

April 2011



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
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Organisation des
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pour
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Продовольствен
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енная
организация
Объединенных

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-first Session • Cent-quarante et unième session
• 141.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 11-15 April 2011
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Rome, 11-15 avril 2011
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL CONSEJO**

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(15 April 2011)**

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Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
11 April 2011

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.52 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 52
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.52
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la 141^{ème} session du Conseil et souhaite la bienvenue à tous et en particulier aux nouveaux Membres du Conseil: l'Argentine, le Cap-Vert; la Guinée équatoriale, la Grèce, l'Iran, l'Irlande, l'Ouganda; la République arabe syrienne et la Tunisie. Je dois cependant vous informer qu'en vertu de l'Article XXII paragraphe 7 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, la Côte d'Ivoire est considérée comme démissionnaire en raison du montant des arriérés de ses contributions à l'Organisation. Le siège de la Côte d'Ivoire pour la période allant du 1^{er} janvier 2011 au 30 juin 2013 restera donc vacant jusqu'aux élections qui auront lieu à la prochaine session de la Conférence en juin-juillet 2011. Je souhaite également la bienvenue aux observateurs, ainsi qu'au Directeur général et aux Directeurs généraux adjoints et je souhaite la bienvenue aussi aux Ministres qui ont fait le déplacement et que je remercie personnellement un peu plus tard.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

L'Union européenne participe à cette session conformément aux paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO. La déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États Membres, qui figure dans le document d'information CL 141/INF/5-Rev.1 est portée à l'attention des Membres. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de passer la parole à Monsieur le Directeur général, permettez-moi de souligner trois points que je considère essentiels pour le bon déroulement de notre Conseil:

Tout d'abord, je voudrais souligner que le processus de Réforme est sur la bonne voie. À l'approche de la fin d'un biennium de transition, raccourci de quelques mois pour la mise en place d'un nouveau cycle, il nous appartient d'agir sans relâche pour qu'il demeure vivant et évolutif. Cette session sera l'occasion de le renforcer, notamment en poursuivant l'amélioration de l'efficacité du Conseil lui-même, et ce à tous les niveaux: préparation des documents, concision de la prise de parole des délégations, clarté des conclusions, décisions et recommandations, l'ensemble contribuant à faciliter la rédaction du rapport. Nous aurons également à innover, dans plusieurs domaines clés, comme l'audition des candidats au poste de Directeur général, mercredi, mais aussi sur le programme de travail et de budget 2012-2013. Et j'insiste sur ce point. Je vous rappelle que conformément au plan de Réforme, cette session du Conseil, je cite le PAI, «soumettra à la Conférence une recommandation claire concernant la résolution portant sur le programme et le budget, précisant notamment le montant du budget». De même, je cite toujours, «le Conseil fera des recommandations explicites à la Conférence sur le Cadre des résultats» et «donnera une estimation des financements extra-budgétaires à la Conférence». Il nous revient donc d'atteindre ces objectifs, en conciliant les fortes contraintes qui pèsent sur les finances publiques des Pays Membres, la proposition qui a été soumise par le Directeur général et la mise en place d'un budget intégré, tenant compte des contributions extrabudgétaires.

Enfin, je vous engage à prendre de la hauteur dans les débats, à penser aux centaines de millions de nos frères et sœurs qui souffrent de la faim, de la pauvreté et tous ceux qui sont frappés par la guerre, les catastrophes naturelles ou les violences des crises politiques. Ce sont eux qui doivent bénéficier les premiers de nos travaux et il me semble primordial que chacun d'entre nous le garde à l'esprit durant tout ce Conseil.

Avant de passer la parole au Directeur général, je voudrais le remercier ainsi que l'ensemble du Secrétariat placé sous son autorité pour la qualité du travail accompli pour préparer cette session du Conseil. J'allais dire un peu à marche forcée, compte tenu du raccourcissement du biennium. Nous formons tous ici, dans cette salle, une seule et unique équipe, une seule FAO, mobilisée pour un objectif commun. Monsieur le Directeur général, vous avez la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président, notamment pour vos propos très encourageants pour le personnel de l'Organisation.

