resultados, tenemos que tener en cuenta que los recursos deben otorgarse de acuerdo con las necesidades que tienen las priorizaciones y esta Organización.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

I just wanted to comment briefly on the remarks from our distinguished colleague from Afghanistan. We certainly appreciate the welcoming of North America's priorities, as I think he put it, as completing the picture on regional perspectives on organizational priorities. We look forward to hearing any other feedback after this meeting. But specific to the issue he raised on how this Organization, through the results-based programming and budgeting exercise does its prioritizations, for those of us who have gone through exercises like this in our own agencies or other organizations, you recognize that, in fact, there is a very distinct need to rank order of priorities. If your budget can only be at a certain level, then you have to make tough decisions about what gets funded, what does not get funded and, as supplementary voluntary funding becomes available then that is applied to the priorities set.

Now our letter sticks to the Strategic Framework and the 11 Strategic Objectives and two Functional Objectives, because that is the guideline that we are working from and we were part of the discussion in agreeing to those. What we do not agree with, and I speak on behalf of North America in this regard, is that the Programme Committee and other Governing Bodies are indeed going to have to rank order of priorities as we go forward. Yes, it is difficult, there is no question about it. There are priorities of one country or region that are different from another, and there are going to have to be tough choices made.

You will note in our letter, in the second to last paragraph, or third to last paragraph, we specifically mention this and specifically ask the Secretariat to present recommendations at the next Programme Committee meeting on which FAO activities could possibly be reduced or eliminated. Now that is the tough choice that I have referenced, and we are all going to have to be part of that process irrespective of the amount of voluntary funds that become available. These challenges are great, the fiscal environment is extremely difficult and this will be the challenge before the Programme and Finance Committees in the coming months.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après toutes ces interventions, je demande à Madame la Présidente de bien vouloir faire ses commentaires ainsi que, sans doute, quelques commentaires du Secrétariat.

Ms Riikka LAATU (Chairperson of the Programme Committee)

I will start with a couple of comments on issues related to the chairing of the Programme Committee. I think there were quite a few issues that were addressed to the Secretariat and I shall continue on those.

The two issues I wanted to touch upon were, first of all Brazil's remark on the capacity development issues in the Programme Committee Report. You were missing the emphasis on the long-term planning, sustainability and follow-up, and indeed, it was a very important issue in the discussion. I think it was reflected to some extent, and I think it can be reflected in the report of this meeting as well. That was the issue that was very much emphasized in the discussion.

Secondly, on the priority-setting, I am not going to express my opinions on whose work it is really to go through priority-setting but I just want to recall a few things that we discussed and actually concluded in our minutes.

It is a challenge as has been said by many. This is a transition period when we are trying also to develop our message of implementing prioritization within the Organization. There are roles that might be a bit different for the Member Nations on the one hand and the Secretariat on the other hand. Just again to go back to the Report of the Programme Committee that we are discussing, we are actually asking the Secretariat now, on the basis of what the Member Nations have discussed in the Regional Conferences, in the Technical Committees, in this Council itself, to provide us with information on how these issues first of all relate to the Strategic Objectives of the Organization and how they relate to the Organizational Results. They did already provide a kind of a matrix to us and it has to be completed with the rest of the discussions in the remaining Regional Conferences and Technical Committees and this Council.

Second, we are asking the Secretariat to indicate what they propose as areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. That is what we are asking the Management to do now, and then the discussion will continue on the basis of sole inputs from the Member Nations in the first instance, then the Management taking into account the inputs from the Member Nations, relating them to the existing objectives, considering how to implement them, and, on the basis of those considerations, including lessons learned from the present biennium, propose areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. This is what we have asked them to do.

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

I would like to thank very much the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and all those members of the Programme Committee who are present for the very open and collaborative spirit in which we have worked this year. In fact, I would like to return the compliment that was made by Argentina and say that we had some very good discussions in the Committee, and this is reflected in the Report, and the recommendations that are in this Report are very clear. They give very clear guidance to Management and, as an example of the way we are responding to that, although I am not going to speak on evaluation issues, I would like to point out, and as I also mentioned in the Programme Committee meeting, that the Management has improved the way we prepare the management responses to the evaluations. We have adopted a standardized collaborative approach to preparing these responses that works across organizational units. For example, the Management response to the evaluation on country programming was prepared by a team that I myself led which involved several units of the house, and is now going to be implemented by one of the Strategy Teams, the team that is involved with Organizational Result X1 that has to do with programming matters. The Management responses also provide very clear positions on the recommendations made by the evaluations, provide limited and numbered actions that will enable us to follow-up in the planning and implementation process and in corporate lessons learned. So this is an example of how Management is also taking very seriously the reforms under results-based management.

Now turning to the priority-setting. We have had good discussions over the last several months, including at this last Programme Committee, and Management has already, as was laid out to the Programme Committee, embarked on the process of preparing the Programme Work and Budget for 2012-13. We have a very limited time to prepare the PWB. The document has to be despatched to the Programme and Finance Committees by 7 March 2011, and the absolute deadline to all Members is 25 March, or 90 days before the Conference.

In preparing the PWB, we are giving a very prominent role to the Strategy Teams and also introducing, as has been mentioned, the new regional results. Briefly there are four main steps that were undertaken. The first, which started already in October, is the formulation of regional results which are being introduced within the results frameworks for 2012-13. To prepare them, we have established multidisciplinary regional Strategy Teams that are led by the Assistant-Directors General/Regional Representatives in each of the five Regional Offices. They have been asked to review the reports of the respective Regional Conferences, the priorities therein and to prepare in a strategic and coordinated manner the response to these priorities within the Region by the Country Offices, Sub-regional Offices and Regional Offices. We are receiving from them sets of regional results which address these priorities and contribute to the organizational results in the framework. They will be used by the Organization-wide Strategy Teams in a second step to help refine the Organizational Results. It is at this level where the top-down and bottom-up formulation process coming together. The Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan that were approved by Conference in 2009 were prepared primarily through a top-down exercise. The consultations with Regions will complete that circle, and bring in the Regional Conference priorities, represented in the regional results and allowing the Secretariat to fine-tune the Organizational Results in the second step.

The Strategy Teams are tasked with doing this refinement, not only to take on board any regional priorities and help to focus the work but also to refine the indicators and complete the baselines. The indicators, baselines and targets are essential to be able to monitor and report on the achievement of the results. It is actually the foundation of our results-based management. And at the same time they will be identifying areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within the Organizational Results. Let me say

here that looking at the Technical Committee Reports, we do not see many, if any, areas of de-emphasis and I think it is important to recall that this Organization over the past decade has embarked on a very elaborate priority-setting exercise. Particularly around 2003–04, a set of papers on the priority-setting process was reviewed by the Programme Committee and the Council, effectively calling for a quantitative ordering of priorities. This did not succeed, and was effectively rejected by the Governing Bodies when we identified areas we would not undertake, as highlighted by the Independent External Evaluation. So the Strategic Framework that was approved in 2009 is a whole new set of programmes. As you know, we effectively threw out the old programmes and put in place a new set of objectives and results, which are intended to be the expression of priorities of the Members in the new Framework. We will, of course, endeavour to identify areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within these priorities based on what has been said by the Technical Committees and Regional Conferences, our experience in this first year of implementation in 2010, and evaluations that have been undertaken such as the four that were seen by the October meeting of the Programme Committee, and several that were seen earlier this year and even last year.

These first two steps, formulation of Regional Results and refinement of the Organizational Results, are led by the Strategy Teams and it is important to emphasize that we are giving a prominent role to the Strategy Teams in the preparation of the PWB.

The third step is the formulation performed by the units, the Offices and Divisions, of unit results, the work they all undertake to contribute to the Organizational Results in the areas of emphasis that are agreed by the Strategy Teams. This is where the resource allocation process takes place. This is a process that is done in consultation with the Strategy Teams that will, in the fourth step, review and sign off prior final to the sign-off by the Director-General on the proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget. This four-step process will have to be completed by the end of January to be able to get the documentation to the Programme Committee for its meeting in the second week of February and to ensure that the translations are available for despatch by 7 March.

Now, I think it would only be appropriate if I sounded some note of caution in this process. The Strategic Framework provides for us, and I think it has been recognized by several Members here today, a good basis not only for results-based management but also the opportunity to prioritize our work. The proof of this is going to be in the implementation. This is a joint effort between Members and the Governing Bodies and the Secretariat, and I think many Members have indicated that this is incremental work in progress and we see it also as an opportunity to find areas of improvement, to get feedback and then to move forward. I think it is also very important to underline that the use of the Strategy Teams. Their role is very much a part of Culture Change in the Organization, and it will be a process that goes on in strengthening those teams over several biennia and giving them a more important role not only in planning, but also in the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

Finally, we are committed to providing the documentation that has been requested by the Programme Committee in its Report for the meeting in February 2011 in the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. Brazil had asked a question about what is the process for ensuring ownership of the PWB. As I said, we have only the months of December and January to prepare the proposals that will be considered by the Programme Committee, and perhaps also by the Finance Committee meetings in February and then up to the formal meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in March, the Council in April and the Conference in June. Here, I would like to recall that, under the new cycle of programme and budget planning, there is one proposal for the PWB that is considered by these Governing Bodies and approval of the budget level by the Conference. Then there is a period of five or six months, between June 2011 and November/December 2011, when adjustments are made and operational planning is undertaken in the PWB based on any guidance provided by the Conference and, of course, at the approved budget level. This was a specific recommendation of the IEE, and was enshrined in the Immediate Plan of Action to avoid the situations we have had over several biennia of preparing many versions of the Programme of Work and Budget, even six months into the new biennium. So this process, which is the first time that we are undertaking it, means that we now go through one round with the PWB, over the next seven months, and then we have the opportunity to revise it. We look forward to continually working with the Programme Committee in particular as well as the other

Governing Bodies, including the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees, in putting together the priorities for the Organization for the coming biennium.

Mr Jose Maria SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Many distinguished delegates mentioned TCP in the context of country programming and capacity-development evaluations. I would like to reinforce a little bit the main recommendations presented in the Report from the Chair of the Programme Committee.

Of course, TCP should play an important role in the new country programming in FAO. In fact, we proposed, and the Governing Bodies accepted in the context of the Reform of FAO, to introduce some adjustments in TCP to begin integrating it into country programming.

The most important of these changes are two. One is that all TCPs to be approved need at least to contribute to one Organizational Result of this Organization, otherwise they will not be approved, and this provides linkages between TCP and the Strategic Framework and, of course, allows us to use the results-based management also for the TCP Programme.

The second adjustment is that TCP also consider the National Mid-Term Priority Framework (NMTPF). This ensures that TCP is in the context of the needs and national priorities elaborated in this National Mid-Term Priority Framework. These are two important elements but they are not sufficient, of course. I think that this NMTPF is an old instrument, now completely changed in the context of the country programme and evaluation. As you know, we decided to change the name and now it is not NMTPF, but it is Country Programming Framework (CPF). It is not just a question of changing the name; it is a question of changing the nature, the scope and the rigour to prepare this Country Programming Framework. It is a very important piece of the new country programming exercise. But it is not just a question of integrating TCP in country programming. It is not just to say TCP is to satisfy the needs and priorities at country level. It is not just this integration. I think that the country programming evaluation team proposed to change the nature of TCP. It is not just integrating it into the needs of countries. It is that some rules and regulations, some criteria of TCP, do not fit well in this exercise of country programming and of providing resources to engage in some of the activities necessary for country programming.

In that sense, I think that the integration of country programming is not sufficient. It is an on-going process and we should improve the integration there, not just consider national needs and priorities, but also modify the nature, the scope, criteria and rules of TCP.

In addition to that, in several interventions, from Brazil, Japan and others, there was mention also of the need to change some rules of TCP to use it as an important tool for capacity-development. I said in the Programme Committee that it is true that we need to change these rules, because at present, TCP is making a very important contribution to capacity-development. Many TCPs have some components dealing with capacity-development but they are spread components and short-term components, because one of the rules of TCP is that its duration is two years and it is impossible, if it is a successful project, to continue for a second round, that is extending the project for the second time for the same purpose. It is against the rules of TCP. It is for that reason that the Programme Committee discussed the need to change some rules of TCP to allow it to be used more intensively as an important tool for capacity-development in developing countries.

The views of Management, and I think it was a very rich, open and sincere discussion with the Programme Committee, are that, of course, we consider that we need all together to rethink TCP. But this cannot be done immediately because now we are in the middle of the important change moving from a centralized to a decentralized TCP. If in addition to that, in the middle of this process, we also change the rules and criteria and the nature even of TCP, it would be chaotic and the TCP could collapse. It is for that reason that we propose to go step-by-step. Of course during that year our principal effort will be to avoid the collapse of TCP. Now we are working very well, ensuring that at the end of the year, as Mr He said, we are even over 50 percent of approvals of TCP projects in this transition period from centralized to decentralized TCP. No doubt, decentralization of TCP is not just a question of management; it is a question of probably changing the functionality of TCP, the nature of TCP and the functions and purpose of TCP. In that sense, Management considers that the

recommendation from the Programme Committee is a realistic, sound and intelligent proposal, i.e. move forward in that direction, not immediately, not overnight, and propose that the Regional Conferences discuss this question. I think it is a very realistic, sound and intelligent proposal and recommendation and, of course, Management will support this process.

I think that some of you also mentioned that in this process of regional consultations, the role of the Independent Chair of the Council is extremely important. I think this is true because this needs some consultation, to get feedback, synthesize it and try to come again to the Governing Bodies with this feedback from the Regional Conferences. I think that in front of us we have this very important question, to improve and to rethink TCPs in the context of country programming, in the context of strengthening our capacity-development activities, and this will be an ongoing effort in the next few years.

The last question is about Country Programming Guidelines. I think that this is an extremely important element of the change at FAO and, as you know the Report will be presented in October 2011. I want just to explain to you that Management is working really hard on that. We have made much progress on a first draft of these Guidelines. Now we are testing these Guidelines in several countries to learn about this process and trying to time the process and present in October 2011 tested Guidelines for country programming. Of course, in the context of these Guidelines for country programming, the use of TCP and the integration of TCP in the context of country programming will be one of the important components.

Mr Anton MANGSTL (Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension)

I would like to thank again the Programme Committee for the excellent feedback and discussions in the Programme Committee meeting regarding the strategic capacity development.

I would also like to thank the delegations who spoke on this topic today, and I could only assure you that we are working hard for the revised strategy for the meeting in March.

We are also working very hard to develop a detailed implementation plan for capacity-development so you will have this also for discussion for the March meeting.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous pour le Secrétariat. Merci à la Présidente et aux comités du travail pour le travail qui a été fait puisque c'est quand même la base de notre action. Bien sûr, il y a l'aspect aussi budgétaire que nous allons voir par la suite. Après avoir entendu tout cela, voilà les conclusions que j'essaie de tirer sur tout ce qui a été dit.

Le Conseil approuve le rapport du Comité du Programme qui a notamment recommandé cinq points: la planification du Programme et l'établissement des priorités doivent être basés sur le cadre des résultats approuvés dans le Plan à moyen terme 2010-13; le Secrétariat analyse les recommandations des Conférences régionales et des Comités techniques concernant les priorités à établir en fonction des Objectifs stratégiques et des résultats de l'Organisation en tenant compte des priorités nationales, sous-régionales et régionales; le rôle des Équipes stratégiques doit être renforcé par l'identification des priorités et des ressources nécessaires dans le PTB 2012-13. Elles ont été nombreuses, mais les autres recommandations du Comité sont également avalisées dans leur globalité, y compris le TCP et différentes évaluations, la stratégie de renforcement des capacités, le besoin de tenir pleinement compte des aspects de genres. Enfin le dernier point, ainsi que le Comité le lui a demandé, le Président est disposé à s'acquitter de sa fonction de Facilitateur, notamment en rapport avec les Présidents des groupes régionaux.

Voilà la synthèse que l'on peut essayer de faire en sachant que nous n'avons pas voulu reprendre tous les points puisque nous les acceptons globalement. Voilà donc la conclusion qui sera proposée pour le Comité du rapport. Merci à chacun d'entre vous.

5. Reports of the 133rd (31 May-1 June 2010), 134th (21-22 October 2010) and 135th (25-29 October 2010) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 140/7; CL 140/7-Add.1; CL 140/11; CL 140/11-Add.1; CL 140/21; CL 140/21-Add.1; CL 140/LIM/1)

5. Rapports des cent trente-troisième (31 mai-1er juin 2010), cent trente-quatrième (21 et 22 octobre 2010) et cent trente-cinquième (25-29 octobre 2010) sessions du Comité financier (CL 140/7; CL 140/7-Add.1; CL 140/11; CL 140/11-Add.1; CL 140/21; CL 140/21-Add.1; CL 140/LIM/1)

5. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 133.º (31 de mayo-1 de junio de 2010), 134.º (21-22 de octubre de 2010) y 135.º (25-29 de octubre de 2010) del Comité de Finanzas (CL 140/7; CL 140/7-Add.1; CL 140/11; CL 140/11-Add.1; CL 140/21; CL 140/21-Add.1; CL 140/LIM/1)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au point suivant, celui du Comité financière qui est aussi un point très important. Le Président Sorour étant excusé, il est remplacé par le Vice-Président qui est déjà intervenu ce matin et qui va nous faire le rapport des 133ème et 134ème sessions du Comité financier. Les 133ème et 134ème étaient consacrées au PAM, et la 135ème session qui a eu lieu en octobre 2010 a examiné la situation des contributions et des arriérés au 19 octobre 2010.

Une mise à jour au 23 novembre, c'est-à-dire il y a 8 jours de l'état des contributions et des arriérés se trouve dans le document d'informations que vous avez le CL 140/LIM/1. Ainsi au 23 novembre, l'Organisation a reçu plus de 159 millions de dollars et plus de 154 millions d'euros au titre des contributions dues pour 2010. Cela représente 73 pour cent des sommes dues en dollars et 74 pour cent des sommes dues en euros. En 2010, plus de 24 millions de dollars ont été versés par les Membres en règlement intégral des soldes d'arriérés, tandis que 22 millions de dollars supplémentaires étaient reçus en règlement partiel d'arriérés. Ces recettes ont sensiblement amélioré la situation de trésorerie de l'Organisation à cette date de 2010 par rapport aux années précédentes. Au 23 novembre, 31 États Membres, soit 16 pour cent des Membres de l'Organisation n'ont encore versé aucune contribution pour l'année 2010. Bien que le montant total des arriérés ait nettement diminué se trouvant à 18 millions de dollars au moment de ce rapport, 44 États Membres présentent encore des arriérés de contributions pour 2009 et pour les années précédentes, et 17 d'entre eux risquent de perdre leur droit de vote à la prochaine session de la Conférence en vertu de l'Article 3.4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Il n'y a pas de décision à prendre sur ce point, mais le Conseil est invité à souligner de nouveau qu'il est important que tous les États Membres, sans distinction, s'acquittent de leurs obligations financières afin de permettre à l'Organisation de continuer à remplir son mandat. Le Conseil voudra peut-être inclure une mention à cet effet dans le Rapport sur ce point. Nous le verrons par la suite. Je passe la parole tout de suite au Vice-Président du Comité financier, Monsieur Ronald Elkuizen, pour présenter son Rapport, après quoi il sera discuté. Vous avez la parole.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

In the absence of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, Mr Yasser Sorour, who was unable to be here in person today I am pleased to present the Reports of the three sessions of the Finance Committee that have taken place since your session in May 2010. These Reports are submitted to the Council and a document reflecting the update of the state of contributions – the information has just been provided by the Chair – so I will not go into the details in my presentation just now.

While the 135th Session dealt with FAO issues the 133rd and 134th Sessions were special sessions convened to deal exclusively with WFP matters. Our Reports on these matters have been submitted to the WFP Executive Board for its consideration.

The item related to Audited Accounts of the Organization for 2008-09 biennium was withdrawn from the agenda of the 135th Session due to delay in finalization of the External Auditors' Reports accompanying his opinion issued on the financial statements for the period. They had been submitted by the Director-General to the External Auditor by 31 March 2010, in line with the relevant Financial Regulations, and I am pleased to inform you that the External Auditor has now completed his report and in line with the information provided to the Committee at its 134th Session the Reports and the

audited financial statements shall be sent to Committee members in December. The item in question shall be placed on the Committee's agenda at its next regular session in March 2011.

In reviewing the status of contributions and arrears as at 19 October 2010, the Committee welcomed the significant improvement in payments of contributions in arrears by Members and the Organization's improved cash position. It urged all Member Nations to make timely payments of Assessed Contributions to ensure that FAO could meet operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work, and the Chair just gave you an update on those numbers.

The Committee also agreed that the discount rates provided for in the Incentive Scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions towards 2011 contributions be set at 0.7 percent for US Dollars, and 0.1 percent for Euros for eligible Members.

The Committee noted its concern for the magnitude of the General Fund deficit expected to exceed USD 630 million by the end of 2010, which was increasing due to unbudgeted costs for After Service liabilities, and agreed to review the funding proposals in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.

It endorsed a proposal to restore the Special Reserve Account to its cash-backed value of transferring non-cash Euro to Dollar transactions differences directly to the General Fund, noting that the overall equity and cash reserves of the Organization would remain unchanged.

The Committee reviewed adjustments to the Programme of Work arising from further efficiency gains, one-time savings and work planning. It endorsed the forecasted chapter distributions of the 2010-11 budgetary appropriation arising from related initiatives and measures.

The Committee appreciated that the Secretariat expected to fully achieve the USD 22.8 million efficiency gains and one-time savings within the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11.

The Committee discussed the Annual Report on Support Cost Expenditure and Recoveries for the Period June 2009 through May 2010, and noted that the project support costs rates for the period under review were applied within the approved policy. With regard to the proposals for revision of FAO's support cost policy, the Committee did not receive the related document and will discuss this issue at its next regular session.

The Committee considered the financial plan 2010-11 and estimated financial requirements 2012-13 for the Immediate Plan of Action. In this context, it noted the anticipated 2010 expenditure of USD 16.8 million and forecasted shifts between projects against 2010-11 IPA budget of USD 39.6 million and looked forward to the Secretariat providing updated information on the preliminary 2012-13 estimates within the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 in early 2011.

The Committee requested that progress continue to be made in delivering against key human resources initiatives and activities included in the HR Strategic Framework and Action Plan 2010-11, and that information also be provided on the impact of these initiatives.

The Committee discussed the proposal to establish a single global Shared Services Centre, recalling that the initiative was linked to the ongoing efforts of the Organization to generate recurring efficiency savings as required by the 2009 Conference. It noted the review of the current Shared Services hubs and the proposal to consolidate back-office services in the Budapest centre.

The Committee took note of the additional information requested by its members and clarifications provided by the Secretariat which allowed for a more detailed technical understanding of the proposal. In this context, the Committee noted that the proposal was expected to result in biennial savings of USD 1.6 million, would allow for standardization of processes and economies of scale, and was in line with the approach taken by several comparable organizations in recent years, including the World Bank, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and WFP.

The Committee concluded that the proposal for the creation of a single Shared Services Centre, or the maintenance of the status quo, should be submitted to the Council for review and for decision after feedback on the matter from the Regional Conference of the Near East.

In reviewing the progress on implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the Committee supported the synergistic approach to upgrade the Organization's Enterprise Resource Planning system to Oracle Release 12 in parallel with the IPSAS project, which includes design of the new Field Solution to replace the existing Field Accounting System. It also requested that the estimated costs and proposed funding of the synergistic approach be presented to the Committee in early 2011.

The Committee considered Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) to be an important project, and commended the direction that the Secretariat had outlined for its introduction in FAO. It looked forward to receiving reports on progress of related implementation and results, as well as a plan for implementation of the institutional ERM in FAO.

The Committee underlined the importance of the timely implementation of the proposal submitted by the Secretariat on the terms of reference and composition of the Ethics Committee, as part of the IPA action matrix on ethics. It requested that a revised proposal, including adjustments suggested by the Committee, be submitted for consideration by the CCLM and the Finance Committee in 2011.

Having examined a study on language services and funding options, the Committee supported proposed measures for improvement of services, and looked forward to consideration of improvement measures in the light of quantified financial implications in the PWB 2012-13.

The Committee reviewed progress on establishment of a Financial Disclosure Programme for the Organization, and endorsed a proposed roadmap and timechart for its implementation, which includes a start and transition phase from December 2010 - February 2011, a pilot phase from March - July 2011, and a learning and roll-out phase from August - December 2011. The Committee stressed the need to draw upon the experience of other relevant organizations in order to assist in the efficient design of the programme, and welcomed the phased development and implementation of a system tailored to the needs of FAO, duly-reflecting all pertinent considerations.

The Committee approved its own Multi-Year Programme of Work for the period 2010-13 in line with the IPA, and this programme of work is presented in Annex II of the Report of the Committee's 135th Session for review by Council.

The Committee agreed that a Special Session dedicated to elements of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 within its mandate be held in early 2011, with the dates to be confirmed following consultation with the Chairperson.

Overall, the sessions of the Committee were very productive and, in particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization. On behalf of the members of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance in our deliberations and our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us this opportunity to further the important work of the Organization. I would be pleased to provide any further explanations you may have regarding our reports.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Vice-Président, de cette présentation à la fois complète et synthétique, d'autant plus qu'il y a près de 20 points sur lesquels vous avez travaillé et donc je vous propose de vous les mettre à discussion après quoi vous voudrez bien répondre si c'est nécessaire.

Mais je dois avant d'ouvrir la séance donner la parole à l'Uruguay qui l'avait demandé tout à l'heure alors que nous avions reporté son intervention. Ensuite j'ai la Jordanie, le Japon, le Gabon, le Mexique, la Norvège, la Thaïlande, la Tanzanie, les États-Unis, les Philippines, l'Afghanistan, le Brésil, le Canada, l'Union européenne, la Chine et le Sri Lanka.

Sra. Gabriela CHIFFLET (Uruguay)

Pedimos la palabra para intervenir en nombre de los 33 miembros del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Quisiera referirme en forma breve al tratamiento del tema Descentralización, Centros de Servicios Compartidos y papel de las Oficinas Regionales, tal como lo consigna el documento CL 140/21.

En primera instancia, el GRULAC ha apoyado en todo sus términos el consenso alcanzado sobre este tema por el Grupo de los 77, sobre el que más tarde su Presidente se referirá de forma más extensa. Sin embargo, el GRULAC quisiera reafirmar la posición asumida en las diversas reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta sobre la eficiencia de los órganos que no ha hecho más que reforzar lo adoptado por la 31.^a Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, donde se expresaba que para tomar una decisión con respecto del tema Descentralización era necesario contar con mayor información. Este criterio no es solamente compartido por otros Grupos Regionales sino que coincide en que, en cierta medida, parecería haberse puesto en entredicho el rol de las Conferencias Regionales como Órganos Rectores de la FAO, propendiéndose a que en otras instancias se promuevan decisiones que desconocen sus pronunciamientos. En razón de lo adelantado por el Sr. Ministro Gregolin, no repetiré los lineamientos que fijara la 31.^a Conferencia Regional de FAO realizada en Panamá en abril de este año.

Por último, pero no menos importante, la región a la que represento está siguiendo con particular atención esta temática y en estrecho diálogo con nuestras regiones, convencida de que será posible lograr un consenso necesario para tomar decisiones informadas y racionales sobre la cuestión.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Mr Chairman thank you very much. Could I give the floor to Jordan, and then please come back to me later. Thank you.

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

I would like to thank the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the exhaustive presentation he made on the various sessions of the Finance Committee, the 133rd, 134th Sessions and 135th Session. Actually the two first Sessions have already been discussed as part of the discussion on other agenda items. I shall therefore focus on the 135th Session of the Finance Committee. In order to be clear, I will start with the issue referred to by the distinguished delegate from Uruguay, namely the Shared Services Centre, the need to establish one in Santiago or Budapest. I am now speaking on behalf of the G77.

The G77 has tackled this issue with great care and throughout our discussion we sensed that a number of members, even those members of the Finance Committee, noted that there were some issues that were not crystal clear so far. Therefore, we cannot reach an informed decision on this issue. Indeed, we haven't received any exhaustive report on this issue so far. Therefore, we were not able to see the savings that would be achieved, and how such conclusions were reached in order to be take a decision on this matter. We were not able to see the future repercussions of this move because this shall terminate the work of around 24 staff members. However, we cannot think about this number as a slight number. This number of staff members should be taken into account bearing in mind the number of staff members in these three centres or offices. I shall read in English the statement of the G77.

As regards the consolidation of the Shared Service Hubs in Bangkok and Santiago into one global Shared Services Centre in Budapest and considering the conclusion of the Finance Committee to refer the matter to the Council for review and decision, the position of G77 plus the China Group is to defer judgement on this issue to subsequent sessions of the Governing Bodies pending: a) the unequivocal disclosure to Membership and Governing Bodies concerned of the review of the Report in full; b) giving due consideration to the clear position expressed in the Report of the Regional Conferences for Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific on the global Shared Services Centre, and that of the forthcoming Regional Conference of the Near-East; c) itemized breakdown of the estimated savings of USD 1.6 million per premium and arguments supporting the sustainability of such savings in the long run. This is the position of G77 in this regard, and I will submit it in writing to the Secretariat.

I shall now speak on behalf of Jordan concerning the report at hand. We do welcome the improvement of the financial situation of the Organization, and we do welcome the assessment of the improvement in the collection of contributions. I would like to focus on an important issue, namely the direct contributions of Member Nations, that is cash or in kind contributions given to Field Offices in the Organization. This has been referred to in the Report, and I support the reference to this contribution. I

urge Member Nations to further endorse the activities of the Organization through the support of the Field Offices in order to provide a good image of the work of this Organization. Furthermore, I would like to refer to what is contained in paragraph 9, namely the Incentive Scheme, that is, 0.7 per cent for dollars and 0.7 percent for the Euro contribution. Paragraph 13 refers to the need to take into account the deficit to be filled in the budget of 2011-13. As for the savings, I support what is contained in paragraph 24. We are seeking to achieve more efficiency and savings gains in order to achieve our goals. Since we are talking about the need to make savings within the framework of IPA, I believe that we have to refer to the TCP. We have already discussed this issue during the last session of the Council, and I believe that the money allocated to TCP is not enough. We believe that this issue should be discussed in an adequate way so that we can perform well and so that we can achieve the goals we seek in supporting the developing countries.

As regards human resources, I would like to emphasize what is contained in paragraph 82, namely to secure the recruitment of under-represented countries because we have to give more balance to representation of countries in the Secretariat.

I would like to express my concern as far as IPSAS implementation is concerned, given the fact that some organizations have already implemented those standards. WFP, for example, embarked upon the implementation of IPSAS in a successful way. However, our position is not quite clear. Indeed when the subject was discussed within the Finance Committee in connection with WFP, there was a reference to Oracle and to the need to move from one system to another. I believe there are still some vague issues that should be clarified and I believe that further progress should be made in order to implement IPSAS in line with what is implemented in other organizations.

Furthermore, as for the language services, I believe that we have noticed some improvement but nevertheless we do believe that there is room for progress since there is no balance between languages. For example, I opened the FAO site some days ago and I wasn't able to find a selection procedure or a Vacancy Announcement which was translated into Arabic. Staff members are encouraged to master English and French, in addition to Spanish. I believe that Arabic is one of the working languages of this Organization. It is one of the UN languages and, therefore, the Arabic language should be treated on equal footing with the rest of the languages. I believe that there are six official languages in the UN, and there shouldn't be any discrepancy or discrimination against any one of those languages.

As for the budget of the CFS, it is a highly important issue but no agreement has been reached concerning funding. We have said that 25 per cent of the budget shall be secured from WFP, 25 per cent from IFAD and 50 per cent from FAO. However, we haven't yet reached a consensus decision on this matter, but hopefully we shall do so in the near future.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation thanks the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for his presentation. I will focus my intervention on the report of 135th Session of the Finance Committee. We endorse the Report and take note of its recommendations. We are happy to learn that the improved cash position of the Organization due to the improved rate of payment of Assessed Contributions and the reduction of outstanding arrears. We support the Incentive Scheme to encourage prompt payment of contributions, with the understanding that this coverage is only symbolic.

With regard to the proposed consolidation of the Shared Services Centre, we align ourselves with statement made by Jordan on behalf of G77 and China, and the statement made by Uruguay on behalf of GRULAC. My delegation wishes to reiterate that in Reform of FAO, the Regional Conferences which are attended by Ministers, serve as Governing Bodies with decision-making power. We, therefore, regret and find it unacceptable that the positions taken by the four Regional Conferences, of which three were not satisfied with the proposal of the Global Shared Services centre, were not given due consideration. We also wish to recall that it was the 137th Session of the Council of last year which requested to have an in-depth study and analysis of the hubs in Santiago and Bangkok. We were surprised that the Finance Committee had only the summary of the Report in hand when they discussed this matter. The members of the Finance Committee themselves did not have access to the full Report of the review team. So, how can the review be transparent and consultative if Member

Nations do not have the opportunity to access the Report in full? We, therefore, insist that the Report in full of the review team be made available to Members as soon as possible for transparency, accountability and informed decision-making.

We reiterate the positions expressed by the APRC to maintain the status quo of the three existing hubs. As the hubs only began their operations in 2008, it is still premature to judge their effectiveness. Hence, it is unwise to reverse the position in a rush. Why close a hub that is serving the clients so well? On potential savings, staff cost differentials should not be the only consideration. We would like to see the comparison of unit cost per similar transaction in different hubs, as well as of overall operating costs in each hub. To address the concern of the African Regional Conference on sustainability, projection of the operating costs in the long term should be made, taking into account Hungary's accession into the Euro currency zone in the years to come.

In conclusion, we urge the Secretariat to give full consideration to the positions taken by the Regional Conferences on the Global Shared Services Centre, that the Report of the review be made available to Members in full, and that the operating cost of the Global Services Centre in Budapest be projected over the long term.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Tanzania delegation supports the statement made by Jordan, and endorses the Report of the 133rd Session of the Finance Committee.

We have noted the improved cash position of the Organization, and thank the Members for their timely payment of Assessed Contributions. This is a good indication of Members' determination to reform FAO. On the other hand, we should continuously be appraised on how the measures designed to improve payment of Assessed Contributions by Members have been influenced. The cash position being reported now we hope will, for the time being, dissuade the Organization from borrowing.

Nevertheless, we are very much concerned with the zero position of the Special Reserve Account and of increase in the General Fund deficit. The Special Reserve Account should be restored. The issue of under-budgeted costing for After Service liabilities was an area of concern during the PWB 2010-11 discussions. We hope this issue will be taken up seriously during the 2012-13 PWB. We agree with the Committee's observation regarding the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation. The transparency and accountability of funds' operations is essential. We look forward to a future annual report with detailed financial data on activities implemented through fairer contributions by concerned Member Nations.

We acknowledge Management's work towards achieving efficiency gains and one-time savings with the PWB 2010-11. We also appreciate the corporate innovative fund for efficiency and effectiveness. We reiterate our call that the inter-chapter transfers be well-coordinated to avoid negative impacts on programmes.

We note that the 2009 IPA Trust Fund will be fully-expanded to the respective projects in 2010. We thank all the donors who contributed to this Fund, and we look forward to receiving IPA estimates for 2012-13 PWB aligned to the Strategic Objectives of the FAO.

Regarding the proposal for creation of a single hub, we appreciate the reported facts by the study made by Management and, in particular, savings of USD 1.6 million which could be realized by transferring Bangkok and Santiago hub work to Budapest. In fact, the Africa Regional Conference had asked for a study on this issue. Nevertheless, we are now being informed by the Finance Committee of the divided opinion of the Members on this issue. Therefore, we hope to progress on this issue in the not-too-distant future. Let the study Report become available to Members. The Africa Group aligns itself with the assessment of the G77 on this matter.

We also appreciate the progress made for FAO to become IPSAS-compliant by 2012. Achieving this will need enhanced work in the human resources and decentralization projects. Regarding languages, we recognize the importance of multilingualism in the use of FAO languages, and the study being undertaken should critically balance the costs and the quality of translation. We argue that quality be given due consideration for that matter.

We also look forward for favourable consideration of G77 request to reduce the standard 13 percent PSCR rate on the activities relating to G77 Trust Fund, which is entirely and specifically used for capacity-building.

The Fund receives very negligible amounts of funds from a few donors, not enough to satisfy the desired programme. We therefore request exemption of this cost recovery, which is quite negligible.

We note the progress being made under Human Resources Strategy Framework, and the work is challenging, in view of the new working procedures underway.

We urge that deliberate actions be undertaken with regard to under-representation and over-representation of some countries in this Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous rappelle que pour ceux qui ont un texte écrit surtout s'il est assez long de bien vouloir le donner au Secrétariat qui le transmettra aux interprètes, ce qui facilitera la démarche de traduction.

Mr Satoshi TERAMURA (Japan)

First, Japan is very much afraid that the submission of the Audited Accounts in 2008-09 has not yet been received to date, in this November. Japan paid as much as USD 157 million in this term, and the lack of the Audited Report did not allow our Government to explain to our taxpayers whether these Assessed Contributions were legally-disbursed or not or to gain taxpayers' understanding for FAO's mandate. Japan wants the External Auditor and the Secretariat to do sincere soul-searching about this matter. Japan strongly requests the Secretariat to submit the Audited Accounts by this December. In terms of the Audited Accounts of the current biennium, they should be prepared by March 2012 in accordance with the FAO Financial Regulations.

Second, Japan very much appreciates the declining tendency of the outstanding arrears. The Japanese Government has been responding to early disbursement of Assessed Contributions since 2009 in order to assist the implementation of FAO Renewal. Therefore, Japan would also like to appeal to the Members with arrears to pay their outstanding contributions as soon as possible.

Third, with regards to the ASMC and TPF, Japan does not think it is necessary to fund in the next PWB more than the amount expected to be disbursed in 2012 and 2013. Reflecting on the strict financial situations caused by the recent monetary crisis that followed the economic and financial crisis of 2008, it is crucial to defer budgeting ASMC, SRA and TPF.

Fourth, Japan welcomes the expected achievement of further efficiency gains and one-time savings, and appreciates the periodic reports of the Secretariat to this effect.

Fifth, with regard to the Human Resources Strategy, Japan stresses the importance of geographical and gender balance, and points out that Members and the Secretariat should make further efforts to redress this serious under-representation.

The sixth point is regarding the single Shared Service Centre. Japan considers that the decision to consolidate the hubs in Santiago and Bangkok to Budapest for further cost-saving should be taken after examining its validity and effectiveness on the basis of an objective analysis and concrete figures. If the results of this analysis confirm its validity and substantial effect, Japan thinks it's appropriate to proceed with the consolidation process. On the other hand, we should bear in mind that it is necessary to take into account the risk of causing trouble by hastily proceeding with the consolidation process without a thorough investigation since this may result in increased costs for reopening the similar office in Bangkok or other area.

Japan still cannot decide whether the consolidation of the SSC would be appropriate or not, since this report and the document FC 125/11 does not specify the actual figures, including the impact to the duties of competent regions, transfer costs and so on. It would be appropriate to make the decisions in the next Council after the in-depth discussion in the next Finance Committee and the assessment of actual figures to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Seven, for further efficiency gains the introduction of IPSAS accompanied by the update of the IT System is essential. On the other hand, based on the budgetary principles efforts to identify for finding the resources from non-urgent objectives are necessary. We would like to discuss this issue carefully in the next session of the Council.

Eight, Japan very much appreciates the process of the Financial Disclosure Programme which was discussed in the last session of the Council and expects the Secretariat to make further efforts to roll out the programme in December 2011.

Lastly, Japan believes that the Whistleblower Policy is crucial to maintain a sound Management, and expects an early proposal by the Finance Committee and the CCLM.

Mr Saman UDAGEDARA (Sri Lanka)

Thank you, Mr Chair. My intervention is brief and limited to the discussions on SSC in the Report on the 135th Session. Sri Lanka aligns itself with the views expressed by Jordan on behalf of G77 and Thailand on the creation of a single Shared Services Centre. I would also like to recall the views expressed in the Report of the Project Review Committee (PRC) on SSC, which are quite explicit.

Thank you.

Sr Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

En primer lugar, quisiera agradecerle al Vice-presidente del Comité de Finanzas sobre su presentación que fue muy clara en todos los puntos importantes contenidos en este Informe.

En segundo, lugar mi delegación quisiera asociarse a la declaración formulada por Uruguay sobre el Grupo de los 77 con respecto a los Centros de Servicios Compartidos y quisiera agregar que, el estudio tal como lo acaba de mencionar la distinguida representante de Tailandia, tiene que ser de acuerdo al costo de cada operación administrativa que se va a realizar en cada uno de los Centros en este momento, con una proyección hacia los próximos años.

La decisión no puede ser cambiada cada dos o tres años, si no, hay que tomarla en el mediano y largo plazo. Sobre estos puntos, mi delegación quisiera tomar nota del mejoramiento de la situación financiera pero también tomar nota de que parecería que se consolida en el mediano plazo un déficit permanente con respecto a las contribuciones de los países.

Eso tiene que llevarnos en el mediano plazo a pensar a la formulación de un presupuesto que tenga un margen porcentual de reserva para prever que todos aquellos países que no han pagado y que no pueden pagar, o que no tienen la posibilidad de hacerlo en el mediano y largo plazo. De lo contrario estaríamos condenando a esta Organización a mantener un déficit permanente por la falta de pagos, o es un déficit permanente o es un incumplimiento de los programas que se le han fijado.

También quisiéramos señalar, que las nuevas cantidades que se manejan para el Programa de Acción Inmediato y para la Reforma que estaremos pendientes de la mayor información que se nos proporcione, no quisiéramos que la extensión de las cantidades significara retrasos en la aplicación de los programas. Lo veremos cuando tengamos mayor información y transmitiremos esta información a nuestra capital.

Igualmente mi delegación quisiera reiterar su petición a la Secretaría de formular políticas sobre el acceso de los documentos a los diversos países, una política que permite tomar las decisiones para una acción común y para aplicarlas a cada situación. Esta es una política general al cual todo el mundo se pueda referir y que sea de gran utilidad tanto a los Países Miembros como para la Secretaría.

Por último, quisiera reiterar la preocupación del Gobierno de México una vez más por la representación geográfica y de género. Mi Gobierno me ha señalado que subraye una vez más el hecho de que México continua siendo un país sub-representado de acuerdo a los márgenes un tanto generosos que existen en Organización.

Mr LI Zhengdong (China) (Original language Chinese)

Firstly, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the documents and we also wish to thank the Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his very comprehensive presentation. We are a member of the Finance Committee and we participated in discussions within that Committee. Now we have some comments to make with regard to the Shared Services Centre.

We support the statement made by Jordan on behalf of the G77 as well as the statement made by Thailand. We believe that the Secretariat should inform Member Nations in a faithful and reliable manner about the in-depth evaluation of the Centres, and also take into account the positions of the Regional Conferences. We also invite the Secretariat to supply to the Member Nations the results of the comparison of the efficiency of these three Centres, as well as a detailed list with regard to the envisaged cost savings of USD 1.6 million.

We also would like the Secretariat to supply us with the 2004 Reports proposing the establishment of these three Centres in order to facilitate debate by Member Nations.

With regard to staff recruitment and language problems, we support the statement made by Jordan, Mexico and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr Arne HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I want to thank the Finance Committee and the Vice-Chairman for the excellent presentation. By and large we support the recommendations of the Finance Committee, but I am just going to make a few remarks. The External Audit Report, how could the delay have taken place? I would like to have an explanation. Basically, this is a totally unacceptable situation and we have to make sure that there will not be a recurrence in the future. I am happy to hear that the Report is now on the table, but of course there is no chance for the Finance Committee or the Council to review it before the next meeting in April. This is very, very unfortunate.

Of course, there are some encouraging developments regarding the stated financial highlights and the current assessments. My delegation would appeal to all countries to pay their Assessed Contributions on time and without conditions. We have discussed earlier an Incentive Scheme for countries with arrears, and that is something that we probably should take up again. This is the same discussion that they have taken in the Fifth Committee in New York. So we can learn much from discussions taking place there, and their incentive is actually a down-payment plan, etc. etc.

We certainly support the Audit Report on the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation activities, and the Finance Committee recommendations. This should be much more of a financial report and not only a narrative one. So that Fund is very important, and serves as a safety net when contingencies arise. We would like to follow-up on the Audit and the Report from the Fund.

The implementation of a corporate human resources strategy is an item which is closely linked to the IPA and reform work. This is also one area where very good and measurable work has been performed since April. This is also the case with the PEMS, the performance-based management system that more than 90 percent of the employees have completed to define their position in the Organization if their work is linked to the strategic objectives, etc. etc. through the 360-degree multilateral rating system. So this is very, very good work and we appreciate it. When we discuss the IPA itself and the Report, we are going to make an intervention on how important it is to have measurable timelines, objectives and time-bound targets.

Again, we support the Finance Committee's recommendation on gender. It is a very, very important to the Organization that it has changed its target from 35% to 50% for Professional posts. That was a major and very important step aligning us with the rest of the UN System. We certainly have much to catch up on there, especially in the higher echelons. Geographical representation, yes this is absolutely important, but the main principle is and has to be competence and merit in the filling of every post in the Organization.

The Global Shared Services Centre has been the subject of much discussion during the last couple of hours and it is surprising. I think that the Finance Committee's recommendation and their explanation

for the recommendation is a very compelling one. It speaks very well for a Global Shared Service Centre in Budapest. We understand, of course, that it is the right of all the Regional Conferences to have a view on this, and we also have to wait for a final decision after the Regional Conference for the Middle East has voiced their opinion on the matter. But I think they already have today. But this is a problem and it has been mentioned in the debate on the Report of the Programme Committee. We have to make choices and we have to set priorities also in administrative matters like this. The Shared Services Centre in Budapest has worked very well. It will also work well for the Regional Office in Latin America and for Asia. I think what we have not actually seen actually is the opinion of those Regional Offices and the Country Offices in this discussion. So maybe we should ask them what they feel about it, and how important it is to them. Is it their priority too? Also, of course, the Secretariat itself has to have a clear opinion on this before we can initiate a discussion in April with a view to taking a decision on this matter.

For the internal oversight, it is a problem to have all the vacant posts in the internal audit. There must be a reason for that, and I wonder what it is. I certainly would like to hear what the Secretariat has to say about that, because this is not a situation that can go on for the Organization. It is such an important oversight function, and to have those posts filled is absolutely necessary for the continuation of this work.

I spoke about IPSAS this morning. It is high, high risk to link IPSAS to ERP. I am not saying that it should not be done, but we have to be fully aware of the risk of doing it. And I am again pointing to our friends next door in the World Food Programme and what are the costs in the long run, both in time and in money. IPSAS has got to be one of the first and highest priorities of the enterprise risk management system. Let us link it now, and let's keep it there.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

We would first like to thank the Secretariat for all three reports addressed here, which we can endorse en bloc. We also wish to commend Management and the Secretariat for improving the quality of the papers prepared for the sessions and the final reports. We also associate ourselves here with the comments made earlier by Japan and just now by Norway, regarding the importance of timely, audited reports. Broadly, we welcome the strong focus on transparency, as captured in discussions both at WFP and here at FAO in the Finance Committee, on disclosure reports, in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Chief Executive Board and with best practices across the UN System.

We strongly endorse WFP's efforts to develop an anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy. At FAO, we welcome moves to develop a Whistleblowers' Policy, a Financial Disclosure Policy and a strengthened focus on Ethics under a strong integrity framework. On the Financial Disclosure Policy at FAO, we urge, in strong terms, that this process be completed in a timely manner with the full commitment of Senior Management.

Also, we welcome FAO's efforts to uphold the commitment it has made to Members as well as to the Global Environment Fund with respect to basic requirements of fiduciary standards, which FAO has pledged to in the process of becoming an implementing agency for the GEF. As highlighted in paragraph 60 of CL 140/21, the Report on the 136th Session of the Finance Committee, we think a matrix capturing all these issues for Members is a very welcome and helpful move.

Likewise, the United States welcomes FAO's efforts to clarify its procurement policies and thanks Management for taking steps since the 135th Session of the Finance Committee to strengthen its procurement policies and transparently highlight those changes on its Website.

The United States delegation acknowledges the strong work underway by the procurement staff at FAO to ensure greater efficiency and cost savings. This applies likewise to very strong efforts made, referenced here in this Report of the 135th Finance Committee, regarding joint procurement efforts being undertaken by the three Rome-based Agencies. We will not comment on the additional important items addressed in these reports, such as Human Resources reforms at FAO, IPSAS implementation, financial highlights, but suffice it to say that we endorse the Reports and thank the Finance Committee Members and Council Members for their continuing work.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The European Union welcomes this excellent report of the Finance Committee.

Regarding the 133rd and 134th Sessions of the Finance Committee, the EU congratulates Management of WFP for the second successful year in producing financial statements that are compliant with IPSAS, and for its work regarding to the Financial Framework Review. We take note of WFP's intention to continue the dialogue with the Executive Board on financial and budgetary issues, including priority-setting.

Regarding the 135th Session, the European Union welcomes the fact that there will be a special session of the Finance Committee in February 2011 to deal with the PWB 2012-13, and urges timely and adequate information from the Secretariat especially on related costs for IPA, IPSAS and the CFS budget.

The EU welcomes the improved financial situation of FAO and calls upon Member States to continue timely payment of contributions and arrears. We call upon Management to keep measures to improve prompt payment of contributions and arrears by Member States under review and report thereon, in particular concerning the Incentive Scheme for prompt payment of contributions whose efficacy has been demonstrated.

We request Management to continue timely implementation of all human resources initiatives and activities, as outlined in the Human Resources Strategic Framework. In particular, the EU welcomes measures to reduce recruitment timeframes, stresses the primary importance of competence and merit according to the UN-Charter in selecting candidates, while curbing geographical and gender imbalances alike.

The EU expresses its concern regarding the fact that the new procedures require prior consultation with the Office of the Director-General on the recruitment of nationals from countries nearing the ceiling of their range. We share the concern of the Finance Committee that such a procedure causes delays in the selection timelines. In addition, the establishment of this new procedure is not very transparent. In this regard, we request Management to prepare a Disclosure Policy for documents and procedures, and report through the Finance Committee to the Council.

Finally, we welcome the proposals for the creation of a single Shared Services Centre in Budapest. As noted in the Report, this approach is very much in line with other organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, WHO, and WFP, and we find its rationale (including economies of scale and standardization of processes) is very well-demonstrated in the business case prepared and presented by the Secretariat. The EU recommends the inclusion of the proposal in the next Programme of Work and Budget.