Continues in English

Let me first welcome you all to Rome, especially those of you who have flown from far away to participate in this session of the FAO Council, which is of vital importance for the future of our Organization.

This meeting is being held at a time of heightened activities for FAO. We have seen in the last few months profound changes taking place in North Africa and the Near East. In Japan, an unprecedented catastrophe has mobilized our continuous attention, notably because of the potential risks to human health presented by radioactivity. Throughout this calamity, which caused tens of thousands of deaths, the Japanese people have shown great courage and dignity. I propose that we observe a minute of silence to show our solidarity and condolences in this moment of trial.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

As regards world food security, the markets have seen some of the highest increases in the level of food prices in many years. Unfortunately, price volatility is still with us despite the forewarnings we have given to the world community. I wrote two letters to Heads of State and Government on 9 August 2010 and 8 February 2011, to underline the fact that if we continue to disregard the root causes of the problem and not to fulfil the commitment made at different international meetings, including FAO World Food Summits, as well as G8, G20 and Developing Countries' summits, we will continue to have the current unacceptable situation of around one billion hungry people, with the ensuing consequences in terms of social unrest, political turmoil and grave risks for peace and stability in the world. A situation where the world population is expanding from 6.9 billion to more than 9 billion in the year 2050, requiring food production to increase by 70 percent in the world and by 100 percent in developing countries cannot be addressed by reducing the share of agriculture in official development assistance (ODA) from 19 percent to 3 percent between 1980 and 2003. Currently, agriculture represents only about 5 percent of ODA.

Developing countries themselves should allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture. Despite the commitments they made to that end, they are still at around 5 percent. This situation, in addition, is aggravated by an agricultural trading system that is neither fair nor free. On the basis of data provided by OECD, developed countries are providing USD 365 billion annually in support equivalent to their agriculture. The Doha Round was supposed to be a development round to allow for a freer and fairer market that would facilitate the flow of goods and services across the world to the benefit of the international community. We are seeing no conclusion after ten years of negotiations. In addition, we all witness restrictive measures to trade and speculation on the futures markets of food commodities. We have studied this, we have documented it, we have sent alerts about it and we have provided the requisite information at all the relevant meetings.

We have also seen that the framework governing the future markets which has gradually been deregulated since 1999, leading to a situation where reasonable practices - for example, to take positions to cover one's investment and at the same time, bring more resources to the sector - were in the end transformed into an opportunity for unrestrictive speculation on products that traders do not even see. And we all know that. What are we doing about it? We studied it, we said it and we repeated it. The various intergovernmental commodity groups, notably on grain and rice, and the Committee on Commodity Problems studied all these elements of supply and demand on the world market, as well as the factors affecting them, including technical barriers to trade. No one can say that FAO did not tell or did not say or did not study or did not publish or did not communicate. Yet still we are where we are.

That should not discourage us from doing our work, because there are a number of areas in which we make a difference. We are setting standards of quality with our colleagues from WHO. They are being used not only to address problems of consumer protection but also to address problems of a sanitary and phytosanitary nature in the World Trade Organization. We are helping to fight transboundary pests and diseases around the world. In this area, a most important achievement is the global eradication of Rinderpest. This is the first time in history that an animal disease is being eradicated, and only the second disease in the world to be eradicated after smallpox. An official Declaration on

Global Rinderpest Eradication, prepared jointly by FAO and the World Health Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), will be tabled for adoption at the FAO Conference in June 2011 in Rome.