Mr Romeo RECIDE (Philippines)

Philippines welcome the Reports of the last three sessions of the Finance Committee and we concur with previous interventions in the welcome development of improved financial procedures of the Organization. Having said that, and in the interest of time, let me focus on one specific issue, the Global Shared Services Centre.

For this, Philippines are speaking on behalf of the Asia Group. Many of the points that we wanted to say have already been articulated by speakers before us. Again, in the interest of time, we will not discuss them again in detail. We just wish to state that the Asia Group aligns itself with the position of G77 as articulated by Jordan, and discussed in more detail notably by Uruguay, Thailand and China.

Mr Chairman, the Asia Group reiterates its support for the retention of the three existing regional Shared Services Centres.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We wish to approve the three Reports of the Finance Committee, but we would also like to make the following three observations.

First, we note the agreement reached by the Finance Committee to fix the discount rate for the payments of legal contribution at 0.07 percent for USD and 0.1 percent for Euros if Members were to pay in full before 31 March. While there is merit in providing such an incentive, one has to take note that in the case of major donors, the application of these discount rates will be no means be a small sum.

My second comment is on arrears. I do not know how many countries are really in arrears. I hear different numbers, but from Appendix B of CL 140/LIM/1, counting the countries I came to a number of 66, which is close to 35 percent of the Membership. Of these 66, eight are high-income countries, 37 are middle-income countries and 21 are low-income countries. Now it is worth noting that the eight high-income countries account for 80.3 percent of the total arrears of USD 73.5 million and 93.6 percent of the total arrears of USD 56.6 million in Euros. The arrears shared by the 58 low-income and middle-income countries amount to USD 14.5 million and 3.6 million in Euros. It is worth noting that within this group, the 37 middle-income countries account for 85 percent of the arrears in USD and 65 percent of arrears in Euros. We hope that in the future Reports, the Finance Committee will look at the arrears on the basis of the low-, middle- and higher-income countries.

My third comment is about the Shared Services Centre. The G77 Chairperson has already spoken on this quite clearly. His comments were supplemented by Uruguay on the part of GRULAC, Thailand, Tanzania, Japan, Mexico and the Philippines on behalf of the Asian Group.

We wish to draw attention to the 137th Session of the Council which stated, and I quote, “any decision regarding the closure of the Shared Services Centre in Bangkok and Santiago must be proceeded by an in-depth study and analysis, taking into account both efficiency and effectiveness concerns. The Council looked forward to a transparent and consultative review and decision-making process based on such detailed information, including consultation with Regional Conferences as well as the Finance Committee”. It should be noted that the Council called for an in-depth study and analysis, and not for a review. It was to have a fresh look at the matter and examine carefully the incorporation of other criteria additional to cost-related factors, as requested by the Regional Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In paragraph 37 of CL 140/21 a reference is made to an Internal Survey of Clients from the locations without SSC hubs. We think that for the sake of credibility and confidence, the Client Survey should have been conducted jointly by the Professional and General Service Staff Associations. Moreover, for comparative analysis, the Survey should have also covered the clients of the hubs in Bangkok and Santiago.

The Report of the Finance Committee makes no reference to the observations expressed in the Reports of the four Regional Conferences under the Global Shared Services Centre. This is odd because all the four Regional Conferences were completed before the start of the 135th Session of the Finance Committee. Moreover, on 20 October, just five days before the Finance Committee Session, the Secretariat presented to the CoC-IEE the views expressed by the four Regional Conferences on the Global Shared Services Centre as part of the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices.

If the time zone consideration is no longer relevant, as mentioned in paragraph 38, then one could as well have the Global Shared Services Centre in Singapore, Budapest, Mumbai, Bangkok, Accra, Cairo, Santiago or Rio, or wherever.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

We welcome very much the Report of the Finance Committee Chair and we would also like to associate ourselves with the points made by Norway and the EU underlining the merit principle and the need to meet UN gender targets, as well as respect for diversity. We can endorse all the recommendations of the Finance Committee with just one question, and it is this hot topic of the Shared Services Centre.

We certainly agree that it is a matter for all to consider, but we are talking about internal service delivery. We are talking about back-room support services by FAO staff to FAO staff and, as such, I tend to wonder whether it is really up to the Governing Bodies to decide or if it should be left to Management. I have a fear that Governing Bodies are straying into micro-management, and perhaps we should simply be expressing our views, and then allowing Management to get on with what they need to do to meet the PWB targets.

I would like to turn to document CL 140/LIM/1. Mr Chair, in your opening comments you did indicate that in some ways the financial situation is improving, but I think if one looks at paragraph 3 of CL 140/LIM/1, and you compare where we are collectively with where we have been on the same date in other years it is hard to note progress. At least I don't detect any progress since 2006. Indeed, in terms of the number of countries that have partly paid or have made no payment, we are worse than in 2009 at this month, and we are roughly where we were at 2007, and this would suggest that neither the incentives to good behaviour nor the disincentives to bad behaviour have been adequate thus far. In this regard, we would like to endorse the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Incentive Scheme, at long last, apply a discount rate above zero.

Turning back CL 140/LIM/1, paragraph 5, we would like to note that the payment of contributions is the sole responsibility of individual Member Nations. Contributions are not assessed on a regional basis, and therefore should not be presented on a regional basis. We would ask that paragraph 5 and those charts not be used in any future report of this type, since they could be taken out of context and give our public false impressions. Again, countries are assessed on an individual basis and their performance should be reported on an individual basis. Neither Canada nor the UN System at large believes in collective guilt, and we would like that the spotlight shines squarely on the countries that are late or in arrears.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En esta oportunidad seré muy breve ya que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea expresar, por una parte el agradecimiento por los documentos entregados por el Comité de Finanzas y por la Secretaría, incluidos los documentos en el sitio Internet. Es importante que Venezuela pueda sostener las intervenciones que han hecho oradores anteriores y que reflejaron la posición que ha venido discutiendo tanto el GRULAC como el G77 respecto a temas fundamentales en materia de finanzas y, en particular, del Centro de Servicios Compartidos. De tal manera, estamos en acuerdo con las intervenciones realizadas por las Representaciones de Jordania, de Uruguay en nombre del G77 y del GRULAC, respectivamente, así como las realizadas por China, Tanzania, Tailandia, México, Filipinas y Afganistán.

Por otra parte, apoyamos las resoluciones aprobadas por las Conferencias de América Latina y el Caribe, de África y de Asia sobre los temas que nos corresponde debatir. Además ratificamos un señalamiento que hicimos en horas de la mañana con respecto al atraso de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, que se trata de su único atraso tal como lo expresa el documento. Quizá las razones que argumentábamos en ese momento sean válidas para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo que han sufrido de manera severa las consecuencias de las crisis financiera y económica, y que los compromisos adquiridos con la FAO, probablemente al igual que Venezuela, no han podido honrar hasta hoy. En el caso de Venezuela, agregaríamos ciertamente que si bien tenemos el atraso en el corriente año, no es menos cierto que Venezuela realiza ingentes esfuerzos para obtener recursos suficientes que le permitan cubrir sus compromisos en materia de cooperación Sur-Sur, bilaterales, trilaterales y situaciones en que los países, sea de la región o de cualquier otra parte del mundo, han requerido por esta vía nuestro apoyo y nuestro financiamiento, nuestro soporte humanitario y nuestro socorro.

De tal manera, permanentemente, día a día, con el agravante del cambio climático, de la recurrencia de este tipo de desastres naturales y de circunstancias parecidas hay que apoyar a los países en desarrollo cuando parte de su población queda en condiciones realmente inhumanas después de ser abatidos por cualquiera de estos desastres naturales. En definitiva, Venezuela sigue apoyando a los países del mundo en el combate al hambre y la pobreza, y para resolver las necesidades fundamentales de sus pueblos. En consecuencia, esta mañana señalábamos que este Consejo y este Comité de Finanzas

pudieran, en su momento, estudiar alternativas para permitir la posibilidad de otra forma de tratamiento en la entrega de recursos, o de cualquier otra vía posible de financiamiento que quizá estos países en desarrollo pudiéramos aportar a la FAO.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the Reports of the three Sessions of the Finance Committee, and takes note of their conclusions. Since the reports of the 133rd and 134th Sessions deal mainly with WFP and were already considered in its Executive Board, I will provide comments on the Report of the 135th Session only.

We commend the Secretariat for the efficiency and one-time savings expected amounting to USD 22.8 million for the biennium 2010-11. We also welcome FAO's improved cash position. We want to underscore the progress made towards the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) along with an upgrade to the Organization's digital accounting systems. We consider those to be important steps towards faster administrative procedures, greater transparency and accountability. As Jordan and others have said, we urge FAO to move faster regarding IPSAS implementation.

With respect to the proposal made by the Secretariat for closing down the Shared Services Centres of Santiago and Bangkok, about which there was no consensus in the Finance Committee, of course Brazil endorses what was said by the Chair of G77 and by Uruguay as the chair of GRULAC, as well as the same observations made by a number Member Nations.

Since we will need to wait for the result of that FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, we are not in a position to take a decision now on this issue. However, I would like to raise the following two points: first, it is clear as many have said, that we need a more thorough analysis about the need to change the functioning of the SSCs so early after they have begun their operation. We do know that the Santiago hub has achieved satisfactory results so far in advancing regional interests. Second, the proposal to close two of the SSCs seems to be in contradiction with the Decentralization Process determined by the IPA. The proposal approved by the FAO Conference was to have three hubs providing these Shared Services in order to better serve decentralized needs. The not so huge savings that the Secretariat claims would be made by closing two of the Centres need to be carefully considered against the loss of quality of services that could result.

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

The Russian Federation would like to express its gratitude for the very considerable amount of excellent work which is being done by the Finance Committee in the last reporting period. The fact that the situation regarding contributions has improved is obviously something that makes everybody very happy. I think that we're particularly happy about the fact that, at least for this period, there will be no external borrowing and, therefore, there will be no additional expenditure of budgetary resources.

We support other Member Nations paying their contributions on time, as was mentioned by many other speakers, and we would like, if possible, to get some additional information from the Secretariat as to how the new system for organizing and holding conferences has actually contributed to the improvement of the on-time payment of contributions, in other words, adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget in the middle of the year instead of at the end. Is that going to make a major contribution to the improvement of the situation with respect to the drawing-up of the budget of the Organization?

The Russian Federation welcomes any and all measures directed at improving the monitoring of expenditure, as well as financial reporting and auditing. We would hope that those measures would be aimed at adopting the system now in place at the United Nations. We support what is being done with respect to IPSAS because we are certain that it will improve financial reporting and accountability.

There is one point which I think was particularly and eloquently emphasized by the Representative of Jordan, and that regards human resources, and training of FAO staff. On this particular point, we support the appeal to respect geographical representation, a gender balance, etc., but of course it goes

without saying that we should give absolute priority to professionalism, skills and competence. Having said that, it is nevertheless extremely important for countries working in the Organization to have their nationals represented in the FAO Secretariat and at the regional level.

One of the most important issues I have to highlight is that of language. We understand each other even though we are speaking different languages. Our colleagues in our countries and those back home, receive information from FAO and apply it effectively only when it is actually provided in their mother tongue, or in at least one of the official languages of the United Nations. Here, I would like to say that the critical comments which have been made by the Finance Committee about the Secretariat when it comes to the bureaucratic nature of the procedures underway in hiring staff are absolutely correct, because sometimes candidatures for a post are considered for a period of ten months and sometimes even more. There appears to be an increasing tendency to hire consultants too, only from a limited group of countries and, as the Finance Committee has emphasized, it is basically ten-odd countries accounting for something like 80 percent, I think, of the total number of consultants hired by the Organization. As an example, let me say that training in the Russian language has already been going on for just over two years. Russia has made a voluntary contribution to that and yet the procedure is still not concluded. This is something which doesn't exactly make us very happy and we would like to ensure that FAO tries to get a bit closer to the norms and standards on these issues which are widely adopted and decreed in the UN System. We do not want there to be any particular waiver or exception granted to FAO on this point.

For the General Service staff, here again we would like to see the standards and guiding principles of the International Civil Service applied more accurately and more thoroughly.

In conclusion, we note with satisfaction the Finance Committee's reporting which, in our opinion, has considerably improved recently. If that continues, I am sure we can continue to expect the same kind of excellent results from them.

Mr Ngoni MASOKA (Zimbabwe)

First of all, I would like to thank the Finance Committee for a very detailed and a clear Report, and also the Vice-Chair for an excellent presentation.

The Zimbabwe delegation would like to endorse the position clearly delineated by the Chair of the G77, Jordan, regarding the Shared Services Centre. That view was also supported by other delegations that have taken the floor before me, particularly the delegations of Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Mexico, China, Afghanistan, Japan, Uruguay on behalf of the GRULAC, Venezuela, Brazil and the Philippines on behalf of the Asian Group.

That view concurs with the recommendation by the Africa Regional Conference that we await a report by the Finance Committee on the benefits of the proposal for Members to make an informed decision on the matter.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Allow me to make three very brief points. Firstly Australia supports the Reports. Secondly we would like to align our comments with those of Norway, Canada, the EU and the United States. The third point is that we were very pleased to see improvements in the cash situation for the FAO and in particular pleased to see the clearing of arrears placed by some Members of the South-West Pacific Region.

In this regard, I do want to respond to comments from my neighbour, Afghanistan, about classifying arrears according to income status of countries. To be honest, the income status of countries is actually already taken into account when setting the Scale of contributions, and I think it's very clear that all countries should be equally responsible for their financial contributions regardless of how large or how small they may be. Thank you.

Sra. Marisol PÉREZ (Chile)

Deseo agradecer el informe del Vice-presidente del Comité de Finanzas y referirme al Tema del Centro de Servicios Compartidos que ya ha sido referido por varias delegaciones. También deseo

unirme a la declaración del G-77 y de China y, por supuesto, a la declaración de Uruguay en nombre de los 33 países del GRULAC.

Mi país es el anfitrión de uno de estos Centros de Servicios Compartidos. Este tema fue discutido largamente en la Conferencia Regional de América Latina en la que usted también estuvo presente. A este respecto, quisiera referirme a tres puntos: (i) que se considere efectivamente por primera vez la opinión de las Conferencias Regionales en respecto de estos temas; (ii) que la Secretaría ponga a disposición de todos los Estados Miembros los informes de viabilidad de estos Centros de Servicios Compartidos y (iii) que se tome en cuenta la contribución que realizan los países anfitriones a la existencia de estos servicios.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Chairperson Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

First the Republic of Korea thanks the Secretariat for the Reports of the Sessions of the Finance Committee, and also the Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee for his presentation.

We support the Secretariat's initiative on gender balance in human resource strategy, and would like to encourage a similar effort in the matter of geographic representation.

On the issue of the Shared Services Centre, since I am attending this Council on behalf of the Chairperson of the APRC, I feel obliged to remind Council Members about the recommendations made on this issue at that Regional Conference. You already heard them yesterday. Ministers requested that the findings of the in-depth study of the functions of Bangkok and Santiago SSC hubs and of Regional Office administrative services in general undertaken in 2010 be provided in full to the Finance Committee and to all Member Nations. They also urged that the analysis of the SSC structure and functions be carried out in a deliberate manner and include criteria related to quality and effectiveness of services delivered, striking a balance with possible long-term cost savings. However, we found that the document provided at the 135th Session of the Finance Committee does not seem to include enough information and, therefore, fails to be a robust basis for taking a decision as regards the consolidation of the three Shared Service Centres.

In this sense, we would like to urge the Secretariat to provide Members, in particular, Finance Committee members, with additional information regarding efficiency savings and quality and effectiveness of services provided by the three Shared Services Centres so that Members can make an informed decision.

Lastly before I close, I must say that this is my first time at an FAO Council meeting. Before leaving the capital, I had been advised that the Council worked from 9.00am to 5.00pm sharp, but I came to know that it often worked into the night, putting the food security of participating delegations at risk.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Y a-t-il d'autres interventions de la part des membres du Conseil? Ce n'est pas le cas. Pas d'autres interventions?

Donc, je vais donner la parole au Vice-Président qui, avec le Secrétariat, a une lourde mission d'essayer de répondre à toutes ces questions, et après quoi on en tirera un esprit de conclusion pour le Rapport.

Merci. Monsieur le Vice-Président.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee)

Thank you, Members of the Council for your interventions. They shows that the Report and the advice of the Finance Committee is keenly followed and appreciated. There were over 20 interventions on this subject, so let us go for a record there. Keeping in mind the food security issue mentioned by our Korean colleague, I will be very brief because the majority of the questions are directed to the Secretariat.

I would like briefly to refer to two issues, the first one being the audited financial statements and the delay in their presentation before the Finance Committee. I assure you that we had a lively debate with the External Auditor in our 135th Session, and we insisted on a new deadline. We are happy that the External Auditor this time around adhered to this new deadline, and the Report will be available momentarily.

I also would like to refer to the fact that there is an existing Financial Regulation, a date for the Director-General to submit his unaudited report. On the other hand, there doesn't seem to be a similar obligation for the External Auditor. As you may have noticed in our Report on IPSAS and its progress, we have also inserted in setting a date for the External Auditor to submit his Reports in the Financial Regulations. So we took note of that situation, and tried to address it.

Finally, as regard the observations by our colleague from Afghanistan on the single Shared Services Centre and his question whether we included in our deliberations the observations made by the Regional Conferences, my only answer to that is that we had a very lively and vigorous discussion on technical aspects of the request, based on the information that we had received to date, and is what we focused on.

I would like to refer to the Secretariat for the rest of the detailed questions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je donne dans un premier temps la parole à Monsieur Juneja, et je pense que Monsieur Nelson complétera.

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

Thank you to all the delegations for their involvement in the discussions today. Let me take up the first instance the questions that were raised by several delegations on gender and geographic representation in FAO. The Programme of Work and Budget 2010- 11 and the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13, in fact, have clear targets in both of these areas which Management is expected to meet. More specifically, they can be found under Organizational Results Y 3.4 for Gender Representation, where the targets are split between Professional and Director-level and above positions, looking ahead both two years and four years, as well as, Organizational Result Y 3.5 which refers to the percentage number of Member Nations that are equitably represented, again with targets for two years and four years. I am pleased to say, in that respect, that we are on track to meet those targets. The new procedure that was referred to with regard to Member Nations that are close to exceeding the equitable representation range is needed in order for Management to take positive action to meet these corporate targets. We do not have any indications of delays as a result of the institution of this procedure.

Turning to another question on staff positions, Norway asked about the vacancy situation in the Office of the Inspector General. I am pleased to report in that regard that three current vacancies in AUD are, in fact, on the verge of being filled. With regard to the Whistleblower Policy, I can confirm that a policy will be available for perusal by the Finance Committee at its March 2011 Session. On Financial Disclosure, the Finance Committee discussed the matter at length as reported by the Vice-Chair. I am pleased to say that a roadmap has been agreed upon. Management is diligently following that roadmap for the piloting and full implementation of the policy by the end of 2011.

There were several interventions made with regard to the Incentive Scheme and Norway mentioned that we may have an opportunity here to learn from the UN System. In fact, this matter has been exhaustively reviewed and exhaustively discussed in the Finance Committee over the past ten years, and we have looked at all the mechanisms that are available at the UN and in other UN organizations to see what best practices or what successful practices we can pick up from other organizations. The matter continues to be on the Finance Committee agenda, and we will support that process actively.

Japan and others raised questions about the Special Reserve Account and funding needs, and After-Service Medical Coverage funding needs as well. I would just simply confirm that we shall be making some proposals in this regard in the context of the PWB 2012-13 - proposals which the

Programme and Finance Committees will review next March, and the Council will review in April 2011.

Now, I turn finally to the many interventions that were made with regard to the Shared Services Centre proposals. We spent most of the morning today talking about prioritization and budget stringency. It is in this context that Management continues to make the sorts of proposals that you have seen with regard to the proposed global hub. Such proposals are painful for Management to make. At the same, it is the duty of Management to make such proposals and to do so, as some of you have mentioned, in a socially-responsible way -- which has been our practice for the past two decades.

One area where there is usually consensus among Member Nations is where Management advises you that based on an internal study with the assistance of external experts, we can achieve both efficiency savings and make improvements in effectiveness in administrative areas of work. We have a track record in this regard. Since 1994, FAO has achieved in excess of USD 200 million a biennium in efficiency savings under the Regular Programme. These figures have been documented in papers to the Governing Bodies. Another aspect that has been documented is that with regard to the Shared Service Centre, with the Centre in Budapest and the two hubs in Santiago and Bangkok - we have documented savings in excess of USD 10 million per biennium. We, therefore, have a track record also specifically with regard to the proposals that have already been made in gradually migrating towards a Global Shared Services Centre hub.

This proposal was first noted over a year ago in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11. In fact, we were encouraged by the initial reaction given by the Finance Committee which in paragraph 70 of document CL 137/4 indicated that "the Committee welcomed the satisfactory progress on the SSC, and supported efforts by Management to seek further improvements in efficiency and effectiveness of these functions". We have since then meticulously followed the guidance given by the Council earlier this year and as summarized in the intervention made by Afghanistan. We have undertaken an in-depth study. A team of FAO staff members led by a Director-level staff member and aided also by an external expert visited Bangkok and Santiago to carry out this in-depth study. In fact, in order to ensure that effectiveness and qualitative considerations would also be taken into account, we extended this study to include the other Regional Offices, Accra and Cairo, in particular, which receive services from Budapest. I think the issue is perhaps with regard to the extent of detail that we have provided to the Membership, and I will touch upon that in a minute. But let me say before that, in response to an intervention made by Uruguay, that there is no intention whatsoever to undermine the advice of the Regional Conferences. In fact, China has mentioned that we should take into account the advice of the Regional Conferences. The Finance Committee in its Report has indicated that we should seek feedback from the Regional Conferences. This is exactly what we are doing, and the Report of the Finance Committee in paragraph 41 is actually quite clear in this regard in saying that the matter should be submitted to the Council for review and for decision after feedback on the matter from the Regional Conference of the Near East. So, it is really the feedback that Management is looking forward to receiving and, of course, we will take into account all the feedback received from all Regional Conferences in making this proposal. Of course, the proposal does not need a decision by the Council at this Session. The proposal will be submitted to the Finance Committee at its March 2011 Session and will be submitted for decision to the Council in April 2011. And we will do this also in the context of the PWB 2012-13 proposals.

There was a useful technical discussion on the documentation that was submitted to the Finance Committee in October on the SSC. I think the Vice-Chair referred to it as a lively discussion. An exhaustive list of questions were put to the Secretariat. In fact, exhaustive answers were given to the Members of the Finance Committee. When the Chair of the Finance Committee asked whether there were any unanswered questions, there were not any further requests for clarification. But what the discussion has indicated are clear pointers for additional information that Management needs to provide to you to assist the Council in taking this decision in April 2011.

There was a question raised about why such an internal matter - a matter of internal administration - needs the approval of the Council. The reason for this is that the proposed global Shared Services Centre amounts to a structural change in FAO. Two units, in Bangkok and in Santiago, would be

eliminated and because two units would be eliminated, this amounts to a structural change that requires approval by the Council. In comparison, there are internal changes that happen all the time which are not structural changes, and that do not require approval by the Council. For example, some years ago FAO established in Bangkok an offshore systems development and support centre of the CIO Division. During the present biennium, the number of employees in this offshore centre in Bangkok will grow substantially. It currently employs 26, employees and we are forecasting that it will expand to 47 employees by the end of 2011. The increase of 21 employees in this offshore centre does not require deliberation by the Council because it is not tantamount to any structural change.

To summarize on the information that will be provided: we will, of course, provide the level of detail that is consistent and comparable with the information provided, for example, in 2006 when the Centre in Budapest and the two hubs in Santiago and Bangkok were established. Incidentally, in response to the question raised by China, the document in question is document CL 131/18-Add. 1 and that document is available on the FAO Website. And, again to reconfirm, we will take into account the feedback that will be given by the Near East Regional Conference.

Mr Nicholas NELSON (Director and Treasurer Corporate Services and Finance Division)

I will take a few of the questions in the order that they came. First, the distinguished delegate of Jordan was remarking on the fact that some UN Organizations have already implemented the IPSAS standards. Yes, WFP was the first and has done that. I would simply like to recall what we said before and that is that UN System entities have a wide variety of operating characteristics and business models and, for that reason, more than 25 entities in the UN System are following different timeframes for their respective implementation.

The distinguished delegate of Japan mentioned After-Service medical coverage and the necessary funding, that it should be restricted to what is required to be paid in 2012 and 2013, as far as a proposal. As Manoj has mentioned, the Secretariat will, of course, again present full information on the necessary funding to cover these unbudgeted liabilities.

As has been recommended by the Council itself for the last several years, in November 2005 I remember that instruction for the Finance Committee, the External Auditor, the Advisory Committee on Investments and other parties. Therefore, this information will once again be available for the Membership's consideration and decision in 2011.

I am very grateful for the comments by the distinguished delegate of Norway regarding IPSAS and the need to be fully aware of the risks of carrying out that major project in parallel with an important upgrade of the ERP. For that reason, as we reported to the Finance Committee, the Organization is facing some obligatory timeframes for both of those projects and is putting in place a more robust structure to deal with that from an overarching point of view - an ERP programme management, a board, a project manager and other features - to pull together these two projects and, potentially, the travel project, to make sure that we achieve those synergies and rationalization of effort.

You will notice in the Finance Committee's Report, paragraph 43 does make reference to another of your points, and that is the need to re-evaluate the costs with the synergies factored in and the prioritization within the main source of funding, which will be the Capital Expenditure Facility. I am very glad again for your reference to the high priority needed for IPSAS, which is also mentioned by the Finance Committee in paragraph 43.

The distinguished delegate of Afghanistan was referring to arrears and the difficulty of understanding the position of arrears. Document CL 140/LIM/1, Appendix C, gives a breakdown by country of the exact arrears situation. I would like to highlight the very good news on the arrears panorama. USD 18 million approximately is the lowest point in decades for this Organization. There has been a very good development in the last two years of countries paying, and I am very glad to report that a country which is at the top of this list, Chile, paid more than USD 1.5 million in the last couple of days and extinguished its arrears in full.

The distinguished delegate of Canada was remarking on paragraph 3 of CL 140/LIM/1 about the number of countries in arrears positions or having paid hardly changed since 2006. That is as reported

there. I would simply remark that the mix of countries can definitely change, and therefore the amount that is owed by each country is really the factor to bear in mind. I really take your point about the presentation on the regional outstandings. We will certainly reassess this presentation.

The last query, Chair, was from the distinguished delegate of the Russian Federation who asked whether the different timing for the budget approval will make or has made changes in the pattern of collection of assessments. This will be the first time that we will have an approved budget in June and this will allow earlier issuance of invoices, of course, to the Member Nations. Whether this will have an impact on the timing of payments will become clearer in the course of the biennium. I, of course, would stress that the timing of payments by Members remains very sensitive because the Regular Programme spends at a rate of more than USD 45 million per month.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie le Secrétariat et aussi le Vice-Président pour leurs commentaires suite à vos différentes interventions, plus d'une vingtaine, ce qui montre, et c'est tout à fait normal, tout l'intérêt que vous portez à la marche financière de notre Organisation. J'en profite aussi pour remercier tous les membres du Comité financier pour leur travail assidu sur ces sujets.

Je vais essayer de tirer des conclusions qui serviront à préparer le Rapport. J'ai essayé de faire le plus court possible, mais il reste quand même un peu long. Je vous le lis le plus lentement possible.

Le Conseil approuve les trois Rapports du Comité financier, le dernier ayant fait l'objet d'une discussion substantielle qui a mis en évidence les recommandations suivantes:

tout en saluant les progrès sensibles dans le règlement des contributions, il a exhorté les États Membres à s'acquitter pleinement et ponctuellement de leurs contributions pour pouvoir financer le Programme de travail de la FAO;

les ajustements apportés au Programme de travail découlant des gains d'efficacité supplémentaires d'économie ponctuelle et de planification du travail;

le plan financier 2010-11 et le besoin financier estimatif 2012-13 pour le PAI ont été notés, et des estimations actualisées sont attendues dans le contexte du PTB 2012-13;

la poursuite des progrès dans la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie de gestion des ressources humaines à l'échelle de l'Organisation;

la proposition de création d'un Centre de services communs unique où le maintien du status quo sera examiné par le Conseil après la tenue de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, et sur la base d'un complément d'informations contenu dans les études effectuées par la Direction;

soutien préconisé à l'approche en ce qui concerne le déploiement de IPSAS, norme comptable internationale pour le secteur public, mais aussi un rapport sur les progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne le cadre de gestion des risques de l'Organisation est prévu pour la prochaine session du Comité;

une proposition révisée sur le mandat et la composition du Comité de l'éthique sont également attendues pour examen par le Comité et le CCLM en 2011;

le soutien aux mesures d'amélioration des services linguistiques pour accroître la qualité de la traduction et de l'interprétation dans les langues de la FAO;

approbation de l'échéancier pour la mise en œuvre du programme relatif et la déclaration des situations financières; et

adoption par le Comité de son Programme pluriannuel 2010-13, adoption dont le Conseil se félicite.

Voilà les dix points dans lesquels j'ai essayé de rassembler tout ce qui a été dit, après approbation bien entendu des trois rapports.

Je vous propose donc cette conclusion et je clos le Point 5 de l'Ordre du jour.

VI. Governance Matters

VI. Questions relatives à la gouvernance

VI. Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza

11. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 140/14)

11. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (CL 140/14)

11. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 140/14)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme convenu, nous allons commencer notre après-midi puisque nous avons fini l'Ordre du jour qui était prévu pour ce matin, mais ce n'est pas grave, on va continuer nos travaux, j'espère dans les presque trois heures qui nous sont encore imparties.

Nous allons passer au Point 11 de l'Ordre du jour, le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI). Ceci est dans le document portant la référence CL 140/14 et je salue les deux Vice-Présidents, s'ils veulent bien venir me rejoindre s'ils sont là: son Excellence Madame Agnès Van Ardenne et Son Excellence Monsieur Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa. S'ils ne sont là, je présiderai tout seul.

Le Rapport présente les progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre du PAI. Les activités réalisées ont été examinées au cours de deux réunions du Comité de la Conférence en juin et en octobre 2010. Elles ont aussi été discutées par les Comités financiers et du programme en octobre dernier.

J'invite Monsieur David Benfield, Directeur de l'Unité de gestion du programme, à introduire le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du PAI.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, IPA Programme Management Unit)

The Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Chairperson of the Programme Committee have briefed you on the discussions that took place in the sessions of the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees held since May of this year, relating to progress on substantive areas of IPA activity that fall within their respective areas of mandate.

This is in line with the decision taken in the 36th Session of Conference in November 2009 that the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters will provide specific inputs on IPA matters within their respective mandates to Council. The Conference also requested Council to monitor progress in implementation of the IPA, receiving progress reports from Management.

This Progress Report therefore does not repeat the information provided on the substantive items that were discussed in the Programme and Finance Committees, nor the more detailed information provided to the CoC-IEE in its June and October 2010 Sessions, but addresses progress with the IPA implementation as a whole. It provides updates on specific items, as requested of Management in recent sessions of the Council.

At its 137th Session (September-October 2009), the Council requested an analysis of the impacts of the reform actions and at the CoC-IEE meeting in June 2010, Management was asked to provide a more qualitative analysis of the IPA programme. In response to these requests, an overarching statement of IPA reform benefits was developed, and this appears as paragraph 4 of the Report to Council.

The Report to Council highlights how this overarching statement is linked to the six thematic areas contained in the high-level framework of the IPA programme, and provides for each of these thematic areas the breakdown to the major IPA Actions showing clearly the linkages existing between each action, and the associated benefits that they are to deliver. The Progress Report also highlights the

major achievements of IPA implementation that have occurred since the May 2010 Council sessions, indicating good overall progress in implementation for the period May through to October 2010. This benefit analysis is elaborated in Section II of the Progress Report, together with the description of the major achievements for the period, and is summarised through the charts that are included at Annex I of the Report.

In addition to providing this qualitative analysis and in response to the requests from Members of the CoC-IEE in October 2010, Management has undertaken to provide a more quantitative analysis of the status of IPA implementation in the Annual Report for 2010, that will be presented to the CoC-IEE at its first meeting in 2011.

As requested in the last Council Session, this Report to Council provides an update on the results of the Risk-Assessment that was undertaken of this major change programme which identified the risks and developed mitigating actions to ensure that the Organization achieves the benefits of Reform.

In addition to the risks identified for each IPA project, recommendations were made to strengthen the internal governance of the IPA Programme and, following receipt of this Report, the Director-General has put into effect revised arrangements to improve internal IPA programme governance effectiveness and to strengthen IPA programme management and accountability. This is elaborated in Section IV of the Progress Report.

As indicated in the Report from the Finance Committee, the 2009 IPA Trust Fund balance of USD 3.08 million will be entirely spent by the end of 2010, by when it is also anticipated that IPA expenditure will reach USD 16.8 million against the 2010-11 biennium appropriation of USD 39.6 million. The Finance Committee welcomed the confirmation that all IPA-related funding in 2010-11 will be used exclusively for the IPA project, and that any unspent 2010-11 IPA funds, if any, will be carried-over into 2012-13.

The Finance Committee also noted that the 2012-13 IPA resources will be linked in the PWB, allowing for a full integration of IPA activities in the results framework, and noted that the estimates of USD 39.5 million for 2012-13 will be fully elaborated at the Special Session of the Finance Committee in February 2011, in the context of the 2012-13 PWB preparation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Benfield pour cette présentation. Vous avez déjà eu l'occasion de présenter dans les différentes réunions de petites choses qui se rajoutent, c'est un mouvement continu. Donc, je vous remercie. C'est intéressant de suivre au fur et à mesure, les progressions. Bien, je donne la parole à L'Union européenne et aux États-Unis d'Amérique. On va commencer comme ça. L'Union européenne, vous avez la parole.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU appreciates the information provided in the Progress Report on the Immediate Plan of Action Implementation. Much has been achieved by the FAO Secretariat jointly with the Member States, such as in the field of Human Resources and the results-based budget process. However, on the basis of the document, it is not clear whether the Reform activities are on track or not, and what are the outstanding issues. There is a need to agree on a standard reporting format for the remaining period of the IPA implementation, on the basis of some clear benchmarking. A Report with clear information as to what has been finalized, what remains, reasons for delay and plans to deal with obstacles would be very useful. The information provided should also allow Member States to track both qualitative as quantitative progress on the longer-term perspective. Therefore, the EU looks forward to a better elaboration of the provided information, on the basis of the input of the IPA Project Team Leaders, within the annual report for 2010 implementation to be first presented at the CoC-IEE meeting in February 2011. The EU also looks forward to the discussion in the Finance Committee on IPA-issues in the PWB 2012-13.

The EU underlines the importance to make progress on results-based planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. Linked to this is the need of a better prioritization of activities, done in a transparent way and with the involvement of all Member States.

The present PWB is organized along strategic and functional objectives but the role of the Strategy Teams in the implementation and monitoring of the PWB needs to be strengthened with the aim of a fully results-based management of the PWB.

The EU welcomes the initiatives taken by Management to undertake a Risk Assessment of the IPA. The main message of the Risk Assessment is that it “revealed gaps in the Management control of the IPA which prevent FAO from achieving the aspirations of the reforms, and damage FAO’s normal operation in the execution of the PWB”. The EU agrees and urges for the early implementation of the different actions proposed in the Risk Assessment Report, namely: strengthening IPA programme-level governance, including an IPA Programme Board; establishing an IPA programme management function; controlling and monitoring IPA inter-dependencies; producing an aggregate implementation strategy, and ensuring more effective and more dedicated IPA project management.

The EU welcomes the immediate action taken by the Director-General to improve IPA governance effectiveness based on these recommendations, and looks forward to a further elaboration of this in the next Progress Report.

As far as Culture Change is concerned, the following risks are mentioned in the risk assessment: no clear statement of deliverables and benefits; no measurable indicators of success; lack of focus, spreading efforts too thinly, and lack of effective senior sponsorship. The EU emphasizes the importance of a real Culture Change in the Organization, and welcomes the new initiatives that are envisaged by Management such as the development of a series of workshops to facilitate Culture Change among Senior Management and to provide support to the local Cultural Change Teams which have been put in place. The EU will continue to follow-up closely, and would like to be further informed about how FAO Management is going to address those risks.

On Decentralization, the EU wants to emphasize the importance of the request made by Members States to Management at the October Session of the CoC-IEE as well as in the October Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to prepare a Vision Document on the Decentralized Offices-Network, including proposals to enhance their role and capacity to effectively function as one Organization. The EU looks forward to this vital Vision Document in order to move swiftly ahead.

Besides the previously-mentioned proposals for FAO internal management of the IPA, the EU considers it important to look at the ways how to best organize IPA governance by the Governing Bodies of FAO. Indeed, after the June Conference, a handing over to the normal Governing Bodies is foreseen. The main responsibility for the follow-up will then rest with the Council, with technical advice from the Programme and Finance Committees.

Therefore, the EU is of the view that the CoC-IEE Report to the June Conference should include: the work done by the CoC in the 1.5 years; a hand-over strategy to regular Governing Bodies, and a reporting format for the remaining 6 years.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The United States of America thanks the Secretariat for the Report on Progress of the IPA. We would like to support the comments and the recommendations outlined by our colleague from the European Union.

The United States of America remains deeply-committed to the ongoing efforts to revitalize FAO, as encapsulated in the negotiated and fully-funded Immediate Plan of Action.

We understand the major challenges associated with implementation of this ambitious Plan, but we recall our overall aim as captured in the instructions to the IEE team in its terms of reference “make FAO fit for the Twenty-first Century and the challenges ahead”. Broadly speaking, we believe that IPA implementation is moving in the right direction. However, we will all need to help sustain the

necessary motivation and momentum to carry this project through to completion within the five years agreed to by FAO Members at the last Conference.

It is imperative that IPA implementation should show positive, quantifiable results. We look forward to the Secretariat's Report quantifying the impact of IPA implementation at the February meeting of the CoC-IEE. We expect this Report to give the Committee and the Membership a better understanding of the status of the Implementation of the IPA.

In addition, we look forward to a more detailed explanation of the costs of implementation of the IPA to the 2012-13 biennial budget, namely, what are the new IPA implementation initiatives proposed for the biennium that will cost USD 15 million? We note that the IPA costs for 2012-13 are nearly equal to the 2010-11 costs. Does the Secretariat envision a point in which the overall cost of implementation of the IPA will decrease, even factoring in the recurrent costs? We look forward to receiving this information at the next Session of the Finance Committee.

In addition, we welcome the move to assess risk associated with the Reform Process as part of the broader Enterprise Risk Management exercise.

We also wish to raise our concerns related to the report of the 135th Session of the Finance Committee which notes in paragraph 26 that major cost variations are foreseen between IPA projects in 2010-11. We request clarity as what would constitute these cost variations?

Finally, we would like to emphasize the need for full integration of IPA activities in the results framework, which is also included in the Report of the Finance Committee.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am looking at this Report from the progress made from the 139th Session till now. I only see the following progress:

One, the preparation of the overarching statement of the IPA;

Two, the completion of PEMS, Performance Evaluation Management System and its testing;

Three, with respect to the "Functioning as One," the comprehensive Vision Document on Decentralization is still awaited;

Four, with respect to human resources, the progress made on the Junior Professional Programme, the finalization of the Guidelines on Staff Rotation, the implementation of Revised Selection Procedures with special attention to gender and geographic distribution and the pilot's release of the dashboard, is welcome;

Five, on the Reform of Administration and Management System, we note the progress made in IPSAS, and note this confirmation by the Finance Committee. However, no mention is made about the progress on common procurement among the three Rome-based Agencies. In this connection, IFAD's Management is presenting a document on Common Procurement to its Executive Board in December, in which a common procurement in 2010 is estimated to be USD 28.48 million. Can the Secretariat please elaborate on this?

Six, we see that the leadership of Culture Change has passed to Mr Ghanem and the creation of the four Working Groups.

Finally, in Section 6 of the document, the cost estimates are shown in total and not by individual IPA projects. In the recent submission to the CoC there were wide differences in the implementation rate of different projects as related to Information Technology, that is Project 11 b) and Human Resources, Project 14. We wonder what the situation is now?

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En primer lugar quiero agradecer la información que nos ha proporcionado el Secretariado sobre la aplicación del PIA. Después de la última reunión del Comité en la Conferencia, se hicieron varios señalamientos, que en esta ocasión el Secretariado, con las diferentes medidas que ha tomado, ha tratado de atender.

Nosotros vamos a estar muy atentos en el tema del presupuesto para la Reforma y pensamos que la Reforma no debe arrastrarse. Queremos una Reforma pronta, eficiente y efectiva. Es la mejor manera de fortalecer a la Organización y estaremos muy atentos a los detalles que nos den sobre las nuevas iniciativas. Estimamos y estamos convencidos que en la manera en que se cumpla con el calendario aprobado en el Plan Inmediato de Acción, es la mejor manera de fortalecer la Organización, su capacidad y su credibilidad de atender los desafíos que se le han presentado.

Señor Presidente, como dijo mi Embajador en el debate del tema anterior, esperaremos detalles específicos sobre la propuesta de presupuesto en un marco en el que nosotros veríamos lo mejor, implementar lo más rápido posible, la Reforma sin arrastrar su cumplimiento.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

We thank the Secretariat for the progress Report on the IPA Implementation. We also thank Mr Benfield for his explanations which are very helpful. It is our view that we should discuss the state of IPA Implementation based on a Progress Report that should give clear, precise and easily-accessible information on that state of implementation, both quantitatively and qualitatively. However, as the point was made by a number of delegations that preceded me, the document CL 140/14 entitled "Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report" needs to be improved to be the kind of Progress Report as we need.

As was the consensus view of the Member Nations, when a similar version of this Report was discussed in the CoC-IEE, reframing the IPA in a resource framework is only useful when a more complete assessment of what was achieved and what was not achieved with respect to those results is included in the charts. On the other hand, an Annex detailing the progress made quantitatively on each of the IPA actions was submitted to the CoC-IEE, but is unfortunately absent from the document presented to this Council.

To be sure, the Report we have before us does include information on some of the progress achieved in the reporting period, but the goals of having a results-based framework for the IPA ought to have qualitative information on the whole picture of IPA implementation, and not only for a single reporting period, and should also list the actual benefits achieved or not achieved, and not only the desired theoretical benefits.

All Member Nations and the Secretariat have devoted a lot of time and effort in the design and approval of the FAO Reform. We remain committed to make the Reform a reality. We look forward to a new Report that should highlight the progress in mainstreaming the IPA actions and decisions in the day-to-day work of this Organization.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

First of all, I would like to join the others to thank Mr Benfield for the presentation of the IPA Implementation Progress Report. My comment would be on the six thematic areas of FAO Reform and I think that these give a good insight into the various areas of Reform.

At this point I would also like to join the European Union and the United States regarding the future. I think it would be interesting and it would help if we could see the future plan and future initiatives, not only for the biennium but also taking into consideration the short-term plan, because in June the Secretariat will certainly be presenting another IPA Progress Report. So it might be interesting to know what are the initiatives that you are planning for the next six months with regard to the Reform?

I am particularly interested in human resources and Culture Change. Yes, we have seen the achievements, but it might be interesting also to know the difficulties, because these changes are not taking place without difficulties in our Organization.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Tanzania delegation suggest, that the IPA Progress Report should also include the lessons learned in the course of implementing the IPA, as well as challenges encountered, so that we know actually what is taking place.

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

We are challenged in reporting on the IPA by the fact that information on progress on the IPA is provided in many fora. For example, the Finance Committee considers in great detail the progress on the Human Resources Plan of Action, which includes many items that can be traced to the IPA itself. The Programme Committee, as you've heard today, discusses in considerable detail the implementation of results-based management, to give an example. The Joint Meeting talked about resource mobilization and also the decentralization of the TCP, while the CoC has a unique mandate to look at some cross-cutting issues such as Risk-Assessment and Culture Change. Of course, the challenge we face, as David also indicated with regard to the Annual Report on the Progress of the IPA, is to somehow bring together, for this Annual Report, the qualitative and quantitative information on progress and to do so in a succinct way. I emphasize this because some guidance has also been given by the Membership through the CoC-IEE that we cannot provide excessive information which then is very difficult for many delegations to digest.

Looking ahead, the European Union provided some ideas on the sorts of things that could be covered in the eventual CoC Report to the Conference, including the modalities for IPA governance after the Conference. I wanted to mention, in this regard, that an outline of the CoC-IEE Report is being prepared. It is just a skeleton at this stage, but through the Bureau of the CoC-IEE, it will be subject of discussion by the CoC-IEE in February 2011.

Similarly, I want to confirm that, indeed, we will provide greater detail on the project by project cost estimates to the Special Session of the Finance Committee in early 2011 - both the cost estimates for 2012-13, as well as the expenditures incurred to-date, so that, as per the Finance Committee mandate, they can provide their expert advice to the Council.

Finally, on Decentralization, I just want to clarify what Mr He said earlier today and yesterday as well, which is that we anticipate, as the Joint Meeting had indicated, a single document that would cover the vision on Decentralization and other aspects to be presented both to the CoC-IEE early next year, as well as to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, IPA Programme Management Unit)

The number of points that were made by various delegates and, in particular, we take on board the issue raised that was perhaps moving into the qualitative analysis and looking at the benefits. We failed in this last Report to provide enough quantitative information at a summary level to enable Members to really understand where we are quantitatively in terms of progress. Clearly, we were responding to requests from Council and from CoC-IEE, and we need to provide a better balance between these two specific ways of looking at the programme in our next Report, which will be an Annual Report for 2010.

It sometimes is challenging because we still have 150 actions within the 2010-11 Programme, and clearly simply reporting quantitatively on all 150 does not give Members an accurate position of where we are at because there are too many, although I appreciate the views that were expressed by Brazil that we have previously provided that sort of information in an Annex and it was noted that it was not available in the last Report.

Questions or issues raised by the European Union were very helpful in terms of providing more information about the Management control initiatives that have been implemented following Risk Assessment. Certainly, we can update Members in terms of the IPA Programme Board, which was established after the Risk Assessment and also the Programme Management Unit.

In terms of further information on how FAO will address the risks, we did raise this in the last meeting in the CoC-IEE, in which we stated that at that point in time we had just received the Risk Assessment Report and that we would be providing in the Annual Report an analysis of all of the major risks. The risks were rated by the Risk Assessment Report, and we did say that we would provide an analysis of all of those major risks and the mitigating actions that Management will, or has, taken to address those risks.

I take note, also, of the points made regarding further information on the work of the Joint Procurement Unit. Clearly, that is something which is of huge benefit to all three organizations. We will include statements regarding the progress, and how it impacts FAO in our end-of-year report.

In terms of the document that is being discussed by the Governing Body in IFAD, that was a joint document that was cleared and agreed by all of the three participating Agencies.

So I think we take some feedback from you in the terms of the way you would like to see the next Report structured. You have requested further information in terms of the quantity of aspects suitably summarized so that Members get, in a succinct way, a view of the progress that has been made in 2010, together with more information on some of the financial details as required by the United States of America which, obviously we will provide for the first session of the CoC-IEE in early 2011, and also for the first meeting of the Finance Committee.

LE PRESIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Benfield, et merci de cette présentation et de ces compléments d'information de Monsieur Juneja et de vous-même. Je vous propose pour tirer une conclusion de ce travail présenté et pour continuer dans l'activité puisque nous sommes dans le cadre de l'évaluation et d'un travail continu de vous proposer les conclusions suivantes: le Conseil a pris note des informations utiles fournies dans le Rapport sur les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du PAI, ainsi que les propositions faites concernant la présentation des prochains rapports, c'est le premier point.

Deuxième point, le Conseil note en particulier que la mise en œuvre continue de progresser dans les six domaines thématiques du PAI de façon satisfaisante, et que des bénéfices tangibles commencent à se faire sentir.

Troisième point, le Conseil note les résultats de l'évaluation des risques liés à l'exécution du PAI et les mesures correctives prises pour améliorer sa gouvernance et l'efficacité de sa gestion et sa supervision. Le Conseil note enfin les informations fournies concernant les dépenses afférentes au PAI en 2010, ainsi que la première estimation des dépenses requises au titre du programme d'exécution du PAI en 2012-13, en plus de la confirmation que l'ensemble de la dotation budgétaire et des coûts et économie pour 2011 restera au niveau de l'ouverture des crédits approuvés.

Dernier point: des informations complémentaires à ce sujet sont attendues pour les prochaines sessions du Comité financier et du CoC-IEE. Voilà le cadre dans lequel je vous propose de préparer la conclusion pour ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

10. Multi-year Programme of Work of the Council (CL 140/18)

10. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil (CL 140/18)

10. Programa plurianual de trabajo del Consejo (CL 140/18)

LE PRESIDENT

Je vous rappelle que le Programme de travail pluriannuel 2010-13, document CL140/18 est le fruit d'un travail approfondi par les membres lors de séminaires informels et qu'il fait suite, comme cela a été réalisé dans les Comités, au travail qui doit se faire une fois par exercice biennal. Nous sommes invités à examiner ce projet, qui est donc comme je le disais, l'objet d'un travail commun, mais aussi de l'amender si nécessaire pour en approuver son contenu.

Juste un commentaire sur l'ensemble de ce Programme de travail pluriannuel: dans le point 1, nous rappelons les objectifs généraux du Conseil, sans écrire à nouveau les Textes fondamentaux mais en faisant référence en particulier à la Résolution 8/2009 de la Conférence. Ensuite, nous présentons les différents résultats que nous devons engager en sept points: la définition des stratégies, des priorités et planification du budget, le suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance, l'exercice des fonctions de supervision, le suivi de la mise en œuvre du PAI et des prochaines étapes du processus de la Réforme, le suivi des résultats obtenus par la direction et enfin, la planification des activités et méthodes de travail.

Tout ceci a été étudié dans chacun des points avec les résultats à obtenir: les indicateurs et objectifs, les produits qui doivent être réalisés, les activités et les méthodes de travail. En plus, nous avons mis dans l'Annexe un certain nombre de références, d'une part, que le Conseil doit tenir au moins cinq sessions par exercice biennal, donc je vous passe les commentaires sur celui qui suit la Conférence et les deux autres. D'autre part, pour 2010-13, le plan de travail indicatif est en évolution continue et que nous l'avons présenté dans les grandes lignes des tableaux ci-après, qui pourront être ajustés au fur et à mesure.