We are also intervening in crisis situations around the world to help rebuild productive capacities. We are helping to prepare national investment programmes and bankable projects with the Technical Cooperation Department and other technical departments. Programmes and projects were prepared for 51 African countries, for a total portfolio of USD 10 billion. We are providing the forum for agreement on the basic issues of food security, be it on responsible fisheries, on the right to food, on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, etc. I will not list, naturally, all FAO's activities and achievements; suffice it to say that we can deliver on the mandate given to us where we have the means to do so. But when FAO goes into a country and wants to influence the agricultural decisions, the investment and the policies, how many are listening to us? Budgets are voted by Parliaments on the basis of proposals made by their Ministers for Finance, not their Ministers for Agriculture and they have their own political priorities, their forthcoming elections and other considerations. FAO has a regular budget of approximately USD 1 billion per biennium, and there are one billion people in food insecurity. With half a dollar per year allocated in the budget of FAO for every undernourished person, the Organization cannot, and is not, expected to achieve its goals alone.

Whatever an improved FAO could do would not change a thing in the number of hungry people and in the fluctuation of prices as long as those who have the authority, the power and the means to take decisions on international and national public investment, as well as private investment, where we have an annual deficit of USD 60 billion, continue along these lines. Allow me to underline as an example that of the USD 22 billion pledged in support of food security during the G20 Summit in Aquila in 2009, less than 5 percent of this amount has been paid in the Trust Fund established for this purpose at the World Bank.

Now, our Organization is at a crossroads and your deliberations this week will influence the road ahead for FAO. We are over two years into the Reform Process set out in the Immediate Plan of Action, with over half of the actions completed. As we reported to the Programme and Finance Committees last month, the changes in the way we do business are taking root and are starting to bear fruit, but will they be allowed to grow? Many of the benefits of our major change programme will only be achieved upon successful completion of the large complex and interlinked projects that comprise the Programme. To this end, I have formally established the IPA Programme Management Board of eight members, comprising the two Deputy Directors-General and six other senior managers. Another feature of the renewal of FAO, the Executive Leadership Team, was created in January 2010 and has met 36 times since then. These instruments of internal governance ensure the proper management of all the actions impacting structure, human resources, processes, technologies and partnerships that are being implemented.

We have also made good progress on resource mobilization and management. Last month interested Members and other potential sources of voluntary funds and partnerships assembled in an informal meeting on the theme 'Achieving Goals Together'. The information exchange on opportunities for partnership, including through high-priority impact focus areas, has helped to raise awareness on the effectiveness of FAO's work. This is clearly demonstrated by the higher than planned flow of voluntary contributions supporting our work in this biennium, reaching USD 1.3 billion in 2010-11, and for which I would like to most sincerely thank all our partners.

This week will also set the stage for an historic event at FAO: for the first time in the Organization's history, candidates for the Office of Director-General will address the Council and respond to questions put to them by Members in anticipation of the election to be held in late June of this year. I applaud this development toward transparent governance of the Organization, which is but one manifestation among many others of the wide-ranging renewal exercise that FAO has gone through since 2005.

You will review in the course of the week the proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the next biennium. We have listened carefully to the views of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees on priorities for the work of the Organization. In doing so, we have identified areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within our Medium-Term Plan to better focus the

work of the Organization. We have provided additional information to help Members better understand the ensuing resource shifts. Above all, we aim to deliver measurable results on the ground bringing to bear FAO's global mandate at country level, especially through high-quality policy advice, information, capacity development and technical services.

I am conscious of the need for fiscal discipline in public expenditure. In preparing proposals for the next biennium, I have personally insisted that further efficiency gains be found in our administrative expenditures. I anticipated the calls by the United Nations Secretary-General to do more with less and I am pleased that, at this stage, USD 26.5 million in savings have been identified under the regular budget. These efficiency savings are in part reprogrammed for technical work. The remainder is earmarked to support FAO renewal under the IPA which has been mainstreamed under the Assessed Contributions and is enabling your Organization to become more effective and efficient.

However, a part of the efficiency savings proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13 could be in jeopardy. The proposal to consolidate back-office transaction processing at the Global Shared Service Centre in Budapest will generate USD 2 million in recurring efficiency savings. This is a well-considered proposition, and I am sincerely concerned about the lack of consensus on this proposal. If this reform is not decided, USD 2 million in additional resources would have to be found for 2012-13.