À ces sessions, le Conseil examine un document sur l'état de la mise en œuvre des décisions prises à sa précédente session, c'est l'évaluation permanente. À la fin de chaque session, le Conseil examine et contrairement à ce qui est écrit dans le texte, où il est marqué: «approuvé», le Conseil n'approuve pas. L'Ordre du jour est approuvé au début de la session suivante donc il est clair que nous disons à la fin de chaque session: «le Conseil examine l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la session suivante» et, comme nous l'avons souhaité, des questions de fond sont régulièrement examinées aux sessions du Conseil concernant notamment les termes suivants. Nous en avons établis huit pour lesquels vous pouvez aussi donner quelques priorités, l'objectif étant de définir à chaque Conseil le sujet du ou des prochain(s) conseil(s) en fonction, bien sûr, de l'actualité sur ce sujet mais aussi du travail préparé par le Secrétariat, puisqu'il ne sert à rien de dire que nous voulons tel sujet s'il n'est pas prêt.

C'est donc un mouvement permanent mais l'idée est de le prévoir le plus longtemps possible à l'avance pour y réfléchir d'une part et pour que le Secrétariat puisse le suivre. Vous avez ensuite, de façon indicative, les différents Ordres du jour provisoires des sessions du Conseil. Voilà donc le travail qui a été réalisé et que je mets à votre discussion avec le souhait, si vous avez quelques amendements, de les intégrer mais je ne vous le cache pas, avec le souhait que nous puissions l'accepter aujourd'hui puisqu'il y a eu déjà un travail important et là où je suis aussi clair avec vous, pour éviter de charger le prochain Conseil du mois d'avril qui, je vous l'annonce, sera déjà très chargé.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you, Chair, and I fully support your intention to have this adopted at this Council. I have one question and one minor suggestion or amendment, I think a correction in fact.

On page 4, under activities; the first point says "Review and assessment of governance decisions of Council", I guess I am struggling with understanding that point, that we make governance decisions and then we review and assess those same decisions? Is the word "implementation" missing or am I perhaps just missing a point? Secondly, on page 5, I think this is a typo, the second indicator in target under Section D, it talks about 2001, I think that is supposed to be 2011. I will just make that correction.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour le deuxième, il n'y a pas de problème. Est-ce que vous voulez introduire ou savoir?

Dans le titre, sur le suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernances, c'est évaluation et examen des décisions des gouvernances du Conseil, c'est sa propre évaluation qui a été fait. J'allais dire l'autocritique, pour chaque Conseil ou le Conseil suivant de voir la forme et l'esprit de la gouvernance. On peut se faire examiner, par l'extérieur mais aussi s'auto-examiner.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

I am speaking again on behalf of the EU, the 27 Member States and the candidate countries. We welcome this Report and I am convinced that the Multi-Year Programme of Work, including the rolling agenda, will assist FAO to act in a results-based manner. This is an important step forward in the Reform Process of FAO.

We agree that the rolling agenda needs to be scrutinized and approved by the Council at each session. We would suggest that the Multi-Year Programme of Work Annex should be a standing item on the Council's Agenda.

The EU recommends that the document on the Status of Implementation of Council decisions should be more concise and focused on results, mentioning 'implemented' or 'not yet implemented,' as well as giving reasons for the non-implementation of certain actions.

In order for the Council to exercise its executive function, the rolling agenda should also include a mid-term and performance evaluation of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget every year. These evaluations are mentioned in Item (e) of the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

The EU appreciates the fact that the Independent Chair wishes the Council to discuss substantive issues since the issues, to be discussed are part of the executive function of the Council. Relevant subjects in this regard could be Human Resource Policy and Oversight. These Council discussions should be preceded by discussions of these matters in the Programme and Finance Committees.

Lastly, the Multi-Year Programme of Work mentions under Item (f) that efficient drafting methods for Council Reports should be established. The EU looks forward to continuing this discussion in the Open-Ended Working Group.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We are in agreement with CL 140/18. There are only two points on which I would like to seek clarification.

One, on page 5, bullet point 6, I am not aware that the Finance Committee makes recommendations on Independent Evaluations. I have never seen them. Just like the Programme Committee does not review the Audit Reports. It is the task of the Programme Committee to review and comment on all Independent Corporate Evaluations, so I would like some clarification.

Two, on page 6, I fail to understand the significance of bullet point 5 which is: "On a periodic basis, organize the transparent, professional and independent evaluation of the Organization's performance in contributing to its planned outcome and impact". Does it really mean another mini IEE?

Can it be explained please? If it is a mini IEE, then I think we have to debate this before we accept it.

Mr Cameron JELINSKI (Canada)

Thank you, Mr Chair. Canada appreciates the draft Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2010-13, which was prepared with the inputs of Members at two Informal Seminars earlier this year.

We have several brief questions, or suggestions. First on page 4 under Item b, should the fourth activity be amended to read "the Council will make decisions" rather than "recommendations" on the convening of Ministerial Meetings. If not Council, then who decides? Conference only meets every two years.

Second, Item d on page 5 should reflect the decision-making role of Council. For instance, we recommend that the output be expanded so as also to read that clear decisions will be taken on issues within the competence of Council.

Finally, we agree with the list of substantial issues which could be addressed at Council sessions, as provided in Item 5 of the Appendix, as all of the issues listed are indeed in the competence of Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur Ali Mekouar me demande que vous répétiez le dernier point, comme l'on passe d'une page à l'autre, nous avons eu du mal à bien comprendre, pouvez-vous s'il-vous-plaît?

Mr Cameron JELINSKI (Canada)

The last point was simply that we agree with the list of substantive issues in the Appendix under Item 5 because all of the issues are, indeed, within the competence of Council.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Tanzanian delegation is having difficulties in measuring some of the outputs. For example, when you are saying clear and precise decisions are taken and the recommendations made to the Conference,

how will that be made possible in terms of measuring the output? Is it the agreed actions or clear and precise decisions? We are having difficulties in measuring some of the outputs.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation welcomes the draft of the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2010-13 and appreciates the results-based format of the paper which gives us a very clear picture on how we are moving forward and how we will assess the results of our work.

We have only one suggestion to make: while we recognize the important role of the Independent Chair of the Council as facilitator of discussion and decision, we notice that the proposed working methods under each section do not provide him with the opportunity to establish a contact with Member Nations, through Chairs of the Regional Groups. For example, to achieve the results for Item (a) on strategy and priority-setting and budget planning, neither of the three bullet points under working methods mentioned informal coordination meetings with the Independent Chair and Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. We should therefore consider whether it would be appropriate to add a new bullet point for this link, or to let the Independent Chair join the meetings between the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and Senior Members of the Secretariat as referred to in bullet two or to have the Chairs of the Regional Groups join the meetings between the Independent Chair and FAO Management as referred to in bullet point three.

M Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La Mauritanie se félicite du Plan de travail proposé pour le Conseil pour les prochaines années. Il y a cependant une interrogation quand on lit la page 8 où on dit que le Conseil tient au moins 5 sessions par exercice biennal, les deux sessions durant la première année d'exercice. Cela correspond donc, je suppose, à la session du mois de mai et à celle du mois de novembre. C'est comme cela que je le comprends, je ne suis pas très rodé dans les réunions de Conseil. C'est ma deuxième réunion et quand je vois le tableau correspondant, on commence par la 140ème session donc novembre. Je me dis qu'on a peut-être omis la 139ème session qui fait partie du plan de travail si je me réfère à l'explication qui est à la page 8. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres questions? Bon, si tel n'est pas le cas, oui, les États Unis d'Amérique.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

We thank the FAO Secretariat for holding the Informal Seminars and consequently improving the draft of the Multi-Year Programme of Work for Council. We also find the draft agendas presented in the Appendix to be useful, but we note on page 9 that the Committee on World Food Security is presented as a Technical Committee of FAO and would like to remind the Secretariat that the CFS is rather a Joint FAO/WFP/IFAD multi-stakeholder Committee, so we would recommend some kind of clarification put there or have it stricken.

Further, though improvements have been made, we feel that the Council should endorse document CL 140/18 on a provisional basis only, and we take it from your remarks that that is exactly what you are recommending. If so, we endorse that provisional recommendation.

The indicators and targets are not as strong as they should be. The results and outputs are vague and the activities and methods of work lack detail as my colleague from Tanzania did point out. The document calls for clear and precise decisions, and yet it is not clear and precise itself. We believe that this document should be modified and developed more fully by countries participating in a continued informal seminar process which would result in an improved document presented to the 141st Session of the Council for final approval.

Mr Fazil DÜŞÜNCELİ (Turkey)

Thank you very much for this good paper. It seems to be serving as a guideline for the work of the Council which is, I think, very useful. I think, however, what we are discussing here is this guideline

rather than the Multi-Year Programme of Work, which is depicted as an Annex right at the end of this paper. We have a number of tables illustrating the agenda items in that Annex, and I notice at the end of the agenda items, we have Working Methods of the Council for all the sessions of the Council until 2013. In this regard, I would like to have a clarification. Do we propose that we discuss the Working Methods of the Council at each session, or are we planning to complete this work at some point and then follow those procedures?

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I would also like to join the previous speakers to thank the Secretariat for the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

I would like to refer to the Regional Conferences, and I would like to support Thailand with regard to the Chair of each Regional Conference.

My observation is that the Report of the recommendations of all these Regional Conferences should be among the documents of the Council because all these issues with regard to the programme, budgetary, financial and the Technical Committees should take into consideration the recommendations that have been made in the Regional Conferences not only for their first meetings as Governing Bodies, the recommendations of the Regional Conferences are valid at least for the biennium. I think they should also be reflected in all the discussions which will take place in future Council sessions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres remarques? A partir des discussions que nous avons eues, je crois qu'il y a bien deux temps dans le document: il y a le rôle du Conseil et les différents points qui définissent la stratégie et ensuite il y a eu le pratique. Cela a été le résultat de la discussion que nous avons eu dans les deux groupes où un certain nombre de pays souhaitaient qu'on soit encore plus précis sur tout ce que l'on mettait dans les Ordres du jour. Donc, il y a bien le cadre général. Concernant le cadre général, Monsieur Ali Mekouar répondra à quelques questions plus techniques, mais je réponds malgré tout à l'intervention de la Thaïlande concernant les Présidents, plus particulièrement des Groupes régionaux. Dans tous les points il est mis que des réunions informelles des Présidents régionaux et d'ailleurs y compris, à un certain moment avec le Secrétariat, auront lieu. Et chacun sait, nous en reparlerons demain, combien je suis intéressé par la participation des Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour participer à ces différents éléments.

Deuxième réflexion aussi globale, la notion d'évolution et de rotation à certains moments entre les différents Conseils mais, si nous devons choisir une méthode de travail du Conseil, il aurait mieux valu mettre l'évaluation du travail du Conseil pour qu'à chaque Conseil on puisse faire état de l'amélioration potentielle, parce que je pense qu'il y a une amélioration à chaque fois.

Troisième réflexion aussi sur les Conférences régionales, nous avons mis ce qui est dans l'ordre normal des Rapports des Conférences régionales au Conseil et nous n'avons pas remis de rapport lorsqu'il n'y en avait pas mais, cela n'exclut pas à la demande des Membres du Conseil précédent, d'avoir une demande des Membres souhaitant une évaluation ou une question mais, cela ne sera pas le rapport de la Conférence puisqu'elle n'aura pas lieu.

Voilà les principaux points qui avaient été évalués.

Monsieur Mekouar, j'attends vos propos sur les points plus techniques qui avaient été évoqués.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairman. I'll try to address a few of the comments made. One semantic comment, "outputs" as opposed to "outcomes". I think here we are trying to be consistent with the terminology that was used in the other Multi-Year Programmes of Work (MYPOW) that have been already approved. There is one MYPOW for the Programme Committee that was approved by the Committee and endorsed by Council in April and May this year, and just today, the MYPOW of the Finance Committee was endorsed by this Council, and the same terminology was used in those two documents. Of course, the term could be changed and if you would like to replace "output" by "outcome" we

could do that. It is just up to Members to realize that for consistency's sake that we are trying to use the same terminology.

There was a comment made, I think, by Canada on page 4, the activities under B "Monitoring implementation of governance decisions," specifically in the fourth bullet point "Recommendations on the convening of Ministerial Meetings," I think the comment is correct. The IPA foresees that Ministerial Meetings can be called either by Conference on recommendation of Council or directly by Council. So I think here we should probably say "recommendation or decision." This would cover the comment by Canada.

On page 5, I think that Afghanistan suggested that independent evaluations are under the purview of the Programme Committee alone and not the Finance Committee. I'm told that the Finance Committee exceptionally also does consider evaluations. This has been done in the past, for instance for decentralization or on the administrative aspects of the emergency programmes. So these are exceptional cases that can also occur.

And thank you, to Australia, for correcting the dates on the same page.

The other comment, I think by Canada, referred to D, under the output "Clear and precise recommendations." "Decisions" should be added regarding the specific report to the Conference. The point is taken here: Council can make decisions, and also recommendations, for adoption by the Conference. For instance, the Council has given guidance several times regarding the format of the Report.

On page 6, under E "Monitoring of Management Performance Activities", third bullet point, Mr Ayazi made a comment that this might be a sort of mini-IEE. I think the answer here is in the IPA itself. Action 274 provides that "the Conference will assess the workings of the governance reforms including the role and functioning of the Regional Conferences with an independent review as an input to this process." The timeline for this is from now, or rather from 2009 until 2015. So this is actually foreseen by the IPA itself.

In the Appendix, Mauritania sought clarifications about the five sessions of the Council, and indeed, as mentioned in A, B, and C, out of the five sessions, two are held in the first year of the biennium, one sixty days before the Conference, one immediately after the Conference and finally one session towards the end of the second year of the biennium. And this is what should happen next year when we will have Council in April, more or less two months before Conference, a session immediately after Conference and another Council session in November 2011.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me permettez, je rajouterais que bien souvent on fait la confusion aussi du biennium et des deux ans entre les Conférences, mais pour le biennium ce sont les deux années civiles et la Conférence se trouve au milieu d'une année civile, ce qui fait peut-être la confusion chez vous. La Conférence est au mois de juin, il y a un Conseil immédiatement après, un autre Conseil dans le semestre puis l'année suivante il y a deux Conseil. Je ne sais pas si je me fais bien comprendre, il y a toujours deux Conseil chaque année plus une qui suit le Conseil mais c'est à cheval sur les deux exercices. Ce n'est pas clair du tout? La Mauritanie prend la parole.

M Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Je m'excuse, ma compréhension, j'avais compris que la première année d'exercice correspondait à l'année 2010. Si tel est le cas, il y a eu une session qui a eu lieu au mois de mai 2010. Nous sommes actuellement en novembre. Donc, s'il y eu une session au mois de mai 2010, cela correspond à la 139ème, et j'ai dit que dans le tableau je ne vois pas la 139ème session.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Vous avez raison. La version précédente de ce document contenait, effectivement, la session de mai 2010. Néanmoins, comme ce document a été examiné après la session de mai 2010, les Membres ont estimé qu'il n'était plus utile d'inclure cette session parce qu'elle était déjà passée. Voilà, c'est l'explication.

(continues in English)

Now the United States of America made a comment that the CFS is not, properly-speaking, a Technical Committee. Yes, I think you are right, because traditionally we used to refer to all those committees as Technical Committees – we used this terminology – and as you can notice in the current agenda of Council, the CFS is under the heading ‘Technical Committees’. If Members so wish, we could in future say ‘Technical Committees and the CFS.’ We could make that correction, and I think perhaps it would be more accurate.

Turkey asked whether the Council should be considering its Methods of Work at each session. I think this proposal was made by Members when the first draft was considered, and the comment was made that we have many committees – most committees – reviewing their own Methods of Work at each session. We have a standing agenda item for the Programme Committee, we have a standing item for the Finance Committee, and recently CCP, COAG and COFO did review their Methods of Work and, therefore, it was felt that the Council itself would do that and this is actually reflected in page six of the English version, under F, “Work planning and working methods.” Under Activities, the third bullet point says ‘regular review of the Methods of Work of Council, including performance measures’. This is also perhaps in indirect response to the comment made by the United States of America to the effect that this document is a living document, and Members will wish to continue to review it regularly. I think it is precisely through the regular review of the Methods of Work that this document can remain a living document and be adjusted as needed in the future. We have also to keep in mind that not only the Council has to have a MYPOW, but it has to produce a Progress Report on the Implementation of its own MYPOW, to be reviewed by the Conference.

So if you do adopt this Report today this means that the Council will have to report to Conference next June on the implementation of its own MYPOW.

I think I have the points made.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I may not have made myself clear in my intervention. I did not refer to the Chair of the Regional Conference, but I mentioned that the proposed working merits under each part do not provide you, as Independent Chair of the Council, the opportunity to have direct contact with Members through Regional Group Chairs. So what I was proposing was whether we should add another bullet point, for example on page 4, in bullet point 2, it says “informal consultation meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and Senior Members of the Secretariat”. I was proposing whether it was appropriate to add, “Independent Chair” in this meeting. In bullet point 3, it says “regular contacts between the Independent Chair of the Council and FAO Management.” I wonder whether it is appropriate to add, “Regional Group Chairs in this meeting,” or the third option would be to add a new bullet point saying that it should be like an informal contact group between you and the Regional Chairs.

I understand that you usually call informal meetings with the Regional Chairs, but I wonder whether it is appropriate to add it here.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Oui, ce que vous voulez dire c’est qu’au-delà des Présidents des Groupes régionaux il puisse y avoir contact entre le Président indépendant et les Membres. C’est cela, vous voulez que l’on rajoute le Secrétariat, les Directeurs, les Présidents régionaux mais aussi avec les Membres, est-cela? Oui, je vous en prie.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I wish to apologize for taking the floor again. I am not sure whether I made myself clear in my intervention. I did not refer to the Chair of the Regional Conference but I mentioned that I notice that the proposed working methods under each part do not provide you, as Independent Chair of the Council, the opportunity to establish direct contact with Regional Group Chairs. So what I was proposing is whether we should add this in another bullet point. For example on page 4, in bullet point

2, it says "informal consultation meetings of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups and senior members of the Secretariat". I was proposing whether it is appropriate to add "Independent Chair" in this meeting, and in bullet point 3, it says "regular contacts between the Independent Chair of the Council and FAO Management". I wonder whether it is appropriate to add "Regional Group Chair" in this meeting. The third option could be to add a new bullet point saying that it should be like an informal contact group between you and the Regional Chair so that this missing point will no longer be there. I understand that you usually call informal meetings with Regional Chairs, but I wonder whether it is appropriate to add it here in writing.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je comprends. On a omis à la fois le Président indépendant et à la fois les Membres. Il faut mettre en relation les réunions de consultation du Président indépendant avec les Présidents des groupes régionaux, mais aussi la possibilité d'avoir des réunions informelles avec les Membres et le Président indépendant du Conseil. C'est bien cela? Tel que c'était écrit, on pensait qu'il y avait concertation entre les Groupes régionaux et le Secrétariat sans le Président indépendant. Ce n'était pas cela que l'on voulait dire. C'est bien le Président indépendant qui coordonne avec les Membres de façon formelle ou avec les Présidents régionaux ou avec les Présidents régionaux et les Secrétariats. On est bien d'accord. Dans mon esprit c'était clair, mais vous avez bien fait de le redire. Monsieur Mekouar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We would just add after the second bullet point, "facilitated by the Independent Chairperson of the Council".

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien après ces explications, est-ce que vous souhaitez qu'en intégrant les différents points qui ont été dit on adopte ce document ou vous souhaitez qu'on le remette à discussions pour le repasser au Conseil? Mais compte tenu des deux premières réunions que nous avons eues, je souhaiterais que si on repasse dans une discussion, on repasse que sur les amendements, parce qu'on risque de repasser toute une réunion encore sur le Conseil.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY

Comme je navigue entre les textes en français et les textes en anglais, je me permets de suggérer qu'on ajoute le Président indépendant non seulement au deuxième point mais aussi au premier.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Est-ce que avec les amendements que l'on a fait, comme cela en séance, on réintègre et on l'accepte ou alors, ce que je vous propose c'est qu'on intègre dans le document les différents points, on le réécrit et si c'est nécessaire on le repasse à la prochaine réunion du CoC pour valider les amendements que l'on a mis.

On m'a dit qu'on ne pourra pas faire rapport à la Conférence par la suite donc, il faut le faire tout de suite. Alors, cela veut dire qu'il faut qu'on reprenne chaque élément d'amendement si l'on veut le faire adopter. Ouhé puisqu'il y avait les amendements sur l'ajout du Président, cela c'était clair, mais sur les réponses que Monsieur Mekouar a faites, est-ce qu'il y a des demandes d'explication supplémentaire?

Parce que si, à partir des questions que vous avez posées, les remarques faites par Monsieur Mekouar et moi-même suffisent aux réponses plus l'amendement concernant le Président indépendant du Conseil dans le cadre de l'animation, on bloque le Conseil comme celle-ci et on le met dans les conclusions. On peut faire comme cela?

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. J'aimerais prendre la parole dès que vous appelez le Canada mais je dois attendre que la lumière s'allume. Des fois, c'est la lumière du Chili qui s'allume. En tout cas, j'aimerais mettre fin à ce dilemme en disant que nous avons toute confiance, que d'ici demain vous pourriez faire de petits amendements au document que vous avez déjà fait circuler une note au Conseil

indiquant un addendum 1 pour indiquer là où le document devrait changer suite à la conversation que nous venons d'avoir. Comme cela, cette réunion du Conseil pourrait l'approuver. On ne devrait pas retarder ce sujet au mois d'avril, ou même au Comité de la Conférence. On peut prendre une décision cette semaine. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

La question posée c'est que, adjoindre les amendements en six langues d'ici demain matin c'est un peu compliqué. Alors, ce qu'on pourrait faire c'est qu'on prépare les amendements en français ou en anglais ou mieux en une langue et je vous en fais des commentaires demain matin pour le faire adopter. Est-ce que cela vous concreat? Mais on n'aura pas le document en six langues pour l'adopter. On aura le document aménagé en une langue, et je vous ferai les commentaires qui seront traduits directement pour l'adopter. On peut prendre comme cela et on adopte demain matin.

Bien. Voilà donc on suspend la décision définitive sur ce sujet jusqu'à demain matin mais, on est bien d'accord cela ne sera pas les amendements en six langues. Cela n'est pas possible cette nuit, une langue et on fera les différents points tels qu'ils ont été évoqués. Merci.

VII. Other Matters

VII. Questions diverses

VII. Otros asuntos

17. Programme Implementation Report 2008-2009 (C 2011/8)

17. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2008-2009 (C 2011/8)

17. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa 2008-09 (C 2011/8)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais donc passer au document suivant. Nous en sommes au Point 17 sur le Rapport d'exécution du Programme 2008-2009 qui est le document (C 2011/8). Ce rapport retrace les réalisations de l'Organisation pendant l'exercice biennal précédent et sera présenté à la 37ème Session de la Conférence en 2011.

Donc, j'invite Monsieur Haight, Directeur du Bureau de la stratégie, de la planification et de la gestion des ressources à se présenter. Monsieur Haight, vous avez la parole.

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

The Programme Implementation Report informs the Membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the past biennium. It looks back to provide information on the financial performance of the Organization and what it achieved – in terms of outputs and outcomes – under the Regular Programme appropriation and with extra-budgetary resources.

This PIR covers achievements under the programme framework that was in place during 2008-2009, and is the last in this format. Nonetheless, this PIR has a layout intended to be more attractive and user-friendly.

The first section of the PIR 2008-2009 provides an account of the major policy developments that took place in the biennium that influenced the work of the Organization: a renewed focus on Food Security and the sustained reforms driven by the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's renewal. This is a new section compared with the PIR 2006-2007.

Within this context, the next two sections cover two main aspects of the Organization is performance.

The Overview of Achievements provides an overview of the evolution and application of total resources in the biennium. It then provides selected highlights of programme implementation, and regional dimensions of FAO's achievements. The coverage of the Technical Cooperation Programme includes an analysis of the catalytic role of TCP projects, and their relation to FAO's programmes, especially for capacity-building.

The section on Corporate Features of Programme Delivery reports on the cost of supporting the Field Programme; progress in achieving efficiency savings; use of the capital and security expenditure facilities; the application of the FAO language policy, and progress in geographical representation and gender balance among the Professional staff of the Organization.

Annexes I and II in the printed document provide more detailed information on geographical representation of Professional Staff, and a summary of output completion. Annex IV, which is on the FAO Website, provides an overview of resources and outputs of programme level and reports on delivery of biennial outputs by programme entity. These programme entities are the old names for the programmes that we used in 2008-09. The list of unscheduled and cancelled sessions is provided in Annex V, also on the FAO Website.

The Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, at their October Session, discussed the format for the next PIR which will be under the new results-based Strategic Framework. The end of biennium assessment, which will lead to the preparation of the Programme Implementation Report, will provide a more comprehensive analysis of achievements under the PWB in measuring and reporting on performance indicators against targets and lessons learned.

With this brief overview, the Secretariat is ready to provide any clarifications required by the Council in considering the Programme Implementation Report 2008-09.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States and the candidate countries associate themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes the information provided in the well-documented Programme Implementation Report, especially in the areas of multidisciplinary actions – knowledge management, capacity-building, climate change and bio-energy – as emphasized in the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09.

The major policy developments and the renewed focus on food security as well as the implementation of the Reform through the Immediate Plan of Action are clearly highlighted. The EU appreciates the work done in the fields of production systems, knowledge exchange, policy and advocacy, and takes note of the regional repartition of the activities.

Nevertheless, the EU is convinced that the coming implementation reports on the biennium in execution and following biennia can be improved. A good reading and understanding of the importance and impact of FAO's activities requires a robust results and outcome-based programming, implementation, monitoring and reporting framework as requested in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in April this year. We see potential to more explicitly link the activities with resources, the planned results and expected outcomes. In this context, the EU would be interested to take part in FAO's own analysis of what worked well and what worked less well, so as to see how FAO is learning the lessons from past experience.

The EU takes the opportunity to reiterate that the results-based strategy as now under implementation by FAO throughout all of its activities, including the reporting, constitutes a very important tool in meeting its goals, as described in its mandate.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We look on the PIR as an accountability report. As Boyd said, the PIR 2010-11 will look different in format and content and, as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee said this morning, the outline of the new format was discussed by the Programme Committee but it required some fine-tuning. Compared with the PIR 2006-2007, the PIR 2008-2009 in our view reflects the following qualities:

In size, the report is 30 percent less than the PIR 2006-2007.

Part 1, which reflects major policy developments in a biennium, is new and we find that extremely useful. We would like to see the continuation of Part 1 in the 2010-11.

In Section B of Part 2 – that is paragraphs 73 to 240 – the Report presents some interesting examples of achievements, and we find it to be a step forward in accountability reporting. We, therefore, appreciate the context of the box numbers 3 to 13, and the selected examples of the good practices spread in Section B.

In comparison to the 2006-2007 biennium, the total expenditure from net appropriation increased by 21 percent, but expenditure funded from extra-budgetary sources increased by 37 percent. We did not find any noteworthy changes in the presentation of the regional dimension in delivery.

As show in Table 16, despite the 37 percent increase in the Field Programme delivery technical backstopping on the whole remains stable -- about 28 percent of the Professional staff time. However, the shortfall in the technical backstopping by Decentralized Offices is not consistent with the increased Field Programme delivery. Perhaps this is due to the question of transition in the delegation of authority for Field Programme from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices.

We also note some notable features of the PIR, such as a further increase in the share of emergencies in the total Field Programme, Table 1. A fall in the share of extra-budgetary contributions to Regular Programme expenditure, paragraph 55, Figure 1. TSS costs continue to rise but its share in total delivery went down, Table 15. The same happened to AOS, Table 17. The number of meetings increased slightly; however, there was a shortfall in the meetings organized by the Decentralized Offices, Table 19. There was a further improvement in the employment of women, by the end of 2009 females accounted for 52 percent of all FAO staff, Table 21.

Mr Michael MICHENER (United States of America)

We thank the FAO Secretariat for its work in producing the thorough and well organized 2008-2009 Programme Implementation Report, and we approve the Report en block. We are pleased to see that gender issues have been mainstreamed into all sections of the Report. We have only two minor issues to raise in the spirit of Mr Haight's presentation that the next PIR would have more detailed indicators. We are just going to make a few suggestions in that regard.

In FAO's next PIR for the 2010-2011 period, we would like to see more detail in the resources section with more analysis in indicators to explain trends in expenditures and to show how cost-efficiencies have been pursued in each of the 11 Strategic Objectives and 2 Functional Objectives.

In the Item 13 paper "Revised Note on Working Methods of the Council" paragraph 2, 2a) notes that the PWB is built on lessons learned from the PIR and takes into account the findings and recommendations of strategic evaluations. The PIR should be a major tool for Members to understand how well the Organization is doing in reaching its goals and objectives, as described by the Organizational Results under each Strategic Functional Objective.

Throughout the PIR, FAO's organization of meetings is presented as an indicator of progress. Holding a meeting is not an indicator of progress in itself. A good example of a measureable, positive indicator resulting from a meeting is the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security, the Rome Principles for Sustainable Food Security, which brought 192 FAO Member Nations into policy alignment on key principles. Policy alignment is the result, and not the meeting itself.

Mr Alf Harvard VESTRHEIM (Norway)

We have some remarks and some questions regarding the Report, but given the late hour we will be very brief. Generally, we agree with most of the remarks made so far by the United States and the European Union and we also share some of the concerns raised by Afghanistan. We notice with interest and some concern the strong increase in FAO's emergency activities during the previous biennium. We believe this development presents us with some fundamental questions regarding what role we want FAO to play in this field, and this is something that the Secretariat should be reminded of when preparing the next Programme of Work and Budget. We should maybe consider looking into the guidelines orienting FAO's work in this field also. Similarly, we would appreciate more information on how this expansion in short-term project-based work affects the long-term programmatic work of FAO, as well as the regular budget.

Finally, given the challenges we have seen in Internal Audit in FAO with vacant posts, etc., how does FAO ensure satisfactory internal control and oversight of this expansion of voluntary funding in general and of emergency projects in particular?

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

It is important to acknowledge that any effective and efficient results-based management approach must, ensure a robust monitoring and oversight function that can give assurance to Member Nations that projected programming outcomes and results are, in fact, being achieved, or if not, why not.

Accountability, as mentioned by our Afghanistan colleague, must be the underlying foundation for performance monitoring and assessment in informing and adjusting the implementation and forward-planning of FAO work.

We understand that FAO will be taking a more streamlined and logical approach to ensuring results are achieved and incorporated for assessment in the preparation for the PWB from one biennium to the next. This includes a revamped PER, as mentioned by the Secretariat, that reflects the FAO Strategic Framework and its core mandate. It includes the mid-term report and workplan reporting.

As mentioned from our previous interventions, monitoring and reporting will assist in the reallocation of resources from low-priority to higher-priority areas, and the identification of alternate policy and programming options that improve the likelihood of future success.

We support the recommendations agreed to in the last Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees regarding FAO's planning, monitoring and reporting system. Having said this, there are several elements that need to be further elaborated and considered. Number one, the effective and measureable baseline targets and indicators are of utmost importance. This will require a full review, update and improvement in these benchmarks within the next few months, as this will be key in assessing progress and, if needed, identify course corrections for future FAO work.

Strategic policy and programme and country evaluations must be better utilized, specifically regarding how the findings are used to make adjustments to programming activities. We therefore suggest selected evaluation outcomes be better reflected in the revised PER, and linked to the respective strategic objectives.

As the PER is one of the key accountability reports for Member Nations, Canada believes that FAO must develop a more robust approach in ensuring its accuracy, dissemination and engagement with Member Nations on its outcomes, beyond just the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. So how do we actually manage it for a more fulsome discussion, be it informal or formal within the context of the Governing Bodies?

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (original language Arabic)

My comment is basically about the section of the Near East in the Programme Implementation Report. It is not very clear to us that the total programme delivery for the Near East was 17.6 percent. This is on page 52 for Field Programme delivery. Maybe you can clarify to us why it is such a low figure. Has this got to do with how FAO delivers its programmes in the Region. Is something specific to the Region. Maybe you can clarify that for us.

This also connects with the problem of Technical Cooperation Programme in a Region which is frankly a cause of great concern. The amount of allocations to the Near East in the Technical Cooperation Programme is the lowest, and this is a matter of great concern. We look forward to it increasing in the next PWB.

Mr Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Merci Monsieur le Président.

C'est juste une petite remarque et deux observations. Ce document devra être envoyé à la Conférence. Je me permets de vous faire quelques observations, regardez la page 24 où on parle de l'élevage et des maladies animales transfrontalières.

Premièrement, je soulignerai que dans ce rapport, on énumère les pays concernés par le programme de maladies animales transfrontalières.

Deuxièmement, ce sont sûrement des coquilles au niveau du paragraphe 116, on parle de PMEBB alors que c'est PMEPB. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Mauritanie. Pas d'autres demandes d'interventions. Monsieur Haight, voulez-vous donner quelques commentaires aux questions qui ont été posées.

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

Thank you, Mr Chair, and thank you delegates for your comments. I will divide my responses into two parts. First, on this Report in particular, there were two sets of questions. Norway asked about the increase of emergency activities and how this might affect our performance. The Report does note that we have had a significant increase in emergency activities. This reflects the fact that donors and partners are coming to FAO for work related to such things as Avian-Influenza, for which FAO has both an immediate relief role but also some long-term measures to ensure that we don't see outbreaks of this type of transboundary disease in the future. So not all the emergency works are of a short-term nature. Some of them are actually providing the basis for avoiding such types of natural disasters or pests and diseases in the future. Therefore FAO does have an important role to play here.

In terms of how we ensure the internal oversight of the extra-budgetary resources, the Technical Cooperation Department has procedures for accepting and reviewing project proposals to ensure that they are in line with the Strategic Framework and with the Rules and Regulations of the Organization, both in terms of the formulation as well as delivery of the programmes. Under the new Strategic Framework, we are looking to expand the resources coming to the Organization to help achieve the results through the Field Programme or emergencies.

Egypt asked about the Field Programme delivery in the Near East Region. The figures shown are a percentage of Field Programme delivery across the entire Organization. The 17 percent is not the total delivery in the Region itself, but this is a share across the Organization and was actually higher during the time of FAO's work under the Oil-for-Food programme in Iraq. It will be influenced by the amount of extra-budgetary resources that are mobilized for the work in the Region. In terms of the TCP, the IPA put in place not for the 2008-2009 biennium but for the current biennium the percentage of allocation by Region which, of course, will be reflected in the next Report.

There were several comments on improvements that we can make to the end of biennium assessment and production of the Programme Implementation Report, under the new Strategic Framework. We will, in fact, only be embarking on the end of biennium assessment in a year from now, but we will already be able to learn from the first year's Mid-Term Review. We will engage the Governing Bodies in the process of designing the new PIR over the next nine to twelve months. This is a first start, and the new PIR be will less output-based and more outcome-oriented.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Haight. Après ces explications qui vous ont été données à la fois sur le terme global mais aussi les éléments techniques, je vous propose que le Conseil approuve le Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2008-09, Rapport qui sera examiné par la Conférence en 2011.

M Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Juste une dernière question parce que dans le texte qui est proposé on fait référence à une Annexe 4 intitulée «Rapport sur l'exécution détaillée». Cette Annexe 4, on ne la retrouve pas dans le document.

Alors, en plus des croquis, je pense que le Secrétariat devrait mettre à profit la période pour revoir le document et joindre toutes les pièces manquantes afin que le document soit vraiment complet. Personnellement je ne le trouve pas dans la version française.

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

Thank you, Mauritania. In fact, Annex 4, which is the detailed implementation report, which is almost the same length as this document itself, is only available on the FAO website. It is in all the languages there.

This was an innovation that we actually started several biennia ago to try to cut down on the size of the Report. We do have some printed versions of it that we could make available to you, but it can also be printed in PDF form directly off the FAO Website.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous en terminons ce soir pour notre session, et je vous propose de nous retrouver demain matin à 9 h 30. Nous commencerons par le point de l'Ordre du jour .10. Nous commencerons l'Ordre du jour normal à partir de 9 h 30 et nous intégrerons le point 10 au moment opportun, c'est-à-dire, quand on aura eu les amendements écrits. On est bien d'accord, je vous ferais commentaire des amendements que nous aurons apportés en une seule langue qui sera traduite.

Voilà donc close notre session pour aujourd'hui. Une communication pour l'Union européenne qui organise une réunion de coordination interne dans la Salle Allemagne à 19 h 50, c'est-à-dire dans trente secondes. Merci. Bonsoir.

The meeting rose at 19:50 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 19:50

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2010

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V. Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

V. Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

V. Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

8. Report of the 91st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

(20-22 September 2010) (CL 140/6; CL 140/6-Add.1)

8. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-onzième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (20-22 septembre 2010) (CL 140/6-Rev.1; CL 140/6 Add.1)

8. Informe del 91º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (20-22 de septiembre de 2010) (CL 140/6; CL 140/6-Add.1)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour à tous et bienvenue à ceux qui nous ont rejoints aujourd'hui. Nous allons donc continuer notre 140ème Session du Conseil par notre séance de ce matin, la cinquième. Avant de rappeler l'Ordre du jour, je voudrais vous indiquer que les journées sont longues et en fin de journée nous nous laissons un peu aller à parler un peu trop vite. Alors je voudrais vous recommander pour tout le monde, mais surtout pour les interprètes de faire «slowly» pour s'assurer une bonne traduction, mais aussi à chaque fois que vous avez un texte de ne pas oublier de le transmettre, cela facilite le travail mais aussi la compréhension de tous puisque la traduction n'en sera que meilleure. Je me permets de le redire, je le redirai aussi en début d'après-midi parce que je crois que je dois être dans la même situation, je dois parler plus vite le soir que le matin. Donc merci pour chacun d'entre vous.

Je vous rappelle l'Ordre du jour pour ce matin. Donc, nous avons quatre points à l'Ordre du jour de la matinée et plus si nécessaire. Nous avons d'abord le rapport du CCLM, la note sur les Méthodes de travail du Conseil, puis nous reprendrons quelques instants le Point 10 que nous n'avons pas conclu hier soir où je vous présenterai les amendements pour adoption et ensuite nous aurons le Groupe de travail «composition non limitée». Voilà pour le travail de la matinée.

Sans plus attendre, je vais donner la parole à Monsieur Chandra, le Président du CQCG, pour qu'il nous présente le rapport du Comité, rapport de la 91ème Session du CQCG qui porte la référence 140/6. Monsieur Chandra, vous avez la parole.

Mr Purnomo Ahmad CHANDRA (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

It is my pleasure to introduce the Report of the 91st Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, held in Rome from 20-22 September 2010. This is document CL 140/6 and in French, document CL 140/6-Rev. 1.

On this matter, we would like to ask to consider three series of Sub-items, as has been the case in respect of the past presentations of reports of the CCLM.

First, I propose to present issues related to the implementation of the IPA, which continue to be a dominant feature of the life of the Organization. Second, there are a number of other issues that are not related to the IPA, and third, information on Other Matters.

Let me begin with matters related to the implementation of the IPA. The CCLM examined a document, CCLM 91/2, on the Status and Rules of Procedure of the Regional Conferences. The Report of the CCLM reflects the deliberations of the Committee on this matter. Following a detailed review of the proposal, prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Regional Offices, the CCLM decided to propose to the Council that the draft Rules of Procedure set out in Appendix 1 to its Report, including a number of options and observations in the Report and in footnotes to the proposed Rules, be referred to the concerned Regional Groups and Regional Conferences for further consideration, in view of the fact that a number of decisions regarding the *modus operandi* of the Regional Conferences had still to be made by the Regional Conferences themselves. We would like to ask the Council to endorse the proposal that the draft Rules of Procedure be referred to the concerned Regional Conferences.

The CCLM noted that the Regional Conferences had authority to consider and make adjustments to the proposed Rules of Procedure, taking into account all functional requirements and characteristics of the regions and subject to a requirement of consistency in the status of the Regional Conferences and a requirement of conformity with the hierarchy of the Rules. The CCLM also underlined that, in keeping with past practice, whereby the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Bodies of FAO had been referred to it for review, the draft Rules of Procedure eventually proposed by each Regional Conference should be referred to the CCLM for review prior to adoption. The CCLM noted that there could be a need to supplement the Rules of Procedure by a document on Working Methods of the Regional Conferences, or a Revised Manual on Regional Conferences. Such document could, as appropriate, reflect a need for regional differentiation in the *modus operandi* of the Conference.

The CCLM took note also of the document on the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Ethics Committee. The CCLM decided to defer consideration of the proposal, pending review of the matter by the Finance Committee. The CCLM will examine this proposal at its next Session, taking into account the outcome of the discussions at the Finance Committee.

The CCLM had been examining the issue of its own Rules of Procedure, and agreed on a number of amendments thereto. Finally, the CCLM approved its Rules of Procedure, set out in Appendix II to its Report. In approving the Rules of Procedure, the CCLM underlined that any matters not covered by the Rules would be dealt with by the General Rules of the Organization and other relevant provisions of the Basic Texts of the FAO.

The CCLM decided to postpone consideration of the document Revised Note on the Methods of Work of the Council as some matters were still under discussion within the Open-Ended Working Group on measures designed to improve the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation.

The CCLM also examined document CCLM 91/7, Correction of Errors and Editorial Adjustments to the Basic Texts and their Structure. The CCLM recommended to the Council that a number of corrections, as indicated in Appendix III to its Report, be administratively made to the GRO. The CCLM also noted that a number of documents would be inserted in Volume I and Volume II of the Basic Texts, as indicated in the document.

On the issue of the Multi-Year Programme of Work, the CCLM, in response to IPA actions 2.70, 2.71 and 2.72, whereby the Council, the Programme and Finance Committee, the CCLM, the Technical Committees and the Regional Conferences had been requested to prepare a Multi-Year Programme of Work of at least four years' duration once every biennium, which would be reviewed by the Council, and to prepare reports of progress against those programmes of work every two years.

The CCLM was of the view that the implementation of the above action had to be seen in the light of distinct features of the functions of the Committee, insofar as in accordance with Rule XXXIV.7, of the General Rules of the Organization.

The CCLM holds sessions to consider items referred to it, as necessary, and, in general, there are no standing or recurrent items on its agenda which the CCLM would examine at pre-established dates. Therefore, the CCLM considers that, as a general rule, it would not be possible for it to establish a Multi-Year Programme of Work, as other committees. However, the CCLM decided to keep the issue of the Multi-Year Programme of Work under review, but recommended to the Council that the distinctive features of its *modus operandi* be duly taken into account.

These are the issues related to the IPA. If you allow me, I would like to continue with matters that are not related to the IPA.

On this matter, the CCLM examined a document on an amendment to Rule XII.11, of the General Rules of the Organization. Rule XII.11 of the GRO provides that in election for one elective place, which is other than the election of the Director-General, if a candidate fails to obtain the required majority of the votes cast, for instance, more than one half of the votes cast, successive votes are taken until a candidate obtains such a majority. In a situation where there are more than two candidates for an elective place and where none of the candidates obtain the required majority and none of them withdraw, this provision may lead to a series of inconclusive ballots. Being aware of this risk, the

Conference has, over the years, approved a series of *ad hoc* arrangements, whereby if no candidate obtained the required majority on the first ballot, successive ballots were held and the candidate with the lowest number of votes in each ballot was eliminated. It is proposed to incorporate this procedure in the GRO. The CCLM endorsed a draft Conference Resolution entitled Amendment to the General Rules of the Organization, set out in Appendix IV of the Report, and agreed to forward it to the Council for transmission to the Conference for approval under Rule 59 of the GRO. The Council is invited to endorse this draft Conference Resolution and send it to the Conference for approval.

The CCLM examined a document on Changes in the Terms of Reference of the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been proposed by the Commission. The CCLM also reviewed a study on the legal implications of the references in the revised Statutes of COPESCAALC to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries. The CCLM agreed with the conclusion of the study, which it recommended should be made available to the COPESCAALC. The CCLM recommended to the Council for approval the draft Council Resolution set out in Appendix V to its Report. The Council is invited to approve this Resolution.

The CCLM examined a document on an Amendment to the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for the Asia and the Pacific, concerning an amendment to Article 10 of that Agreement. The CCLM reviewed the proposed amendment of a consensual nature, which it considered in proper legal form. The Commission held its Session in October 2010, subsequent to the Session of the CCLM, and also approved the amendment. The CCLM recommended that the Council should approve the draft Council Resolution contained in Appendix VI to its Report. The draft Conference Resolution is therefore before the Council for approval.

The CCLM examined document CCLM 91/1, Amendments to the Statutes of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (IFA), dealing with comprehensive proposals that had been under discussion for a number of years regarding a change in name and, above all, the Statutes of the Commission. The CCLM reviewed the draft Council Resolution set out in Appendix VII to the Report concerning these changes, and decided to refer it to the Council for approval. The Council is invited to approve this Resolution.

Finally, in Other Matters, the CCLM also examined some matters for information and will examine them again in the forthcoming Session. These matters are a proposed access by Members to reports of the Office of the Inspector General and the Whistleblower Protection Policy.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sans plus attendre, je mets à votre discussion vos réflexions sur le dossier du CCLM. Je prends note. Nous allons commencer par l'Union européenne suivie de la Jordanie.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU agrees that the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Conferences will be referred to the concerned Regional Groups and Regional Conferences for further consideration.

The EU looks forward to the full report on the Ethics Committee by Ernst & Young, and for review by the Finance Committee before further discussing this matter.

The EU takes note of the fact that amendments to the Financial Regulations for the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) were not discussed during the 91st Session of the CCLM. This important item must be on the agenda of the next session of the CCLM.

We agree and endorse the decision of the CCLM to postpone the discussions on the Revised Note on the Methods of Work of the Council as this matter is closely linked with the ongoing discussions in the "Open-Ended Working Group on measures designed to improve the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation."

The EU welcomes that, in accordance with Conference Resolution 14/2009, the document “Reform of the Committee on World Food Security” is to be added to Volume II of the Basic Texts.

We also welcome the draft of the first Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in response to the IPA – Recommendation 2.70, 2.71 and 2.72 - and we acknowledge the fact that the CCLM will have distinctive features in establishing a multi-year programme of work with regard to the other FAO Committees.

Having noticed the urgency that the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC), attached to the revision of its Statutes, the EU approves the draft Council Resolution set out in Appendix V.

We support the endorsement of the draft Conference Resolution entitled “Amendment to the General Rules of the Organization” and agree to forward it to the Conference for approval.

The EU agrees to approve the amendment to the Agreement for the Establishment of a Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific (APHCA).

We acknowledge that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was not in a position to improve its new Rules of Procedure, and supports the approval by Council of the draft Council Resolution amending its statutes.

The EU welcomes the proposed adoption of a Whistleblower Protection Policy by the end of the year.

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

Firstly, I wish to thank the CCLM for the efforts undertaken in their work, and also in preparing this very clear document.

I would like to refer to the Regional Conferences first. I welcome what was decided by the Committee in referring this issue to the Regional Conferences to examine it in detail until a consensual text is agreed upon, but I would like to highlight a certain number of fundamental points that were referred to, just very quickly. Membership: who are the Associate Members of each region? We are talking about Associate Members, we are talking about the Near East, for example, while there are Members of the Council and there are others, but will the Members be redistributed? It is not an easy issue and I think just touching upon it here is not sufficient. I would also add that for the Near East, we are talking about twenty-one countries, and thirty-one are invited. All have full membership. So if you want to include that in the text, we would have to remove eleven members. This deserves further examination and the Legal Counsel has been in contact with the Regional Groups on this very important issue. In political and organizational terms, this is a very sensitive issue.

I tend to agree that every Regional Conference should have rules of procedure. We are talking about harmonizing things. I think the Rules of Procedures for Regional Conferences should be the same for each. We should not leave it up to each Regional Conference to amend their Rules of Procedure as they see fit. We belong to one organization, and not different organizations. In article 7 and article 8 of this proposal, go much beyond what was discussed beforehand.

With regard to the work of the CCLM, I agree with what is contained in the Report and the proposals in general. Now, with regard to the Working Methods of the Council, we know that there is an Open-Ended Working Group which has carried on discussing this issue. In order to make the best use of the Council’s time, I think it would be better to leave the debate on the Working Methods of the Council to that Open-Ended Working Group, which is also carrying out some consultations among the Regional Groups. With regard to the corrections, we have one problem as concerns the CFS. When the Constitution was amended, it was pointed out that before this Committee came under the FAO umbrella, but how are IFAD and WFP going to participate in this reformed committee particularly given that they actively participated in the Secretariat and also in the budget of that Committee? This requires more detail and more study. In the Bureau of the CFS, we established a Working Group which is entrusted with this mission given its sensitive nature. I believe that the Legal Counsel has been invited to support this Committee where necessary.

With regard to amendment of Rule XII.11, of the GRO, in the past we have to deal with a real problem following marathon type of votes. Therefore, I agree with the withdrawal of a candidate that does not obtain sufficient votes.

In order to save the time of the Council, on the other points, we agree with what is contained in the Report.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Queremos hacer algunas observaciones sobre el Informe del Comité. Creemos que ha trabajado mucho, y que fortalece mucho las labores de la Organización que es muy importante en este proceso de la Reforma. Damos la bienvenida al proyecto de Reglamento para el CCLM, creemos que normaliza su situación con relación al resto de los Comités que ya contaban con un reglamento.

Creemos que el Comité debe ser por sí mismo el maestro de su agenda y de su calendario de reuniones. Este es un asunto que debe ser considerado en el marco del párrafo XXXIV del Reglamento General de la Organización. Creo que al ser el mayor apeo, ese párrafo podría fortalecer muchísimo las labores. Sabemos que la elaboración del Reglamento puede ser susceptible y que el Reglamento puede ser mejorado. Como ejemplo, hay un párrafo que figura en los Reglamentos de otros Comités, en la parte de la edición, que es la forma cómo se reformará el propio Reglamento. Pero creo que esos son detalles que se podrán ir mejorando.

Respecto al tema de las Conferencias Regionales, quisiéramos decir que sí se requiere una reflexión más amplia. El Presidente del G 77 manifestó varias inquietudes. Señalamos la importancia de las Conferencias Regionales. En nuestra Conferencia Regional tuvimos una buena experiencia en elegir nuestra agenda y determinar los temas y creo que esto es muy importante.

Con respecto al señalamiento del Programa Plurianual de Trabajo del Consejo, nosotros estamos convencidos de que el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos debe tener un Programa Plurianual. No es un programa como los demás, pero debe tener un programa. Es evidente que si un tema va a ir al Consejo, se podrían programar con anterioridad reuniones previas para tratar dichos temas. Por ejemplo, creo que hay al menos dos temas, uno que ya puede estar en la agenda del CCLM, que se refiere si el CFS va a revisar el tema de tenencia de tierras, ya que se trata de un tema que seguramente va a tener que ser incluido. Otro tema que quisiéramos señalar a la atención del Comité es que, en el caso de los Textos Básicos del Reglamento General, en la específica del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, la redacción sigue siendo la anterior, o sea sigue previendo una reunión del Comité cada año. Ya que se trata entonces de una cuestión técnica, creo que sería muy positivo para todos que tuviéramos ideas al menos preventivas de cómo el Comité podría desarrollar sus trabajos. Creo que esto podría reflejarse en un tipo de Programa de Trabajo Plurianual que le diera certeza a los trabajos del CCLM. Creemos que el CCLM quedaría con esto muy fortalecido.

Con respecto a las enmiendas que se han propuesto para los Textos Básicos, yo solo quisiera saber si son enmiendas que quedaron pendientes del año pasado. Cuando nosotros estamos revisando estas enmiendas, consideramos algunos temas por ejemplo, si el bien de específica sobre el Comité de Productos Básicos debería también ser considerado por el Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Si las enmiendas específicas que tenían relación con otro Comité, por ejemplo con el COAG, tendrían que haber sido, de alguna manera, al menos sopesadas en el COAG. Creo que este es un punto de reflexión.

Todo el mundo ha trabajado durísimo en la Reforma. Hay una urgencia por la Reforma, pero creo que estos temas son importantes porque son temas de sustancia. En este sentido, me quiero referir a la última enmienda propuesta por el CCLM, el Artículo XXXVIII (g) del Reglamento General. En esta enmienda se propone que el Marco Estratégico y el Plan a Mediano Plazo sean sometidos a la soberanía competente dentro de la Organización. Originalmente, este artículo se refería exclusivamente al Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de la Organización y aquí yo quisiera hacer una reflexión porque el debate y el acuerdo sobre el Marco Estratégico y el Plan de Mediano Plazo se llevaron a cabo en el seno del Comité de la Conferencia, que todavía sigue sus trabajos revisando el avance de la Reforma. Entonces nosotros nos preguntamos si es de esta manera que tenemos que definir un asunto tan importante como el Marco Estratégico del Plan de Mediano Plazo, o el tema

sobre cómo va a resolverse el mecanismo definitivo de elaboración y responsabilidad de estos dos documentos fundamentales para la Organización.

También nos preguntamos si no se debiera tener un mayor debate dentro del Comité de la Conferencia que preside nuestro Presidente Independiente del Consejo a fines de tener una apreciación desde una perspectiva más amplia. En esta propuesta hay una corrección que es de carácter técnico que tiene que ver con el alineamiento con el PIA, que es eliminar la palabra “resumen”. En este párrafo vamos a enmendar un tema que podríamos considerar de una manera más amplia en el Comité de la Conferencia. Creemos que el Marco Estratégico y el Plan de Mediano Plazo son documentos muy importantes. Con estas consideraciones, en este momento ya podemos plantear esta Reforma. Dado que tenemos tiempo, nuestra sugerencia sería comenzar a discutirla en un marco más amplio.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

This intervention is on behalf of North America. North America would like to commend the Report of the CCLM and welcomes, with regard to the Regional Conferences, the indication that proposed Rules of Procedure will need to be reviewed by Regional Conferences Regional Groups. This is a subject of interest to Canada and the United States of America, too, as we are considering whether North America should move to a formal Regional Conference.

We very much welcome the references to flexibility on format procedures and due respect for regional differentiation. I will just quote one sentence of paragraph 11 “such documents could, as appropriate, reflect the need for regional differentiation in the *modus operandi* of the Regional Conferences” and I stress this because if North America were to decide that it wants a formal Regional Conference, we would want it to be as streamlined and as inexpensive as possible.

With respect to paragraph 8, the CCLM has noted that the current framework regarding the preparation of the provisional agenda of Regional Conferences was not a matter for Rules of Procedure but that, in fact, what would be needed is a change to Rule XXXV and by all means then, let us change Rule XXXV. It is clear that with the IPA and with the change in the nature of Regional Conferences, that is, with them becoming Governing Bodies, obviously Member Nations should play the lead role in setting provisional agendas, in close coordination with Management and Regional Offices where they exist.

North America, too, would like to welcome the references in this report to the Whistleblower Protection Policy, and view this as an important part of the Integrity Framework to which the United States of America referred in an intervention yesterday, and which Canada, too, supports wholeheartedly.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We appreciate the work of the CCLM and endorse the Report, and in particular the recommendations.

We agree that the draft Rules of Procedure of the working methods of the Regional Conferences be referred to the respective regions for their consideration. However, as stated by the G77 Chairperson and Mexico, in this area we need, as far as possible, to strive for conformity in areas of similarity. Maybe guidance is needed on this issue. We would like an explanation from the CCLM Chair, or the Secretary of the Committee in this regard.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

At the outset, I welcome Mr Chandra for succinctly presenting the Report of the CCLM.

We do agree but we have some concerns on the Rules of Procedure of the Regional Conferences. It is a fact that the Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conferences have to refer to the Regional Conferences for their opinion. At the end of the day, however, they have to be a set of uniform rules. They cannot be different from one region to another. Just to quote, you can have a quorum of 50 per cent of Members for voting, and have a separate set of rules for other reasons. So the set of rules is different from the priorities which the Regional Conferences assign to themselves or the tasks which they identify to perform. This has to be understood in this sense. So therefore a procedure for consultation is very much welcome. After consulting, however, we must have one set of uniform rules.

As regards the Ethics Committee, we welcome it. Now that the Finance Committee has deliberated and given its Report, we will look forward for the CCLM to give its stamp of approval.

Like other colleagues, we also feel that there has to be a Multi-Year Programme of Work for the CCLM. Maybe it will take time to bring it about, but we must bring it about in conformity with what the Conference had desired.

Last but not least, as some of my colleagues have said, we blew the whistle yesterday but let's have a Whistleblower Policy very soon.

Mr Ram BHAVNANI (Ghana)

Thanks for Mr Chandra's report. It is exciting to know that CCLM survived without Rules of Procedure for all this period, meaning that it was unique, it was different and survived. Although I agree that we should go with the Rules and Procedure, I don't think, like my other colleagues have said, that the CCLM should also get away with not presenting a Multi-Year Programme of Work. We are all talking about results-based management, we are talking about how to ensure accountability. If there is no Multi-year Programme of Work for CCLM, we find the CCLM will be where they have decided to go. They will always claim to be in the right place. So there is the need to set up some form of plan for its programme of work no matter how simple its work is. And they can anticipate this through past experience. They might have done some work and therefore can base their budget or programme on the experience of the past. Therefore, I think we should support the request for CCLM to prepare its Multi-year PW and this was brought up by India and Mexico.

On the issue of consultation at the Regional Conferences, I think that there must be that element of flexibility. I am not saying that we should be very rigid. After all, CCLM has survived all these years without procedures, so one can be a bit different. Let us identify the uniqueness of the Regional Conferences and their complementarities. Let us identify our uniqueness and be able to solve problems that arise from our uniqueness.

There was one area which was not too clear and I want a clarification from the CCLM. Paragraph 7 talks about establishing a Bureau or a Technical Committee, and it was asking for the composition and the functions. What is the issue about establishing a Technical Committee and a Bureau? It was not that clear to the Ghanaian delegation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, merci, y a-t-il d'autres interventions? Je n'en vois pas. Je donne la parole à Monsieur Purnomo Ahmad Chandra, dans un premier temps et sans doute à Monsieur Antonio Tavares, Chef, LEGA pour quelques compléments.

Mr Purnomo Ahmad CHANDRA (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I would like to thank everyone who has made a comment on this issue. When we discussed this matter in the CCLM, the same question with regard to the flexibilities or the uniformities of Regional Conferences was also discussed. What we agreed upon is that the Regional Conferences will agree on their Rules of Procedure and Methods of Work by themselves. I agree with Jordan, I know that there is some concern. The concern of having the same package for Regional Conferences is also being discussed during the CCLM, but then again we also consider suggestions from other Regional Conferences who have unique perspectives. That is why the CCLM is giving the opportunity for the Regional Conferences to discuss the issue, and come back again to us to see whether there are common rules or whether there will be something completely different for each of the Regional Conferences. That is why we asked each of the Regional Conferences to discuss this issue further. We believe this is very important.

The issue of the Associate Members mentioned by Jordan is also something which is coming out of the discussions, and that is why we also leave it to the Regional Conferences to decide, because this issue has been also raised in different fora before.

I agree with Mexico that the CCLM should be the master of its own agenda and schedule. That is why we, in addition to what has been asked by the Council, also accept matters that are raised by Members of the CCLM to be tabled for discussion in the Committee.

On the Multi-Year Programme of Work, we discussed this and we know that it is not only the quantity of the matters that should be discussed but also the quality of the matters and, as the Report mentions, it is not very easy to have an item which has a strong quality to be discussed, but we will have a Multi-Year Programme of Work. This has been agreed by the Members.

As for Ghana's question on why the CCLM has not had Rules of Procedures for so many years, that question has been asked in the Council before. That is why we have the Rules of Procedure now. That is why we also have in this Report that for anything that is not included in the Rules of Procedure, we will look at the GRO, and also other regulations in the FAO.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Secretary of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

With your permission, I would like to provide some response to the questions that were raised.

As regards the supportive intervention of the European Union, I wanted to confirm that we shall be discussing IPSAS and related amendments to the Financial Regulations required for its implementation at the forthcoming session of the Committee.

Regarding the intervention by Jordan, I wanted, to point out that we are aware of this issue of the regional definition of countries, entitled to participate as Members in the Regional Conferences. But this is an issue that is outside the purview of the Rules of Procedure, although it is very much related to them. It is an issue that we would have difficulties to address in the CCLM. I would say it is one of a political nature to be discussed in other fora.

Many observations were made regarding flexibility versus uniformity, and the need for regional differentiation in the Rules of Procedure, as opposed to the need for consistency, coherence and uniformity.

It is very difficult to answer this question and I would assume that the Rules of Procedure would need to conform with minimum common requirements that are compatible with the Basic Texts. For the time being, we are launching a process. The CCLM is forwarding to the regions and to the Regional Conferences a draft, and then we will see what will happen. We will try our best, as far as the Secretariat is concerned, to ensure conformity with the Basic Texts and that we have a clear and homogeneous set of rules. There might be a need for some differentiation and, in fact, the discussions are indicating that the issues may not be straightforward. I know that a number of Members have made observations to this effect.

Regarding the CFS, my understanding is that issues regarding the status of the CFS may still have to be reviewed by the Governing Bodies of FAO, and presumably also by the CCLM itself. Everything will depend on the calendar of sessions. We hope to be able still to review matters related to the implementation of the CFS Reform.

Regarding the observations made by Mexico, we note, that it is in fact, generally supportive of our proposals.

I can say that we will try our best to elaborate the programme of work of the CCLM, but it is important to keep in mind that CCLM deals with issues that are referred to it by other Committees. So, this is a matter that the CCLM, intends to continue to look at. But it is difficult to foresee standing items and items which are of a recurring nature in the agenda of the CCLM. But, that being said, the CCLM will continue to review its own programme of work.

As regard the number of corrections and adjustments that we are proposing to make to the Basic Texts, I wish to say that last year there was a very complex process of amendment of the Basic Texts of FAO, involving the addition of some new forty pages to the Basic Texts. So it is inevitable that a number of oversights took place and the document and the report there propose to deal with a number of matters administratively.

As regards this particular question of Rule XXXVIII of the General Rules of the Organization, maybe we could simply make a limited amendment to this Rule without referring to the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan and then let us see how we will deal with the matter. In any case, there is a discussion of the Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan which, in practical terms, would not be affected by this. So we would propose to go ahead with a limited amendment, whereby the reference to the Summary and to the draft Programme of Work and Budget would be deleted and then we would deal with this broader issue of the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan at a later stage.

Mr Chairman, I think that I have addressed the main questions that have been raised.

The Representative of Ghana has also inquired about whether the regions should have a Bureau, and this is a matter that the regions will presumably be addressing.

We want also to provide assurances that we shall be reviewing the draft Terms of Reference for the Ethics Committee at the forthcoming session of the CCLM.

So these are Mr Chairman, the comments that I would make in response to specific questions that have been raised.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à Monsieur Chandra et à Monsieur Tavares des explications fournies. Nous pouvons considérer que le Conseil adopte le Rapport du Comité, notamment sur les points suivants: le projet de règlement intérieur des Conférences régionales et les rectifications du règlement général de l'Organisation. Cela a été dit par plusieurs États Membres la spécificité du MAIPO du Comité mais aussi les points suivants concernant: les projets de résolutions à soumettre à la Conférence sur quatre points:

1) l'amendement de l'Article XII.11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation (RGO) concernant les élections; 2) la modification des statuts de la Commission des pêches intérieures et de l'aquaculture pour l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes; 3) l'amendement à l'Accord portant la création de la Commission régionale de la production et de la santé animale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique; et 4) le nouvel intitulé de la Commission européenne consultative pour les pêches et l'aquaculture dans les eaux intérieures. S'il n'y a pas de réaction, il a été ainsi décidé. Merci. Pardon. La Jordanie.

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

The question of Regional Conferences requires further consideration. When we talk about Regional Conferences, we are talking about sovereign bodies and we cannot take decisions lightly. They are not Technical Committees. There may perhaps be a regional commission in Asia Pacific different from that existing in the Caribbean, but if we are talking about a Governing Body, we need rules and Basic Texts which are coherent.

At the moment we have six points on the list which has been submitted to us, two of which require some alteration. I am just making this statement so that it be included in the Verbatim Records. When we submit a text, it is necessary to have comments on the text of the draft rules themselves. We would like a more coherent proposal in terms of the text, which could be more standardized. We cannot have internal tensions at the regional level and we cannot eliminate members from Regional Conferences. We cannot leave this issue to the decision of the Regional Conferences. We are a Governing Body. We need to provide clear, direct instructions, otherwise some countries will be at the mercy of internal tensions within their regions and it is necessary, therefore, to consider this even if it takes us six or seven months.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Después de la intervención del Presidente del G77 es difícil pensar que para el tema de las Conferencias Regionales debe haber más consulta. Es evidente, pero la cuestión es en qué formato: CCLM, un CCLM amplio, u otro. Hay algo que usted podría hacer y esto es diversas consultas. Incluso es interesante la propuesta del distinguido representante de Canadá, de modificar el Artículo XXXV del Reglamento con respecto a las Conferencias Regionales. Creo que esto va directo a la preocupación que varios tenemos, este es un tema.

Con respecto a la propuesta de enmienda del Artículo XXXVIII.2(g) del Reglamento General, nosotros propusimos que el tema del Marco Estratégico y el tema del Plan de Mediano Plazo, dada su importancia y que es parte del paquete TN, desde nuestra perspectiva debe ser discutido, por ejemplo, por el Comité de la Conferencia o, meno que usted lleve a cabo estas consultas.

Mr Purnomo Ahmad CHANDRA (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I believe I have missed the offer made by the United Republic of Tanzania before, to have guidance here. What has been done here is to offer the draft proposal. This is just a beginning. This is something to be considered by the Regional Conferences and the Regional Groups. However, if necessary, to find some level of conformity with each of the Regional Conferences, perhaps with the agreement of the Legal Office, we may have consultations to discuss this draft proposal. I think that it will be more appropriate for every Member here to have some level of guidance from the Legal Office on how to deal with this issue later on, but I just want to emphasize that this is an initial proposal that, of course, will be further elaborated after consideration by each of the Regional Conferences.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Secretary of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I think that we are in agreement with this question, at least as regards the process for the formulation of rules for the Regional Conferences. We are starting a process. We have made a number of proposals, the proposals contain options, they contain observations, footnotes and now the ball is, if I may say, on the side of the Regional Conferences and the regions for an initial debate. In the course of this process we should try to ensure consistency among the rules of the various Regional Conferences, but it is difficult for us to impose uniform rules. The regions need to review the draft. The Legal Office is prepared, if there are consultations within FAO, to assist with this matter and we might, in the end, have a very large degree of uniformity and coherence among the rules. From a legal point of view, the authority to adopt the Rules and Procedures is not vested in the CCLM. It is a matter referred to the Council, and then the Council transmits these proposals for further consultation to the Regional Conferences. I think that we could perhaps agree on the need to initiate the process in the course of which we will try to adhere to a requirement of consistency and uniformity.

As regards the proposals to have some discussions within the CoC-IEE, I have some doubts as to whether that is within the mandate of the Committee now, but we could perhaps find a suitable formula to continue to discuss these matters. Maybe, Mr Chairperson, you are in a better position to enlighten us on the mandate and the possibilities of the CoC IEE. In any case, I don't think that these issues are all that important, and maybe they could be addressed at a later stage. On this specific point, I am in the hands of the Council.

For the time being we are not correcting Rule XXXVIII of the General Rules of the Organization regarding the Strategic Framework and the Medium-Term Plan. We will only delete the references to the summary and draft Programme of Work and Budget. So I would propose that you could agree with this course of action.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je crois que nous sommes tous d'accord sur la démarche très sensible sur le fait d'avoir une certaine unité et de donner de la souplesse aussi aux régions. Ce que j'ai entendu ici, c'est la demande de continuer les réflexions.

Je ne suis pas sûr que ce soit nécessaire de renvoyer cela au CoC, mais par contre, d'avoir la relation permanente avec le CQCJ pour faire évoluer les choses mais aussi, pour la consultation dans le cadre des références des Conférences régionales.

Donc, peut-être peut-on rajouter de mettre les Conférences régionales en relation avec les aspects juridiques du CQCJ. Cela nous permet de montrer notre souci, de garder une certaine unité et de tenir compte des spécificités. On ne peut pas faire ici un règlement pour chacun. Donc, il faut donner la possibilité de le faire tout en étant cadré. Voilà comment moi, je le perçois. J'ai l'impression que notre ami Jordanien n'est pas encore complètement satisfait. Oui, la Jordanie et puis le Canada.

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

I am not really convinced by the conclusions which have just been presented. I confirm that these are draft Rules of Procedure for all Regional Conferences, not each Regional Conference individually. If we were talking about Rules of Procedure for each Regional Conference, it would be acceptable and then we would leave each Regional Conference to adopt their Rules of Procedure. The fact of the matter is that we were discussing Rules of Procedure for Regional Conferences as a whole, and this must be done in compliance with the General Rules of the Organization. We cannot have Rules of Procedure for the Near East Region which contradict the Basic Texts. We are talking about a single Organization here. We talk about one UN, so how can we have the Food and Agriculture Organization if we consider that the Regional Conference will be a separate organization, as it were. While noting, of course, that the Regional Conferences play a pivotal role with regard to the budget and the work of the Organization, we need to take more time for consultation to have Rules of Procedure which are acceptable before being presented to the Regional Conferences.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I am somewhat baffled by the continuation of this discussion but, of course, both the Legal Office and you yourself indicated that obviously the context for these Rules and Procedures are the General Rules of the Organization. So there will be a certain degree of uniformity because we all start from the same basis. Within that context, there is obviously a need for some regional differentiation. I would just like to also note that the Regional Conferences involve countries from both the G77 and non-G77 and so there is need for further discussion. We are fortunate that there is time for further discussion by the Regional Conferences and Regional Groups, so there is perhaps no value in continuing that discussion now.

I would just like to note that while this item you correctly indicated is not one for the CoC-IEE, the issue of Rule XXXV is, and by the time of the next CoC-IEE, all five Regional Conferences will have had their first meeting since the reforms, and will have had a new format. Regional Conferences will also have had the experiences from that. It will be very useful to hear from the five Regional Conferences their experience with the agenda setting, now that they have become Governing Bodies. It is time to review how the agendas are set. It is clear that if they are to act as Governing Bodies, in any shape or form, then Member Nations need to be in the driver's seat on the agenda. So this is an entirely appropriate discussion for the next meeting of the CoC-IEE.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

The CCLM made it quite clear that we are not deciding on the Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conferences at this stage. What he said, and I think the Legal Counsel also said, is that we are going to agree on a process on how to go further. Now certain Rules of Procedure for the Regional Conferences have to have uniformity and those rules will go to the Basic Texts, but not every rule goes to the Basic Texts. Various committees and working parties have their own rules. Those rules are subject to the decision of the Regional Conferences. But I think the point to make is that no final decision is being taken until the Regional Conferences are consulted. So if we say we agree on a process okay, but we are not making any decisions. Thank you, Chair.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Creemos que en el caso de la propuesta del Artículo XXXVIII.12 del Reglamento General, eliminar la palabra resumen del actual texto debería dejar para una reflexión ulterior. Nosotros apoyamos esta postura, que por una cuestión técnica quisiéramos dejar la palabra proyecto, el que presenta el proyecto de Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto, será la Conferencia quien aprueba en manera definitiva esta propuesta, que por una cuestión de forma debería quedar así.

Apreciamos la flexibilidad y deseamos apoyar la propuesta de la distinguida representación de Canadá para que en el próximo Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos se trate el tema de la Regla 35 del Reglamento General.

Mr Purnomo Ahmad CHANDRA (Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

I think I can agree with what has been mentioned by our colleague from Afghanistan that this is the process that we need to agree on. As to when we are going to decide, I think I will ask you, Chair, whether it should be at CCLM or in other fora.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Secretary of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

There is a point concerning the issue of the rules for the Regional Conferences. We would consider that it, is not a matter of the utmost urgency now. The Regional Conferences will be meeting in two years time, so maybe a process of consultation can still continue and this might be an option, that is that we leave this draft and maybe consultations will continue. But we still have almost two years.

Regarding Rule XXXV, this matter of the agenda of the Regional Conferences was extensively discussed last year, in fact in the CCLM. We can again submit the matter to the Committee. Since this matter involves a range of policy issues, however, maybe it would be wise for the Members to also consult among themselves so that we, in the CCLM, can examine this matter and make a proposal. We could put the matter on the agenda for the forthcoming session.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania)

I think what is more important here is to know the process. Despite the fact that the regional consultations will take place in years to come and at that time we shall not be having the CoC-IEE, we would like to know what the process is, what the road map is, so that we know what happens and when. That is what is very important, to know how the consultations will be taking place at every level.

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

I support what has just been stated by Mr Tavares with regard to the method to be adhered to for this work, particularly given that this is not an urgent issue. We have enough time, two years, before the next Regional Conferences, so consultations must continue to take place with draft Rules of Procedure to be put to those Regional Conferences for their consideration.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de rajouter un bout de phrase au projet de conclusions qui dit que les réflexions continueront sur les propositions concernant les règlements des Conférences régionales et sur les ajustements au Règlement général de l'Organisation. Je vous rappelle le texte que je voulais vous lire il y a quelques instants des textes fondamentaux, au cinquième alinéa, de l'Article XXXV. Les Conférences régionales peuvent aussi adopter et modifier leur propre règlement intérieur qui doit être conforme à l'Acte constitutif et au présent règlement. Donc c'est dans le texte, c'est à partir de cela qu'il faut continuer les réflexions pour aller plus loin. Est-ce que l'on peut se mettre d'accord? Donc, la consultation continue. Pas d'opposition? Je vous remercie.

Merci Monsieur le Président, merci Monsieur Tavares pour ce travail. C'est toujours important d'être rigoureux sur les textes, c'est parfois compliqué mais c'est important. Cela évite beaucoup de malentendus par la suite. Merci bien.

VI. Governance Matters

VI. Questions relatives à la gouvernance

VI. Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza

13. Note on Working Methods of the Council (CL 140/20)

13. Note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil (CL 140/20)

13. Nota sobre los métodos de trabajo del Consejo (CL 140/20)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au Point 13 de l'Ordre du jour concernant les Méthodes de travail du Conseil qui est le document CL 140/20. Comme vous le savez, les réformes découlant du PAI ont conduit à la modification de certaines méthodes de travail du Conseil. En conséquence, il a fallu réviser la note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil dont je le rappelle la dernière version remonte à l'an 2000.

Le texte ainsi révisé a été examiné en juillet dernier par le Groupe de travail à «composition ouverte» sur les mesures visant à accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur Représentation. À la suite de la réunion du Groupe de travail la note a été amendée en fonction des observations et propositions formulées par les Membres. Le CQCG à la session de septembre dernier a reporté l'examen de la note estimant qu'elle était encore en examen par le Groupe de travail. La version révisée qui est devant vous tient compte aussi bien des amendements apportés aux Textes fondamentaux concernant le rôle et les fonctions du Conseil que les propositions du Groupe de travail. Le Conseil à partir de cette note révisée est appelé à émettre ses commentaires et proposer des amendements en vue de sa finalisation et de l'adoption par le Conseil.

Donc vous l'avez tous. Je propose de vous donner la parole pour faire des commentaires sur ce document. Qui veut intervenir sur ce sujet qui a déjà occasionné de nombreuses discussions dans les groupes? L'Union européenne. Y a-t-il d'autres demandes? Le Canada, la Tanzanie, l'Afghanistan. Je vous propose de donner la parole au Canada, la Tanzanie, l'Union européenne et l'Afghanistan. Le Canada, vous avez la parole.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Effectivement, cette ébauche de document a été discutée à quelques reprises et durant ces discussions, nous avons indiqué que nous n'étions pas d'accord avec une quelconque référence à un Comité de rédaction. Le paragraphe 25 n'est pas conforme avec le PAI. Nous savons très bien que vous avez en tant que Président droit résiduel pour convoquer un Comité de rédaction au besoin, mais tel qu'il est écrit actuellement, va au-delà de ce qui est dans le PAI et donc le paragraphe 25 devrait être amendé. Pour le reste, nous sommes satisfaits. Merci.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

As you have said, we have had several rounds discussing this issue, so we are satisfied with the presentation made today.

Mr Carlos LIETAR (European Union)

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

As this matter is closely linked with the ongoing discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Measures Designed to improve the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, including Representation, the European Union is of the view that the revised Note on the Methods of Work of the Council should be discussed at the next OEWG in February 2011, then sent to the CCLM before adoption at the next Council session.

In our opinion, the note should not mention the functions of the Council which are already described in the Basic Texts of the Organization, but be limited to the Methods of Work of the Council.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We are happy with the note as presented. However, I wish to make the following suggestions, if possible.

On page 4, paragraph II, we propose to change the word “consider” in the third line into “examine.” It is just not necessary that the Strategic Framework should be examined, not considered by the Council.

On paragraph 11, the second line we would prefer to use the word “must” instead of “should.”

In paragraph 15, second line, we wish to add the word “and focus” after “concise.”

Paragraph 17 is cast in rather negative terms. We propose the following alternative text and I will read it slowly. It will read: “To save time, interventions by Members and Observers should be brief and centred on key issues highlighted in the document. Unless extended debate is called for to develop a consensus, speakers should indicate their agreement with points raised by previous speakers.”

In paragraph 22, second line, we wish to change “points” into “essential points.” In paragraph 23, first sentence, we wish to remove the word “as far as possible” at the end of the sentence and add the following: “and the emergence of possible conclusions.”

We have no comment on Annex 1, except to say that in paragraph 13, Item B, the first line the word should not be only he but should be “he/she.”

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The US Delegation thanks the Chair and the Secretariat and other Members for the draft before us, which we have seen in the Open-Ended Working Group. A couple of questions or issues of clarification are requested. We find the process for agenda-setting described in this paper as a bit undefined and vague and, standing items notwithstanding, I would like some clarification just in paragraph 7 or 8 on agenda-setting under agenda documentation. Just to clarify, it seems to this delegation that if a regional group representative requests to have an item added to the agenda of Council, it should be clear that that will be done. In the current language, it suggests that an agenda is prepared in consultation with the Independent Chair of Council having regard to suggestions made by Members. A bit of clarification on agendas would be helpful.

In paragraph 19 under the Section entitled “Conduct of Debate,” we would suggest a switching of the two main points of paragraph 19 to put it upfront that the decisions of Council should in the vast majority of cases be the result of consensus among Members. In the event a vote is required with two-thirds of Members present in agreement to such a vote, decisions of Council are to be taken by a majority of the votes cast. So, just simply stressing the fact that this is a consensus-driven organization and body.

With that, and agreeing to earlier interventions from Canada and Afghanistan, the US delegation thanks you for this note and the opportunity to comment today.

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

I also thank the Secretariat for having prepared this document, which is perfectly aligned with what was stated during the many debates concerning this note. It faithfully reflects the agreement that was reached within the Committee of the Conference and the Open-Ended Working Group. I reassert that we should maintain what is stated in this document, particularly with regard to the Drafting Committee. No one opposed this, so deleting that would be violating an agreement that we had in the past.

With regard to what was stated by the United States, taking a decision is done on the basis of a vote. When there is a consensus, there is no need to have a vote. We cannot say that we need to have a consensus and then if there is a consensus we go to a vote. The rule is the other way around, in fact, in that case.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I apologize that I have to take the floor again, but I simply must object to the intervention of Jordan. Clearly he was not present throughout the meetings to which he referred because Canada was clear and categorical. I am also sure a great number of people in this room that also took part in these meetings and were listening heard us object to any and all reference to the Drafting Committee, as well as making a number of other suggestions.

Sr Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Creo que acaban de surgir algunos temas que van más allá del ámbito común del Consejo. Decidir que esta es una Organización orientada hacia el consenso y no hacia el voto, que la forma de cómo se toman decisiones son cuestiones mucho más complicadas del Consejo mismo, quizás son del ámbito de la Conferencia, que por otra parte éstas tienen que estar de acuerdo con el Sistema de Naciones Unidas del que forma parte esta Organización.

Creo que estas propuestas deberían de ser anotadas y eventualmente abrir un período para comentarios por escrito, porque creo que estamos tocando arenas muy movedizas en una circunstancia que no es la más indicada.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il y a deux aspects dans les questions posées, des aspects plus techniques et monsieur Mekouar va reprendre les amendements, en particulier les amendements de l'Afghanistan qui sont des éléments qui peuvent être repris. Mais j'ai retenu quatre thèmes importants qui font débat. Le premier concernant l'Union européenne qui demande à retirer éventuellement toute la partie du Règlement du Conseil qui a été adjoint justement à la demande pressante des groupes car au départ nous étions moins précis et il y a eu plusieurs interventions pour les intégrer, et c'est pourquoi nous l'avons fait et que c'est important. Compte tenu du Groupe de travail, je souhaite que nous le maintenions.

Deuxième point, sur le Comité de rédaction, je vois que nos deux amis de la Jordanie et du Canada sont encore en discussion. Il est clair qu'il n'y a pas eu d'accord pour supprimer le Comité de rédaction. Cependant les textes, tels qu'ils sont écrits, ne ferment pas la porte à des évolutions futures dans le cadre du Comité de rédaction vers un Rapporteur, mais dans l'immédiat nous en sommes encore au Comité de rédaction qui peut être progressivement avancé. Je ne suis pas opposé à mettre quelque chose qui signifie cette évolution progressive. Sur le consensus, ce sont aussi des débats importants. Le Mexique a fait référence aux pratiques onusiennes, certes, mais le consensus c'est le vote à la majorité, c'est-à-dire, que c'est bien la démocratie qui s'exprime par la participation de chacun et quand nous sommes tous d'accord, il y a consensus. Il est vrai que c'est l'aspect démocratique qui s'applique et on doit rechercher le consensus. Le Président a tout intérêt à faire en sorte qu'il puisse y avoir consensus pour y arriver. Je ne sais pas dans quel ordre il faut le mettre mais j'aurais plutôt tendance à rester dans la mesure de majorité à suffrage exprimé et la priorité reste le consensus. Voilà donc mes questions.

M Kent VACHON (Canada)

Il n'y a pas besoin de prendre une décision pendant cette réunion. Comme le document l'indique clairement, il y aura une autre discussion des amendements et ensuite une revue finale et adoption lors de la prochaine réunion du Conseil. Il est clairement nécessaire de continuer le débat entamé au sein du Groupe de travail ouvert mais je prends la parole pour dire que ce que vous venez de dire à propos du Comité de rédaction n'est pas du tout conforme au PAI. Nous avons pris des décisions, vous n'étiez pas là, moi j'y étais. Ensuite il y a eu un effort pour rouvrir ce débat et il faut tout simplement lire ce qui se trouve dans le PAI. Une décision a été prise lors d'une longue discussion et plusieurs Membres qui ont fait partie de ces négociations ont confirmé cela. Ce qui a créé un peu de confusion c'est le fait que le Président indépendant du Conseil a un droit résiduel si besoin est de convoquer le Comité de rédaction. Mais nous avons décidé, la Conférence a décidé de mettre fin au Comité de rédaction en général, mais le droit résiduel reste et c'est cela la décision. Votre précédent sommaire n'est pas exact, je m'excuse de devoir le dire.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur l'aspect du Comité de rédaction, j'entends bien ce qui a été dit, mais j'ai aussi entendu tout ce qui a été dit dans la discussion et une majorité d'États Membres a souhaité que l'on maintienne le Comité de rédaction. Entre nous, il faudrait qu'ils fassent valoir leur droit de faire pression auprès du Président pour qu'il maintienne le Comité de rédaction, et c'est pourquoi j'ai dit qu'aujourd'hui nous en restions au Comité de rédaction mais que toute évolution dans le temps était possible. Nous pourrions donc rajouter à cet paragraphe 25: «un projet de rapport est normalement établi par le Comité de rédaction ou selon un autre arrangement approprié avec l'aide du Secrétariat». Ce qui nous donne la progressivité, mais en toute objectivité après les discussions que nous avons eues je veux bien que nous reprenions tout le débat. Mais comme j'ai dit, la suppression totale et définitive du Comité de rédaction n'est pas mûre dans cette assemblée. Le travail que nous engageons justement sur l'amélioration du Comité de rédaction sur les conclusions doivent, à mon sens, progressivement aller vers cela.

Je veux bien, à votre demande, signaler que nous ne sommes pas sur un *status quo* définitif. Si cela peut convenir au Canada, j'en suis satisfait.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Just to note that it was not Canada alone, and it's not just paragraph 25. I mentioned any reference to Drafting Committees, that would apply also to paragraphs 23 and 32.

We don't have to agree on this today. We are not in a drafting exercise. That's why we have the Open-ended Working Group to try to move these things forward. So I fully agree that we should move forward with the Council agenda, but it is not just a question of correcting paragraph 25. Indeed we'll see whether the Drafting Committee of this Council can restrict itself to the type of report specifically called for by the IPA.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I sometimes wonder whether having someone else push the button for these microphones actually improves things. Maybe that is an area of efficiency we can look at.

I have to admit I have kind of lost track of what we are actually deciding here. As far as I can tell we are actually deciding nothing. We are talking about this issue, we are not going to decide it today, and we are not capturing the flavour of the discussion in the Report that we are going to draft tomorrow. I think that we are just belabouring the point. Why don't we just all agree that we have not reached a resolution at this point, and we are not going to adopt this document today and it is going to come back to the next Council, and move on?

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

I would add that in the service of clarity and truth we would need to say that the issue of the Drafting Committee is raised at each meeting. There are two points of view, and one is of not proceeding with the Drafting Committee. We have reached the consensus of maintaining it, but we re-can open the debate in the Open-Ended-Working Group and all of the Technical Committees of the Council, and continue this discussion there. It is an issue of belief and conviction. As you said, the danger is not in the Drafting Committee, the danger is in the method of drafting the Report. We do not want the Drafting Committee to be a forum for long debates. The Report should be succinct and focused. We should be able to summarize the debate in so far as is possible. We shouldn't be discussing just the Drafting Committee, because it is part of our working methods and of the results we wish to achieve.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour faire référence à ce que disait les États-Unis d'Amérique tout à l'heure, il est clair que sur ce sujet-là, nous n'avons pas encore le consensus. Donc il y a deux solutions: renvoyer cela à la prochaine réunion, avancer sur la réflexion et décider au Conseil suivant. Mais il nous faut mettre en application et si nous faisons comme cela, ou nous trouvons un accord consensuel avant ou nous le passerons dans le cadre démocratique.

Je ne vois pas d'autres solutions si nous devons aboutir puisque, en ce qui me concerne, je n'ai pas participé aux débats précédents. Mais, déjà depuis que je suis arrivé cela doit faire la quatrième réunion où nous avons ce débat.

Donc, je me retourne vers l'assemblée pour savoir si vous souhaitez que l'on reporte cela au prochain Conseil ou si, malgré tout, on le décide tout de suite. Le Canada.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I read paragraph 10 "Suggested Action by the Council: The Council is invited to review the revised note, to provide such guidance as it deems appropriate and to propose any amendments prior to submission of the note for final review and adoption at the 141st Session of Council, 11-15 April". So as Australia and I and others have said now, I think more than once, we have provided our feedback on this note. It is not a decision point and we can have another discussion at the Open-Ended Working Group, which is scheduled in any event and, as it says in paragraph 10, for final review and adoption at the 141st Session of Council, i.e. not today. So we can, in fact, move on. We do not have to debate this any further. There is no further decision. We agree with the suggested action in the document.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après ces discussions, j'ai bien compris que l'ensemble du Conseil a un avis positif sur la philosophie et la majeure partie du texte mais il reste un certain nombre de points à revoir. Donc après avoir examiné cette note révisée sur les Méthodes de travail du Conseil, il est convenu de l'amender sur un certain nombre de points en vue de sa soumission à la prochaine session pour la considération et son adoption. Avez-vous des avis contraires? Si tel n'est pas le cas nous faisons comme cela. L'Union Européenne.

M Christian PANNEELS (Union européenne)

Sur la base des derniers échanges des points de vue, nous voudrions préciser que nous partageons la position qui a été annoncée par notre collègue canadien. Je crois qu'il faut être prudent en cette matière, et nous craignons qu'une décision dans le sens que vous venez d'indiquer ne soit pas la meilleure option à prendre. Je voudrais quand même plaider pour que l'on revienne sur la question pour arriver à une décision qui ait un consensus plus large.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mais sur ce que je viens de dire, je n'ai pas fermé la discussion pour toujours puisque donc on l'amende sur un certain nombre de point en vue de sa soumission à sa prochaine session pour considération et adoption. Vous êtes bien d'accord?

Concernant le point que nous avons reporté hier soir compte tenu d'un certain nombre d'amendements et donc je vais vous faire lecture des amendements qui ont été enregistrés et indiqués dans le texte pour son adoption.

Alors, je vais faire l'exercice en français et en anglais, puisque comme nous avons convenus hier soir, les amendements ne sont pas traduits dans toutes les langues mais vous avez le document en anglais.

Le 148/18-Rév. 1:

dans le point A: stratégie en priorité dans le cadre des méthodes de travail, il est indiqué dans le premier paragraphe de faciliter par le Président indépendant du Conseil ainsi que dans la ligne suivante, deux fois on indique que le travail est facilité par le Président du Conseil;

ensuite dans le point B: dans le cadre des activités 4ème point: il est indiqué : recommandations et décisions;

toujours le même point B: dans les Méthodes de travail, à deux reprises, nous ajoutons aussi: facilité par le Président indépendant du Conseil au Point 1 et au Point 2;

dans le point D: dans le cadre des indications dans le deuxième paragraphe, comme il a été demandé de rectifier le 2001 par le 2011 et ensuite de rajouter recommandations et décisions;

dans le point F: là aussi dans les méthodes de travail, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 est rajouté: facilité par le Président indépendant du Conseil;

dans les annexes: au point 4, il est dit qu'à la fin de chaque Conseil on examine l'Ordre du jour provisoire (puisqu'il avait été indiqué: examine et adopte) donc c'est uniquement examine;

dans les paragraphes qui concernent les sessions du Conseil, à la 140ème Session du Conseil, pour faire remarquer qu'il était tout à fait justifié concernant le 3ème paragraphe, les Comités techniques et nous rajoutons le Comité de « World Food Security (WFS) », pour bien insister sur le statut un peu particulier du CSA;

de même qu'à la 143ème Session, là aussi on remet le Comité de sécurité alimentaire;

et dans la 145ème Session, on rajoute aussi le Comité de sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que deux suppléments d'informations que nous n'avions pas indiqués hier, sur le rapport du Comité des pêches qui aura lieu en juillet 2012 et celui du Comité des forêts qui aura lieu en octobre 2012;

enfin, lors de la 148ème Session du Conseil: nous rajoutons: le Comité de sécurité alimentaire.

Voilà donc les points qui avaient été évoqués hier soir et que nous avons intégrés dans le texte de notre délibération d'hier. Je vous propose de l'adopter tel qu'il a été modifié. Pas d'opposition ?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

12. Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation (CL 140/19)

12. Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation (CL 140/19)

12. Grupo de trabajo de composición abierta sobre medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los Órganos rectores, incluida la representación (CL 140/19)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 12 du Conseil: le point sur le Groupe de travail à composition non limité et sur la mesure à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leurs représentations. Comme vous le savez, le Groupe de travail a été mis en place en avril 2010. Depuis lors, j'ai présidé en juillet et septembre les deux réunions tenues par le Groupe de travail et dont la prochaine réunion est prévue en février 2011. Le Groupe de travail a examiné les questions suivantes: composition du Conseil; modalité de travail du Comité technique; conduite des réunions du Conseil et des Comités; établissement de leurs rapports; préparation de leurs documentations; mais aussi technologie moderne pour les sessions et les Organes directeurs, et leurs travaux d'intersessions ainsi que les méthodes du Conseil, dont nous venons de parler.

Je souhaite appeler votre attention sur le fait, que comme indiqué dans l'Aide mémoire de la réunion du 23 septembre et dans le document ci-présent, la prochaine réunion du Groupe de travail prévue le 23 février, sera l'occasion d'examiner les propositions que je vous ai soumises sur le Conseil avant l'examen par le Conseil d'avril. Je vous les ai soumises en mi-octobre.

J'ai invité les Groupes régionaux à un échange de vue le 18 novembre et d'ici le 23 février d'autres concertations interviendront mais je prendrai en compte également les échanges éventuellement qui pourraient intervenir aujourd'hui.

Comme pour l'élaboration du PAI, approuvé par acclamation lors de la Conférence spéciale de novembre 2008, je vous encourage à œuvrer dans un esprit constructif pour aboutir à un consensus le plus large possible pour le bénéfice de la FAO lors de la Conférence de juin 2011.

Je tiens à réaffirmer que mon engagement plein et entier sur ce sujet n'a pas d'autres soucis que d'œuvrer pour une position consensuelle à la Conférence et nous avons encore du temps pour y réfléchir et pour y travailler. Dans le document que je vous ai transmis, il y a des sujets consensuels,

d'autres à faire évoluer. Déjà avec les discussions que j'ai eues il y a des points comme, en particulier, autour du Bureau qui ont nettement évolués dans les propositions que nous pourrions faire. Il y a encore du travail à faire sur la composition du Conseil. Donc, je voulais bien insister sur cette démarche telle qu'elle a été engagée. Il y a eu la discussion, il y a eu ma proposition, et il y a votre expression et échange. Nous essayons d'avoir pour le mois de février quelque chose de plus précis pour permettre si c'est possible, un consensus au Conseil ou tout du moins, à la Conférence. Mais, j'insiste fortement que sur ce point là, nous n'avons pas le droit de nous diviser ou de casser l'Unité de travail de la FAO, car nous avons bien besoin, dans les temps qui viennent de toute la mobilisation de la FAO sur des sujets importants, nous en reparlerons cette après-midi.

Le G20 a confié des missions à la FAO, il faut les prendre à bras-le-corps. Nous avons à continuer encore la réforme, nous aurons un changement de l'Organisation, qui occasionnera là aussi des évolutions, nous avons à maîtriser la décentralisation. Donc tout ce qui tourne autour du fonctionnement et de la composition du Conseil est très important, mais ne doit pas nous bloquer dans le travail important que nous avons à faire sur nos orientations. Donc, ce n'est pas un souci de dire qu'il faut faire rapidement, c'est un souci de faire consensuel et c'est dans ce cadre là que je me suis permis de faire quelques propositions qui doivent tendre vers le consensuel. Il est exclus que nous puissions prendre position aujourd'hui mais je veux que chacun comprenne bien l'esprit dans lequel nous devons travailler et qui dit par nature, une position consensuel ne peut pas être la position intégrale de l'un ou de l'autre mais une position de tout le monde. Voilà donc l'esprit qui nous anime. Donc je vous mets aussi à discussion sur ces sujets là.

Le Conseil est invité aussi à prendre note des progrès accomplis par le Groupe de travail sur différents sujets et à formuler les avis qu'il jugera appropriés. Le Conseil souhaitera, notamment, approuver les propositions consensuelles du Groupe de travail portant sur la composition, les fonctions et l'élection des Bureaux et des Comités techniques ainsi que la documentation des réunions des Organes directeurs, l'exactitude de leur contenu et les délais de leur publication. Je dois dire aussi que sans attendre d'avoir pris des décisions définitives que ce soit dans le cadre du Comité de rédaction, que ce soit dans le cadre de la présentation des notes, que ce soit dans le cadre de la synthèse des conclusions que nous faisons pour préparer le Comité de rédaction, nous avons déjà commencer à mettre cela en œuvre y compris dans le cadre de cette session, et j'en profite pour remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir accédé à nos demandes répétées à de multiples occasions d'avoir des "box" qui permettent de faire la synthèse des documents et de préparer les conclusions. Donc, la réforme y compris leurs fonctionnements se n'est pas du jour au lendemain que l'on fait tout mais c'est un processus évolutif comme nous venons de l'accepter tout à l'heure dans le cadre de la composition des Ordres du jour. Voilà donc, l'esprit dans lequel je souhaite que nous échangions maintenant et je vous donne, bien sûr, la parole.

Bien, je vous propose pour cette fois de commencer par la droite et donc je vais demander de donner la parole dans un premier temps au Mexique, ensuite le Brésil, l'Union Européenne et la Tanzanie.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Con respecto a la propuesta de documentos que se encuentra sobre la mesa, nosotros deseamos tratar una cuestión que tiene que ver con las formas de trabajo. No proponemos necesariamente ir al fondo del documento, pero sí mencionar que tenemos un informe del Grupo de Trabajo sobre los Órganos Rectores que no fue discutido ni acordado en el Grupo que usted preside.

Tenemos los memorandos que se elaboraron bajo su responsabilidad, pero no se trata de un documento que, como tal, el propio Grupo hubiera decidido traer al Consejo. Es por este motivo que estamos en un dilema: por una parte, porque en este momento no sabemos si parte de los temas que están siendo tratados entrarán en las discusiones de fondo, lo que permitiría avanzar, mientras que hay un conjunto de otros temas sustantivos que deberá procesar este grupo. Por este motivo esta delegación tiene dificultad en avanzar y tomar una decisión sobre un tema que no fue definido en el Grupo. Nos parece complicado debido a la participación activa de muchas de las delegaciones en la que nosotros también hemos participado. Aún a pesar de que podamos estar a favor de algunas o de muchas de las cosas, tenemos la perspectiva de que el Informe debe ser adoptado en su conjunto sobre los temas que usted presentará a este Consejo en el próximo período de sesiones antes de la Conferencia.

Desde esta perspectiva, independientemente que se trate de un tema de sustancia, creemos que debemos profundizar y le pediría su venia para tomar la palabra.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Je comprends que le G77 et le GRULAC ont des propositions sur ce sujet. J'aimerais vous demander de me donner la parole après les interventions du G77 et du GRULAC. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je n'y vois pas d'inconvénients mais il aurait fallu qu'ils s'inscrivent. Voilà qui est fait. Je donne donc la parole à l'Union européenne, puis au G77 et ensuite au GRULAC.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The EU would like to underline the importance of governance reform, particularly as this is an area lagging behind in the implementation of the IPA. The existing position of the EU on participation in the Council is well known. However, this Council session is neither the place nor the time to open this discussion, since the Open-Ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation, has been established to deal with this issue.

The EU welcomes the discussions already taking place in the OEWG and emphasizes the importance of reaching a decision on all related issues on the basis of full consensus. The EU considers that the OEWG has made progress in some areas. However, more work needs to be done to reach agreement, hopefully at the next February meeting. The discussion in the OEWG should at all times be geared towards achieving more effectiveness and efficiency of all the Governing Bodies of FAO.

In order to have a full-informed discussion at the next meeting of the OEWG, the EU urges the Secretariat to prepare a document detailing the financial implications of all the different measures proposed.

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

As the representative of the European Union just stated there is a certain progress that has been achieved in the Open-Ended Working Group, but as we all know, work is far from complete. As we already decided in the Committee of the Conference last year, it is preferable Mr Chairman, in our view, to discuss all subjects in the Open-Ended Working Group to be able to present to the Council a document which has a message of consensus with regard to all these measures. Opinions are still divided, however, as there are differences of opinion with regard to membership to the Council, as well as the Working Methods. We are not reaching an agreement with regard to the measures to enhance efficiency of the Governing Bodies. We therefore believe that we shouldn't open discussion in the Council as yet, and prefer to deal with these subjects in the Open-Ended Working Group.

It is regretful that the meetings of this Group have been insufficient, and the G77 would like to express its concern regarding the insufficient number of meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group. We think we don't have enough time to reach an agreement on measures to enhance efficiency of Governing Bodies, so we would like to ask you, Mr Chairman, to allocate a greater number of meetings for this OEWG so we can reach a consensus document to present to the Council at its next session. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Sr Carlos BENTACOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Uruguay)

En primera instancia quería asociar al GRULAC con la intervención del Sr. Presidente del G77. Coincidimos en su resumen, sin embargo, queríamos hacer algunas precisiones, fundamentalmente con respecto al documento CL 140/19, en el entendido que el enfoque del mismo no da suficiente claridad sobre el tema de las ampliaciones de las Mesas de los Comités. El GRULAC al respecto,

como lo reflejaba en sus dichos el Presidente del G77, referido a la inexistencia de consenso, tiene dudas respecto de este tema.

Nuestro grupo ha expresado ya su parecer respecto a la necesidad de conciliar criterios de racionalidad con los de funcionalidad. Obviamente, tenemos mucho trabajo por delante. Lo dicho por el Presidente del G77 es correcto, no hemos todavía encontrado un camino del medio. Por otra parte, el GRULAC también ha participado activamente en el Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta sobre el tema del aumento de la representatividad del Consejo con el espíritu más constructivo posible, pero también debemos coincidir que en este caso tenemos discusiones muy importantes a nivel de G77 y lo dicho por el Sr. Presidente del G77 en ese aspecto resume lo que el GRULAC piensa.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

Brazil associates itself with the interventions made by the Chair of G77 and the Chair of GRULAC on behalf of those groups, and I would also like to add some comments.