For that biennium, I am also proposing an adjustment in net budgetary appropriation of just under one percent before cost increases. This adjustment arises from restoring USD 10.4 million of resources that were removed from the budget for 2010-11 by the Conference in 2009 as a one-time fortuitous saving. These resources have been reallocated in the proposed budget for 2012-13 to strengthen FAO's work in key mechanisms such as the Committee on World Food Security and the IPPC on multidisciplinary approaches to address issues of water, nutrition and food insecurity, and to increase the capacity of our information and communication technology connectivity with Decentralized Offices. I am also keenly aware of the need to keep cost increases under review so as to minimize the impact on Members' Assessments in this difficult period of economic and financial crisis. We have provided further information in this regard.

During this Council, I will also submit for your confirmation the appointment of a new Deputy Director-General of Operations, as I did during the last Council session at the end of November 2010 in respect to the post of Deputy Director-General (Knowledge). This time, the post of Deputy Director-General (Operations) will become vacant upon the retirement of our dear colleague and friend, Changchui He, who in conformity with UN rules will be retiring from service with the Organization at the end of June 2011. Since he took up his duties in January 2010, Mr He has assisted me in an indefatigable manner with the extraordinary mandate of implementing the renewal agenda embodied in the Immediate Plan of Action. Changchui brought to this challenging task his intellectual rigour, energy and experience with FAO decentralized operations. I wish to salute and thank him today for his selfless commitment to the goals and vision of FAO during his tenure.

As Director-General of FAO, it is my duty to ensure, following your guidance on the fulfilment of posts at FAO, that key management positions are filled with despatch, in order for my successor, who will take up his duties on 1 January 2012, to start his term of office with a Secretariat in good running order, responsive to new stewardship. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that I wish to appoint Mr Manoj Juneja as Deputy Director-General for Operations, following publication of the Vacancy Announcement for that position from 14 January to 21 March 2011, and the selection of a candidate in accordance with the selection procedures for Deputy Directors-General, which was published and posted on the internet in August 2010. In fact, to be more precise, the Vacancy Announcement was put on the internet on 14 January 2011, on Permanent Representatives' Website on 20 January 2011, and on the newspaper El Pais on 23 January 2011, The Economist on 22 January 2011 and on Le Monde on 1 February 2011.

Mr Juneja is well known to you, given his services as Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation and Assistant Director-General of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department for the last six years of his nearly 24-year-long career at FAO. I am confident that his proven managerial skills and technical expertise will prove immensely appreciated as Deputy

Director-General of Operations. I wish to underline that this proposal for appointment is made pursuant to Rule 40.1 of the General Rules of the Organization, and I naturally hope that this appointment will be confirmed.

Now let me make some comments because when I arrived this morning I found some notes on this issue. I believe an international organization, in particular a UN organization, must operate on the basis of its Basic Texts, on its Rules and Regulations and decisions of the Governing Bodies. I believe also that actions in the Organization should follow the policies applied to all staff and instructions on vacancy planning. These instructions were issued as early as 30 March 2009, and I will post them on the internet. I think also that we should not have principles with geometric variations. When I arrived as Director-General, the decision was not made to remove the Deputy Director-General, for me to appoint one. I found one and I worked with him.

On what ground can we say that one Deputy Director-General can take office on January 2011 and another one cannot take office on 1 July 2011. On what grounds? My duty in line with my oath of office is to implement the decisions of the Governing Bodies and the provisions of the Basic Texts. That is what I have done and I have followed due process of advertisement, of pre-selection, of review by well-respected and well-known experts on this issue before coming to my decision. If anyone can come and tell me that I have done something that is not in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization and with the Rules and Procedures of this Organization or with decisions of the Governing Bodies, I am ready to stand in front of the Conference from which I derive my authority and be able to justify myself. But I cannot act on subjective consideration or political or other consideration in managing this Organization. I think it was important to say that, because this morning I must say that I was quite shocked to receive a paper with no letter head, with no date, with no signature telling me that I should not fulfil my obligations which I made upon taking the Oath of Office and in accordance with the Basic Texts.

I appreciate the long hours you are devoting this week to deliberate on the important matters on your agenda. The advice you provide will help determine the road we take as an Organization to address, I hope, the fundamental causes of hunger and malnutrition within our authorities for now and in the future. I wish to thank you for your support and your kind attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

En mon nom, au nom de tout le Conseil et de tous les observateurs, je vous remercie pour vos propos et comme vous me l'avez dit ce matin vous êtes là toute la semaine, en cas de besoin nous aurons l'occasion de discuter. Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général.

Je demande à Mr Ali Mekouar de reprendre la parole pour donner, comme prévu, un bref compte-rendu sur la documentation qui vous est distribuée pour cette session du Conseil.

En attendant Mr Mekouar, je donne la parole au Canada.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci Monsieur le Président. J'aimerais bien remercier le Directeur générale pour cette opportunité de dialogue entre le Conseil et lui.

Continues in English

I would also like to very much welcome his encouragement in his opening address to the world that it conclude the Doha Development Round, that is indeed fundamental to making progress on the issues that we grapple with here in Rome too.

On the Aquila USD 22 billion, I think it is important that his intervention be put in context, in that the Trust Fund at the World Bank is just one of a great many channels for spending the USD 22 billion that was pledged by the many partners at that Summit. He has in the past, in fact, lamented that not

enough of that USD 22 billion was going directly through FAO, so it would be odd to suggest that it all needs to go through the World Bank Trust Fund. In fact, I am happy to indicate that Canada has provided some of its Aquila pledge directly to FAO, as well as directly to IFAD, directly to WFP, directly to partner governments in bilateral assistance, as well as through the World Bank Trust Fund and that Canada has disbursed 100 percent of the additional funding that we pledged at the Aquila Summit.

I very much hope that we will have the opportunity in June to thank Deputy Director-General He properly for this service, because I do not think that now is the time, given that we have another two months together.

With respect to the nomination of a successor, the Rules and Regulations as I understand it indicate that the Director-General nominates, the Council approves and in order for us to be able to do that, this has to be on the Agenda, so I assume that under Item 1 there is going to be a proposal to amend this Council's Agenda, in that in all past nominations the Rules and Regulations have been followed and there has been a specific item on the nomination and approval by Council of the nominee. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, j'allais y arriver juste après l'intervention du Canada, pour le reste si vous avez quelque chose, Monsieur le Directeur général,

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je voulais juste dire qu'il y a des procédures qui ont été utilisées pour la nomination de Monsieur Butler, comme Directeur général adjoint et c'est la même procédure que j'ai proposée ici: c'est-à-dire le Directeur général introduit la proposition, qui est examinée, c'est comme cela qu'on a fait auparavant.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci, c'est la deuxième fois que nous faisons un bref rapport sur la documentation du Conseil. Pour cette session du Conseil, nous avons 17 documents principaux parmi lesquels il y a 9 rapports de réunions qui se sont achevées après, ou peu avant le 14 février qui est la date prévue pour la soumission des documents à la traduction. De ce fait, dix documents principaux ont pu être publiés avant ou à la date limite de distribution des documents qui est le 14 mars. Six documents étaient disponibles dans les 15 jours qui ont suivi, parce que ces documents sont liés à des réunions qui se sont achevées tardivement et donc ne pouvaient être pas établis à temps. Compte tenu de ces contraintes de calendrier, un seul document principal n'a pas été publié dans les délais, c'est le document sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa précédente session. Ce document lui-même, d'ailleurs, pour qu'il soit finalisé dépendait de réunions qui se sont achevées récemment, comme les réunions du CCLM, du Comité financier et du Comité des programmes, et de leur réunion conjointe.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est devenu une habitude de faire le point sur les différents documents: la façon dont ils sont distribués et la pression que l'on met pour que les documents arrivent en temps et en heure dans toutes les langues. Cela n'est pas toujours aisé et c'est pourquoi on demande de réduire le contenu des documents pour gagner du temps sur la compréhension et sur la traduction. On essaie de faire au mieux et je pense que ça progresse.