We understand that the debate about improving representation and efficiency of the Council is going in the right direction in the Open-Ended Working Group. We welcome the proposal we have sent to the Member Nations as a good basis for negotiation and compromise. We need to get past our differences that are not so great and settle on an arrangement that will contemplate our interests in a sensible compromise while at the same time improving our methods of work.

We welcome the early implementation of some arrangements, such as the provision of draft decisions for consideration of the Council in some of the background documents - a procedure recently adopted in the CFS and which contributed greatly in keeping the outcomes focused. For the next session of the Council, we urge the Secretariat to adopt the same procedure for each and every document requiring our decision.

Speaking about draft decisions, I want to refer to the draft decision contained in the background document for this agenda item, document CL 140/19, which is a progress report of the work of the Open-Ended Working Group. The draft decision in that document purports the Council to endorse the proposals made by the Open-Ended Working Group with regards to (i) the membership functions and elections of the bureaus of the Technical Committees, and (ii) timings and accuracy of documentation for Governing Body meetings. While we have no problems in endorsing the proposals of the Open-Ended Working Group as regards the timing and accuracy of documentation, which, by the way, includes the draft decisions in the background documents, my delegation, as was expressed by the Chair of GRULAC, cannot endorse what is in the report regarding the bureaus of the Technical Committees because we do not consider that the document contains an accurate summary of the debate in the Open-Ended Working Group. Paragraphs 10 and 11 seem to imply that there was general agreement with respect to the creation, size, and role of Technical Committee bureaus and, in fact, no such agreement was reached.

It is our view, as was also expressed by the Chair of GRULAC, Uruguay, that more analysis and justification is needed before creating and expanding bureaus of the Technical Committees. We need first to be very clear that the benefits of such creations and expansions outweigh their financial and human costs, both for the Organization and for the Member Nations. It is our belief that under-representation of many Regional Groups could be, if not in theory, then in practice, further increased with this multiplication of bureaus in the face of the limited resources available to the delegations of developing countries. For many Technical Committees, the reinforcement of informal consultations between the Chair, the Secretary and the Chairs of the Regional Groups and, of course, with you, the Chair of the Council, might be a simpler and more cost-effective alternative to the creation of bureaus.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

First of all, on behalf of Africa we want to associate ourselves with the interventions that have been made by the Chair of the G77, Mexico, Uruguay and Brazil.

We congratulate the members of the Open-Ended Working Group under your leadership for drawing up areas which will further enhance the efficiency of the working of the Governing Bodies. Members have shown their commitment to us reforming FAO.

We would like to thank the North America Regional Group and South-West Pacific Group for taking the time to introduce some important areas for consideration. Some of the measures which the Open-Ended Working Group decided on have been implemented during this Council Meeting, and we have also elaborated on this.

The Open-Ended Working Group has made progress in its work and we would like to see accomplishment in the remaining items, possibly in February next year. The issue of Council seats needs adequate time for consideration, possibly when tangible results of the reform are in place. I would like to elaborate on this, but I will leave it for now.

The Africa Region Group is ready to look into the other proposals regarding the Council as per the paper of the Chairman of the Open-Ended Working Group where we agree on many of the areas, with the exception of a few areas on which we will be intervening during the subsequent Open-Ended Working Group Meeting.

We endorse the proposals made by the Open-Ended Working Group with the request that the Independent Chair call upon the COAG and CCP Bureaus or Chairs to decide on the issues, for consideration, as soon as possible before the next Open-Ended Working Group in February.

We insist on the inclusiveness of Members in the preparation of reports of meetings of the Technical Committees, so we desire the continuation of the Drafting Committee.

We also ask for a careful introduction of new modern technologies for Governing Body sessions and inter-sessional work, and agree that Management analyse and prepare a document on this issue.

M Kent VACHON (Canada)

J'aimerais indiquer l'accord total entre notre position et l'intervention faite par l'Union européenne. Heureusement, nous avons le temps et nous avons le Groupe de travail pour essayer de créer un consensus qui nous échappe sur plusieurs points jusqu'à maintenant. Parmi ces sujets, j'aimerais faire référence, brièvement, au paragraphe 19 du Rapport et je lis en anglais: "Different views were expressed in the Open-Ended Working Group on the respective merits of Rapporteurs and Drafting Committees, and no consensus on the most desirable formula emerged. Other options were also put forward for consideration."

On that point, clearly as well as many others, we still need further discussion and we look forward to working with all to achieve a greater consensus. We also welcome the proposals contained in the annex in this document that indicate that on some points, in any event, the Open-Ended Working Group has already made progress.

Sr Agustín ZIMMERMAN (Observador por Argentina)

Intervengo muy brevemente porque tanto el Presidente del G-77, la Presidencia del GRULAC, México y Brasil han expresado su posición sobre este Tema.

Quisiera referirme específicamente y apoyar lo que dijo la delegación de Brasil con respecto al párrafo 10 del documento presentado. Estimamos que el tema aun no ha alcanzado el consenso general sobre la extensión de las Mesas de los Comités Técnicos. En ese sentido estimamos que el Consejo no puede todavía apoyar este Tema y que el mismo tiene que seguir siendo discutido en el ámbito del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta que usted preside.

M Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. La Suisse accorde une grande importance à l'amélioration de l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, comme recommandé par l'Évaluation externe et indépendante. Nous accueillons avec satisfaction les progrès accomplis et pouvons souscrire aux propositions formulées par le Groupe de travail tant en ce qui concerne le Bureau des Comités techniques que la documentation des réunions des Organes directeurs, l'exactitude du contenu et les délais de

publication. J'aimerais tout simplement ici souligner que sous l'angle de l'efficacité, notre pays est favorable à l'institution du système du Rapporteur en lieu et place de Comité de rédaction. De plus, nous soutenons également l'utilisation de technologies modernes pour les sessions des Organes directeurs et leurs travaux inter-sessions avec établissement d'un rang de priorité en la matière.

Mr Evgeny F UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to note that within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group, significant progress has been made regarding recommendations for the Governing Bodies of FAO.

We agree with our colleagues from the European Union that it is necessary to continue the active work in the OEWG. This is something that has also been supported by delegates from a number of other countries, to reach consensus decisions for the next Session of the Council and to be in a position to adopt these decisions at the June Conference, both with regard to the Membership of the Council and other Governing Bodies of the Organization.

The Russian Federation would like to express its gratitude for the enormous work that has been done by the Independent Council Chair on this issue. The proposals from the Chair have provided a good basis for the ongoing work of the Working Group, in particular with regard to the Working Methods of the Council and to the Council's work programme and, of course, to its Membership. We believe that the Chair's ideas can provide a good foundation for further work in this area and facilitate the decisions that can be endorsed by other Member Nations decisions which would also serve the goals of the Organization and promote the effectiveness of the work of the Council.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Let me start by thanking you for the opportunity to speak, and I am adjusting my comments as we go based on earlier interventions. I must also thank my dear friend from Tanzania for his remarks recognizing the contributions that we've made in the context of this agenda item. I think, as he rightfully noted, we've seen the very first steps in our efforts to improve the efficiency and the quality of our work here. As witness, Mr Mekouar had delivered, in the very opening session, a report on the timeliness of documentation which we will be seeing at future sessions as a guide for assisting us in receiving the quality and timely documentation that we have requested.

We also take note and welcome our colleague from Jordan speaking for the G77, who mentioned the importance of reaching consensus on this issue. We welcome the next meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group and informal discussions with all Members of this Organization to find the compromise, to go as far as we can in the spirit of confidence building which was one of the key issues identified in the IEE as something that is in short supply and in need of strengthening. Also in the IEE, very clearly on page 189 in the English version, in paragraph 759, there's a very clear statement about the need to review Governing Bodies and governance in general. We do agree governance needs to be improved and we welcome, as the IEE suggested after six years of implementation of the reform process, a clear evaluation of how well we've done. Obviously, we hope this process will contribute to us moving in the right direction.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I wish to make two comments. One is to support all those delegations before my own that have agreed that this is not the right time nor place to have a detailed discussion of these issues, and that the Open-Ended Working Group is indeed that time and that place.

The second point I wanted to raise is to recognize here that this is not about just the size of delegations, it is also about the size of regions. This is one constraint that my Region, in particular, faces having small representations here in Rome. Many of the issues at play here – not just Council size, but bureaus, Drafting Committees and all the rest – have a direct bearing on the ability of my Region to be represented. I really wish to raise that point in these for a, and that we should be cognisant that not every region has the same level of resources to dedicate to all these activities.

Paragraph 10 of the paper, and I just simply want to concur with comments made by Brazil and the EU with respect to Bureaus. The issue for us is what appears to be an increase, a rising cost of governance, without, as EU has requested, costings or a general overview of how we're improving our governance through what is clearly a greater expenditure in that context of resources that we would prefer to see used for programmes and fighting hunger, rather than more meetings.

The CFS is clearly growing. We've seen a draft proposal for a budget, again more organizational resources going towards a Governing Body in which we see value, but clearly we need to balance the resources that we use for governance with the vital programmatic issues that we've all cite as critical.

So, we look forward to the next meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group. Frankly we don't believe it necessary to have more meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group. I think we already see progress. We indicated in the last informal meeting with you, Mr Chair, along with other Regional Group representatives, that we thought your paper gave us a good start, and that there were some good ideas in there. We can support several of them and we hope to work with our colleagues in the context of building and restoring trust in the governance processes in a consensus manner which our G77 friend has indicated. I will stop there, and I appreciate having had the opportunity to comment.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Ante todo quisiera reconocer el trabajo hecho para la presentación del resumen sobre las actividades que ha llevado hasta el momento, desde su establecimiento el Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta. Igualmente, quisiera expresar mi respaldo a las intervenciones y planteamientos indicados por oradores que me precedieron, el Presidente del G-77 más China, el Presidente del GRULAC, México y Brasil entre otros.

En verdad este es un tema que debemos seguir trabajando. El Representante de Australia acaba de indicar un aspecto, que particularmente los miembros del GRULAC hemos enfatizado en reiteradas oportunidades. Efectivamente es demasiado reiterativo indicar que los 192 países que integran la FAO y los 49 países que integran el Consejo que son países que proceden de regiones distintas en términos del desarrollo, en términos de la capacidad para poder sostener una actividad de equipos suficientemente completos en términos numéricos, para poder abarcar la gran cantidad de actividades que representan estas tres organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas, y más específicamente la FAO.

El tema de los recursos por parte de los países de recursos financieros, técnicos y humanos es algo que tiene unos niveles de desigualdad. Creo que todos los que estamos acá estamos conscientes de que eso es así. Por tanto, intentar la ampliación de esos Comités Técnicos como ya lo hemos reiterado en las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo, en el GRULAC, y también lo hemos reiterado como tal en el G77, es que efectivamente hay que medir las consecuencias que conllevaría que esos Comités Técnicos sean linealmente ampliados, y que se tome, por decir así, el ejemplo que quedó recientemente con la Reforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y precisamente como alguien señalaba ayer que no se colocara al mismo nivel del Comité Técnico al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Todos sabemos las connotaciones y las implicaciones que quisimos darle a esa Reforma para que hoy día efectivamente el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sea lo que percibimos en su última sesión que acaba de realizarse.

Respecto a la composición del Consejo, nuestro Grupo Regional lo ha reiterado en distintas oportunidades y ha sido ratificado igualmente por el G77. Yo creo que este tema tiene que seguirse trabajando en el Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta. Debe haber reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta adicionales a las que hemos tenido, debe ser ese el escenario de debate. La eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores va a depender de muchas otras cosas, va a depender, además del número, también de la participación de una u otra región, o de uno u otro país y va a depender efectivamente del compromiso que adquiramos con esta Organización para que efectivamente hagamos el trabajo que tenemos que hacer.

Ayer mismo se nos volvió a ratificar con un ruido ensordecedor de los pitos, cuál es la situación en la que estamos, de tal manera que ojalá tengamos la suficiente racionalidad, compromiso ético con esta institución y con esos que están allá afuera. Quizás no nos escucharon el pito, pero en verdad esa es la licencia que necesitamos, que esta Organización, esté cada vez en capacidad mayor de ayudar a los

países en combatir el problema del hambre y la pobreza. Yo espero que hayan más reuniones, que logremos prontamente un consenso y que valoremos los argumentos que estamos dando, todos, teniendo en cuenta que todos no somos exactamente iguales y todos no tenemos las capacidades como para asumir responsabilidades de la naturaleza que algunos Miembros han indicado y que hemos expresado, es imposible adoptarlas de manera lineal para todos, las regiones y los países.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y-a-t-il d'autres interventions sur ce sujet? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je me permets avant de faire des propositions de conclusions pour le Comité de rédaction, de vous faire quelques remarques. Premièrement, à la question qui a été posée: comment le rapport a-t-il été fait? C'est clair, il a été fait sur la base des résumés du Président et sous ma responsabilité puisque nous n'avons pas eu d'autres Comités pour l'accepter depuis.

J'en profite aussi pour signaler et remercier les contributions d'un certain nombre de Pays Membres dans la contribution sur la réflexion qui a été engagée, sur les Méthodes de travail, sur les Nouvelles technologies et sur les Rapports. C'est aussi comme cela que l'on peut avancer. Le Secrétariat peut faire des propositions, les États Membres aussi, et je dois vous remercier de cette démarche qui a été très intéressante.

Troisième remarque, il est clair que nous ne sommes pas en situation aujourd'hui de prendre quelques décisions importantes que ce soit sur ce document et sur son contenu, même s'il est important que chacun ait pu exprimer ses doutes, ses regrets, ses ambitions mais surtout que chacun comprenne bien et cela je voudrais que vous l'assimiliez bien. J'en suis convaincu que nous devons sur ce sujet là, demain, après demain ou plus tard mais je préfère avant la Conférence, arriver à un consensus qui nous permette de vraiment donner toute notre énergie à ce que l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela vient de dire, c'est-à-dire la mission pour laquelle nous sommes ici, au service des différents pays. Il est vrai que la façon de travailler y contribue, et c'est pourquoi c'est aussi très important. Avant de donner les conclusions, je retire aussi quelques éléments qui ont été proposés, c'est sur les aspects budgétaires des différents dossiers. D'ailleurs, l'autre jour dans la discussion avec les Présidents régionaux, ce sujet était revenu de dire, essayons de chiffrer au mieux les conséquences pour les Comités techniques y compris pour l'évolution du Conseil. Quelqu'un a dit aussi qu'il faut se préoccuper du budget, mais il faut aussi faire le rapport qualité/coût, c'est-à-dire, qu'il y a des choses qui peuvent peut-être coûter plus cher mais qui sont essentielles pour l'avenir de la structure. Mais nous allons essayer de voir comment nous pouvons approcher tout cela.

Deuxièmement, j'ai quand même entendu de votre bouche qu'il y avait eu des progrès faits dans la discussion et dans l'évolution, et là je réinsiste sur le fait que dans le cadre, puisque chacun s'est exprimé en tant qu'États Membres mais aussi à certains moments en tant que groupes de pays. C'est tant mieux, dans la mesure où il y a discussion à l'intérieur des groupes de pays.

Alors, vous me permettez, c'est peut-être osé de ma part, mais je vous demande instamment dans les groupes de discuter de vos positions mais aussi des positions des autres. Si nous voulons faire un consensus et que chacun ne cause que des positions propres à son groupe, je peux au moins vous informer que nous ne sommes pas prêts d'avoir un consensus. Le consensus par nature c'est arrivé à prendre une partie des positions des autres, d'apporter les siennes pour qu'il y ait une position commune et le document que j'ai réalisé n'est pas un document officiel, mais un document du Président pour faciliter la discussion et l'évolution des positions.

D'ailleurs sur la première partie, la composition, j'ai fait des propositions, mais j'ai compris que le *status quo* de chacun des États Membres n'avait pas bougé. Donc, là, il y a du progrès. Par contre, sur le deuxième point concernant l'évolution autour d'un Bureau ou d'un Comité d'accompagnement, après discussions entre nous, avec les Groupes, et avec les Présidents de Groupe, je peux faire des propositions plus précises qui tiennent compte de tout cela et surtout éviter des dépenses supplémentaires et de globaliser cela. Donc il y a eu des évolutions complémentaires. Je pense que sur la proposition concernant aussi la durée des mandats qui est une proposition à la fois d'harmonisation et à la fois qui permettra à chaque région dans le cadre de la rotation d'assurer peut-être un peu plus de représentation, cela aussi peut évoluer. Il est clair aussi que, sur le débat du Comité de rédaction et du

Rapport, nous avons encore des progrès à faire. On l'a vu tout à l'heure et vous avez pu l'entendre de ma bouche et le voir dans le document. Je suis partisan d'étape après étape, marche après marche, parce que j'ai au moins compris que dans la discussion affrontée sur ce sujet là nous allons encore passer du temps. L'essentiel c'est de pouvoir avancer étape après étape, dans une direction plus pratique et plus respectueuse de tout le monde, certes, mais qui doit aussi avancer. Quand aux autres sujets qui sont plus particulièrement en annexes, j'ai cru comprendre que pour «gagner du temps» et ne pas revenir là-dessus, je vous proposais au moins d'accepter cette partie là qui est sur la documentation des réunions et des Organes directeurs et l'exactitude des contenus. Je crois qu'il y a eu dans les discussions consensus sur les différents points.

Il est clair que nous avons besoin de temps. J'ai aussi entendu un certain nombre de demandes formulant des réunions plus fréquentes sur ces sujets là. Je vous le dis tout directement, s'il faut en faire plus, on en fera plus. Mais si vous voulez avoir un Président indépendant qui soit disponible pour cela, il faudra lui donner plus de moyens. C'est clair et net, je ne peux pas faire plus que ce que je fais, même si le Secrétariat est d'une disponibilité remarquable. Quand je dis plus, je ne parle de moyens financiers, mais en matière humaine pour le faire. J'ai un collaborateur, un conseiller qui est à ma disposition mais tous les deux, nous faisons notre possible. Avec Monsieur Ali Mekouar, nous travaillons en bonne synergie, mais si nous voulons justement que ce soit la conjonction des réflexions des pays, qu'on en fasse la synthèse, approuvée en face, avec et communément avec le Secrétariat, il faut arriver à le faire avancer. D'ailleurs, je vous redis à chacun d'entre vous que dans les années passées, lorsque mon prédécesseur devait s'occuper du CoC-IEE, on lui avait donné les moyens de le faire. Aujourd'hui, je ne les ai pas, je fais avec mes propres moyens, donc c'est une décision et une orientation qu'il faudra bien revoir, que ce soit pour ce biennium ou pour d'autres ou pour mes successeurs. Je tenais quand même à profiter de l'occasion pour le dire, mais sachez que je suis pleinement disponible pour cette mission là, et nous ne ferons pas de réunions de l'OEWG avant le mois de février. Par contre j'aurai sans doute à faire des réunions avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux d'ici là. Nous ferons une réunion, nous en ferons deux si c'est nécessaire. Je consulterai aussi les Groupes régionaux, pour non pas les convaincre mais pour que chacun ne démobilitise pas dans la réflexion. La pire des choses ce serait que chacun attende le mois de février pour faire de nouvelles propositions. Il faut qu'au mois de février on arrive avec un document qui puisse être amendé. Je vous rappelle que nous n'aurons pas beaucoup de temps avant le Conseil, et ensuite avant la Conférence. Donc voilà dans quel esprit je souhaite que nous puissions travailler. Merci, donc, du soutien que vous m'apporterez.

Pour faciliter là aussi le travail du Comité de rédaction et comme nous l'avons fait depuis le début du Conseil, je vous donne quelques éléments plus particulier pour préparer le Rapport. Donc en conclusion, je vous lis ce que j'ai préparé à Angers: «le Conseil s'est félicité» au début j'avais mis «a noté» mais compte tenu qu'un certain nombre d'entre vous avait dit que cela avait bougé, j'ai dit «le Conseil s'est félicité des progrès accomplis par le Groupe de travail et a approuvé les propositions contenues dans l'Annexe concernant la documentation des réunions des Organes directeurs, l'exactitude du contenu et les délais de publication». Deuxième point: «le Conseil a noté la proposition du Président indépendant du Conseil visant à formuler des propositions consensuelles, pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leurs représentations, pour considération ultérieure par le Groupe de travail et les Organes directeurs pertinents, y compris le Conseil et la Conférence». C'est ce que je vous disais tout de suite. On est en mouvement et on continue. «Le Conseil encourage le Groupe de travail à poursuivre l'examen des questions dont il est saisi en vue de leur approfondissement et de leur conclusion». Ces deux points sont complémentaires, l'un plus particulièrement pour inciter le Président à animer cela et l'autre pour responsabiliser le Groupe pour pouvoir tirer des conclusions au Conseil et faute de le faire au Conseil à la Conférence de façon consensuelle. Voilà les conclusions que je peux tirer du travail que nous avons fait ce matin. Je considère que ce point est terminé.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I think that the conclusion is fine, but also many, many delegations noted that the summary provided was not accurate with respect to the role and composition of Bureaus of Technical Committees. We would like this to be reflected somewhere. Perhaps it's not necessary for it to be included in the Report

of the Council, although we have an amendment to propose. But anyway, we would like some assurance that the summary will be updated to correct this.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous sommes d'accord. Je n'ai pas repris ce qui était dans "*la box*" concernant les mesures suggérées par le Conseil à propos des propositions formulées. Dans la mesure où cela n'est pas mis, cela reste en discussion. Il n'y a que l'Annexe que j'ai fait approuver, mais tout le reste continue dans la discussion. Nous sommes bien clairs. Ça va, donc vous ne remettez pas en cause malgré tout votre soutien?

Je vous remercie du travail de ce matin qui était un travail important, puisqu'il nous permettra d'aller plus loin sur ces sujets-là. Deux communications de Monsieur Mekouar pour vous.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

There are two announcements. Women Leaders in Rome are having an event at 1.00 p.m. in the Iran Room on discussions on "Women in Food and Agriculture" and sandwiches will be served.

The other communication is from the European Union. They are having a Coordination Meeting in the German Room at 12.30p.m.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous recommencerons notre séance à 14 h 30 et si nous sommes aussi disciplinés que ce matin, nous pouvons peut-être espérer terminer à 17 h 30. Merci et bon appétit. N'oubliez pas d'aller à la session des femmes.

The meeting rose at 12:36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.ºperíodo de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SESTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2010

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:45 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

VII. Other Matters (cont'd)
VII. Questions diverses (suite)
VII. Otros asuntos (continuación)

16. Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board (CL 140/10; CL 140/LIM/4)
16. Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM (CL 140/10; CL 140/LIM/4)
16. Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA (CL 140/10; CL 140/LIM/4)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la sixième séance de la 140ème session du Conseil.

Nous procédons maintenant au point 16 de l'Ordre du jour, à l'Election de six membres du Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour la période allant du 1er janvier 2011 au 31 décembre 2013. Les documents de référence portent le symbole CL 140/10 et CL 140/LIM/4.

Je voudrais aussi accueillir la Représentante du PAM, je vous remercie d'être avec nous et avant de passer la parole au Secrétaire général, je signale qu'à sa 141ème session en avril 2011, le Conseil sera invité à examiner et adopter un Projet de résolution proposant des amendements à l'Appendice B du Règlement général du PAM sur la répartition des sièges du Conseil exécutif et à le soumettre à la 37ème session de la Conférence en 2011.

A présent je passe la parole au Secrétaire général qui va donner lecture de la liste des candidats.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GENERAL

Les candidats sont les suivants, pour la Liste A: le Cameroun et l'Afrique du Sud pour deux sièges à pourvoir. Pour la Liste B, il y a un candidat pour un siège à pourvoir, à savoir l'Arabie Saoudite. Pour la Liste C, il y a un candidat, Haïti, pour un siège à pourvoir. Pour la Liste D, deux candidats, le Canada et l'Allemagne pour deux sièges à pourvoir. Il n'y a pas de siège pour l'instant à pourvoir pour la Liste E.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Je donne tout de suite la parole à l'Ambassadeur de l'Iraq, qui m'a demandé de faire une déclaration.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Observer for Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I do feel the need to comment on this, bearing in mind the number of questions raised concerning the candidates for this seat for List B for the Board of the WFP. The number was much more than this, whereas the seat is just one single seat. What happened was that the majority of the candidates were from the Near East Region and I would like to point out the fact that this does reflect two possibilities. The first possibility is that the Near East Group is very active now, and this Region is very keen to participate and therefore we all have this interest in participating in the work of the Organization.

The second possibility may perhaps be the lack of flexibility to reach consensus on one candidate.

As Chairman of the Near East Group, I feel that what happened was the first possibility, and because our region is so committed, we may always have several candidates wishing to step forward for seats falling vacant, so we can call for more elections and longer meetings, because they are enjoyable.

However, in this case, we have decided not to give you the pleasure of holding elections or organizing a voting process. This is why we have opted for withdrawing our candidature in favour of Saudi Arabia, and we feel that they shall greatly contribute to the work at hand.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur. Doublement merci. Je vois que l'Arabie Saoudite souhaite avoir la parole. Vous l'avez. L'Arabie Saoudite.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I will not speak at length since you have just introduced this item. However, may I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all those who supported our candidature to be a member of the WFP Board, and those who voted in favour of our candidate. We do hope that we will be able to perform well and be an active member on the Board.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Observer for Syrian Arab Republic)

First of all, I'd like to thank all the countries which accepted Syria to be included in the List B of WFP despite the deadline.

Syria wanted to avoid having to have an election for the one seat at WFP, so I'm here to declare the withdrawal of Syria from the nomination for the first seat for List B. I also would like to thank all the countries that officially supported Syria in this regard. Thank you.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

In today's paper, issued for today's agenda, at the back of it, it is quite clearly stated there is one candidate from List B. There is no need for either Iraq or for Syria to speak that they have withdrawn. The Members only have this list.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je pense que l'effort qui a été fait par chacun pour avoir une position unitaire méritait que nous passions deux minutes pour les entendre plutôt que d'être obligés de voter. Je vous remercie de l'effort que vous avez fait pour vous mettre d'accord et donc dans la situation où nous sommes, il y a autant de candidats que de postes à pourvoir, donc deux candidats pour la Liste A, un pour la Liste B, un pour la Liste C et deux pour la Liste D. Donc, comme il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de postes je vous propose d'élire par acclamation ces quatre personnes: Le Cameroun, l'Afrique du Sud, l'Arabie saoudite, Haïti, le Canada et l'Allemagne pour les six sièges à pourvoir. Donc, je vous propose de les élire.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

VI. Governance Matters (cont'd)**VI. Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****VI. Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)****14. Arrangements for the 37th Session of the Conference (25 June-2 July 2011): (CL 140/12)****14. Organisation de la trente-septième session de la Conférence (25 juin-2 juillet 2011) (CL 140/12)****14. Preparativos para el 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (25 de junio-2 de julio de 2011) (CL 140/12)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Nous abordons maintenant le point 14 qui est l'organisation de la trente-septième session de la Conférence (25 juin – 2 juillet 2011) (CL 140/12). Il s'agit de la présentation de propositions en vue de l'organisation de la 37^{ème} Session de la Conférence. Elles concernent l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la session, le Calendrier d'examen des points inscrits à l'Ordre du jour y compris les élections, le traitement des résolutions et les invitations ainsi que les procédures à suivre pour la présentation des communications à la Conférence par les candidats au poste de Directeur général décrites à l'Annexe C. Le Conseil est donc invité à prendre des décisions sur l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 37^{ème} Session de la Conférence, qui se trouve dans l'Annexe A; le thème principal du Débat général sur la situation de l'alimentation mondiale et de l'agriculture et la limitation à cinq minutes au maximum de la durée des déclarations des Chefs de délégations faites au titre de ce point à l'Ordre du jour; les dates de limite de dépôt de candidatures pour le poste de Président indépendant du Conseil pour la période de

juillet 2011 à juin 2013; pour les propositions de candidatures des Membres du Conseil pour les périodes de novembre 2011 à juin 2014 et de juillet 2012 à juin 2015, et enfin la constitution de deux commissions à savoir la Commission I pour les questions de fonds et de politique générale et la Commission II pour les questions relatives au Programme et au Budget. Voilà donc les différents points et je vous propose que nous abordions les points, les uns après les autres, et que nous passions aux discussions sur le thème général pour pouvoir engager la discussion.

Sur l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 37ème Session de la Conférence y-a-t'il des commentaires ?
L'Union européenne, vous avez la parole.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The European Union welcomes document CL 140/12 on the arrangements for the 37th Session of the FAO Conference.

With respect to the decisions the Council has to take, the European Union agrees with the items covering the agenda as suggested, the deadlines for the receipt of nominations, the establishment of the two Commissions and the participation of Palestine as an Observer.

With respect to the theme for the General Debate for the 37th Session of the Conference, the European Union would suggest the following title, and I quote, "The role of sustainable small-holder agriculture including the gender dimension, in addressing poverty and food security".

Indeed, small-holder agricultural farms are mostly run by women and their role needs to be better recognized. It would give FAO the opportunity to shed some light on the female role in small-holder agricultural farming, fishing and so forth, and it could build on research and analytical work done for the next SOFA Report.

Furthermore, special emphasis needs to be given to livestock holders, pastoralists and fisherfolk as they have an essential role in small-holder agricultural farming and in the preservation of local food distribution.

This will give the opportunity to all Ministers to address the Conference on a subject of critical importance, not only to food security, but also in relation to climate change, biodiversity and preservation of present genetic resources.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, avec mes excuses. Nous allons reprendre la discussion sur le thème, je voudrais simplement que nous abordions tous les aspects des points sur l'Ordre du jour mais aussi de bien vérifier les dates de dépôt des candidatures. On va éliminer tout cela d'abord et ensuite, on prendra un temps pour la discussion du thème. Je m'excuse de ne pas avoir été suffisamment clair pour l'exprimer. Donc sur l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence y-a-t-il d'autres remarques? Oui, le Chili?

Ms Marisol PÉREZ (Chile)

Quisiera referirme al Tema del Programa de la Conferencia en el punto C 17, de otras cuestiones de fondo y de política cuando se refiere a la Evaluación de los Años Internacionales y de los Preparativos para Nuevos Años Internacionales.

La Representación Permanente de Chile en representación de la Asociación Gremial de Productores de Huevos de Chile y de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Productores Avícolas, que reúne a 27 países de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, desea solicitar que se incorpore en la Agenda del 37.º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia, la solicitud de declarar el año 2012 o 2013 como el Año Internacional del Huevo.

Esta solicitud se incluye en el marco de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio de Naciones Unidas y de la Lucha contra el Hambre y la Desocupación, y tiene como propósito fundamental enfocar la

atención mundial en la importancia que tiene el huevo para la seguridad alimentaria y el alivio de la pobreza.

Efectivamente, el huevo es un alimento nutricionalmente completo, disponible en todas las épocas del año y de precio accesible. Además, es uno de los alimentos que mayormente contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria en todos los países del mundo, y su industria es esencial para el desarrollo económico y para mejorar la calidad de vida de gran parte de la población mundial.

Teniendo presente la misión y el mandato de la FAO de elevar los niveles nutricionales y de vida de las personas y de mejorar la productividad agrícola y la situación de la población rural, Chile en representación de estas asociaciones gremiales, solicita que se declare el año 2012 o el 2013 como el Año Internacional del Huevo de acuerdo con la mejores recomendaciones de los equipos técnicos de la FAO.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En primer lugar deseamos respaldar y apoyar la propuesta de Chile, que aclaró y detalló los antecedentes.

En segundo término, con respecto a los puntos 28 y 29 del Proyecto de programa provisional del 37.º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, documento CL 140/12, en el párrafo V que dice: 28-Modificaciones de los Textos Fundamentales y 29-Otras Cuestiones Constitucionales y Jurídicas, es más de una pregunta porque estaba viendo en la lista de los informes de los Comités Técnicos, y no está el Comité de Asuntos Legales y Constitucionales que es el que en la mañana nos presentó las propuestas de enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales. Ahora no se si usted, se lo digo con toda franqueza esté considerando las posibilidades que se pueden haber en el Grupo de Trabajo a Composición Abierta respecto a los temas que se tienen en la agenda. Es una pregunta sobre esto.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this. I had one question which was about the declaration of rinderpest. I know we all have had some discussions on this, and there has been a briefing on it. Can the Secretariat just remind us all on what the discussion on rinderpest would be about and the extent to which Ministers would be involved in those types of activities before we agree to put it on the agenda?

LE SECRÉTAIRE GENERAL

La première observation qui a été faite est la proposition du Chili, en vue de la déclaration d'une Année internationale de l'œuf. Comme vous le savez, il y a un processus connu à travers lequel les Années internationales sont déclarées. En général, ce processus commence par une étude de faisabilité technique de l'année qui est également complétée par une identification des implications financières et, sur la base de ces considérations technico-financières, en général l'idée est d'abord avancée à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à New York qui est l'organe compétent pour déclarer les Années internationales en collaboration avec les Agences spécialisées, en l'occurrence la FAO qui serait l'agence spécialisée pour un sujet tel que celui-ci. Cela s'est fait de cette façon par le passé, si bien que le Conseil pourrait discuter de point savoir s'il est en position de faire cette recommandation à la Conférence. Je signale qu'il y a eu deux autres propositions qui n'ont pas été formulées ici même, mais qu'il y a eu des approches à l'égard du Secrétariat pour considérer la possibilité d'inclure des propositions pour des déclarations d'Années internationales dans d'autres domaines qui relèvent de la compétence de la FAO. Il y a également le fait que la Conférence de la FAO en 2007 a attiré l'attention des États Membres sur le fait que, pour que les années internationales aient tout l'impact voulu, il serait bon d'éviter la prolifération de ces années pendant la même année et de prendre en considération les implications financières de tels événements.

En ce qui concerne les commentaires faits par le Mexique en relation avec les points 28 et 29, les Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux et autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques sont deux thèmes récurrents, en particulier les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, dans l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence; c'est une question qui est discutée en général en session plénière et pas dans la Commission I ou la Commission II. Le fait qu'il y ait, en plus, des amendements aux Textes fondamentaux est simplement prévu dans l'éventualité où la Conférence aurait à se prononcer sur des

amendements aux textes fondamentaux et les discussions qu'il y a eu jusqu'à présent donnent à penser qu'il serait possible que la Conférence ait à se prononcer sur de tels amendements. Si tel n'était pas le cas, évidemment, ce point de l'Ordre du jour n'aurait pas lieu d'être intégré dans les délibérations de la Conférence.

Continues in English

And finally Australia requested clarification about Item 14, Declaration on Rinderpest Eradication. As you pointed out, this eradication was already announced few weeks back. The idea is to formally and solemnly declare to the world that this pest was eradicated, and to have a Declaration that would be adopted both by the Organisation Internationale des Epizooties that would meet in May next year prior to the Conference. The same declaration would be made by the FAO Conference itself. So it would be a sort of Joint Declaration by the two Agencies that have a mandate on this matter. I think I have covered the questions raised.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Thank you to Mr Mekouar for clarifying the process on International Years. Indeed, I had similar questions as to the process, in that my understanding is that, as we are meeting here, our colleagues in New York are discussing for either 2012 or 2013, I don't recall which, the creation of an International Year on Quinoa, I believe proposed by Bolivia. Quite apart from the merits of an International Year on Quinoa, or eggs, or anything else, it strikes me that it might be useful for us at some point to have a reflection here in Rome on the purpose, function and organization and perhaps a full calendar of international commodity years. As the Secretary General, Mr Mekouar, said, to avoid proliferation and to ensure that where the General Assembly does declare an international commodity year, that the greatest benefit is, in fact, derived. I wonder, I throw that idea out there, and the Chair and Management can perhaps reflect on where and when we might have such an informal reflection exercise.

I would also like to ask another question of the front podium. On Monday, one regional group proposed the creation of an award and I asked the Secretary General's staff what the process was for that. Is this a decision that Council takes? Is it the Conference that takes it? If it is the Conference then we would need to see that reflected in the Agenda. It's Council, well either way I would think that we are going to need a written proposal, and either a decision at the April Council or at the June Conference, or thereafter. That thought was prompted by looking at the Agenda under Other Matters. We have the B.R. Sen Award, the A.H. Boerma Award, the Edouard Saouma Award, the Margarita Lizárraga Medal and at least one element that I would want to see addressed in a proposal for a new award is a distinction between this Award and all the other Awards, as well as the other usual things that one would need in making a decision, such as eligibility, frequency, and so on and so forth. I would just like to hear on this something that we need to be thinking about for the upcoming Conference agenda, or is there another process in which we are going to have a chance to discuss some of these issues?

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres remarques. Pour ce dernier point, Monsieur Mekouar complètera. Mais dans le compte rendu de la Conférence régionale de l'Afrique c'est marqué comme une demande. Alors la question posée est: «est-ce que c'est une demande qui est suffisante ou est-ce qu'elle doit être plus largement établie pour arriver à la Conférence?».

SECRÉTAIRE GENERAL

Je pense que Monsieur Vachon a posé la question en termes de processus et également dans un cas précis. En terme de processus, les trois prix qui sont mentionnés au Point 35, à savoir le Prix Sen, le Prix Boerma et le Prix Saouma. Ces trois prix ont été créés pour honorer trois Directeurs généraux de la FAO: Sen en 1967, lorsqu'il a achevé son mandat; Boerma en 1975 lorsqu'il a également terminé son mandat, et enfin Saouma en 1993.

Dans ces trois cas, c'est la Conférence qui a établi les prix et les modalités de leur attribution.

Les Sous-thèmes 35.2, 35.3 et 35.4 sont mentionnés ici car comme vous le savez, à l'ouverture de chaque Conférence, les lauréats viennent ici à la FAO à Rome pour recevoir le prix qui leur est attribué, juste après la Leçon McDougall.

Voilà pour le processus. Pour ce qui est du prix proposé par la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, cette proposition a déjà été faite, comme le Président vient de le signaler, par le représentant du Président de la Conférence régionale l'autre jour et cette proposition a été notée et appuyée dans un certain nombre d'interventions.

Je pense que le Conseil, à part le fait de noter cette proposition, n'a pas de décision particulière à prendre, il appartiendra à la Conférence de s'en saisir, car chaque fois cela a été fait par le biais d'une Résolution. Pour les trois derniers prix que j'ai mentionnés, cela a été une Résolution de la Conférence. Comme vous le savez, il y a un Comité des résolutions et probablement, si cela est confirmé, cela pourrait passer par ce Comité.

Enfin, les Conférences régionales font également rapport à la Conférence générale, et donc le Rapport de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique sera également soumis à l'examen de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation l'année prochaine.

LE PRESIDENT

Je ne connais pas toute la procédure mais comme on a agréé le Rapport de la Conférence régionale Afrique comme les autres en début de Conseil, à moins que le Conseil y voit un inconvénient, mais moi je verrais d'un très bon œil, que dans notre déclaration, on mette «le Conseil appuie la demande de la démarche pour le faire». On le fait en adoptant le Rapport de la Conférence mais on peut peut-être mettre une phrase qui signifie que l'on appuie la démarche de la Conférence africaine. J'ouvre cela complètement si vous en êtes d'accord. L'Egypte, vous avez la parole.

Mr Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt)

We have conveyed, through the consultation, our preference for the General Debate theme which is Bullet 1 in CL 140/OD, Improving nutrition through empowerment of women and capacity-building in sustainable small-holder agriculture and rural development.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Excusez-moi, nous reviendrons après l'adoption de l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence et des différents points en points spécifiques.

Monsieur Vachon, vous avez dit aussi qu'il serait peut-être bon de réfléchir à la cohésion des différentes journées internationales, en particulier aux produits de base. Je vous propose que dans le cadre de nos réunions communes informelles, nous abordions ce sujet dans un premier temps pour voir les tenants et les aboutissants au moins pour définir un premier cadre de ce qui pourrait être la cohésion avec le souci que vous avez évoqué, et qui d'ailleurs a été évoqué à plusieurs reprises, de ne pas en faire plus qu'il n'en faut pour atténuer la portée et aussi de contrôler les aspects budgétaires et financiers. Je vous propose, dans le cadre de notre «groupe ouvert» d'avoir une réflexion de base pour pouvoir établir un rapport par la suite.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions sur l'Ordre du jour, je vous propose donc d'adopter l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence et nous avons ensuite, avant de retourner sur le thème principal, un certain nombre d'autres questions à valider. Au sujet des dates limites de dépôt de propositions de candidatures, il est proposé qu'elles soient fixées au 11 avril 2011 à 12 heures pour le poste de Président indépendant du Conseil, et au 27 juin 2011 à 12 heures pour les Membres du Conseil. Le Conseil est-il d'accord avec ces dates? Pas d'opposition?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant d'aborder la question des Commissions de la Conférence, je voudrais signaler que des propositions de nominations, pour le Bureau de la Conférence sont déjà parvenues à la suite de consultations entre les Groupes régionaux et c'est l'habitude que les Groupes régionaux se consultent et se concertent pour le faire. Les propositions qui ont été faites sont les suivantes: pour la Présidence de la 37ème Session de la Conférence, Son Excellence Monsieur Teferra Derebew, Ministre de l'Agriculture et du développement rural de la République fédérale démocratique d'Ethiopie.

En ce qui concerne le Bureau, la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs et le Comité des résolutions, nous attendons encore des nominations. Je propose donc que l'on reprenne la question à notre prochaine session en avril pour ce point.

En ce qui concerne la constitution des deux commissions de la Conférence, il est proposé, comme à l'accoutumée, de désigner un représentant de l'OCDE pour présider la Commission I sur les questions de fonds et de politique générale et un représentant du Groupe des 77 à la présidence de la Commission II sur les questions relatives au Programme et au Budget.

Avez-vous des remarques à faire sur ces doubles propositions, donc la présidence, le report pour la désignation du Bureau et l'acceptation du principe, Commission I: OCDE et Commission II: le Groupe des 77.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons aussi une position à prendre concernant la possibilité ou l'accord que nous devons donner pour inviter la Palestine à participer à la session en qualité d'Observateur. Des questions? Des remarques? Il en est ainsi décidé.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons terminé les parties du Point 14, et je reviens à la partie plus fondamentale, celle de la décision pour le thème central de la Conférence. En réalité, c'est le thème principal du Débat général après consultation du Conseil. Nous avons fait une ouverture pour l'ensemble des pays ou des groupes régionaux pour proposer des thèmes.

Je vous remercie, vous avez été très réactifs et la liste a été quand même très longue. Lorsque nous nous sommes réunis, il y a une quinzaine de jours avec les Présidents des groupes régionaux, nous avons convenu que présenter tous les thèmes à l'Assemblée était peut-être difficile pour arriver à une conclusion. Nous avons, après discussion, décidé de proposer deux thèmes qui ont fait le tour des Présidents régionaux et ce sont les deux thèmes que nous vous avons proposés: améliorer la nutrition par l'autonomisation des femmes et le développement des capacités en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural et le deuxième thème, renforcer la sécurité alimentaire au moyen de la coopération du partenariat de l'investissement et du commerce, problèmes rencontrés et possibilités qui s'offrent au niveau mondial et régional.

Il a d'ailleurs aussi été proposé de limiter à cinq minutes au maximum la durée des déclarations des personnes qui interviennent, ministres ou autres, dans ce cadre là. Je dois dire qu'il y avait en particulier le GRULAC qui pour des raisons matérielles n'avait pas envoyé définitivement sa proposition qui est arrivée, je crois, dans la journée ou le lendemain. Tout à l'heure, l'Europe nous a dit qu'elle refaisait une proposition. J'attire votre attention car il nous faut quand même tirer un thème et comme on dit en français, il ne faut pas que ce soit un thème «fourre-tout» puisqu'on peut faire un titre avec cinq lignes où l'on met tout ce que chacun veut bien prendre. L'objectif de ce thème c'est de donner une visibilité plus forte pour ce que nous voulons dire dans cette Conférence, qui ne soit pas

répétitif de ce qui se fait ailleurs mais qui soit en lien avec les politiques générales et qui concourent à faire en sorte que les Ministres qui viennent ou les Chefs d'États ou autres personnes orientent majoritairement leurs propos sur ce sujet.

Je vais vous laisser la parole pour que vous vous exprimiez. Je ne vous cache pas que j'appréhende beaucoup cet exercice. Compte tenu de ce que j'ai vu, on peut toujours faire quelque chose mais cela ne va pas être facile. Cela risque de se finir par quelques volontaires pour m'aider à faire un projet de proposition avant la fin de la soirée. Pour l'instant, vous avez la parole, vous vous exprimez et comme chacun peut avoir un peu oublié, j'autorise l'Union européenne à refaire sa déclaration sur ce sujet. Je vais prendre le nom des intervenants, j'ai déjà l'Union européenne, l'Égypte, l'Afghanistan, l'Australie, le Brésil, le Canada et les États-Unis d'Amérique.

Nous allons procéder dans l'ordre, et je vous propose que l'Union européenne reprenne sa déclaration de tout à l'heure. Monsieur Mekouar me signale que quand vous faites votre présentation, vous donnez le titre que vous avez retenu, vous le dictez très lentement pour que chacun puisse bien l'enregistrer et si vous l'avez sur un papier, merci de nous le donner. Ce sera plus facile.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

The European Union would suggest the following title "The role of sustainable small-holder agriculture including the gender dimension, in addressing poverty and food security". That would be the title and the reasoning behind it would be that small-holder agricultural farms are mostly run by women, and the role of these women needs to be better recognized.

The theme would also give the opportunity to FAO to shed some light on the female role in small-holder agricultural farming, fishing and support, and it could build on the research and analytical work that is being done for the next SOFA Report.

Furthermore, the special emphasis that needs to be given to livestock holders, pastoralists and fisherfolk is also an element because these have an essential role in small-holder agricultural farming and in the preservation of the local food distribution.

We think that with these elements this will give the opportunity to all Ministers to address the Conference on a subject of critical importance, not only to food security but also in relation to the broader issue that is climate change, biodiversity and preservation of genetic resources.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you for coming up with these propositions with regard to the main theme of the General debate for the upcoming Conference. The Africa Group discussed the proposals you sent us earlier regarding the main theme and we came to the conclusion that the Africa Group would like to see "Gender and the role of women in agriculture" as the main theme for the General Debate. I think that women have such a huge role in agriculture in Africa, especially in post-harvest activities, and this is the area that we would like to focus on during the General Debate. So I don't think we are very far away from the European Union position, except that we would like to have "gender" highlighted rather than "small-holder agriculture," which is also a very important issue as we discussed in our Group.

At the beginning we proposed "Empowering women to enhance their ability for agricultural developments including post-harvest activities." This is the proposal by the Africa Group. However, we can also live with your proposal about "Improving Nutrition through Empowerment of Women in Capacity-Building and Sustainable Small-holder Agriculture and Rural Development." We can also live with that. The important thing is that the focus is on women and the role of women.

As a second option – but this is a second option – if our first proposal does not receive consensus - this is the issue of protracted crisis. Thank you, Chair.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

It is difficult to make a choice as all three topics that you have proposed are good topics, but I am very much interested in what the European Union proposed.

I think the European Union proposal is treating small-holder agriculture, which is probably the key to future agriculture development in developing countries, but small-holder agriculture also touches on the problem of livelihoods and could also easily include gender issues. It is an attractive thing, I think. You yourself should see if you can accommodate it, but in case the Council decides on the third option, which is addressing food security in protracted crisis, in this case I would urge the Council that for the Ministers of countries under protracted crisis, for each region you invite one Minister.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

This is a very complicated discussion already, and we are only just starting.

Let me go with something we can all agree on first, which is the time limits. I think that is a most excellent idea. I think five minutes is plenty and I suggest that not only do we enforce that, but that we strictly enforce that time limit. I remember during the World Food Summit last year, some Ministers were coming on at 8.30 and 9.00 p.m. and to be quite honest, it is not a particularly palatable scenario when they are speaking to an empty room. I think that we need be fair to all Ministers and all Heads of Delegation, and make sure that we strictly enforce those time limits.

In terms of the topics, there seem to be many many topics on the table now. For my region, certainly for Australia, the second proposal that you made was our preferred option, "Strengthening food security through cooperation and partnerships, investment and trade, global and regional challenges and opportunities." That was the second option you suggested.

We are reasonably flexible about the topic but I want to make a couple of points here. Of course the topic relevant to everybody and to be frank, the idea of talking about small-holder agriculture is quite difficult for Australia, because we have very large holdings in agriculture. So it is automatically very difficult for my Minister of Agriculture to speak exclusively on that topic. I think, therefore, we need to try and strike the balance here with something that is reasonably general and open that will allow each country to find their own place to speak on those issues.

While we are happy with the gender aspect of the European suggestion, the small-holder part causes us some difficulties. This is not to say that we don't support small-holder agriculture, of course, but it takes away all the domestic elements of what we might be able to speak about.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

Brazil speaks now in the name of the GRULAC countries. Notwithstanding the merits of the proposed themes, we would like to propose a third one, taking into consideration that we should always look and think ahead and taking into consideration the reform of FAO, the election of a new Director-General in a few months, that FAO should be mainly a knowledge organization and that knowledge should be transferred and put at the disposal of the developing countries requiring this knowledge. We would propose the theme that I now mention, that is, "The role of FAO in knowledge transfer and cooperation in an evolving international context."

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si cela ne vous fait rien de dicter à nouveau pour que tout le monde puisse bien entendre. Il y en a certains qu'ils l'ont et d'autres qui ne l'ont pas, donc vous faites un peu plus doucement. Merci.

Mr Olyntho VIEIRA (Brazil)

The theme is: "The role of FAO in knowledge transfer and cooperation in an evolving international context."

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada's starting point is very much the same as Australia's. We wholly endorse the five-minute limit and then the challenge becomes to pick a theme where you can say something meaningful and useful in five minutes. In this regard, I recall the IPA, again, our reference point, where this policy discussion should have focus. I very much feel for you, Mr Chair. I know it has not been easy to try and reconcile all the different themes, and I do think that we still have our work cut out in that regard.

You very usefully reminded us that true policy themes should not duplicate discussions going on elsewhere, and I would note that the second theme that come out of the meeting of 18 November pretty much describes the mandate of the CFS which, as we know, is very broad. I believe that the CFS was a five-day meeting, and there was still much left to be said at the end of it.

So I'd like to look at the various different proposals that have been made, including those made just now by GRULAC, that do reflect focus. In this regard, North America at the meeting of 18 November indicated its comfort with the first proposal put forward by the Secretariat which was "Directing Food in Agricultural Policies to Improve Nutrition".

I will note that Canada was also comfortable with the second theme that Management put forward on "Women and Agriculture closing the Gender Gap for Development", but I would note here, that is, with a proviso that we would only support it, if the SOFA Report is going to be made available well in advance of Conference so that countries could then digest the SOFA and speak about it at Conference.

I also note, and here I wish to emphasize Canada's flexibility that we also like the theme put forward by the European Group earlier on "Strengthening Food Security through Cooperation and Partnerships with the Private Sector". And lastly as I said earlier, we are also attracted to the proposal put forward by GRULAC in that is clear and concise and manageable. So I think we would be happy, as Canada in any event, to go in any of those clear and focused themes that would allow us to achieve some policy convergence and useful discussion at Conference. Thank you.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Like Canada, we believe that the concept of nutrition was clearly a concept in which we want to see as the theme of the upcoming Conference. Likewise, we thought the role of gender was a relevant second choice. We believe you have combined them fairly well which, like I said, combines the concept of nutrition and gender. We think this is especially relevant given the consensus we saw developing within the CFS last month in which nearly every Government present spoke of the need to better integrate the concept of nutrition into food security, as well as, the need to integrate women into the concept of food security. However, we do not believe that this would be duplicative of the work in the CFS. We believe that it connects nicely to those concepts that were focused on at the CFS.

Given that we would like to show a degree of flexibility as well, we find the succinct theme proposed by Brazil on behalf of GRULAC as worthy of consideration if consensus seems to building around that instead of nutrition and gender.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

First of all, I would like to support Canada and Australia. The five-minute limit is very important to have a smooth Conference.

The second point, refers to the specific theme. I carefully listened to the discussion and Japan is very flexible on this issue, but I think the Brazilian proposal is the most appropriate.

Ms Thenjiwe Ethel MTINTSO (Observer for South Africa)

I agree with the other participants and delegates that you are in a very difficult position. I think it is quite important that the theme reflects not only the interest of each country but also the challenges that are facing our societies, and obviously some of these challenges do not necessarily always coincide.

The Africa Group in its Regional Conference discussed the issue at length of this theme and originally we had actually been happy with this. Our proposal had been "Women in Agriculture" which deals with the matter broadly, but in trying to really fine-tune the matter, it was closing the gap for development. I think that FAO, and indeed the UN organizations, have been at pains to discuss the matter of gender. Even before this session we have been discussing this as a challenge to both our countries but also to society because of the power relations between men and women and, in particular, between women in rural areas and poor women. Therefore, the emphasis has always been, as I understand it, the challenge that is faced by women or the impact of all the matters that we discussed on women. Therefore, this is why we were of the view in Africa that whatever topic or theme we would adopt, would necessarily focus on this challenge of gender relations and women.

Taking into consideration what was said earlier, that the topic should speak to all of us so that it is not only pertinent to one particular country and one particular region, which was what Australia noted when he said that it should be relevant to everybody and not only to one group, and he was also noting that for his country the small-holder farmer is not a fundamental issue. I am sure, however, that even for Australia, the issue of gender and the challenges that are faced by women in all our societies are important. Therefore, if we took the topic that was proposed by Africa, we would see that it broadly addressed most, if not all, of the challenges.

If gender roles and the position of women in society are discussed under, or in conjunction with, or in relation with, or as the EU said as a particular dimension, they tend to be submerged or lost or marginalized or mainstreamed. The discourse, the language, the analysis and analysis tools are produced by male analysts and they are accepted as natural and normal. Therefore, it is quite important for us, that the male perspectives are the correct perspectives. If we therefore discuss women or gender in relation to something else, then we run the risk of it being marginalized, not only at the Conference itself, but even by our own countries. Therefore, South Africa is of the view that in recognition of all these challenges that we have been dealing with so far, we either take the topic as proposed by Africa or we have the possible amendment concerning nutrition. It may well be then that we can remove some of excess working so that the concept is all-embracing. Of course, it goes without saying that when we talk about women in nutrition, we are not emphasizing the role of women in our families and in our society.

Generally speaking, I think that the Council does not accept the topic that has been proposed by Africa, which is all-embracing. South Africa would support the one that you are proposing. In relation to the proposals that have been made by Brazil, while the theme is quite important, we are of the view that FAO Conference has to focus primarily and predominantly on the challenges that are faced by women in our societies, and in agriculture in particular.

Sra. Ileana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Quería únicamente, aparte de respaldar el tema propuesto por África porque hace hincapié, sobre la necesidad de focalizarnos sobre la mujer. Queremos sostenibilidad, estamos gritando todo el tiempo por proyectos que sean sostenibles, y queremos que en el mundo haya sostenibilidad para los países en desarrollo.

Señores, focalicémonos en la mujer, ayudémosla y busquemos la metodología para que el mundo piense cómo se le puede ayudar a la mujer en la agricultura y respaldarla en la tenencia de la tierra, en la forma de trabajo. Es necesario respaldarla, porque si no, no vamos a lograr la sostenibilidad. Es inútil que estemos girando y girando alrededor de ideas muy buenas. Todos los temas tienen su porqué, son excelentes, pero pongámoslos alrededor de la mujer.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Republic of Korea)

I think that we need to take account of the fact that Ministers attending the Conference are politicians and before they leave their capital and after returning to their capital they have to sell what they address in the Conference. Considering this, I am not sure the themes related to the role of FAO proposed by Brazil seem to be well sold domestically. Considering that the European Union's proposal includes the key agendas of recent days of small-holder farming, sustainability and the gender factor, I think it would be sold better. So I prefer the European Union's proposal.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Yo comenzaría por el señalamiento que hizo la distinguida representante de Suráfrica, en cuanto a la dificultad que tenemos, ya que el debate se ha orientado hacia dos temas mencionados por los anteriores oradores. Son dos temas básicamente propuestos por el GRULAC y el que ha señalado África, que también está dentro de lo que propone la Unidad Europea, está involucrado la cuestión de género, de tal manera que podrían ser dos, independientemente de la longitud del texto del enunciado.

Quisiera indicar que efectivamente el tema de trabajar por los pequeños agricultores por el desarrollo rural, ha sido un tema que permanentemente, incluso las Conferencias Regionales, ha venido tratando. También tenemos el tema de la agricultura a pequeña escala que es donde está el mayor número de

pobreza que hemos medido y que permanentemente medimos acá. Visto que dentro de esa pobreza rural, un porcentaje muy alto, que algunos estiman sur el 60 o 70 por ciento, son mujeres y sumando que también acabamos de evaluar en la Asamblea General de Nueva York, los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio donde se asigna una significación especial al tema de género consideramos que es una cuestión muy importante.

Los ocho Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y género están transversalmente involucrados. No se puede acabar la pobreza si no atendemos la tremenda desigualdad bajo los distintos modelos sociales que se han mantenido respecto a la mujer. Hay que hacer un gran esfuerzo, que no es solamente denunciarlo, si no un gran esfuerzo para ayudarla y soportarla en distintas facetas generándole la capacidad para poder desenvolverse en ese medio rural y producir, digámoslo así, bienestar para ella misma, para su familia y para sus comunidades.

Se requiere financiamiento y educación, que junto a capacitación pudiera parecer lo mismo, pero el tema educación es fundamental para la mujer--entendiendo que es importante la salud, entendiendo que es importante la nutrición para ella que es la generadora, la que está en capacidad de procrear y de generar en la sociedad los nuevos seres que nos van a acompañar hacia el futuro, entendiendo toda esa visión integradora necesaria, para que nos cuenta que saliendo la pobreza de las mujeres, que se sale de la pobreza en general. Yo creo que al tema de la mujer hay que darle una relevancia fundamental en la FAO. La pequeña agricultura y el tema de la mujer son temas fundamentales para esta nueva Conferencia.

El papel de la FAO en la transferencia de conocimientos pudiera articularse con el tema de la mujer. Hay que buscar la posibilidad de articularlos, ambos, porque de eso estamos hablando, de transferencia de conocimientos, de capacitación, y de ver como la mujer puede ser apoyada con el trabajo y el papel de la FAO. Estamos tratando de definir para la próxima Conferencia de darle relevancia al trabajo de la FAO en un área específica, y con esto Venezuela quiere señalar que ambos temas son importantes.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I believe that the Conference will be a unique occasion to recognize and pay tribute to the role of women in agriculture and rural development, a role which FAO has been supporting and promoting. The Mauritius delegation supports the proposition made by Egypt on behalf of Africa. I believe also that the Ambassador of South Africa has summarized beautifully the position and the role of women, not only in Africa because I think this is a cross-cutting issue in all developing countries. I, therefore, think they need our support and this would be an interesting opportunity to recognize the important role of women in agriculture.

The proposal by GRULAC was very interesting, but it falls short of the role of women.

If at the end of the day, we do not come to an agreement, maybe, as you proposed at the beginning, we may leave it perhaps to the Group of Friends of the Chair and to your collaborators to find a theme acceptable to all. The Mauritius delegation, however, would insist that the role of women in development should be recognized on the Agenda.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Observer for Eritrea)

In the bureau meeting in which this issue was discussed, it was noted that all the topics raised were important. How are you going to conduct these topics? Should they be addressed through Round Tables or only through Country Statements? Very often it has been said that Country Statements should be minimized and preference has been recently given to Round Table which have been conducted like those in the Governing Council of IFAD, where there were about three or four topics. Now what we have been discussing are mainly five topics and all of them are important. We can address them in one day if we have two topics for each Round Table. We could have two topics in the morning, or three topics in the afternoon. In so doing we could allocate one day for Round Tables and we could finish all of them. We could even prepare the required background documents, whether it be SOFI or other documents. Will this be a discussion? I would suggest that this would be preferable, and

many people would appreciate it rather than listening to Country Statements. If we have Round Tables, let's include the five topics raised today.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

Creo que su tarea, Sr. Presidente, es difícil. De todas maneras quiero remarcar que en nombre del GRULAC hemos trabajado sobre un tema específico que fue el presentado por Brasil, para el que delegamos la redacción final a dos delegaciones.

Apoyamos y creemos en este tema: "El papel de la FAO en la transferencia de conocimiento y la cooperación en un contexto internacional cambiante o que evoluciona." Debemos recordar que estamos en la Conferencia, o sea que los temas tienen que ser amplios y comprehensivos, salvo que se adopte una visión como la de Eritrea, de Mesas Redondas. Alternativamente tendríamos que pensar, que creo que es la intención que usted tuvo cuando hizo las distintas propuestas, en un tema comprehensivo, que reúna una serie de cuestiones. Nosotros de FAO, y como organismo de conocimientos, hablamos mucho de la creación de capacidades y creemos que la transferencia de conocimientos es importante. La cooperación es un medio ideal justamente para la creación de capacidades. Por eso creemos que este tema abarcaría algunos temas en los que otras delegaciones, con muy buen criterio, han hecho hincapié, como es el caso de la agricultura familiar, del desarrollo rural, y del género.

Como mujer, yo puedo decir que no se nos reconocen nuestros derechos gracias a las Conferencias. En los últimos veinticinco años ha habido cuatro Conferencias sobre mujeres y el tema de género. En realidad, la cuestión de género se reconoce con medidas concretas y quizá las medidas concretas pueden ser justamente la creación de capacidades, un área donde la FAO debe orientar gran parte de su accionar.

Insisto, entendemos que la Conferencia tiene que tener un tema globalizante, en el que todos se sientan incluidos y que a su vez recoja en forma amplia los distintos temas, sub-temas y objetivos que tiene la FAO en sí misma.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

The Zimbabwe delegation would like to lend its support to the suggested theme coming from the Africa Group which has women as its focus. We do this for a number of reasons.

One is the fact that in almost all the regional conferences the role of smallholder agriculture has been recognized as being primary in terms of improving food security in almost all parts of the world and it is also acknowledged that the main agriculturists, that is those who are doing the work, are women. From our own continent in Africa, certainly the role of women in agriculture is important. This is why we believe that it is not only important to talk about the issue of gender, but a substantive effort needs to be exerted to ensure that gender mainstreaming is put into effect.

What we are calling for is for a focus on women as agriculturists which may actually result in different outcomes. It may actually give us new directions in terms of how to better improve agricultural production by actually focussing on women. Yes, we need to continue with gender mainstreaming, but I think the added focus on women in this coming Conference, if we should agree on such, would give added impetus to the role that women play in this important area.

Also, given the fact that we are now talking about the importance of nutrition in many parts of the world, including Africa it should be noted, those who are responsible for the choice of food in the family - for growing the food - are women. These are the people who make choices about how to prepare food and what the families will eat. Therefore, I think the focus on women as a Conference theme is one that will bring added value to the work that FAO is already undertaking.

Let me again reiterate that if, in fact, the focus of FAO is small-holder agriculture and the major participants in the sector are women, it is logical that if we want to improve agricultural production substantially and deal with the issue of food security, then we need to see how best to empower those women.

Sr Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación apoya la propuesta formulada por el GRULAC. Creemos que la transmisión de conocimiento y la cooperación son temas muy importantes. Ahora bien, yo pienso que deberíamos verlo en una forma un poco más general. Creo que la capacidad de negociación y de lenguaje muy amplio que se pudiera intentar abarcar como base, como principio de este criterio, podría ser integrado de alguna manera-quizás dándole una especial atención al tema de género y a la pequeña agricultura familiar, sobre todo si se ve como una vía para prestar especial atención. Comparto la idea que se propuso de la creación de un pequeño Grupo de Amigos del Presidente por su parte, con la sabiduría de que usted pueda lograr presentar un acuerdo sobre esta cuestión.

M Oumar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Je ne voudrais pas rajouter de soucis parce que vous avez beaucoup de propositions pour ces différents thèmes cependant. J'appuie la position du Groupe Afrique par rapport au rôle de la femme ainsi que la parité homme-femme. Cependant, je tiens à attirer l'attention sur l'expression utilisée au niveau de la proposition que vous avez faite concernant l'autonomisation des femmes, étant entendu que dans le monde réel les femmes, en général, sont analphabètes et un peu marginalisées.

Je pense qu'il faudrait davantage insister sur l'implication des femmes et sur le renforcement des capacités car l'analphabétisme en général entraîne une baisse du renforcement des capacités. Pour que la femme joue son rôle dans le développement, ce domaine doit être renforcé. Il me semble important d'insister sur le renforcement des capacités qui a beaucoup plus d'impact sur le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire que l'autonomisation elle-même qui, à mon avis, n'a pas beaucoup d'apports. Nous avons des femmes, des chefs de famille, ou des femmes dans des familles et l'expression autonomisation, à mon avis, n'a pas beaucoup d'apports. En revanche, le renforcement des capacités des femmes et de leur implication pour le développement ou leur intégration a beaucoup plus de valeur ajoutée.

Mr Boaventura NUVUNGA (Mozambique)

The Mozambique delegation wishes to take the floor to add its voice to show that we have the same opinion as that expressed by the Africa Group in regard to having women as the centre of the theme for the next Conference, given the role that women play in food production and nutrition. So I understand that it is a difficult situation for our Independent Chairperson, but I don't know how we can find a consensus on this. This, however, is the opinion that we would like to express, as has already been stated by Zimbabwe, Egypt and other African countries.

Ms Evelyn Anita STOKES HAYFORD (Ghana)

If we are talking about global themes, what can be more global than a theme that encompasses women, nutrition and agriculture? This is what the FAO stands for. I lend my voice strongly to what my distinguished colleagues, the South African Ambassador, Egypt and Zimbabwe have put forward, and I recommend very highly that this theme be given serious consideration.

Mr Fazil DÜSÜNCELİ (Turkey)

I do support the proposal made by the EU. There is no doubt about this, but I think we ought to ask ourselves why should the Minister come to Rome for this Conference? What would he like to talk about? Would the Minister like to discuss the role of FAO in knowledge transfer and cooperation? Of course, knowledge and technology transfers and cooperation are very important, but I think the Minister would consider that the discussion of the role of FAO would be much too technical for him to talk about. In that respect, the discussions I think are being made around two major issues - Small-holder farmers and gender issues, and knowledge transfer and cooperation. I think our preference would be to concentrate on gender issues and women farmers, and strengthening the role of small-holders. We agree with the proposal for the Chairperson to gather a Group of Friends to formulate the wording of the topics, concentrating on small-holders and woman farmers.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. On va prendre encore quelques questions. Mais, avant de faire un travail extérieur, je vous ferais une proposition qui si elle n'était pas acceptée dans son intégralité permettrait de donner une bonne base pour écrire le texte définitif. Je l'espère. J'ai le Sénégal, l'Australie et l'Éthiopie. Le Sénégal.

M Adama BA (Sénégal)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Nous avons écouté toutes les propositions qui ont été faites et qui sont très intéressantes mais à l'instar de l'Afrique du Sud, de l'Ile Maurice, de l'Érythrée et des autres états qui sont intervenus pour appuyer la proposition de l'Égypte qui assure, donc, la présence du Groupe africain, nous appuyons cette proposition. "Le rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture" devrait être plus importante pour un développement durable et pour résoudre la faim dans le monde, notamment dans les pays en développement, parce qu'il est indiscutable aujourd'hui que les femmes occupent un grand rôle dans l'agriculture.

En Afrique, elles jouent un rôle important, on les trouve dans les champs et à la première heure, ces efforts consentis par les femmes pour nourrir la population et, notamment, pour aider à une bonne nutrition au niveau de l'enfance et régler ce problème de la malnutrition est un rôle très important. Il est opportun de le reconnaître aujourd'hui par la FAO et les instances des Nations Unies où on parle de l'agriculture. En résumé, nous soutenons la proposition du Groupe africain.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you, Mr Chair, for giving me the floor for the second time. I feel there is a consensus building here, and I would urge us to just try to get this done as soon as we can, ideally today.

I was particularly struck by the comments from the Ambassador of South Africa and I think she was well-conceived in her ideas and in her comments. I was also impressed by the comments from Mauritius and Ghana. Perhaps there should be one topic that tries to draw some of these suggestions together. If there are Ministers coming, then they will probably not want a two-page topic. We need something catchy and something that can grab their attention.

I thought we could simplify to one or two topics. One would simply be "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture." Full stop. That's all. Or perhaps, to pick up the nutritional angle: "Women, Nutrition and Agriculture."

This is just to try to keep it short and succinct, and to give scope to all countries and delegations that have commented on this. Thank you.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Observer for Ethiopia)

My delegation would like to add its voice to that of the Africa Group for the proposal submitted by Egypt. In particular, I think, as one of my colleagues said, which issue could be more global than the gender issue. Therefore, the gender issue should be central to the debate that is going to be held at the FAO Conference.

I think that the proposal that was just made by Australia seems to be very relevant because it summarizes the whole issue of women in agriculture and, therefore, covers, an important issue to be considered seriously.

Mr LI Zhengdong (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation has listened carefully to the statements made by our colleagues, and we fully understand your situation.

The theme of each Conference is the subject of discussion for different delegations which have different ideas. I think we should have a theme of universal concern to all countries, especially in terms of agriculture production. I think that the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the Africa Group and those made by South Africa, Ghana and Zimbabwe, are appropriate for the next Conference.

Whenever we have discussed gender issues or in previous Conferences, there was never such a discussion. So the next Conference should put emphasis on this issue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je ne crois pas que nous ayons épuisé les interventions. Monsieur Mekouar avait une petite question plus technique qu'il va poser avant que nous ne fassions la synthèse.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just to respond quickly to the question raised by Mr Vachon. Yes, the State of Food and Agriculture is expected to be released before Conference. This should take place in March next year. I see that Marcela Villarreal is sitting at the back of the room. I am sure that she would be delighted if SOFA is launched on 8 March 2011.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien. Merci pour votre contribution qui a été très très riche. On va commencer d'abord par dire les points sur lesquels nous sommes tous d'accord. Les cinq minutes c'est clair, tout le monde est d'accord, pas plus de cinq minutes. Le Président de séance devra faire respecter cela. C'était le plus facile.

La deuxième chose la cause est entendue, il n'est pas possible d'avoir un sujet qui ne fasse pas état du rôle fondamental des femmes. Cela, c'est le deuxième sujet.

Troisième point, je pense qu'il est important que nous situions aussi ce rôle des femmes dans la nutrition permanente mais aussi dans le développement du milieu qui l'entoure puisque notre souci c'est de nourrir le monde mais c'est de faire aussi que les jeunes restent à vivre autour et dans les villages. Avant de vous faire plus de propositions, je m'aventure à faire une synthèse de ce que vous m'avez dit avec ce que nous avons proposé en intégrant un peu quelque chose d'autre. Et quand j'aurai donné ma phrase, j'essaierai d'expliquer comme je l'expliquerai à mon Ministre s'il devait faire son intervention.

J'ai repris la base de la première proposition que vous nous aviez formulée, améliorer la nutrition par l'automatisation des femmes et le développement des capacités et le transfert des connaissances en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural. J'essaie d'expliquer. Le rôle des femmes est essentiel dans la nutrition. L'autonomisation, je sais que cela ne veut pas forcément dire tout à fait la même chose partout dans le monde, mais l'autonomisation c'est la façon de pouvoir prendre ses responsabilités et de s'engager sans dépendance. C'est mon point de vue des choses.

Deuxième point, c'est que nous devons développer l'agriculture pour la nutrition. Donc nous avons besoin de toutes les capacités et de toutes les connaissances pour l'agriculture et je maintiens le terme de milieu rural pour justement s'assurer que demain notre monde soit équilibré ou moins déséquilibré entre le monde urbain et le rural. En 2030 on annonce 70 pourcent de la population mondiale dans les grandes villes. Nous avons besoin en développant la nutrition et la production d'assurer le maintien des personnes dans le milieu. Donc voilà le thème, comment je vais le proposer.

Et puis en réfléchissant, après ce qu'a dit l'Australie, pour simplifier les choses et peut-être frapper plus en disant les mêmes éléments, c'est de mettre un titre choc et puis entre guillemets un sous-titre. Ma deuxième proposition est la suivante: "Les femmes et le développement." Et entre parenthèses et en dessous: "Nutrition, autonomisation et développement agricole et rural." Voilà donc après vous avoir tous entendu, puisqu'on a eu toutes les propositions, ce que je pourrais vous proposer.

Donc, le premier thème tel que je l'ai expliqué et si vous souhaitez quelque chose de plus concis, nous faisons le deuxième thème. J'ai mis quatre éléments en dessous, peut être qu'il faut en mettre que trois ou un cinquième. Mais à ce moment là, l'explication en dessous peut être plus disparate et plus développée. Je n'ai pas retenu les aspects de petites exploitations et de durables, partant du principe que dans la notion de développement on avait en partie cela et, en particulier, avec le milieu rural on avait la présence de maximum de personnes hommes et femmes sur le terrain. Je ne sais pas si on a quelques réactions à partir de ce que j'ai dit.

Où on prend la première proposition telle que je vous l'ai donnée, je vous la redonne: "Améliorer la nutrition par l'autonomisation des femmes et le développement des capacités et le transfert des connaissances en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural." Je vous rappelle également que dans la notion de développement rural, il y a aussi une partie de l'expression évoquée par l'Égypte concernant les activités au-delà de la production agricole.

Alors, on me demande de répéter: "Améliorer la nutrition par l'autonomisation des femmes et le développement des capacités et le transfert des connaissances en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural." On a dans le transfert de connaissances, on a repris la question qui était évoquée à l'intérieur de l'intervention du Brésil, plus particulièrement. C'est donc une proposition et une deuxième proposition qui dit la même chose mais avec une position plus communicante. Les femmes et le développement entre guillemets et entre parenthèses nutrition autonomisation et développement agricole et rural.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Your second attempt with the catchier title I think would be a better starting point for the second round than the one that is in our document about improving nutrition through empowerment, and so on and so forth.

Rather than "Women in Development," which is far too broad and goes well beyond the mandate of FAO, the starting point should be "Women in Agriculture," and thereafter we can figure out a suitable subtitle, if necessary. I am not sure it is necessary, because as others have indicated, "Women in Agriculture" is already very broad and that allows people to speak to what they want. Hopefully our discussions and interventions will be guided by the State of Food and Agriculture and I very much welcome the news from the Secretary-General that we will have the State of Food and Agriculture, to consider in advance, and that will help to focus the debate somewhat.

I must indicate a certain discomfort with trying to lump together gender and nutrition. They are both concepts that we advocate very strongly, but when you put them together there's a risk – I don't think it's your intention, I don't think it's anybody else's intention – but there's a risk that it's understood as somehow gender-stereotyping, the traditional role of women. Nutrition is far broader than the role of women. Gender is far broader than nutrition. So we risk being *mal entendu* if we start lumping too many different concepts together in one thought or one sentence.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je pense que la première proposition disant: "Les femmes et le développement et l'agriculture" serait sans doute mieux. L'Union européenne et ensuite la Jordanie.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

Just to express a certain degree of sympathy for what our Canadian colleague just said. We have the feeling that one catchy title would serve the purposes of a lot of people around here in the meeting room, and so "Women in Agriculture" as the catchy title of the Conference would appear to us a very recommendable starting point and way out.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman. I agree with what has been said by the delegate of Canada, indeed, by the delegate of the EU, the title should be "Women and Agriculture." While we are talking about development, development is very wide and you cannot remit yourself to agriculture and rural development in this case. It is a big issue and it is not the role of FAO here, or of the other Rome-based Agencies dealing with agriculture. So let us stick to Women and Agriculture as a start point, and then we can improve the subtitles under this umbrella. Thank you.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We have to think of three things; who is the target, what is the purpose and third, what is the context. We could have a theme like "Women and rural development," or "Women and development" – the

theme has to be very manageable. After all, you give five minutes to each Minister. What can the Minister say in five minutes? It has to be a very narrow subject.

I thought it was not just women, but rural women. That is what Africa and other were saying. So it is not all women, we are excluding urban women. They are talking about rural women, and rural women are not only involved in agriculture, but also in other rural activities.

So the target is rural women, the purpose is improved livelihoods and improved nutrition, the context is small-holder agriculture because if you do not improve small-holder agriculture you are not going to have an improvement in production. No improvement in livelihoods results in no improvement in nutrition. So you cannot ignore the context. The context is rural women, rural women who mostly work on smallholder agriculture. So, again, target - rural women, purpose – improve livelihood and family nutrition and third, context – small-holder agriculture.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I support my colleagues who have noted that, and accept and support the Chair's attempt at a pithier title with "Women in Development," but recognize that this far exceeds the mandate of this Organization which is agriculture. I, therefore, support the qualifying that title to "Women in Agricultural Development."

If we talk about "Women in Agricultural Development," we are focusing on the issues within the mandate of this Organization but also focusing on, as my colleague from Ghana suggested earlier, the issue that we too often don't speak of, and that is the role of women and gender in agricultural development. Knowing and recognizing that the next SOFI will focus on women, it is an excellent opportunity for us to focus on this topic of "Women in Agricultural Development."

I do not share the opinion, unfortunately, of my colleague from Afghanistan that we should limit this to only rural women. I am sure you all recognize that 40 to 60 percent of all agricultural losses are post-harvest and so we have an opportunity when we expand the title to "Women in Agricultural Development" to also talk about the issue of the role of women in storage and post-harvest processing opportunities. That is a significant role that women can and should play.

The issue of nutrition is not a gender issue. At the CFS, we as a body agreed that in order to provide a more food-secure world, we must also talk about nutrition. We did not limit it exclusively to a gender-related problem, although we recognized the value, when talking about the cure for nutrition, of focusing on women. So, looking at the subtitles of nutrition, empowerment and rural development, to address the issue of rural women and small-holder farmers, and then we have the opportunity to encompass the broader title of "Women in Agricultural Development, with the subtitle of "Nutrition, Empowerment and Rural Development."

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci et, en particulier, pour votre dernière intervention puisqu'on peut aussi faire une nuance. J'allais faire une proposition. Dans le titre, pour éviter peut-être de mettre cet aspect nutrition trop liée aux femmes de mettre le titre : «Les femmes, l'agriculture et l'alimentation» puisque c'est plus global et comme sous titre, comme vous l'évoquiez, à ce moment là on ne reprend pas «nutrition», mais on prend «autonomisation et développement agricole et rural». Dans tous les pays du monde aujourd'hui où, de plus en plus dans tous les pays du monde, il n'y a bien souvent plus de Ministère de l'agriculture, il y a un Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et nous savons bien nous, qu'il ne faut plus dissocier agriculture et alimentation et alimentation et agriculture. Donc on pourrait peut être mettre cela dans un premier titre «Les femmes, l'agriculture et l'alimentation» et en sous titre «autonomisation» peut-être même «autonomisation dans le développement agricole et rural». Est-ce qu'on approche d'un consensus?

Mme Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Je voudrais appuyer l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur des États-Unis et, en particulier, le titre qu'elle propose: «Les femmes et le développement agricole ». Je pense que, premièrement c'est une proposition que reprend le thème proposé par le Groupe africain. Deuxièmement, c'est un thème assez

vaste pour que toutes les régions y trouvent une spécificité et je pense que même le Brésil pourrait y mettre quelque chose, du transfert de savoir au service des femmes et du développement agricole. J'appuie donc fortement cette dernière proposition.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you for coming up with this proposal that tries to combine all the issues that have been presented by the different regions. As far as I can see this proposal, the second one which is to have one title, "Women and Agriculture Development" encompasses the concerns of the Africa Group, and request to have women and gender as the focus of the main theme for the gender debate during the Conference.

In the parentheses I think they can accommodate all the other issues, be it nutrition, small-holders, small-holder producers or post-harvest activities and technology transfers. We should, however, take into account that when countries address the Conference, they will touch upon themes that they find are of priority to them within the context of the overriding theme, which is Women and Development. So I think we can live with this title "Women and the Agriculture Development," and opening up the paragraph to include nutrition, rural development, technology transfers and post-harvest activities.

M Antonino MARQUEZ PORTO (Brésil)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. On a parlé auparavant au nom du GRULAC. Maintenant, je parle au nom du Brésil. Je crois qu'on pourrait utiliser l'idée qui a été proposée par le GRULAC dans votre suggestion et contempler l'idée de transfert de technologies, des connaissances, et des capacitations aussi. Merci.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Ya que el debate se ha llevado entorno a la mujer y el desarrollo agrícola, México apoya el punto ya explicado por los Estados Unidos sobre el tema de la mujer y el desarrollo agrícola y sobre algún otro sub-tema que tenga que ver con la nutrición.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Yo creo que al final de la intervención que hice inicialmente para darle la importancia y plantear lo que desde el punto de Venezuela tiene la situación de género que se ha tratado en estos escenarios bilaterales. Pienso que la propuesta de Afganistán sobre el desarrollo agrícola rural de las pequeñas propiedades rurales es demasiado importante. En todo caso, si colocamos de entrada lo que usted señalaba, la mujer, el desarrollo agrícola y rural y unos dos puntos a renglón seguido, el papel de la FAO y la cooperación en la transferencia de conocimientos es para que la mujer se incorpore al desarrollo agrícola y al desarrollo rural. Estoy diciéndolo esto como salida de consenso.

Si colocamos la mujer, el desarrollo agrícola y rural, el papel de la FAO y la cooperación en la transferencia del conocimiento, no creo que haya ningún documento en la FAO y alguna otra Agencia de las Naciones Unidas que no hable del papel de la cooperación. Efectivamente, una de las flaquezas que tenemos en deuda con toda esta situación, es la transferencia del conocimiento. Obviamente, ya habíamos explicado el papel de la nutrición, de la educación, pero con transferencia del conocimiento pudiera englobar, tanto lo del Brasil, como lo que usted señala, Señor Presidente.

Ms Thenjiwe Ethel MTINTSO (Observer for South Africa)

South Africa agrees in general with the trend that the debate has taken, and with the participants who have said that perhaps we should move away from the notion of women in development, not only because it's a very broad one in terms of development, but it's also a debate that was there post-Beijing and it led us into difficulties. Therefore, I don't think that we would want to go back there to discussions on women in development, because those are murky waters, to put it mildly.

I think I want to support the suggestion that was made by the Ambassador of the United States, but amended by the Permanent Representative of Venezuela, because perhaps what we need to do is to bring in the two elements, rural development and agriculture. One is not necessarily equal to or the same as the other. I thought that, as you had suggested, Chairperson, we could also have small-holder

farming, food security, technology skills, knowledge transfers and so on. Perhaps when we are defining it more and finalizing it, we could go back to the initial suggestion that was made by Australia. There, it was not just the women, but the vital role of women. When the Ministers are trying to look at what you are saying about women, you are specifically saying that the role of women in agriculture and rural development is vital and although we need to bridge the gaps and undertake the challenges. Therefore, I think that perhaps, although it is not something that South Africa would insist on, we would go back to the vital role because it's a key issue. It's not just the women there, but the vital role they have to play. This is why we then have to ensure that they are empowered, that they participate in decision-making, that skills are transferred to them, and so on and so forth.

Travis POWER (Australia)

I wanted to support the Ambassador from South Africa. I think she made an excellent suggestion of a really pithy and punchy title that would catch her attention, and that would be "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development," and leave it at that.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre-vous. On progresse et je serais aussi assez d'accord pour reprendre cette idée parce que cela fait un titre équilibré: "Le rôle vital des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural," et on ne met pas de commentaire en-dessous. Le seul titre suffit à lui-même.

Est-ce qu'il y a des réactions là-dessus? Des oppositions? C'est adopté.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour la contribution active de tous. Vous voyez que l'on peut y arriver.

15. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2010-2012 (CL 140/LIM/2)

15. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales 2010-2012 (CL 140/LIM/2)

15. Calendario para 2010-12 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de otras reuniones importantes (CL 140/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de continuer avec le Point 15 qui est celui des Calendriers des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales.

J'attire d'abord votre attention sur le fait que le calendrier comprend la période 2010-2012 afin de donner au Conseil une vision plus claire de la séquence dans le prochain biennium des réunions des Organes découlant du PAI. Le Conseil est invité à prendre note d'un Projet de calendrier pour 2012, des changements apportés au calendrier 2010 depuis sa dernière session et à approuver le calendrier 2011.

Dans ce dernier, la session du Comité du Programme annoncée lors du dernier Conseil de mai a été fixé au 8 - 9 février 2011. Il est à noter également qu'une Session extraordinaire du Comité financier devra se tenir début 2011, comme celui-ci l'a demandé à sa dernière session du fin octobre. De plus, une session du Comité financier a été programmé le 8 et 9 février 2011 à la demande du PAM. Voilà, donc, les modifications que nous avons. Avez-vous des réactions sur ces sujets? Monsieur Mekouar a une précision à donner.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have just been informed that a Special Session of the Finance Committee dedicated to WFP matters will be held on 8-9 February 2011.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Voilà, avez-vous des questions à poser sur le Calendrier? Oui, attendez. L'Union européenne, la Jordanie, le Canada. Bien, l'Union européenne.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

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

The European Union acknowledges that the sequencing of the Governing Body meetings is of utmost importance in the Reform implementation, in particular, regarding the results-based management (planning and oversight activities). In this regard, the European Union welcomes the newly-proposed Calendar of the Governing Bodies for 2012 as the first year of the biennium 2012-2013, as it is in general conformity with the Immediate Plan of Action and allows a better consideration of the establishment of priorities for the Organization. In 2012, the Regional Conferences are planned at the beginning of the first year of the biennium, followed by the Technical Committees, which will allow sufficient time to discuss further the priorities in the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council sessions.

For 2011, we take note that according to the Proposed Provisional Calendar, the World Food Day will take place on 17 October, followed by the session of the Committee on World Food Security from 18 - 22 October.

We would like to underline the need for a smooth coordination between the organization of the CFS Session and the World Food Day activities, avoiding overlap of activities, and ensuring adequate staff and resources for the preparation of both events, as well as adequate and complementary press coverage. The option of holding the CFS Session the week before World Food Day should be kept open, subject to further discussion in the CFS Bureau on this issue.

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

I would like to make a comment concerning the Muslim religious holidays. The United Nations General Assembly has taken a decision in 1998, stipulating clearly that the two main Muslim holidays, and that is, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha should be holidays observed at the UN Headquarters.

The Director-General of the FAO was contacted regarding this decision, and he promised us that he would take it into account when the Calendar was drawn up. We would therefore like the decision taken by the UN General Assembly to be respected in FAO. We should avoid planning even informal consultations at the time of those two major Muslim festivals.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Well, this is a rolling Calendar. You have noted a number of additional meetings of FAO Committees. Since the calendar addresses the three different Rome-based Agencies, they also have to be updated once we decide on the Calendar of the IFAD Ninth Replenishment. The first meeting is indicated, but the subsequent ones will have to be added. So I would like to take this opportunity also to note that when this Calendar is next updated, it should also include the meeting dates of the IFAD Audit Committee and the IFAD Evaluation Committee because the failure up until now to reflect those two important committees has caused conflicts for many Representatives here who cover the three Agencies, or at least more than one of them. Canada is happy to approve this on a provisional basis. It is a rolling document, and we just ask that that additional consultation with IFAD take place before the next iteration of this Calendar as presented to us.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I would like to associate myself with what Canada said about looking after the IFAD meeting. He also mentioned the Audit Committee and the Evaluation Committee. I think next year there will also be three or four sessions of the Ninth Replenishment Meeting, so that should also be taken into account.

My question is quite different. In CL 140/20 which we discussed, the Revised Note on Working Methods of the Council, paragraph 11, says that the documentation should be distributed four weeks before the Council Session. Now, if you apply that rule strictly, then this will create a problem for the April 2011 Session of the Council because the Council Session is from 11-15 April, while the Programme and Finance Committee Sessions end on 25 March. So between that and the Council, there are only two-and-a-half weeks. The same also applies to the June 11-15 Session of the Council because the CCP and COAG will be ending on 26 May. So how do we reconcile that?

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I take the floor to reiterate what my colleague from Jordan has just stated regarding the religious festivals that should be observed in FAO and that it should also be granted an official holiday according to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in this regard. I should also like to indicate to not schedule any meetings or consultations during those times. I also subscribe with Canada regarding the need to include the Audit and Evaluation Committees of IFAD in their timetables.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Observer for Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, I just want to support Jordan regarding the need to respect religious holidays of the Islamic countries, in conformity with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. The General Assembly, the Security Council and all the United Nations bodies do not have any official or informal meetings during these holidays, so I encourage FAO to follow this same policy.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

My comments both relate to 2012. Firstly, and I know we can update this, but should we take a decision to extend the COAG or the CCP? That would, of course, require changes to this Calendar, and we need to bear that in mind. I guess a point of clarification is why is the World Food Day on a Tuesday in 2012, which means it is then in the middle of the CFS, and consequently awkward in terms of timing. Perhaps I can get some clarification on this point.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

We welcome the Provisional Calendar but we find that the Evaluation Committee meetings of the IFAD have not been reflected in the Calendar. In fact in the year 2010, when the meeting of the Committee on Forestry was going on, the Evaluation Committee of IFAD was scheduled almost on the same day. The last day, in fact, clashed with this, and we would request that this not happen again. We also find that the Audit Committee of IFAD has also not been reflected. Moreover, IFAD is going to have the meetings of the Replenishment consultations. Of course, they are difficult to predict because they will have five of them, and that perhaps also must be accommodated and taken care of.

Sra. Maria del Carmen SQUEFF (Observador de Argentina)

Queria referirme a la Propuesta de Calendario 2012. Confirmamos que Argentina ha ratificado formalmente la propuesta de ser sede de la 32ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que aquí en el Calendario figura entre el 26 y el 30 de marzo. Le quería decir que ratificamos lo que dice el párrafo 2, es decir que el Consejo toma nota del Proyecto de Calendario para 2012 porque sinceramente estas fechas seguramente van a ser conversadas con la Oficina Regional y con las autoridades de mi país, siempre en el entendido de que la Conferencia Regional se realice en los meses de marzo o abril.

M Adama BA (Sénégal)

Ma délégation souhaiterait tout simplement appuyer ce qui vient d'être mentionné, c'est-à-dire de respecter les congés officiels au niveau de la FAO concernant les fêtes religieuses musulmanes, notamment les deux fêtes Eid al-Fitr et Eid al-Adha

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Briefly, this is to answer questions raised. The first by Afghanistan regarded the timing of despatch of documentation. Afghanistan made reference to the Note on Methods of Work, which is work in progress, and the same reference actually is made in the MYPOW, which Council endorsed today. A similar reference to despatch deadlines is made in the Report of the Open-Ended Working Group, in particular in its Annex regarding documentation. In that Annex, this is nuanced a little bit. It says that the deadline is between two to four weeks, and I think that the Members of the Open-Ended Working Group and Council were wise in inserting that nuance. As you know, the new cycle of Governing Bodies is such that meetings of different sessions take place sometimes in a matter of two to three weeks. Therefore, it would not be possible to respect that four-week deadline. So ideally the documents would need to be despatched four weeks before the Sessions. However when Sessions take place closer to each other, that deadline cannot be met.

Second, is the question by Australia regarding CFS in 2012, and why the World Food Day is scheduled in the middle of CFS. This is exactly what happened this year. World Food Day took place in the middle of CFS, and this has also happened on a few occasions in the recent past and is in compliance with a decision made by CFS itself, for the World Food Day and CFS to be organized in the same period of time so as to maximize the benefits of both events, which are interlinked.

Third is the comment made by Argentina. Yes, the practice for Council is to approve the Calendar for the following year, and to take note of the Calendar for the year after that. Therefore, today the Council will be taking note of the Calendar for 2012. Furthermore, as you can see in paragraph 2 of this document, reference is made to the fact that this is a rolling Calendar, as mentioned by Canada and others, and the possibility to make adjustments to the Calendar is there, in consultation with the Independent Chair of the Council, who himself would consult the Members.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il est vrai que notre premier semestre de l'année 2011, compte tenu du raccourcissement entre les deux Conférences, constitue une pression considérable. Deuxièmement, j'ai veillé et j'insiste fortement à ce que pour 2012, compte tenu que c'est l'objectif dans le cas du PAI, toutes les Conférences régionales et les Comités techniques puissent se réaliser dans le premier semestre et nous avons juste deux exceptions qui vont jusqu'au mois d'octobre, ce qui nous empêche pas l'acceptation pour le Conseil. Mais cela a été des négociations un peu difficiles avec les Comités, compte tenu de leur histoire et du cycle de réunions qu'ils avaient. Je voulais remercier tout le monde pour leurs efforts et par rapport à ce qu'a dit l'Argentine bien sûr le plus tôt ce sera donné et bien programmé le mieux ce sera. Je vous rappelle que cette année, trois Conférences régionales se sont tenues les unes après les autres. Ce n'est pas facile pour les responsables ni pour le Président et le Directeur-Général mais pour obtenir un bon roulement entre le Conseil et les différentes réunions de la Conférence, c'est obligatoire d'y veiller.

Comme l'a dit M. Mekouar, on essaie de tenir compte au maximum de tout ce qui se passe à l'extérieur et en particulier au FIDA et au PAM, donc pour ajuster. Alors, je ne vous cache pas que j'ai demandé l'autre jour à M. Mekouar que l'on essaie de prévoir nos réunions intersessionnelles que nous avons aussi de temps en temps les réunions de préparation car c'est très difficile de préparer une réunion aujourd'hui au pied levé pour avoir l'assistance de tous.

Et bien sûr sur les propositions et sur la réflexion qui ont été faites concernant le respect par la FAO des engagements qui ont été pris par l'ONU au niveau des fêtes musulmanes. Nous allons tout mettre en œuvre pour que cela soit réalisé, avec toutes mes excuses si pour cette année il y a eu quelques points qui n'ont pas tout à fait été réglés comme on l'aurait voulu.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I just wanted to clarify my comments about the CFS 2012. I understand the CFS and the World Food Day overlap. I guess I was intrigued to see the World Food Day on a Tuesday rather than at the start or at the end of the week, which means we have one day of the CFS meeting and then we break for a day. Then we come back again, and then it seems like a strange way to align things.

I have great sympathy with the comments made by EU about whether we want to overlap them at all, but certainly breaking a meeting in the in middle seems like a strange way of doing business.

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

I apologize for asking for the floor for a second time. I do not want to add a religious aspect to our debate. However, it should be noted that FAO is not doing this as a favour to us, that is, to observe these festivities. It is being done because FAO should respect the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, which is a very clear resolution taken on the 31 March 1998, and which was reconfirmed in another resolution that is available to you. The Resolution clearly states that Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha as two non-working days as official holidays. We were not asking for a gift or a favour from FAO to stop or hold meetings on those days. We are seeking the implementation of those resolutions in this Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Et bien, cela n'est pas un cadeau et dans le cadre du planning tel qu'il était établi, il est vrai qu'il y a deux jours qui tombent au mois d'octobre 2012 concernant le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, et nous allons voir comment nous pouvons changer cette situation puisque c'est le dernier jour du Conseil pour ne pas avoir de difficultés. Donc, je le marque, si cela avait été au milieu c'est vrai que cela aurait été difficile. Et donc, cela sera mis au compte rendu qu'il y a eu cette demande et ma proposition.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Just to add to what the representative of Jordan said, this is not a present, this is a right, and it is not just a right for the delegates to have this day off, it is the right for people who work in this Organization who are Muslim and who want to celebrate their feast to have the day off. It just does not stop at the feast. I believe also that there are other concerns that have been expressed more about not having meetings of the time of these feasts as some Embassies take a long holiday, especially on Eid Al-Adha.

Also with regard to the Programme Committee, let me just say that WFP had actually scheduled their Executive Board meeting in November 2011 on the same day of Eid Al-Adha. Based on the requests from Member Nations they changed the date of the Executive Board session. So I believe this can also be done here in FAO.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

World Food Day is normally celebrated on the 16 October. This year it so happened that the 16 October was a Saturday and, therefore, it was anticipated and celebrated on Friday 15 October.

In 2012 that would be a Tuesday. However, if Members decided they want to celebrate World Food Day on 15 October, and then carry on with the full session of the CFS the following day, I think that that could be adjusted easily.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose après les commentaires qui ont été faits, sous les réserves qui ont été faites pour le FC et le PC du mois d'octobre 2012, donc on suspend les deux désignations d'accepter ce Calendrier en sachant qu'il peut là aussi être évolutif en fonction des évolutions de notre Organisation mais aussi de l'extérieur.

Tout le monde est d'accord?

Nous en avons terminé avec le Point 15 et comme je me suis entendu avec Monsieur Garín, Vice-Président du Conseil qui a accepté de présider pour la partie suivante la discussion sur l'Évolution des débats au sein des autres instances intéressant la FAO. Je lui demande de nous rejoindre ici.

Je vais m'absenter quelques instants, mais je participerai quand même comme auditeur direct, y compris avec vous et non pas simplement dans mon bureau sur ces débats-là.

Nous terminerons par deux sujets que nous avons à l'Ordre du jour puisque nous avons le point sur les autres questions où nous devons définir l'Ordre du jour de notre prochain Conseil, comme nous l'avons convenu dans le MAIPO et l'intervention du Directeur général pour nous demander l'avis sur la nomination du Directeur général adjoint qui doit être nommé. Merci pour l'instant, et à tout de suite.

Mr Daniel Garín, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

M Daniel Garín, Vice-Président du Conseil, a pris la présidence

Sr Daniel Garín, Vicepresidente del Consejo, tomó la presidencia

18. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 140/INF/6; CL 140/INF/6-Add.1)

18. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (CL 140/INF/6; CL 140/INF/6-Add.1)

18. Novedades en los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO (CL 140/INF/6; CL 140/INF/6-Add.1)

EL PRESIDENTE

En primera instancia, agradezco en nombre de Uruguay por haber sido nombrado Presidente de este Consejo y además, por el honor de presidir el Consejo en ocasión de desarrollo del Tema 18 de la Agenda.

Pasamos a desarrollar el Tema 18 titulado "Novedades en los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO". Los documentos pertinentes llevan la signatura CL 140/INF/6 y CL 140/INF/6-Add.1.

Les recuerdo que este tema se ha incluido en el programa en atención a la medida No. 2.31 del Plan Inmediato de Acción, con arreglo a la cual uno de los cometidos del Presidente Independiente del Consejo es garantizar que el Consejo esté al tanto de los acontecimientos en otros foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO y que se mantenga un diálogo con otros Órganos Rectores, según proceda, en particular los Órganos Rectores de los organismos para la agricultura y la alimentación con sede en Roma.

Tengo el placer de acoger en el pódium a la Sra. Annika Söder, Sub-directora General de la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Relaciones Exteriores; al Sr. Eduardo Rojas, Sub-director General del Departamento Forestal; al Sr. José María Sumpsi, Sub-director General del Departamento de Cooperación Técnica; la Sra. Marcela Villarreal, Directora de la División de Género, Equidad y Empleo Rural; el Sr David Hallam, Director de la División de Comercio y Mercados; al Sr Anton Mangstl, Director de la Oficina de Intercambio de Conocimientos, Investigación y Extensión; la Sra. Florence Egal, Oficial Superior en la División de Nutrición y Protección del Consumidor. Agradecemos a todos su presencia.

La dinámica y a los efectos de ordenar el desarrollo del tema vamos, en primer instancia, a dar la palabra a cada uno de los expositores que hemos convocado para posteriormente abrir el debate.

Le doy la palabra, en primera instancia, al Sr. David Hallan, Director de la División de Comercio y Mercados, a realizar la primera exposición, relativa a "Resultados de la Cumbre del G-20 celebrada en Seúl y papel de la FAO en relación con las medidas relativas a la seguridad alimentaria y la volatilidad de los precios".

Mr David HALLAM (Director, Trade and Markets Division)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ³

Ms Florence EGAL (FAO Staff)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁴

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁵

Sr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Sub-director-General, Departamento Forestal)

Les presentaré seguidamente el estado de las Negociaciones de Cambio Climático y especialmente en relación a los bosques y a REDD.

Por un lado veremos la evolución de las Negociaciones del Cambio Climático en este respecto, el papel de los bosques y la respuesta de FAO y el apoyo de los países en esta cuestión.

El acuerdo de Copenhague del año pasado en estas fechas se ha integrado plenamente dentro del progreso del Grupos de Trabajo *ad hoc* working group LCA, que se traduciría como uno de los dos Grupos de Trabajo *ad hoc* de la Convención sobre el Cambios Climático relacionada con la cooperación de largo plazo.

Nos espera un acuerdo final en Cancún en el que se han incluido varias cuestiones en un paquete que se espera sean aprobados durante estas dos semanas. Entre ellos estar los aspectos de REDD-plus y de LULUCF que afectan a los países desarrollados. Se espera que el Acuerdo para la sustitución o prórroga de Kyoto se alcance en Sudáfrica y, por lo tanto, el camino avanzado en Cancún sea clave para cerrar el Acuerdo.

Por motivos de credibilidad y confianza en los futuros acuerdos de Cambio Climático, resulta crucial que se alcance un Acuerdo sobre las cuestiones clave, dado que su hipotética subordinación a las negociaciones de la Organización Mundial del Comercio constituye un riesgo.

Los bosques tienen diferentes papeles en el cambio climático, siempre relacionados con el principal elemento de los gases invernaderos que es el carbono, que supone un 60 por ciento de los gases de efecto invernadero. Por un lado, sus stocks son importantísimos y según la propia estadística de FAO del FRA 2010 equivalen al 86 por ciento del total del carbono atmosférico.

Los cambios de extensión por deforestación y reforestación, así como de stocks por degradación o capitalización de bosques son importantes fuentes o sumideros de carbono. Según nuestros propios datos del FRA, el 9 por ciento de las emisiones actuales corresponden a deforestación en los países básicamente tropicales. Por otro lado, el aumento de bosques en los países desarrollados y en Asia supone un 3 por ciento de efectos sumideros sobre el total de emisiones de carbono dando un balance neto del 6 por ciento, aunque también es cierto que hay otras fuentes como el IPCC, que lo aumenta al 14,4 por ciento, pero estas son fuentes bastante antiguas. Otras fuentes, por el contrario, entienden que ya hoy los bosques son un sumidero neto. Por lo tanto, es necesario alcanzar un acuerdo sobre estas cifras para poder evaluar más y dar los pasos siguientes.

Así mismo el empleo de los puntos forestales en la construcción y como fuente de energía, siempre que sea de una forma sostenible, supone la sustitución de materias primas y de energías no renovables, reduciendo la correspondiente emisión de carbono procedente de las energías fósiles.

El mecanismo REDD-plus pretende reducir sustancialmente las emisiones por deforestación y degradación forestal e incluso aprovechar las oportunidades para incrementar los stocks. Se trata de un mecanismo extraordinariamente costo-efectivo, reforzando el camino hacia una economía verde.

³ CL 140/PV Appendix A.

⁴ CL 140/PV Appendix B.

⁵ CL 140/PV Appendix C.

REDD ha evolucionado desde su definición en 2005 hacia mayores cuotas de inclusión, incluyendo la gestión forestal sostenible, la gobernanza o la participación de las comunidades locales mediante el término más inclusivo REDD-plus. Hay que recordar que en cualquier caso se trata de un pago por un servicio ofrecido; en primer caso, reducción de emisiones de carbono y en el futuro, incluso, mayores capacidades de sumidero y, por tanto, los pagos correspondientes serán proporcionales al servicio prestado.

El Acuerdo sobre REDD-plus entre las Partes está bastante maduro y se han determinado los principios, enfoque y, en buena medida, la metodología a lo largo del último año en el Grupo de Trabajo *ad hoc* que he mencionado anteriormente. Algunos aspectos metodológicos están todavía por resolver: los llamados niveles de referencia y, dentro de los MRV, los sistemas de verificación, que se trata de un área donde la FAO está actuando en muchos países a través de su programa histórico de inventarios nacionales y del acuerdo entre agencias UN-REDD donde estamos conjuntamente FAO, PNUD y PNUMA.

Tampoco está resuelto si el enfoque debe ser nacional o sub-nacional. Ustedes pueden imaginar a un pequeño país comparado con un gran país, como podrían ser la República Democrática del Congo y Brasil: evidentemente esta cuestión del enfoque global de un estado o enfoques nacionales es una cuestión importante.

Así como modalidad financiera que implementará los flujos una vez se engarce REDD-plus dentro de los acuerdos de la Convención sobre el Cambio Climático, si van a ser instrumentos de mercado o bien fondos públicos de naturaleza estatal, regional o global.

Las negociaciones sobre las reglas de contabilización de los gases de efecto invernadero producidas por los países desarrollados en el ámbito forestal están recogidas en la documentación LULUCF y abarcarían tanto las emisiones y sumideros de los bosques destinados, el ciclo de vida de los productos forestales y los mecanismos de desarrollo limpio. Existen opiniones divergentes en esta materia, a favor se entiende que beneficiaría la lucha contra el cambio de clima, puesto que en este momento la mitigación fundamental y su efecto sumidero está concentrados en los países desarrollados y generaría más incentivos para la gestión forestal sostenible.

Por el contrario, existen también temores que este proceso pueda encarecer el coste de la madera para la industria y reducir la libertad de gestión de los propietarios forestales, así como, el coste del sistema de monitorización.

Entre los aspectos clave destacaríamos por un lado que existen compromisos muy importantes para esta primera fase de REDD que, como decía, todavía no está engarzada oficialmente en los mecanismos de Kyoto. En concreto, hay compromisos por 4.500 millones de dólares para los próximos tres años liderados por Noruega. Como ustedes saben, más o menos unos 300 millones de éstas dólares se están dedicando a los procesos REDD y REDD-plus, es decir a la preparación de todos los mecanismos de inventario y de adecuación de la gobernanza para hacerlo efectivo. Es decir que si estuviéramos hablando de una obra, los 300 millones serían para el proyecto y los restantes 4.200 millones serían destinados a las transferencias del propio coste de la obra.

Los fondos de REDD-plus y de adaptación supondrán un importantísimo revulsivo para los países en vías de desarrollo y la gestión forestal sostenible en estos países. Estimamos, si las previsiones del acuerdo de Copenhague se cumplen, que en estos países podrían suponer duplicar los recursos que entran en los bosques prácticamente de la misma dimensión que los actuales producidos por la gestión forestal, sea por cortas de madera o sea por productos no maderables, en el entorno, entre 2 y 50 dólares por hectárea y año.

Hay muchas expectativas en relación a REDD-plus y ello propiciaría evidentemente la emergencia de intereses también algunos contradictorios. En este sentido es muy importante el refuerzo de capacidades en los países. También es relevante reforzar la entera acción entre mitigación y adaptación. Especialmente, REDD-plus todavía no ha conseguido introducirse en los países de clima semi-árido. Estoy es muy importante, por ejemplo, pero no sólo, en la región del Cercano Oriente donde existen no sólo potencialidades a veces infra-estimadas de mitigación, y por lo tanto de sumidero, pero también de adaptación y de recuperación de la cubierta climática. Entiendo que esto

puede ser un reto también ampliar las actividades a estos países. Por otro lado, como ustedes bien saben por la Conferencia de hace un mes en Den Haag, el debate de REDD-plus también se está ampliando a la agricultura.

¿Cuál es el papel de la FAO? Por un lado, FAO es una fuente de información sobre los recursos forestales y el stock de carbono mediante FRA y los inventarios forestales nacionales. Estamos asistiendo a los países mediante directrices de gestión forestal sostenible adaptativa para reducir la vulnerabilidad al cambio climático así como, con muchos proyectos REDD-plus, con directrices de cambio climático para responsables políticos y gestores forestales, desarrollando sistemas sostenibles de bioenergía forestal, reforzando la capacidad de respuesta ante imprevistos y desastres naturales y catalizando la cooperación regional sobre bosques y cambio climático. También estamos trabajando a nivel internacional, especialmente en el marco de la Asociación Colaborativa de Bosques, el CPF, con diversas publicaciones, trabajos de expertos, especialmente en el ámbito innovador de la degradación forestal. El Forest Day, en este caso el domingo 4 diciembre que se celebrará en Cancún, y que se viene celebrando en cada una de las cumbres del COP del cambio climático para reforzar la relevancia de los bosques. Además, evidentemente, del programa UN-REDD entre las tres Agencias anteriormente citadas.

Permítame acabar indicando que es clave y transformando también REDD sin modificar ni siquiera su denominación de reducción a reversión para utilizar todas las potencialidades de reforzar la mitigación. Es muy importante que los recursos que se transfieren lleguen realmente a los gestores y al territorio. También resulta importante enfocar la situación de los países emergentes que son aquellos que más van a poder ser beneficiados por su mayor mejora en superficies y stock y que evidentemente podría quedar fuera del proceso. Evidentemente, en el largo plazo, será necesario pensar en un mecanismo coherente que permita activar y contabilizar plenamente la abortación al balance de carbono de todos los bosques con independencia de la situación del país. Sólo con ello se conseguirán los objetivos ambiciosos de reducir las emisiones de cambio climático de origen fósil revertiendo el cambio climático a largo plazo.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁶

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias Sr. Rojas. A continuación le voy a ceder la palabra a la Sra. Annika Söder, que es la Sub-directora General de la Oficina de Comunicaciones y Relaciones Exteriores. La Sra. Söder nos hablará sobre la Reunión plenaria de alto nivel celebrada durante el sexagésimo quinto período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y de la colaboración entre los tres organismos con sede en Roma. Sra. Söder, tiene la palabra.

Ms Karin Annika SÖDER (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communication and External Relations)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁷

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Sra. Söder. Vamos a invitar ahora al uso de la palabra al Sr. Anton Mangstl, Director de la Oficina de Intercambio de Conocimientos, Investigación y Extensión. El Sr. Mangstl nos informará sobre la situación respecto al proceso de reforma del Grupo Consultivo sobre la Investigación Agrícola Internacional y del Foro Global de Investigación Agropecuaria. Tiene la palabra, Sr. Mangstl.

Mr Anton MANGSTL (Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁸

⁶ CL 140/PV Appendix D

⁷ CL 140/PV Appendix E.

⁸ CL 140/PV Appendix F.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Sr. Mangstl. La anteúltima exposición la realizará el Sr. José María Sumpsi, que es el Sub-director General del Departamento de Cooperación Técnica. Su exposición será sobre el Grupo piloto de financiamiento innovador para el desarrollo. Tiene la palabra el Sr. Sumpsi.

Sr José SUMPSI (Sub-director General, Departamento de Cooperación Técnica)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁹

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Sr. Sumpsi. Vamos a darle la palabra nuevamente a la Sra. Söder, quien va a desarrollar la última exposición y que va a referir a la colaboración entre las agencias que tienen sede en Roma. Se va a referir a la colaboración entre los organismos FAO, FIDA y Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Ms Karin Annika SÖDER (Assistant Director-General, Office of Corporate Communication and External Relations) ¹⁰

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Sra. Söder. Bien, después de ocho exposiciones, vamos a dar la palabra a los Miembros que deseen intervenir sobre los temas que se han desarrollado. En primera instancia, vamos a hacer una primera ronda por Corea, India, Francia, Egipto, Unión Europea, Estados Unidos, Ghana. Bien, ¿no omitimos a nadie? Australia.

En primera instancia iniciaríamos el debate con estos pedidos de palabra.

La secuencia sería Corea, India, Francia, Egipto, Unión Europea, Estados Unidos, Ghana y Australia. Si no hay inconvenientes, le daremos en primera instancia la palabra a Corea.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Republic of Korea)

I thank the Secretariat for presenting the outcome of the G-20 Seoul Summit held during 11-12 November, and the role of FAO as focal point on food security and price volatility matters. I am happy to be informed that FAO is already working on all the relevant issues, and I expect excellent outputs to come.

I would like to mention especially that the Republic of Korea is deeply concerned about the recent price surges of staple food grains, not only as the host of the G-20 Summit but also as a big food-importing country. The Republic of Korea has experienced great challenges in procuring food grains in the international food grains market during 2007-2008. I anticipate the FAO will play a substantial role in developing options on how to mitigate and manage the risks associated with price volatility of imported grains.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

My delegation would like to compliment all the distinguished speakers for giving us an update on events taking place in areas under their purview.

Having said that, I would like to flag one issue. Yesterday, some of our distinguished representatives said that if everything is a priority, then nothing is a priority. We find that, especially as regard the issues of scaling of nutrition, youth employment and child labour, they are not the areas of core competence of FAO. There are other UN organizations which should be taking the lead, and FAO should play a supportive role in case they are asked by sister agencies. We have very scarce resources and we do not have all the expertise. The other day when we were discussing this matter, we realized that we do not have a specialist in salt science but we are diverting our experts in areas where perhaps it is not justified. So this should be taken into account. It is not that I do not support these initiatives.

⁹ CL 140/PV Appendix G.

¹⁰ CL 140/PV Appendix H.

These initiatives are very noble and very much relevant, but at the same time there is the ILO to discuss child labour and there is the WFP which is doing a school-feeding programme. We are speaking about one thousand days. One thousand days means the first three years of a child after he or she is born – does FAO have the area of core competence to be able to address this issue? This is something which we must all ponder.

Having said that, I welcome the initiatives on all other fronts. I would especially like to say that we have discussed in detail the REDD and REDD+ in the Committee on Forestry, and we are very keen to know that although forests are known to act as carbonsync the present Carbon Trading Framework does not recognize this activity or that of agriculture as eligible for carbon credits. FAO should put all its might and force into ensuring that agriculture as an activity and that forestry as an activity are considered as tools for carbon trade. Only then will the money flow through the innovative finance mechanism which has just been pointed out.

The second area of importance for us should be how to arrest the loss of biodiversity and how to avoid climate change – these are burning issues. Therefore, mitigation should be reserved for the UNFCCC, but its adaptation should be the focus for FAO.

We are very happy with the developments of GIFAR and CGIAR, but at the same time we are really apprehensive that the CGIAR as a legal entity is not very clearly-defined and that is why fund flows to this body are a bit constricted. I would therefore urge FAO to perhaps think about this more in detail. Now that the Headquarters has been shifted to Montpellier in France, I think we should work more closely and find this out.

We are very happy to note that the innovative finance mechanism is effective but it funds a very small portion. It can replace multilateral institutions or bilateral funding, but I am a bit concerned that with all the innovative mechanisms thrown up in the board, perhaps the first claim will come from the respective governments. So how shall we really tap these resources for us? We all know that health was given priority in innovative funding. By saying that we are concentrating on food security, we may get a part of this cake. But I really do not know how we are going to approach this in the near future.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je remercie Monsieur le Secrétaire de ses présentations extrêmement intéressantes. La France préside désormais le G-20 pour un an. Elle accueillera le prochain Sommet début novembre 2011 à Cannes. Pour mémoire, la France présidera le G8 aussi à compter du 1^{er} janvier prochain. Notre représentation permanente se tiendra à la disposition des délégations pour exposer nos objectifs fin janvier lors d'une réunion d'information.

La France a travaillé de façon étroite avec la République de Corée, à la fois pour préparer le Sommet de Séoul et pour inscrire la présidence française dans la continuité de la présidence coréenne. Le Président de la République fait de la sécurité alimentaire et du suivi des impulsions données à Séoul avec nos partenaires du G-20 sur ce sujet, une priorité.

Les mandats confiés à la FAO ainsi qu'au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et aux autres organisations romaines sont, comme l'a dit le Secrétaire, le gage de la compétence de la FAO. De sa capacité à identifier les défis auxquels nous devons faire face pour nourrir le monde et de la pertinence de ces analyses. Nous souhaitons notamment obtenir des résultats plus particulièrement pour remédier à l'excessive volatilité des prix des matières premières et, pour ce qui nous concerne ici, les produits agricoles.

Comme le demande le consensus de Séoul sur le développement pour une croissance partagée, nous souhaitons pouvoir aboutir à des progrès sur les outils pour prévenir cette volatilité des prix autant que sur les réponses à apporter pour en limiter les effets, en particulier, sur les plus vulnérables. Nous souhaitons travailler sur toutes les pistes possibles. Comme le Ministre de l'Agriculture l'a indiqué devant le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, une réflexion sera menée en particulier sur les questions de la transparence des marchés physiques et financiers et des stocks, sur les mécanismes

assurancielles et de couverture et sur la coordination de nos politiques pour prévenir et le cas échéant, gérer les crises.

Les travaux déjà conduits au sein de la FAO, les réflexions, les débats menés tant au cours du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondial que pendant le Comité des Produits, le 15 juin 2010 à Rome et au cours de la réunion extraordinaire des groupes intergouvernementaux sur les céréales et le riz du 24 septembre 2010, sont des sources inestimables pour nourrir les travaux du G-20. La présidence française fait une priorité d'articuler les discussions du G-20 avec les Nations Unies. Elle sera à l'écoute, soucieuse de concertation avec le Système des Nations Unies et ici avec les institutions et les délégations.

Il s'agit également de mieux travailler ensemble avec des institutions multilatérales renforcées et performantes. C'est le sens des mandats donnés à Séoul à toutes les institutions internationales concernées. Il paraît donc essentiel de bien articuler les processus de discussions tout au long de l'année.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Allow me first to thank all the speakers for the presentations they have provided us with. I think they gave us a very clear and concise picture of how FAO is active not just within the context of the Organization itself, but how it participates in international initiatives especially, within the UN System.

I have a few comments to make, particularly on the presentation by Mr Sumpshi with regards to the innovative resources of finance. Naturally, we encourage FAO to search for additional funding from different sources. However, let me reiterate what you mentioned the concerns of developing countries about innovative sources of finance. Not only is it a matter that these innovative sources do not move or replace the international obligations with regard to ODA, but these obligations should remain the main source of financing for development activities.

However, there is another concern. Innovative sources of finance should not come at the expense of developing countries or the citizens of developing countries. In that sense, I believe that some of the suggestions, proposals and ideas under consideration, may actually come at the expense of the citizens of developing countries. Take, for example, the one about taxes on remittances from immigrants. Immigrants are known to have very limited sources which they send back home. This is the reason for their migration. To tax them in order to fund developing activities, may be an example of what I say about receiving funding at the expense of citizens from developing countries.

Also, out of curiosity, how does this initiative fit in with the funding strategy that is going to be presented to the Programme Committee next year? Is that part of the funding strategy or is it taking us in another direction?

Also with regard to the presentation by Ms Söder, on partnerships and cooperation with the Rome-based Agencies, may I say that we welcome all the efforts that the Organization and the other Agencies are taking regarding cooperation. We believe that this will only contribute to enhancing your work, and improving the work reformed by the three Rome-based Agencies.

I especially welcome the project or the collaboration you are having with regard to countries between relief and recovery. This is something that was of great interest in the last session of the CFS. I think that it might build up to the Forum that we will be having within the context of the CFS in 2012, and could provide a good basis for documentation for this Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias, Egipto por sus palabras. Recuerdo siempre de que estamos en una sesión que es informativa, por lo cual, los invitamos a la mayor síntesis que sea posible para las exposiciones. Le vamos a dar ahora la palabra a la Unión Europea.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

I heard your plea. The EU has prepared a two-page statement on this item. In view of the late hour and for the sake of efficiency, I will refrain from reading the detailed contribution and invite you and the Members to refer to our written comments. They will be made available outside the room.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

In the spirit of the EU, let me begin by first very quickly saying thank you to all of the presenters for very, very informative presentations and limit my comments to just three areas.

One, I want to applaud the Organization and all of the Rome-based Agencies for the continued work on the collaboration of your efforts and activities. The more you work together, the better it is, not just for the Agencies but for the stakeholders that we all serve, and those are the hungry people around the world. We look forward to hearing more information about the pilot programmes that you have undertaken.

On the issue of nutrition, while the United States is a strong supporter of prioritizing, we recognize that there is a role for FAO in the nutrition activities of the global community, particularly regarding the work that is being performed through the SUN initiative, which is a global initiative. That role of FAO is, of course, limited again to collaborating with the other UN Agencies, as well as the private sector, on the implementation of the SUN initiative. Without a doubt, FAO does have a significant role to play in that implementation because agriculture is a requirement for sustainable nutrition, and this is very much a part of FAO's mandate and the comparative advantage that this organization brings to that issue. We look forward to hearing more information about FAO's work with SUN and the nutrition initiative.

Finally, I wish to comment on the issue of innovative financing mechanisms. The issue of a global tax, even for the purpose of implementing food security, is one that we would hope that FAO would cautiously consider with other organizations regarding its support. Recognizing that this was presented to us for information only, we and I'm sure many other Members of this body, look forward to receiving additional information.

Mr Ram BHAVNANI (Ghana)

I want to thank the presentators for the quality of output presented. It also goes to show the complexities of the issues that we have to deal with in agriculture. But I want to limit my intervention to one area: innovative financing for development. The speaker noted how the resources can be mobilized but did not make any comment on how he can disburse those mobilized resources and the process that you have to go through to be a beneficiary of those resources. I want to refer the speaker to what we have: a global trust fund which is being managed by the World Bank, which is a global fund for agriculture and food security. They have stated guidelines that you have to go through to access the Fund. You have to go and present your investment plan. You have to present your CAADP compact, and you have to go through high-level clearance process. Are there any guidelines for assessing this Fund?

Ms Emily COLLINS (Australia)

Thank you very much to all the speakers for their very informative and interesting presentations. I will be very brief.

My comments have essentially already been touched upon by India, Egypt and the United States with regards the presentation made by Mr Sumpsi on the innovative financing mechanisms. We very much look forward to hearing more information about these mechanisms, perhaps through the Programme and Finance Committees.

We are very much encouraged by all of the great partnership work that has been ongoing with FAO and outside partnerships such as the two UN-REDD plus and the CGIAR frameworks, and also between the three Rome-based Agencies. We were very much impressed by the work that is going on and, echoing comments made by the United States, we look forward to seeing much more of this in the future.

If it would be possible for the presenters of the Secretariat to perhaps make these Presentations available via the Permanent Representations website - there was a lot of very good information in these presentations that was actually not available in the documents. This would be very much appreciated.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias a Australia por sus palabras y, antes de continuar, quiero comentarles que efectivamente las presentaciones van a ser publicadas en el sitio Web de los Representantes Permanentes. Es un pedido que ya habíamos recibido por escrito, y advertimos a todos los integrantes del Consejo que en ese ámbito va a quedar disponible a la brevedad.

También quería decirles que antes de darle la palabra al siguiente país, este es el último que tengo en la lista de oradores.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Thank you for the very interesting presentation. I will not go into detail, but I want to emphasize that these collaborative and coordinated activities with other organizations and other fora are very good indicators for measuring the changing FAO.

FAO should not always be the main player in the international fora. As a knowledge organization, and utilizing its neutral nature, Japan expects FAO to play a good supporting role in the world. These activities can improve the cooperative image of FAO, and it will ease the fundraising for FAO.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of innovative financing mechanisms. I belong to the old generation, so I could not understand it all, but I believe it has potential for the future.

EL PRESIDENTE

Doy las gracias por las intervenciones de los Miembros del Consejo y a los asistentes. A continuación, vamos a dar la palabra a los oradores para que eventualmente respondan a interrogantes que han surgido, en la medida en que los temas sean de su competencia.

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

I think that several distinguished delegates referred to the question of innovative financial mechanisms. First of all, I would like to say that in my presentation, I didn't present a lot of important elements.

India asked whether the money would be used nationally or internationally, and Ghana raised the question of how to use it, because this is not just an innovative way to get funding, but it should also be an innovative way of using the funding.

I wish to assure India that all these mechanisms are global in nature and the money will be put into some international body or vertical fund. It will not just go to the countries to spend at the country level. It is a global mechanism, and will be spent through global mechanisms, and to the extent possible, through existing mechanisms.

In the case of health, some specific bodies were created like the vertical fund for malaria, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, etc. A vertical fund is also being created for education.

In the case of agriculture, this discussion is still at a very preliminary stage because FAO is the last member to begin discussions on this issue. We are just beginning to discuss the questions on agriculture. Maybe, as Ghana said, one of the options could be some existing mechanism like GAVI in the World Bank. Of course, the idea is to use this money through new or existing mechanisms that could devise global disbursement solutions.

In any case, it is true that this innovative financing was initially used for health and is now being used for education. We expect it also to play a part in food security, but maybe not immediately. I think we have to wait a little bit for that. In response to Egypt, we prefer not to integrate this question yet in the strategy for resource mobilization. We are confident that it could serve as an immediate fund for

agricultural purposes. In that sense, I think it would maybe be premature to integrate it in the strategy for resource mobilization in FAO.

Regarding other comments, I think maybe it would be interesting to organize some informative session on this important issue because the United States and Australia mentioned the need for further information. I think that it is relevant and could be interesting in the context of some Governing Body, or maybe through informal meetings with Permanent Representatives. Maybe in the future we could organize some technical session about these mechanisms and their pros and cons because all these proposals regarding taxes on international and national transactions, remittances or currency transactions should be discussed, and their applicability to agriculture and food security.

Regarding the point raised by Egypt about ensuring that these mechanisms don't damage the people from developing countries, I would like to clarify that the mechanism on remittances is not to tax remittances. It is to use remittances with matching programmes to invest in agriculture in the communities in which remittances are deposited. It is not just using the remittances for consumption, but invest them in projects that should increase agricultural productivity for families receiving the remittances from people working abroad. In that sense, I think that it is important to clarify that the mechanism does not refer to tax remittances. The goal is to invest remittances in agricultural projects for the benefit of the receiving communities.

Ms Florence ÉGAL (FAO staff)

I would like to thank the distinguished Representative for India and apologize for a very poor presentation. Clearly, it is not FAO's job to take care of children from one to three years old, but these children have parents and their parents are the ones that feed them. It is essential that parents all over the world are able to feed their children properly. It is basically a human rights issue, and for that they need to be able to find the food on the local market. They need to be able to buy it or to produce it themselves, and they need to have the right information to use it properly.

I would like to thank you for your concern on biodiversity. It is absolutely essential to manage biodiversity in a sustainable way for sustainable diets. This is a very important source of foods and allows us to balance diets locally as well as promote local economic development.

And the third point regards innovative financing. If you want to move from health to food security, why don't you go through nutrition?

Mr Anton MANGSTL (Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension)

I just want to briefly refer to India's comments. I fully agree that the legal status of the CGIAR is very complex. Just this afternoon, one of my staff members was in a teleconference with the World Bank to discuss this matter to try to sort it out. I am also very grateful to our Legal Office for helping us in this difficult area.

I really appreciated Japan's comments. I believe working in partnership is also responding to the IEE. It is a very important area of FAO and we have to do more. We need also to develop the skills of our own staff. A knowledge organization has to demonstrate the ability to be a good facilitator and a good coordinator. But facilitating good partnership arrangements has a cost, and this has to be also considered in our planning activities.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

I refer to the concern expressed by India, and I would like to say that FAO's work on rural employment is playing a very supplementary role to the ILO, which has the absolute lead on this issue, specifically on youth employment and child labour.

So we work very much in collaboration with them in a supporting, not leading role. Our work on rural employment is in response to the IEE. There is a specific recommendation from the IEE where FAO is asked to work much more on issues of access to food security, not only on the production issues.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias Sra. Villarreal. En primera instancia, los expositores dan por concluida su etapa de responder a las interrogantes que se han surgido por parte de los Miembros. Pondríamos consideración si algún Miembro considera insuficiente o algún complemento, de lo contrario estaríamos cerrando la etapa de debate y de respuestas. No veo a nadie. Bueno, entonces agradezco las interrogaciones, las contribuciones tanto del Consejo como de los expositores y la consideración en atender a hacer funcionar normalmente el desarrollo del Tema 18. De esta manera damos por concluido el Tema 18, y pasamos nuevamente la presidencia al Sr. Guyau. El tema está cerrado. Gracias.

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

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

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

20. Any Other Matters

20. Autres questions

20. Asuntos varios

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à Monsieur Garín d'avoir assuré cette présidence. Et à mon tour, un grand merci à l'ensemble des Directeurs pour leur présentation et cet échange qui, à mon avis, est très fructueux pour nous tous pour l'information.

Nous abordons le point 20 «Autres questions» donc vous voudrez bien prendre connaissance du document de référence CL 140/INF/8. Ce document reflète l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la 141ème session du Conseil, qui aura lieu du 11 au 15 avril 2011, et qui a été présenté dans le programme de travail pluriannuel que nous avons approuvé ce matin et que vous avez. Avez-vous des commentaires? L'Union européenne.

Mr Christian PANNEELS (European Union)

Thanks, Mr Chair, and apologies for coming late with this point but we have some small suggestions to make and, again, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU also associate themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman, we appreciate the work done in establishing the MYPOW. It greatly contributes improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. With regard to setting the agenda for the next Council, we would suggest that we include an item on the "Terms and Conditions for the Appointment of the Director General."

We would request that the Secretariat prepare a paper on this, for submission to the next Council. That would be the last Council Session before the Conference. This would provide Members with the opportunity to consider this important matter in a timely manner, taking into consideration financial implications as part of the budgetary process. We think it would also allow the Council to feed into the work of the General Committee in submitting recommendations on the terms and conditions to the Conference, for incorporation and adoption in the Resolution on the appointment. This kind of approach would be in accordance with Rule XXXVII, which stipulates that "the terms and conditions of appointment of the Director General, including the salary and other emoluments attached to the Office, shall be determined by the Conference, having regard to any recommendation submitted by the General Committee."

This would also be in line with our commitment to ensure that FAO is at the forefront of reform, building on recommendations from the UN Joint Inspection Unit Report on the selection and conditions of service of Executive Heads in the United Nations System organizations to enhance transparency.

So it's a small point of attention. I think that we could include in the Agenda of next Council meeting in order to prepare decision-making. Thank you, Mr Chair.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

As I said, very briefly, the United States would like to align themselves with the statement just made by the European Union. We strongly support the position as stated by our colleagues.

Sra. Marisol PÉREZ (Chile)

Disculpe que insista en este tema. Ya lo había comentado en el Tema 14, pero tengo la impresión de que solamente usted se refirió a cuando presenté la solicitud de que se declare el Año Internacional del Huevo, que solamente se refirió usted a la intervención de Canadá de establecer un Grupo de Trabajo *ad hoc* para discutir la pertinencia de la celebración de estos años internacionales. No obstante, yo desearía que en el caso de la solicitud que yo he presentado en nombre de Chile y de las asociaciones de productores de huevos y avícolas de América Latina y el Caribe se encargue a los técnicos de la FAO un Informe sobre la Factibilidad de Celebrar este Año Internacional, y que dicho Informe sea presentado en el próximo Consejo para que allí se decida si se puede, o no incorporar a la Conferencia de la FAO.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETZOV (Original language Russian)

With respect to the proposal made for appointing the new Director-General and the financial implications ensuing therefrom, I have a question and at the same time a proposal. Such proposals of the Secretariat will doubtless broach a number of legal and financial issues. Before having this Report of the Council, in order to consider it, should it not go before the CCLM and the Finance Committee first?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour la question qui est posée concernant le Directeur général, dans le rôle du Conseil, nous n'avons pas le rôle de faire de propositions là-dessus. La seule chose que nous pouvons faire c'est de préparer pour le Conseil un récapitulatif des Textes fondamentaux par rapport au Directeur. C'est le bureau de la Conférence et la Conférence qui statueront sur ce dossier. Donc si c'est pour récapituler les informations concernant le Directeur général, qui existent déjà, cela on peut le faire. Mais à aucun moment nous n'avons la possibilité de faire un document qui serait discuté, amendé et proposé à la Conférence. Cela ne serait qu'un récapitulatif d'informations. Voilà comment je pense qu'on peut le faire puisque cela n'est pas dans les attributions directes du Conseil de faire une proposition. C'est le Bureau de la Conférence qui définit ensuite la délibération concernant les éléments au sujet de l'élection du Directeur général et les moyens de sa mission et les moyens financiers.

Ni le CCLM, ni le Comité financier n'ont de position à prendre en la matière. C'est à l'intérieur du budget et dans le cadre des Textes fondamentaux. S'il s'agit de faire le récapitulatif de ce qu'il comporte, puisqu'on aura l'audition des Directeurs et que l'on rappelle à l'ensemble du Conseil quels sont les Textes fondamentaux pour le Directeur général. Cela on peut le faire mais, cela ne sera pas quelque chose de décisionnel ni d'amendable pour la suite. Voilà en ce qui concerne ce point.

Pour ce qui concerne la célébration de l'Année internationale, je suis un petit peu gêné de le mettre à l'Ordre du jour du Conseil dans la mesure où nous n'avons pas de documents préparés et surtout, après ce que nous avons convenu avec le Canada. Ce que nous avons entendu avec le Canada c'est de mettre un Groupe *ad hoc* sur la réflexion globale des années internationales sur tel ou tel sujet, pour pouvoir se faire une politique à l'intérieur du Conseil et de la Conférence pour cette Année internationale, mais pas que celle-ci, la globalité. Je vous propose, dans le cadre de l'*Open-ended Working Group*, que nous voyons un peu quels sont les éléments qui pourraient servir de base à cette réflexion pour préparer la suite, y compris de rappeler la démarche qui pourrait être établie sur les différentes années internationales.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente por darme la palabra. Yo me quisiera referir a la propuesta que ha sido hecha por la Unión Europea y respaldada por los Estados Unidos. Creemos que es una propuesta muy sensible. Es una cuestión de orden, de organización. Evidentemente, se puede preparar el documento que ha hecho la Secretaría, pero también entendemos que el Consejo, como un Órgano Rector de la

Organización con responsabilidades específicas podría abordar el tema. Evidentemente la Conferencia puede tomar la decisión, ya que el resultado del Consejo irá a la Conferencia, pero el Consejo lo debiera considerar.

Esta es una cuestión que nosotros consideramos de orden, de programación, de organización, de dar certezas, en definitiva, es el trabajo de la Reforma, lo vemos desde ese punto de vista.

Por ejemplo, pregunto si tendría que ir al CCLM o al Comité de Finanzas. Posiblemente a los dos, no lo sabemos, pero la cuestión es que apoyamos que se inicie este trabajo de orden, que se presente el documento y luego se podría ver mediante cuál mecanismo usted lo podría recibir. Quizá el primer documento vendría desde el Secretariado para lo que no tendríamos que esperar al próximo Consejo. Esta sería nuestra perspectiva, abordarlo de manera muy natural.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Oui, c'est ce que je vous disais. Ce sur quoi j'ai insisté c'est que nous n'avons pas le pouvoir au Conseil prochain de faire des amendements ou des propositions dans le cadre de l'élection et de la délibération de la Conférence pour le Directeur général. Par contre, je suis tout à fait d'accord, et je pourrais le faire en lien avec les Présidents du CCLM et du Comité financier, de voir quels sont les éléments qui pourraient faire une note, enfin un rapport qui soit présenté au Conseil pour information et discussion, mais sans discussion d'amendements pour la Conférence qui est souveraine en la matière.

Voilà ce que je vous propose. En lien avec les Présidents du CCLM et du Comité financier de voir comment on peut faire préparer quelque chose sur ce sujet établi pour le prochain Conseil. Y-a-t-il d'autres questions? Sur ces points là nous intégrerons les points qui ont été évoqués, et donc je considère que le projet est adopté. Merci.

Je voudrais accueillir le Directeur général qui vient nous voir tardivement au Conseil, c'est la troisième soirée que nous passons ici, les gens s'y plaisent et nous tenons jusqu'à 20 heures 30. Ça va, ils ont l'air d'être en pleine forme. Demain ceux qui sont au Comité de rédaction vont avoir aussi un peu de travail car ça été un Conseil dense avec beaucoup de sujets et déjà la préparation de la prochaine Conférence. Donc je dois vous dire que ça a plutôt été assez positif, assez consensuel, même s'il y reste encore des points à rapprocher. Mais nous aurons encore le temps d'ici la Conférence.

Pour le Point 19, ce n'est pas cela qui est à l'Ordre du jour. Votre présence ici c'est pour la nomination du Directeur général adjoint, pour les connaissances. Vous trouverez le Curriculum Vitae de Madame Ann Tutwiler dans le document de référence CL 140/LIM/3.

J'invite le Directeur général à prendre la parole sur ce sujet. Cela fait partie de la réglementation. Le Directeur général, informe le Conseil, qui donne un avis. Monsieur le Directeur général, vous avez la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Dear Mr Chairman, distinguish members of the Council, I wish to address the Council to convey to the Members my intention to appoint the new Deputy Director-General for Knowledge. As you know, Jim Butler accepted from his Government last summer a posting in Afghanistan, after a successful period of service with the Organization. Throughout his FAO tenure since January 2008, Jim had played a key role in overseeing the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. All those who have worked with Jim recognized his strong commitment to the mandate of FAO. I wish to place on record our appreciation for the contribution that Jim has made to the work of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Council, I am pleased to announce that I wish to appoint Ms Ann Tutwiler as the Deputy Director-General for Knowledge. This appointment is to be made pursuant to Article XL1 of the General Rules of the Organization, providing that appointments to the posts of Deputy Directors-General shall be made by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council.

A selection procedure for the appointment of Deputy Director-Generals, similar to that already instituted for the Assistant Director-General positions, was published in August 2010 on the FAO intranet, as well as on the Permanent Representatives Website.

Following the announced departure of Mr Jim Butler last summer, and in order to attract as many qualified candidates as possible through a transparent and competitive process, a Vacancy Announcement was posted on the FAO Employment Website in August 2010 in all the languages of the Organization, with 30 September 2010 as closing date for applications.

In addition, a circular Note Verbale was sent to all Permanent Representatives, and press advertisements were also published in leading print media. Further to these advertisements, a total of 311 applications were received, including 58 from female candidates and 253 from men.

A pre-selection of 15 candidates meeting the requirements was made, following the internal procedure of the Organization, and was submitted to me. In accordance with the selection procedure, and following a consultation with a panel of recognized international experts who assessed the candidatures of the 15 qualified applicants, I personally interviewed four candidates from a shortlist, including one internal candidate. Further to these interviews, I concluded that among these excellent candidates Ms Tutwiler was the most suitable candidate for the position of Deputy Director-General for Knowledge.

Ms Tutwiler has spent most of her career in the field of agriculture and international development. Among her many achievements, she co-founded an international organization bringing together representatives from the private sector, civil society, government and academia, aiming at influencing the global debate on international trade negotiations, trade capacity-building, rural development and the agricultural value chain. Subsequently, Ms Tutwiler was involved in trade and development initiatives focusing on agriculture as Managing Director of the development programme of a private foundation. In recent years, Ms Tutwiler was Senior Advisor with the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, and since January this year served as Coordinator for Global Food Security at the United States Department of Agriculture.

I am confident that Ms Tutwiler's qualifications and experience will be put to good use in the post of Deputy Director-General for Knowledge, and I seek your kind confirmation for this appointment.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The United States applaud FAO for recognizing Ms Tutwiler's qualifications. We are confident that as a member of the Organization's leadership team Ms Tutwiler will provide the strategic guidance and hands on support that will assist the Organization's continued pursuit of its global food security goals. We would also like to note for the record that Ms Tutwiler will be the first woman in the history of this Organization to serve as Deputy Director-General. In this role she will become the highest-ranking woman in the global UN community working on issues of agricultural development.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Africa Group welcomes the intention by the Director-General to appoint Ms Ann Tutwiler to the very key and important position of Deputy Director-General of Knowledge in the Organization. This is a post which requires a person with rich and wide experience, such as Ms Ann Tutwiler. The Africa Group congratulates Madam Tutwiler and looks forward to working with her. Thus we endorse the intention of the Director-General to appoint Madam Tutwiler.

M Christian PANNEELS (Union Européenne)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Nous voulons nous joindre à l'avis qui vient d'être exprimé par notre collègue pour le Groupe africain pour notre soutien à la nomination du nouveau ou de Madame Tutwiler et nous voulons féliciter Madame Tutwiler pour sa nomination. Nous nous réjouissons que pour la première fois, effectivement dans l'histoire de la FAO, une femme soit nommée à cette importante position. Nous souhaitons beaucoup de succès à Madame Tutwiler dans sa nouvelle fonction, et nous exprimons également le vœu de pouvoir travailler étroitement avec elle étroitement avec elle. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

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

We would also like to thank the Director-General for the information he has given us on the process of the appointment of Ms Tutwiler and for informing us on the processes that were carried out and the assessments of the candidates. The process was as transparent as possible, and we welcome the information that has been given to us and the appointment. We wish her the utmost success. We will cooperate with her in our role as Council Member to achieve the objectives of world food security.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

We would like to join other delegations and regional groups in congratulating Ms Tutwiler on her appointment, and thank the Director-General for the process that has been undertaken.

Ms Tutwiler looks extremely well-qualified, and we certainly look forward to working with her in a very cooperative fashion.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the great legacy left by Mr Butler, and I think that needs to be recognized as well.

Sr Daniel GARÍN (Uruguay)

Vamos a hablar en nombre del GRULAC, el cual adherimos a la decisión que se ha tomado por parte del Director General, de seleccionar a la Sra. Ann Tutwiler, como Directora General Adjunto. Le deseamos los mayores éxitos en el desarrollo y el desempeño de sus tareas, y de mantener un diálogo fluido en los próximos tiempos. Por tanto, reiteramos la adhesión a la candidatura y en última estancia a la selección final.

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

Just to clarify that I was speaking on behalf of the G-77 a moment ago.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETZOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, for the information he has just provided us, and we would like to express our satisfaction that, finally, this process has been concluded after the departure of the last Deputy Director-General, Jim Butler.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Observer for Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group and I would like to support the decision of the Director-General to nominate Ms Tutwiler to the position of Deputy Director-General. We will cooperate with her in the future.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Tous les groupes se sont exprimés mais je dois formuler la question à l'ensemble du Conseil et je dois considérer, si j'ai bien compris, que le Conseil confirme la nomination de Madame Tutwiler comme Directrice générale adjointe, est-ce bien le cas? Je vous remercie et j'adresse toutes mes félicitations à Madame Tutwiler.

Monsieur, le Directeur général, je vous informe que cet après-midi nous avons aussi parlé des femmes puisque nous avons décidé que le thème de la Conférence du mois de juin 2011 aurait pour titre: "Le rôle vital des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural." Cela tombe bien mais Madame Tutwiler devra aussi doit s'occuper de tous, des femmes et des hommes. Avant de clore cette assemblée, vous souhaitiez intervenir alors, je vous donne la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I wish to thank the Members of the Council for having confirmed my proposal to appoint Ms Tutwiler. I am very confident that she will serve the Organization to the best of her abilities and I hope that you will lend her your support, as already indicated, in the fulfilment of her function and in particular in the context of the reform and the renewal of this Organization.

Regarding the appointment of women, I think it might be useful to circulate the table of the evolution of the representation of women in the Organization since 1994. This table is available and I will make sure that it is given to you tomorrow. You will note for the first time how many ADGs and Directors have been appointed who are women. I am very happy that it has been possible to have a coronation of this process with the appointment of a very able and a very capable Deputy Director-General, who I am sure will serve the Organization well.

Suite en français

Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais m'adresser à vous puisque la séance d'aujourd'hui m'en donne l'occasion grâce à l'amabilité du Président et je voudrais dire à quel point nous avons apprécié les délibérations substantielles au cours de cette intense session, la deuxième que vous tenez au cours de l'année 2010 conformément au nouveau cycle des réunions des Organes directeurs. En examinant les différents points à l'Ordre du jour de la présente Session, en particulier les rapports des Conférences régionales des Comités techniques, du Comité financier, du Comité du Programme et du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, vous auriez pu mesurer les progrès accomplis et les défis qui restent à relever dans les divers domaines de compétence de ces Organes directeurs qui font tous rapport au Conseil. A cet égard, je note avec satisfaction que conformément au PAI, les Rapports des Conférences régionales qui ont eu lieu jusqu'ici, ont été, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de la FAO, présentés au Conseil et débattus en son sein comme ils le seront l'année prochaine au cours de la 37ème Session de la Conférence.

Vous avez pu en outre observer que pour la première fois également, en application du PAI, les Conférences régionales et les Comités techniques ont contribué à la définition des priorités de l'Organisation. Les premières ont identifié les domaines d'action prioritaires régionaux et les seconds ont indiqué les domaines prioritaires méritant une attention spéciale à l'intérieur des différents Objectifs stratégiques de l'Organisation. Pendant l'année en cours, la mise en œuvre du PAI a progressé de façon très significative, ce qui nous a permis de commencer à percevoir les avantages découlant de la Réforme de la FAO que nous avons engagé ensemble. Ainsi les rapports d'étape présentés à cette session du Conseil et au Comité de la Conférence (CoC-EEI) pour le suivi de l'Évaluation externe indépendante en octobre dernier ont mis en évidence les avantages tangibles que la FAO tirera de la Réforme en cours.

Dans les prochains mois, ce Rapport sera affiné de façon à mieux rendre compte des aspects quantitatifs et qualitatifs des progrès dans la mise en œuvre du PAI ce qui permettra aussi de faciliter l'élaboration du Rapport final que le (CoC-EEI) soumettra à la Conférence l'année prochaine.

Par ailleurs, les aspects financiers du PAI ont été examinés attentivement à la lumière des délibérations du Comité financier. L'approche du Secrétariat, visant à relier le PAI aux Objectifs stratégiques et fonctionnels de l'Organisation, a été favorablement accueillie. Je vous en remercie et je m'en réjouis, dans la mesure où elle permet d'intégrer pleinement les activités du PAI dans le cadre des résultats attendus.

Une évaluation des risques liée à l'exécution du PAI a aussi été conduite par la Direction. Elle a été présentée au (CoC-EEI) lors de sa réunion d'octobre 2010. Les Membres ont apprécié cet effort d'identification transparente des principaux risques encourus et de définition des mesures permettant de les contrecarrer et, dans certains cas, de les atténuer. Des décisions ont donc été prises afin de remédier aux principaux risques identifiés avec l'établissement d'un Conseil du programme pour l'exécution du PAI, présidé par le Directeur général adjoint pour les opérations, Monsieur Hé.

En outre, le Groupe d'appui à la Réforme au sein du Secrétariat a été rebaptisé: «Unité de gestion du Programme» et a désormais l'autorité requise pour exercer les fonctions de gestion du Programme.

Permettez-moi de vous redire combien je reste pleinement engagé dans la mise en œuvre du PAI afin qu'il soit un franc succès. Je reste convaincu que le renouveau de la FAO est une entreprise conjointe des États Membres et du Secrétariat. Soyez assurés de ma détermination à continuer d'impulser la conduite du renouveau de la FAO au cours de l'année à venir et dans le Programme de travail 2012-13 où il y aura naturellement un nouveau Directeur général. Notre Organisation se renforce et s'adapte

pour mieux faire face aux enjeux présents et futurs de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. J'en veux pour exemple la Déclaration finale de la dernière réunion du G-20 à Séoul en Corée. Les dirigeants du G-20 y ont reconnu la responsabilité de la FAO dans plusieurs domaines liés à la sécurité alimentaire et au développement agricole. En effet, la sécurité alimentaire constitue l'un des neuf piliers énoncés dans le consensus de Séoul. À ce titre, elle occupe une place importante dans le Plan d'action pluriannuel sur le développement issu du Sommet du G-20 ce qui contribuera, assurément, à maintenir l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire au rang des préoccupations majeures de la communauté internationale. Dans ce contexte, je me réjouis de l'accent mis par les dirigeants du G-20 sur la nécessité d'accroître l'investissement et de renforcer l'appui financier destiné au développement agricole, ce qui au demeurant, est complètement cohérent avec les résultats des deux derniers Sommets sur la sécurité alimentaire organisés par la FAO.

D'ores et déjà, l'Organisation est mobilisée pour donner suite aux diverses demandes du G-20 visant à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans le monde. J'ai la ferme conviction que nous disposons des ressources et du savoir-faire requis pour atteindre notre objectif commun de sécurité alimentaire mondiale et d'éradication de la faim et de la pauvreté. La reconnaissance de la responsabilité de la FAO, à travers les récentes décisions du G-20, s'inscrit dans le prolongement de la fructueuse session du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondial (CSA) qui a eu lieu en octobre dernier. Comme vous le savez, le CSA réformé est convenu, lors de cette réunion de renforcer son rôle en matière de nutrition, notamment en incluant le Comité permanent sur la nutrition dans son groupe consultatif. L'action, que nous avons engagée il y a deux ans avec la Réforme de la FAO et celle du CSA, est en train de porter ses fruits, j'en suis convaincu. Ces choix sont exigeants et nous n'avons pas d'autres possibilités que de réussir.

Je remercie donc les Membres du Conseil pour leur soutien continu, gage d'une collaboration renforcée et d'une confiance renouvelée.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général de ces mots sur le travail de la FAO mais aussi sur les actions engagées et particulièrement comme vous l'avez dit dans le G-20, puisqu'à la fois c'est une reconnaissance de l'action mais une responsabilité pour le Secrétariat mais aussi pour tous les Membres pour nous montrer dignes de cette confiance qui nous est faite. Je pense que nous serons observés et nous devons donc tout mettre en œuvre pour réussir. Et, le Conseil qui est devant vous œuvre suivant ses prérogatives pour essayer justement de faire en sorte que le Secrétariat puisse travailler encore dans des conditions plus fortes et plus reconnues à l'extérieur.

Je dois dire aussi que tout à l'heure la présentation des différents partenariats qui sont faits entre la FAO et les autres institutions sur les autres programmes a été tout à fait bien entendue, tout à fait bien suivie, parce que au-delà de notre action, c'est aussi toute l'action qui rayonne avec les autres Organisations. Donc merci de ces encouragements et merci aussi avec toute l'équipe du travail que vous réalisez.

Alors, notre soirée est presque terminée. Nous n'avons plus qu'à lever la séance pour ce soir en vous disant que le Comité de rédaction, puisqu'il y en a quand même qui ont du travail à faire, se réunit demain matin à 10 heures 30 et pour nous pour le Conseil, nous reprendrons le vendredi 3 décembre nos travaux.

L'heure précise vous sera communiquée en temps et en heure puisque vous le savez, il faut qu'il y ait l'adoption par le Comité de rédaction du texte puis ensuite les traductions, plus ce sera rapide plus nous ferons tôt. Mais nous respectons le débat à l'intérieur à la fois du Comité de rédaction. Nous avons fait le maximum pour faciliter sa tâche en tirant des conclusions. Mais, maintenant il faut finir de l'écrire.

La séance est levée. Je vous souhaite une bonne nuit et une bonne journée demain. A bientôt.

The meeting rose at 20:00 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 20:00 horas

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Fortieth Session Cent-quarantième session 140.º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November - 3 December 2010 Rome, 29 novembre - 3 décembre 2010 Roma, 29 de noviembre - 3 de diciembre de 2010
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2010

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la septima sesión plenaria a las 14.50
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**ADOPTION OF REPORT (CL 140/REP/1 – CL 140/REP/8;
CL 140/REP/10 – CL 140/REP/20)**

**ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (CL 140/REP/1 – CL 140/REP/8;
CL 140/REP/10 – CL 140/REP/20)**

**APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (CL 140/REP/1 – CL 140/REP/8;
CL 140/REP/10 – CL 140/REP/20)**

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la 7ème et dernière séance de la 140ème session du Conseil de la FAO. Nous allons maintenant procéder à l'adoption du Rapport. Veuillez vérifier que vous avez tous bien devant vous le même document référence CL 140/REP.

J'invite M. Travis Power, de l'Australie, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction, à présenter le Rapport. Monsieur Travis, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I present to you today the Draft Report of the 140th Session of the FAO Council. This report was carefully and thoroughly considered by a Drafting Committee comprised of Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Morocco, the Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom. It represents extensive work. The Committee met throughout the day yesterday and concluded at approximately 9 pm last night. It was prepared in very good spirit and while there remained a variety of different views on a number of sensitive issues, the Committee worked hard to reflect in the Report the agreements and the decisions reached at Council and not reopen the debate.

In doing our work, the Committee was particularly mindful of directions given to Drafting Committees in the IPA, that is, that the Report should not seek to capture the full flavour of discussion, but instead focus on the decisions taken. In this regard, we feel that good process was made towards a shorter, sharper and more focused Report. Nevertheless, the Report is still sizeable, and I take this opportunity to remind the Secretariat of the need for draft reports which reflect the intention of the IPA in order to simplify the process not only for the Committee, but for everybody else involved.

Despite this, the Committee felt that the draft reports provided by the Secretariat were of particularly high standards, in almost all cases they closely captured decisions taken and the agreements reached in the Council. I, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, commend them for this effort. In this regard, the efforts by the Independent Chair to summarize the debate after each session was particularly helpful guidance for the Committee, providing a clear benchmark for our deliberations. I encourage him to continue such efforts.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members of the Drafting Committee, the interpreters, and in particular the Reports, Records and Documentation Group for their support during this process. Their tireless efforts made this process far easier.

Finally, I believe this Report to be a balanced account of the 140th Session of the FAO Council and note that it enjoys consensus support from the Drafting Committee. I hope that it will meet with the full approval of the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, M. Power. Je voudrais d'ailleurs profiter de cette première prise de parole pour vous adresser tous mes remerciements et mes félicitations, d'avoir mené à bien cette journée entière de discussions et de rédactions, ce qui était très important un travail long, certes mais aussi qui a été accompli, me semble-t-il dans de bonnes conditions. D'ailleurs, à ce que j'ai compris dans votre intervention, il devrait rencontrer l'agrément du Conseil, je l'espère, mais nous allons le voir tout de suite.

S'il y a des corrections à faire aux versions linguistiques, parce que cela arrive de temps en temps, je vous prie de les communiquer par écrit au Secrétariat afin qu'elles soient prises en compte durant la finalisation du Rapport. Bien sûr, ce sont des corrections linguistiques qui ne changent pas l'orientation mais, cela peut arriver.

Le Conseil souhaite-t-il adopter le Rapport de la session en bloc? Y a-t-il des observations à ce sujet?

Je vous donne donc la parole. La Jordanie.

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

My thanks go to the Chairman and all the Members of the Drafting Committee. Their work was indeed laudable. We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the Chairman and the Members of the Drafting Committee again.

I do not wish to talk about the drafting comments, but about the substance, specifically document CL 140/15 on calendars of FAO, IFAD and WFP. There is a reference to the religious festivities. When I referred to this, I did not make this proposal. I did not submit my proposal as a request, but I referred to the General Assembly's Resolutions because FAO is part and parcel of the United Nations System and, therefore, it is bound by the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. So I believe that these Resolutions apply to all United Nations Agencies, and not only to FAO.

Continues in English

Thus I would like to refer to the text of the General Assembly Resolution to this effect, so that we can amend the paragraph I have just read out. Resolutions 52/214 and 52/468. Paragraph 5 of this last Resolution, says "The two holidays of Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha shall be observed as official holidays of the United Nations at Headquarters, and at other duty stations where applicable, and the United Nations buildings at those locations shall be closed to the public on those days".

Paragraph 6 then says: "Decides also that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha which occur in 1998," and so on.

What is here in the draft does not comply with the wording of these Resolutions. To avoid any debate, I have a proposal to substitute this with this language: "The Council requested FAO to respect United Nations General Assembly Resolution 52/214 and Resolution 52/468, that no FAO meetings will be held on both Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha".

Mr Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Drafting Committee for its laudable work. At the same time, I would like to support what has just been said by my colleague from Jordan.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETZOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would just like to thank the Drafting Committee for the work it has done, but at the same time I would like to return to Item 20, on Any Other Matters. In paragraph 2, it seems to me that there is a reference to the fact that the Council is requesting the Secretariat to prepare a paper on the terms and conditions for the appointment of the Director-General for submission to the 141st Session of the Council. We did, I believe, make a proposal that I think was also supported by other countries about the fact that this should also be submitted to the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

We do not see that reference in the text. Now we obviously do not want to reopen the discussion on this question now but we do, nonetheless, feel that our proposal was an important one and we continue to believe that this paper should be submitted to the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters as well. That, we think would be useful. Having said that, I am not insisting on holding a discussion on this issue. I am not going to object to this text overall, it is just a point on this one, this part of it. I would be grateful if the point I am making could be included in the Verbatim Record of this Session.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would simply like to endorse what has been said by Jordan. Indeed, he referred to Resolutions emanating from the General Assembly in which our respective countries took part, and therefore we do endorse what has been said also by our colleague from Egypt.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I also wish to join the others in thanking the Drafting Committee for their good work. We also agree with what Jordan has proposed as a new draft on that item of the festivities which is what transpired during our discussions. The concern of the Russian delegation is also valid, as this matter will have budgetary applications. Maybe the Finance Committee could look at it.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation would like to thank the Drafting Committee for their relentless work, and for reaching a consensus and preparing this Report.

At the same time, I heard the Russian Federation's intervention about the terms and conditions for appointment of the Director-General. I think we should observe the formal procedure for that, as here in FAO we have a formal procedure.

I think the Russian delegation was absolutely right because this issue has to be discussed by the Finance Committee. If the Finance Committee believes that there is a need to go to the CCLM and then finally to our Council, then we will do that. I would like to raise the question whether it is feasible or not. I would really like to hear the opinion from all of you as well.

LE PRÉSIDENT

D'autres questions? Monsieur Power, si vous voulez bien répondre aux propositions qui sont faites, on retirera ensuite les conclusions.

Mr Travis POWER (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

As I understand it, we have two suggestions in front of us. The first proposed by Jordan in terms of an additional, or a replacement paragraph on Item 15, and a suggestion from the Russian Federation in terms of additional text for Item 20.

In terms of the calendar issue, we discussed this in brief last night and hope that the text in the Report captured the points. But clearly, from the comments around the room that was not quite the issue. From a drafting perspective, there is not much I can offer in terms of that point or of our deliberations last night.

As far as the discussion on Item 20 regarding the terms and conditions of the Director-General is concerned, we certainly had a discussion last night on this issue. There was a reasonable consensus around this proposal. I understand the suggestion is simply to clarify the process of this document and, again, from the drafting perspective, I do not know if there was a tremendous opposition to that exact point.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien merci. Pour ces deux questions, j'ai cru comprendre qu'il y avait un avis favorable pour l'intégrer et je vais demander à Monsieur Ali Mekouar comment faire. Pour le Point 20: la relation avec le CCLM et la FAO, dans mon projet de conclusion, j'avais dit qu'il fallait faire un lien avec le Comité des finances et le CCLM. Je vous propose de mettre une note en bas de page pour faire référence aux deux interventions qui ont été données.

Monsieur Mekouar, vous voulez donner un avis sur comment on peut intégrer le premier point?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The proposal made by Jordan and supported by other Members is agreeable to the Council. In order for this text to flow in the paragraph, and because the paragraph starts by "The Council agreed" the

second bullet point could be replaced by the proposal in these terms: “The Council agreed that no FAO meeting should be held on...”.

Point of Order

Point d'ordre

Punto de Orden

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

This is not the same thing; we are not just choosing wording here and there. I am asking for the implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. I am not asking, I am not appealing, I am not waiting for you to give me a present or a gift. I am asking for my right. It is a General Assembly Resolution, and here the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. If it is so, this Organization should respect the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you, Jordan. This is exactly what I was going to propose: “The Council agreed that no FAO meeting should be held on Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha in line with Resolution 52/214 and Resolution 52/468 of the United Nations General Assembly.”

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

Could you give us just two minutes, just to consult our colleagues here.

The meeting was suspended from 15.09 to 15.13 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 09 à 15 h 13

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.09 a las 15.13 horas

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien, nous reprenons nos travaux. La Jordanie, après consultation avec ses collègues, a demandé à faire un petit amendement à la phrase qui a été présenté par Monsieur Ali Mekouar.

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

Thank you for allowing us to consult our colleagues from the G77 and a number of Islamic countries. I do value highly the flexibility expressed by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the Independent Chairperson of the Council. As such we do agree with the proposal that was read. However, three words should be replaced; ‘in line with’ should be replaced by “in accordance with” as a legal terminology which is used in that aspect.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur Mekouar, est-ce clair? Sur ce point on est clair, on l’intègre comme cela tout de suite. Pour le Point 20, je vous propose de faire référence en bas de page au lien avec le CCLM et le Comité financier, cela vous va? La Russie.

Mr Vladimir KUZNETZOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

As I mentioned at the very beginning, I am not insisting on this amendment being made but at the same time, when this document is to be considered at the Council, many countries will notice that it will not be forwarded to the Finance Committee, which is exactly what the Representative of the People’s Republic of China said.

Therefore, I would like the distinguished Members of the Council to take this point into account so that no questions are raised in the future. I do not want to open a discussion or reopen a discussion and spend the time of the distinguished Members of the Council on this, so their decision is in the hands of the Chairperson. I am ready to agree that my proposal should be reflected in the Report, not necessarily in the text but if countries have other proposals, it is up to the Chairperson as to how he wishes to proceed.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien. Merci. C'est clair pour tout le monde. Pas d'autres questions? Est-ce que je peux vous proposer après cette modification d'accepter le rapport en bloc? Êtes-vous d'accord pour adopter ce rapport présenté par le Comité de rédaction *en bloc*?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie mais au moment où vous avez commencé à applaudir l'Indonésie a levé son carton. Alors, très respectueux pour mon amie d'Indonésie, je vais quand même lui donner la parole en espérant qu'il ne conteste pas la décision que nous venons de prendre. Merci. L'Indonésie.

Mr Indroyono MSc SOESILO (Indonesia)

I was not going to contest that, but I just want to thank the Drafting Committee for their excellent work. I was told that on Item 5 of document CL 140/REP/5, paragraph 13, where it says "the Council agreed to re-examine the proposal on the consolidation of a Single Shared Service Centre, in so doing it urged that the full report ..." here it says "the full report of the Management's in-depth analysis...". I was told that it should be "the full report of the Review Team's in-depth analysis." That is the wording.

Mr Travis POWER (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I thank you, Mr Chair, and I appreciate your confidence in my memory of very specific details. We had a very extensive discussion on this item and we tried very hard, all members of the Drafting Committee, not to re-open the debate on the Shared Services Centre because it was a contentious issue.

We certainly talked about the reports. I do not recall we had a discussion about whether it was Management or a Review Team discussion, so I think it is a terminology issue, a technical issue rather than a policy issue. I suspect we can get some advice quickly from the Secretariat on the actual terminology that should be used, or we could just delete the word "Management" and just use "the in-depth analysis". There is only one analysis, so I suggest we delete just one word, and we can move on.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to clarify one point pertaining to the question raised by Indonesia. We support what Indonesia stated. Can I ask for a short explanation with regard to the resolution of the question that I posed before?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur la première question que vous avez posée, le Président du Comité de rédaction vient de dire que l'on peut enlever le terme «direction» et cela agréé à l'Indonésie et met tout le monde d'accord. Pour le Point 20, après que j'ai proposé éventuellement de mettre une note en bas de page, la Russie a dit que si personne ne le demandait, elle aimerait que cela soit mis au compte-rendu mais, si vous souhaitez que soit mise une note en bas de page, j'y suis favorable en faisant référence au CCLM et au Comité financier. La Chine vous avez la parole.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

That means that the footnote has the same effect as having it in the body of the Report?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je pense que oui, la différence qu'il y a, si je comprends bien, c'est qu'on ne reconstitue pas le texte tel qu'il a été adopté par le Conseil mais on fait référence à la nécessité de faire le lien avec le CCLM et le Comité financier. Ce n'est pas uniquement le mettre dans le compte-rendu.

Comme il y a eu quand même eu discussion après que nous ayons tous applaudi une première fois, je vous repose la question de façon claire: êtes-vous d'accord pour adopter le Rapport dans son ensemble avec les deux modifications qui ont été apportées?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je vous remercie et je remercie encore une fois le Président et le Comité de rédaction pour le long travail de fond, de neuf heures, qui a été réalisé. A moins qu'il y ait d'autres questions globales, Monsieur He voulait prendre la parole.

Mr HE Changchui (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I just would like to say a few words on behalf Management, and especially on behalf of the Director-General to thank all of you for your hard work and results-based approach reflected in the Report which you have just adopted now.

I wish you all a safe journey home for those of you leaving Rome, and I wish you a very, very Happy New Year.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Hé, merci de ces vœux. Permettez-moi, à mon tour, de remercier pour votre contribution dans ce Conseil. Je pense que la Réforme est en mouvement et l'évolution du Conseil aussi. Je voudrais d'abord, dans un premier temps, remercier tous les collaborateurs qui sont à la tribune à certains moments et dans les bureaux, parfois nuitamment. Je sais qu'il y en a qui partent parfois le soir bien après minuit et qui arrivent à 7 heures du matin au travail. Je voudrais vous remercier chaleureusement pour tout ce travail et aussi pour les évolutions concrètes que nous avons mises dans le fonctionnement de ce Conseil. Dans les différents groupes, nous avons parlé il y a quelque temps d'avoir des éléments meilleurs pour pouvoir conduire les travaux et, en particulier, dans les documents. Un effort considérable a été fait rapidement pour mettre le système des box en place, ce qui permet à chacun de mieux appréhender les documents et aussi au Président de pouvoir tirer plus facilement, après débat, des conclusions qui ont permis d'élaborer une grande partie du pré-rapport et qui ont été d'ailleurs reprises en grande majorité dans le cadre du Rapport. Je voulais vous remercier de tout cela.

Je vous remercie aussi des efforts des uns et des autres. Il y a encore quelques petites exceptions pour la longueur des interventions mais cela diminue. Chacun accepte progressivement de respecter un temps plus court mais surtout en lien avec les autres membres de sa région et c'est important. Un certain nombre d'entre vous ont aussi pris le réflexe de demander la parole et de dire: «nous sommes d'accord avec telle délégation ou tel propos», «point ça suffit», «c'est au compte rendu», «on peut le concevoir comme cela». Je voudrais aussi vous rappeler que l'objectif que nous avons, et cela a été redit tout à l'heure, c'est de faire en sorte que ce Rapport soit comme nous le demande la Résolution 2.22 du PAI, quelque chose qui ne soit pas du baratin mais quelque chose de concret et précis.

Nous devons encore faire des efforts de concision, Le Secrétariat devrait faire des rapports de concision et le Président devrait faire des rapports de concision pour ses conclusions et le Comité de rédaction devrait faire des efforts pour ne pas en rajouter. Le rajout supplémentaire du Comité de rédaction a été modéré, mais je pense que nous pourrions encore faire un peu mieux dans l'avenir.

Je voudrais aussi vous remercier des missions que vous m'avez confiées dans le cadre de mon rôle de Président indépendant du Conseil: faire la synthèse et la coordination, rassembler les points de vue sur différents sujets. On l'a vu pour différents points où vous m'avez demandé de pouvoir vous rassembler.

Vous savez combien je compte m'appuyer aussi sur les Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour faciliter la réflexion dans vos différents groupes et dans les différentes réunions que vous avez. Vous savez aussi, on a eu l'occasion de le dire sur l'évolution du Conseil dans sa globalité, combien je tiens à ce que nous puissions, de façon consensuelle, trouver les moyens des évolutions nécessaires,

indispensables et qui nous permettront d'être plus opérationnels dans les travaux qui nous sont demandés. N'oublions pas, avant tout, les objectifs qui nous sont demandés: lutter au mieux et le plus rapidement possible contre ce grave fléau de la faim et comme je le disais avant-hier soir au Directeur général, notre travail c'est de conduire, avec l'ensemble des délégations, l'orientation, le contrôle, les propositions pour l'avenir de la FAO, des sujets qui, justement, doivent permettre au Secrétariat d'être encore plus opérationnel dans ses travaux.

Mais nous avons devant nous encore des discussions, en dehors de l'évolution du Conseil, qu'il nous faudra appréhender sereinement mais résolument les conséquences matérielles, organisationnelles, politiques de la décentralisation.

Je pars demain matin à la dernière Conférence régionale et je dois dire que je ne sais pas comment cela se passait avant mais je peux vous dire que toutes les Conférences régionales ont bien compris qu'il y avait une nouvelle fonction, un nouveau pouvoir et c'était la première réunion après la Réforme. Vous verrez que la deuxième sera encore bien plus forte, donc il faudra savoir à la fois canaliser, maîtriser et comme vous l'avez dit dans beaucoup de points, toujours garder la cohérence.

Nous avons une FAO qui est une et qui doit être décentralisée. Il faut donc trouver le moyen de faire en sorte que les politiques stratégiques, les orientations des uns ou des autres soient cohérentes avec nos diversités. On ne fait pas la même chose en Asie qu'en Amérique du sud ou en Afrique, et je crois qu'il y a beaucoup de travail à faire.

Vous pouvez compter sur ma disponibilité pour accompagner toutes ces réflexions et ces engagements. Je vous rappelle, puisque je vous l'ai dit à plusieurs reprises, que nous allons vivre six mois un peu dense compte tenu du raccourcissement du biennium puisque la Conférence est au mois de juin. Le rythme des réunions va être très serré, donc à nous de les préparer au mieux puisque que préparer une Conférence cela ne se fait pas tout à fait comme cela, nous avons des choix importants à faire, que ce soit en matière d'orientation, en matière de budget, en matière de désignation du Directeur général, du Président et d'autres décisions, autant de choses qu'il nous faut faire mûrir et qu'il faudra développer.

Merci pour cette semaine de Conseil qui a été positive, j'ai trouvé aussi une ambiance amicale et c'est encore mieux quand on peut le réaliser comme cela et je vous dirais, en remerciant aussi nos amis interprètes pour tout le travail qu'ils ont fait parce que cela nous permet quand même de mieux nous comprendre les uns les autres, de vous souhaiter un bon retour et de bonnes fêtes de fin d'année. La séance est levée. Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 15:25 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 15:25 horas

Outcome of the G20 Seoul Summit. The Role of FAO in Action Points on Food Security and Price Volatility

Outcome of the G20 Seoul Summit

The Role of FAO in Action
Points on Food Security and
Price Volatility

The G20 requested FAO's input in five specific areas

1. Strengthening agricultural research systems
2. Monitoring G20 commitments on food security and sustainable agricultural development
3. Increasing policy coherence
4. Protecting the most vulnerable from price volatility
5. Promoting responsible agricultural investments

1. Strengthening agricultural research systems

- FAO and World Bank requested to examine and recommend potential innovative results-based mechanisms, such as those examined by the CGIAR and advanced market commitments for enhanced agricultural productivity (March 2011)
- General call for support to build capacity in tropical agriculture and productive systems (medium term)

2. Monitoring G20 commitments

- FAO, World Bank and OECD in collaboration with AFSI requested to monitor progress on G20 commitments on food security and sustainable agricultural development and report back to the next G20 (preliminary report March 2011, final report June 2011)
- FAO has been involved with OECD and others in developing an improved tracking system to monitor AFSI commitments
- FAO, through the CFS, is supporting efforts to develop and implement a tool to assist countries in 'mapping' food security actions and linking these with resource flows [domestic and external] to improve coordination and avoid duplication and gaps. This will be done in collaboration with AFSI.

3. Increasing policy coherence

- International organizations, including CFS, requested to identify bottlenecks and opportunities to increase policy coherence for food security consistent with the Rome principles (preliminary report March 2011, final report June 2011)
- One of the roles of CFS is to promote policy convergence across a range of issues: decisions of the 36th CFS held in October point to the same concerns raised by the G20

4. Protecting the most vulnerable from price volatility

- FAO, IFAD, IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, World Bank and WTO requested to develop options on how to better mitigate and manage risks associated with price volatility of food and other agricultural commodities (preliminary report March 2011, final report June 2011)
- Same issues identified as a Secretariat work priority by CCP and also referred to CFS HLP; collaborative work with OECD to support G20 already ongoing
- (World Bank requested to work with other relevant international agencies to develop measures to improve information on national and regional food stocks and food production projections, provide nutrition intervention and ensure access to humanitarian supplies)

5. Promoting responsible agricultural investments

- All countries requested to uphold the Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI).
- FAO, UNCTAD, World Bank, IFAD requested to develop options for promoting responsible investment in agriculture (preliminary report March 2011, final report June 2011)
- The four organizations have been collaborating in this respect, notably in regard to the further elaboration of the RAI principles.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN). What it is...and where it is going



Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

What it is...and where it is going

MDG Summit September 2010

- *1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future - Partnering to Reduce Child Under-nutrition*
- Hosted by US Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland
- UN SG, UN agencies, governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector
- Presented the SUN Roadmap
- Raised attention to nutrition at the highest level during the Summit



The SUN roadmap

- Goal is to reduce hunger and under-nutrition and contribute to the realization of all MDGs
- Focus on nutrition within development programmes and investments
- Joint action
 - Food & agriculture, health, social protection & education
 - Country, regional and international stakeholders
- Led by UN SG Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition
- In collaboration with the UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)

The SUN roadmap: How?

- Multi-stakeholder platforms at country level
- Sharing experience across countries & regions
- Joint advocacy & harmonized policy guidance
- Monitoring of progress
- Aligned assistance from partners
- Stimulate relevant research
- LT government commitment
- Support to leaders for nutrition

Country participation – Three stages

- Stage 1: stocktaking of national nutrition situation, strategies, institutions, actors, programmes
- Stage 2: National authorities develop their plan for SUN
- Stage 3: rapid scaling up of programmes with domestic and external funding

FAO Inter-agency work on nutrition - at global level -

- Anchored in SO H, linked to normative and field work throughout the organisation
- FAO plays a key role in the UNSCN
- Nutrition now fully integrated in the work of the Committee on World Food Security
- The UNSCN has officially joined the CFS Advisory Committee at its October session
- FAO together with UNSCN partners has contributed to the preparation of the SUN Roadmap

FAO Inter-agency work on nutrition - at country level -

- Within the REACH (Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger) Initiative
- 24 countries MDGf thematic window on Children, Food Security and Nutrition
- Other UN nutrition-related Joint Programmes (in particular school-based)
- Action learning process for UN country teams in 30 countries

Implementing the SUN roadmap

- Will build on ongoing work at global & country level
- Cross-cutting effort within FAO (HQs and decentralized offices) with Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division as focal point
- REACH initiative & UNJP will play a key role
- UNSCN will provide SUN implementation support, advisory services and knowledge management

International agricultural fora regarding child labour, youth employment and the eradication of poverty. Global momentum for addressing decent work and child labour in agriculture



**International agricultural fora regarding child labour,
youth employment and the eradication of poverty**

Global momentum for addressing decent work and child labour in agriculture

Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division
Economic and Social Development Department





Employment: A global commitment



MDG Target 1.B: “Achieving full and productive **employment and decent work** for all including women and young people”

* *Decent work* is work that delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development; freedom for people to express their concerns and organize; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.



Decent rural employment: key to reduce poverty and food insecurity



*Work that harms, abuses and exploits a child or deprives a child of fully participating in compulsory education. It refers to working children below the national minimum employment age, or older children in hazardous work.

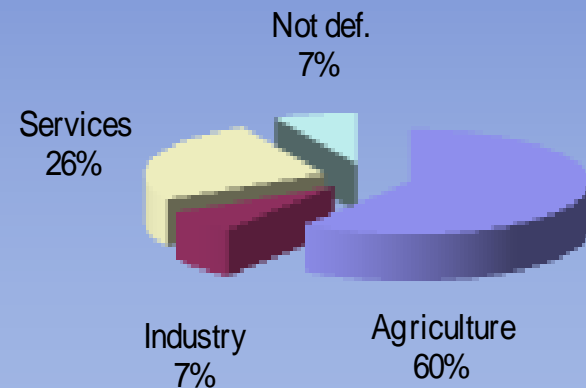


Child labour in agriculture

Key facts:

- 129 million child labourers in agriculture (60%)
- Working mostly in subsistence agriculture: family-based and small-scale
- Conditions: Informal, hazardous, unpaid, invisible, no unions

Child labour by economic activity
(in %, 5-17 yrs)



Source: ILO 2010





New global momentum and fora to reduce child labour in agriculture

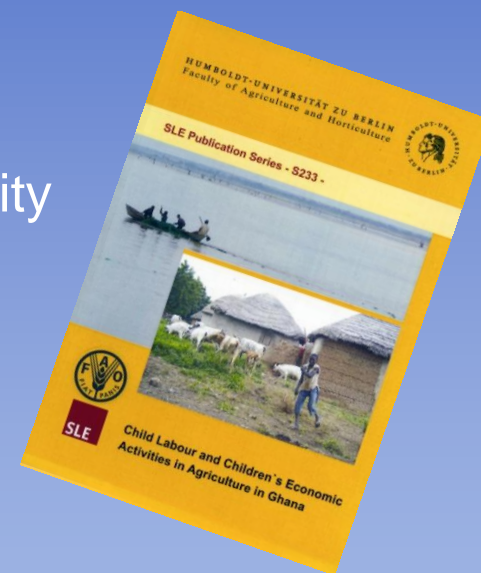
- The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010
- Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016
- International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture (FAO, ILO, IFAD, IFPRI (CGIAR), and IUF)





Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and FAO have an important role

- Mainstream child labour concerns in agricultural policies, programmes and capacity development
- Engage in inter-ministerial cooperation and multi-actor programmes on child labour in agriculture
- Build knowledge and raise awareness in particular on how to address child labour in the informal economy





System-wide commitment to employment and decent work

- Target 1.B of MDG 1
- Decent Work Agenda
- 2nd United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008 2017) Theme: “Full Employment and Decent Work for All”
- CEB Global Jobs Pact (GJP) and Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I)



FAO's engagement in global fora and interagency initiatives

Advocacy, knowledge management and dissemination:

- 5th Global YES Summit2 "Rework the World" (JFFLS)
- FAO/ILO/IFAD meeting on gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment (2009)
- Joint FAO-ILO website www.fao-ilo.org





An example of regional inter-agency collaboration

Strategic partnership with ILO in Africa:

- Follow-up to the first African Decent Work Symposium, Ouagadougou (Dec. 2009)
- Support to AUC/NEPAD and CAADP processes
- Synergies between ILO Decent Work Country Programmes and FAO's work programme



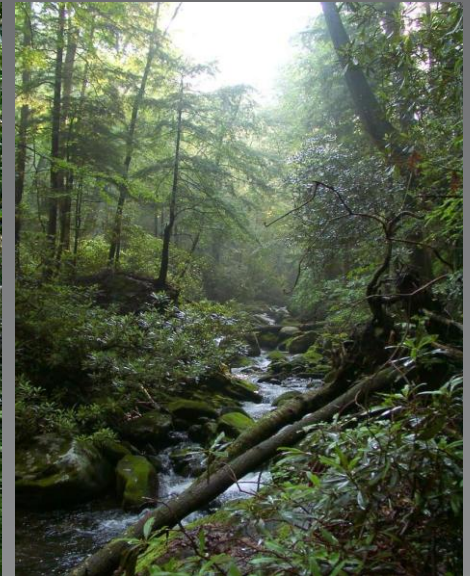
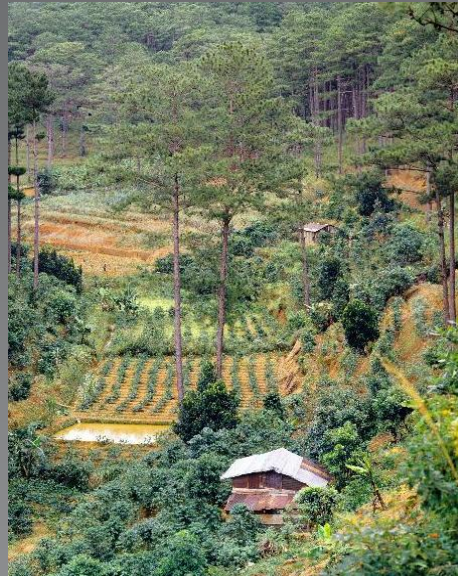
Now is the time to join forces to promote
decent rural employment to more effectively
reduce poverty and achieve food security

Thank you!



Forthcoming developments in UNFCCC

Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO - forthcoming developments in UNFCCC



Eduardo Rojas-Briales
ADG, Forestry Department



Presentation

- 1. Developments in UNFCCC*
- 2. Forests' roles and status of negotiations*
- 3. FAO's response*





Overall status of UNFCCC negotiations

- Copenhagen Accord incorporated in negotiations text
- Cancun package as outcome in Mexico
- Full agreement at COP 17 in 2011
- Cancun crucial point for negotiations, results needed

Forests' role in the global C cycle

Reservoirs



- Forests store ~ 638 GtC, nearly the same as in the atmosphere.

Sources



- Forests, largely through tropical deforestation, contribute to global GHG emissions.

Sinks (

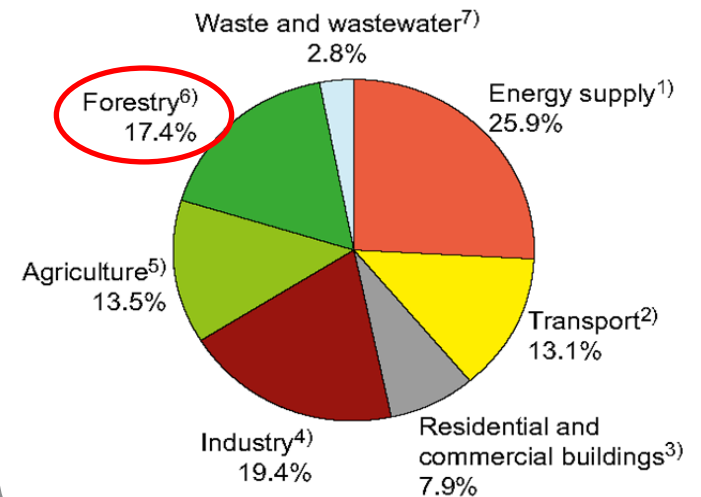


- C sequestration in boreal and temperate forests more than offset the loss of carbon in tropical forests. Globally, forests are a net sink.

REDD+

- *“Curbing deforestation is a highly cost effective way to reduce emissions”.*
Sterns Review (2006)
- Reducing deforestation and forest degradation is a mitigation option available now that can buy time until the world transitions to a low carbon economy

Emissions by sector (CO₂ eq) (IPCC 2004)



Status of REDD+

Agreed

- Principles, safeguards, scope



- Methodologies for assessing forest C are available (IPCC 2006 Guidelines) but more work is needed, e.g. way to establish reference levels and assess mitigation potential

Unresolved

- National vs. sub-national approach
- Financing modality (fund vs market-based)
- Relationship between REDD+ and NAMAs



Status on LULUCF

Accounting for Annex 1 countries related to forests

- Accounting of C stored in harvested wood products
- New rules for C accounting in forest management: could lead to increased the offsets from forests and improved forest management
- Expanded scope for CDM



Key considerations

- Major funding for REDD+ is on the table or pledged and funding for adaptation is pledged
- Adaptation and REDD+ funding could increase support to the forestry sector significantly and become important for the development of many countries
- REDD+ has attracted many interest groups with increasing/conflicting demands
- Capacity strengthening for countries will take on increased urgency
- Potential in the forestry sector to link adaptation and mitigation is high
- Focus on agriculture mitigation is increasing (Haeg meetign, work programme under SBSTA)

FAO's efforts on forests and climate

- Supporting forest and forest carbon monitoring through FRA, NFMA and UN-REDD
- Assisting countries apply guidelines for best practices for SFM to reduce vulnerability to CC
- Assisting countries implement climate change adaptation and REDD+ projects
- Developing guidelines on climate change for policy makers and forest managers
- Assisting countries enhance climate change mitigation through sustainable fuelwood systems
- Strengthening countries' governance, policies and disaster preparedness and response
- Catalyzing regional cooperation in forests and CC



Coordinated action: the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and UN-REDD

- CPF
 - Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change ('08)
- UN-REDD
 - Global and country programme





Thank you

**High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, MDG Summit
(20-22 September 2010)**



140TH SESSION OF THE FAO COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENTS IN FORA OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE MANDATE OF FAO

**High-level Plenary Meeting of the 65th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium
Development Goals, MDG Summit
(20-22 September 2010)**

Annika Söder

Assistant Director-General

Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations (OCE)



THE MDG SUMMIT

- Convened to reiterate the **need for accelerated action** towards meeting the Goals by 2015
- Pledges, new initiatives for the attainment of the MDGs
- Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched by the Secretary-General
- Increased focus on **nutrition**

- FAO's involvement:
 - Launch of new hunger figures -14 September 2010
 - Roundtable on poverty, hunger and gender equality
 - 1 billionhungry project
 - FAO Goodwill Ambassadors as MDG Champions
 - Information materials



MDG SUMMIT: OUTCOME DOCUMENT

- MDGs are **achievable**
- Remarkable **progress** made by many countries
- The international community remains **committed** to the Goals
- Reaffirms the need for a strong, coherent and effective **UN system**
- Strengthened **focus on FAO areas of work**:
 - Supports the Five Rome Principles
 - Recognizes the role of the reformed CFS in a strengthened governance for food security
 - Reaffirms the need to deliver on commitments made to achieve global food security, including those set out in the L'Aquila Initiative
- Request the Secretary-General to **report annually** on progress made
- **Special Event of the General Assembly** in 2013 to follow-up on efforts made



MDG SUMMIT: FOLLOW-UP

1. FAO's follow-up

- Informal briefing of the Director-General to Permanent Representatives
- Issues and recommendations in the Outcome Document of relevance to FAO
- FAO's work is in line with the Outcome Document
- Areas identified for further or continued efforts
- Integration of the MDGs in the results framework for PWB 2012-2013

2. Inter-agency follow-up

- UNDG Strategic Priorities and the Work Plan
- UNDG MDG Task Force "Acceleration Framework"
- Coordinated approach
- Contributions to the Secretary-General's annual report

Thank you

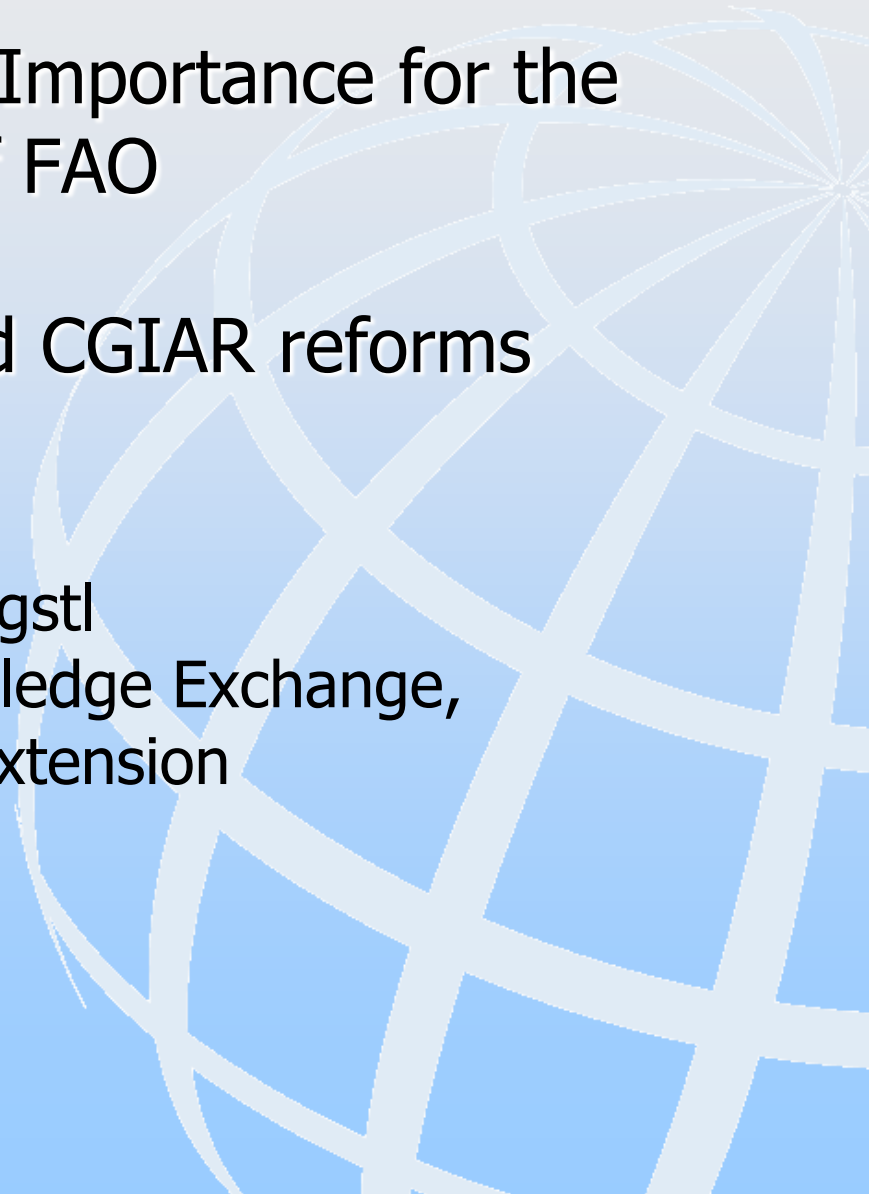


FAO's role in GFAR and CGIAR reforms

Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO

FAO's role in GFAR and CGIAR reforms

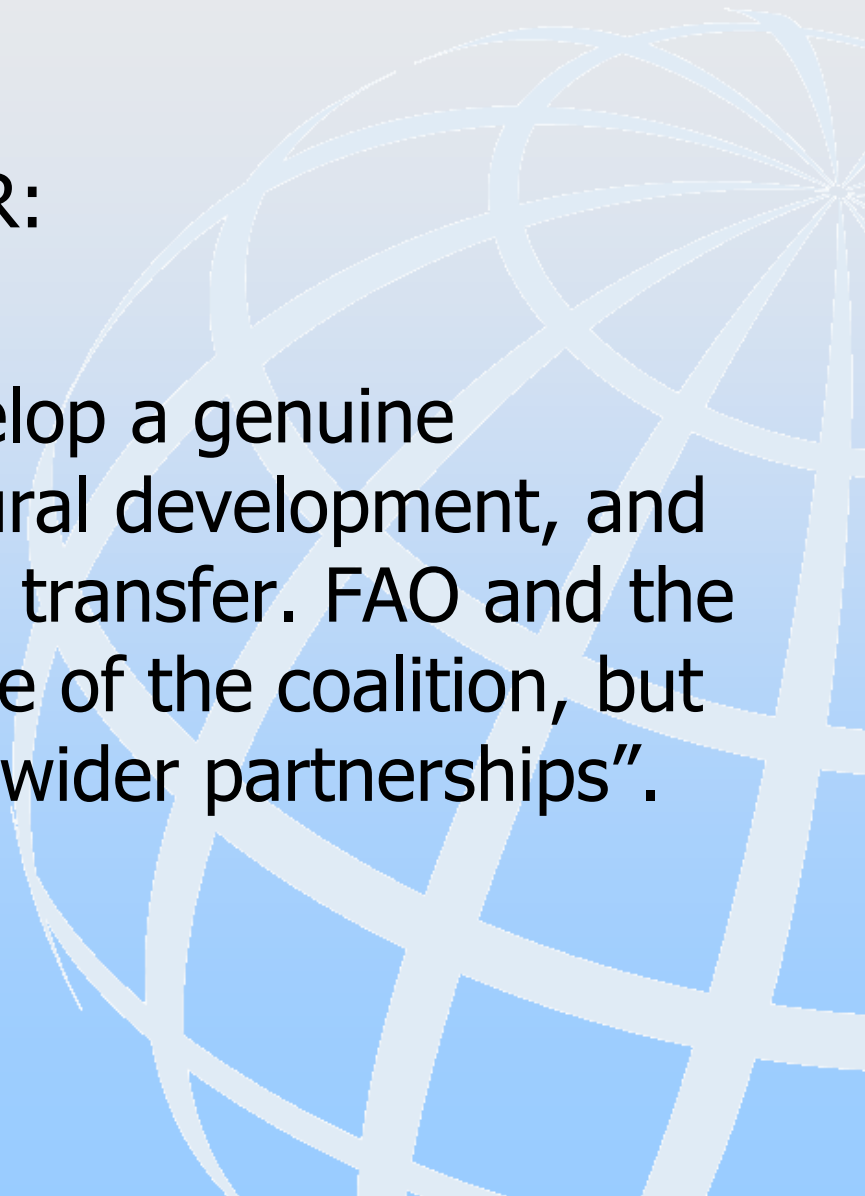
Anton Mangstl
Director, Office of Knowledge Exchange,
Research and Extension



FAO Independent External Evaluation (IEE)

Recommendation 5.6. CGIAR:


“FAO and the CGIAR to develop a genuine coalition for agriculture, rural development, and knowledge availability and transfer. FAO and the CGIAR would form the core of the coalition, but it would be open to much wider partnerships”.



IPA in Follow up to the IEE

Partnerships:

“Undertake assessment and launch new or renewed partnerships pursuing the possibilities for further joint activities and collaborative arrangements with:
...CGIAR ...”



FAO's response: support to CGIAR reform – Governance role

CGIAR System Level

- Director OEK, FAO's CGIAR focal point and member of the CGIAR Fund Council
- Hosting of the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) Secretariat - OEK

- Housing of the Interim Consortium Office (until early 2011) – OEK

Center level

- FAO Senior Staff as Board Members

FAO's response: "FAO/CGIAR Task Force"

- All FAO Technical Divisions represented
- FAO Focal Points for each CGIAR Center and climate change and gender

Activities


- Support of CGIAR reform through contribution to key CGIAR documents
- Support FAO's governing role of CGIAR

FAO's response: support to CGIAR planning

- Review and comments to the Strategy and Results Framework (SRF)
- Contribution to the development of new CGIAR Research Programmes (CRP) through joint meetings, reviews and comments considered

FAO's response: strengthening Partnership with CGIAR

Identifying and building linkages
between the FAO Strategic
Objectives and CGIAR Research
Programmes aiming to align
development and research
objectives of both organizations



FAO's response: support to GFAR and GCARD Process

Global Forum of Agricultural Research (GFAR)

- FAO Member of the GFAR Steering Committee and Programme Committee
- Hosting of GFAR Secretariat – OEK

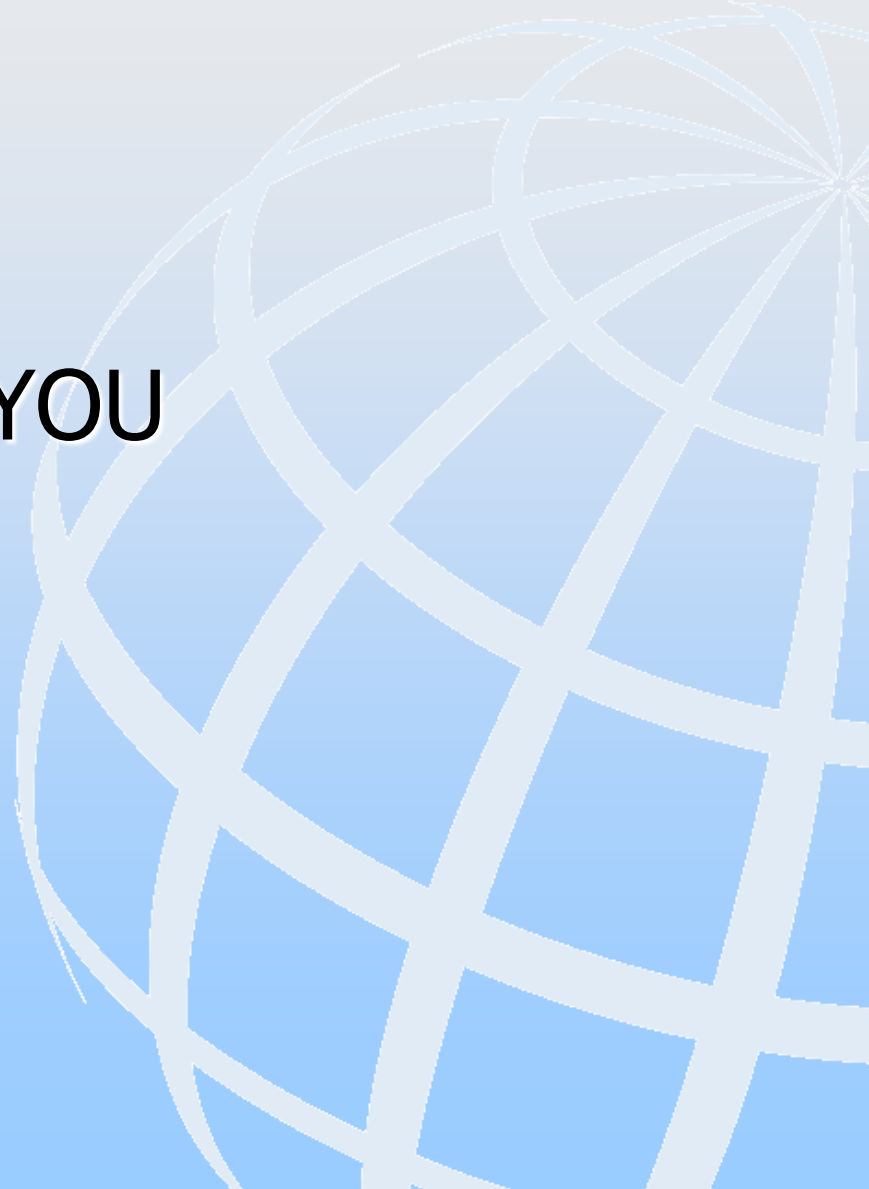
Global Conference on Agricultural Research of Development (GCARD)

- Increasing importance of the GCARD process
- “We support the fundamental reform processes underway in the global agricultural research system through the Global Forum on Agricultural Research” (G8 Statement on Food Security 2009)
- FAO member of the GCARD Organizing Committee (2010, 2012)

Recent emphasis on FAO's role for strengthening agricultural research systems

- The G20 Seoul Summit 2010 asked FAO and the World Bank to examine and recommend potential innovative results-based mechanisms such as those examined by the CGIAR and advanced market commitments for enhanced agricultural productivity

THANK YOU



Innovative financing mechanisms for agriculture and food security

Innovative financing mechanisms

for agriculture and food security



1 December 2010 - 140th Session of the FAO Council, Rome

Background

WHY?

We need to move **beyond traditional bilateral and multilateral fundraising and spending mechanisms**

BECAUSE

- we now operate in a context of growing constraints on Official Development Assistance (ODA), which fluctuates significantly from one year to the next
- we must achieve the challenging MDGs
- private flows show limitations as they are attracted to profitable sectors only
- new needs relating to the preservation of public goods are constantly emerging (e.g. tackling climate change)

Call for additional, stable and predictable funds

Who are the main actors in IfD?

The Leading Group

Over 60 states, international organizations and NGOs

Task Force on International Financial Transaction for Development, Task Force on Education, Working Group against Hunger and Poverty (Brazil, Chile, Spain)



The United Nations

The UN possesses a Special Adviser on Innovative Financing for Development (Mr Philippe Douste-Blazy) whose mission is to promote UNITAID and other initiatives

Bodies managing innovative financing

The Global Fund, GAVI, UNITAID, The Millennium Foundation



International endorsement of IfD

- Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development (2002)
- Paris Conference on Aid Efficiency (2005)
- Creation of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development (2006)
- FAO joins the Leading Group (2010)

What are the basic mechanisms?

- **Taxes on global activities**
(air-ticket, international transactions)
- **Pre-financing mechanisms** based on financial markets with public guarantees
(such as IFF and AMC)
- **Market mechanisms** (CO₂ emission auctions)
- **Voluntary contributions** (MassiveGood, migrants' remittances)

Raised over USD 2.5 billion

Possible Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Agriculture

Migration and Development Remittances

Matching programmes for agricultural development

Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) for agriculture

AMCs stimulate private sector into research, with incentive-based funding eliminating needless wasting of resources by donors

Compensatory Financing Mechanisms

FIFF is designed to enable a country to finance food imports when there was a need, rather than to compensate balance of payment losses after the event

Lotteries and Like for Like contributions

Partnerships with supermarket chains could contribute a small percentage of the cost of food items to the production of food by hungry poor households

Biodiversity Offsets Mechanisms

Polluter-pay principle (help governments in designing policies)

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies: FAO, WFP and IFAD

140th Session of the FAO Council

DEVELOPMENTS IN FORA OF IMPORTANCE FOR THE MANDATE OF FAO

**Collaboration among the Rome-based
Agencies : FAO, WFP and IFAD**

**Annika Söder, Assistant Director-General
Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations**

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies

1. Action Plans

- Countries in transition from relief to development – Haiti
 - Joint Task Force
 - Active collaboration

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies

1. Action Plans

- **Countries in transition from relief to development – Haiti**
 - Joint Task Force
 - Active collaboration
- **Early Warning and Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security**
 - Draft corporate strategies
 - Joint strategy (work to commence in December 2010)

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies

1. Action Plans

- **Countries in transition from relief to development – Haiti**
 - Joint Task Force
 - Active collaboration
- **Early Warning and Information Systems for Food and Nutrition Security**
 - Draft corporate strategies
 - Joint strategy (work to commence in December 2010)
- **Joint Communication Plan for 2010 linking to the MDGs and Food Security**
 - World Food Week
 - MDG Summit
 - Release of hunger figures

Collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence

Four pillar common strategic framework

- 1 - Policy advice, Knowledge and Monitoring
- 2 - Operations: avoiding overlap and duplication
- 3 - Advocacy and Communication
- 4 - Administrative collaboration

Collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence

Five topics areas for joint work

1 – Analytical and policy support

2 – Food crisis and implementation of CFA

3 – Climate change and natural resource management

4 – MDG Africa Initiative

5 – Transition from relief to development

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (ctd.)

- Pakistan floods
- Nutrition: SCN, REACH and SUN
- Integration of Food and Nutrition Security into country analysis and UNDAF

Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (ctd.)

➤ Administrative collaboration

- Finance
- Procurement
- IT and knowledge management
- Facilities management
- Mail and pouch
- Human resources
- Security
- Conference, Protocol and privileges and immunities
- Climate neutrality

Thank you for your attention