Procedure of the Session
Questions de procédures
Cuestiones de procedimiento

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1; CL 141/INF/5)

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1; CL 141/INF/5)

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1 CL 141/INF/5)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc le premier point à l'Ordre du jour qui concerne l'adoption de l'Ordre du jour et du calendrier de la Session, respectivement dans les documents CL 141/1 et CL 141/INF/1. Il a été communiqué à tous les membres du Conseil le 10 février 2011 en même temps que l'invitation. Je vous propose deux choses : premier point, l'élimination du Sous-point 10.1: invitation à assister à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des États non Membres et le Sous-point 10.2: demande d'admission à la qualité de Membres de l'Organisation dans la mesure où 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. Pour le deuxième point je propose de traiter la demande de nomination du Directeur général adjoint sous le Point 24: Questions diverses.

Le Conseil a-t-il des commentaires sur l'Ordre du jour provisoire ? Le Brésil vous avez la parole.

Sr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brasil)

No es un comentario sobre el fondo pero nosotros creemos que hay un documento que es el documento CL 141/LIM/5 que imagino va a ser tratado en esta sesión del Consejo y que imagino tiene que ver también con la Agenda que vamos a presentar o a aprobar en esta.

Estoy hablando en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe (GRULAC), y quiero que esto quede muy claro. No estoy hablando de la substancia del tema, pero del hecho de que éste es un tema que ya fue discutido hace algún tiempo, no solamente en el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe pero también en el Grupo de los 77, y nosotros no supimos de qué modo se iba a tratar este tema, hasta el momento en que salió el documento CL 141/LIM/5, que fue este fin de semana.

Yo necesitaría y pediría la indulgencia de Usted para que en nombre del GRULAC pudiéramos consultar internamente, para ver cuál es la posición que tenemos al final respecto a este Tema y sobre todo para que tengamos la oportunidad de escuchar en el Grupo de los 77, del Presidente del Grupo de los 77, el resultado de las gestiones que le fueron recomendadas sobre este Punto.

Repitiendo y resumiendo, no estoy hablando de decisiones o de posiciones substantivas sobre el Tema, pero sí de tener un poco más de tiempo para verificar qué es lo que pasó y a ver sobre todo si hay una posibilidad de que lleguemos a un consenso que sea aceptable por todos. Quizás con un poco más de tiempo para discutir esto, si esto es posible regularmente, pero de todas formas que no lleguemos a tomar una decisión que vaya hacia un lado o hacia otro de la cuestión en este momento.

Sr Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Muchas gracias señor Presidente, para ser breve quería expresar la satisfacción de Argentina de estar participando nuevamente en los trabajos del Consejo de la FAO. Asumimos esta tarea como demostración de nuestro compromiso con la Organización y en ese sentido también quiero destacar que en la próxima Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe va desarrollarse en Argentina, que será su país sede.

También quiero expresar, mi coincidencia con lo expresado por la delegación de Brasil, en cuanto a la conveniencia de contar con un tiempo de consulta a nivel de el grupo regional y poder así considerar este tema que ha sido presentado.

Le agradezco y aprovecho también para desearle buena suerte a su gestión como Presidente de este Consejo, que es particularmente importante al tener que presidir estos temas que hacen con las transiciones el período de reformas.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est moi qui vous remercie. Y a-t-il d'autres demandes de parole sur ce sujet concernant le Conseil, avant de donner la parole, éventuellement au Président du G77 qui me l'a demandée? La règle habituelle est: les Membres du Conseil interviennent et si un Membre tel que le Maroc, Président du G77 demande la parole, il n'auront la parole qu'après l'intervention de tous les Membres. Il n'y a pas d'autres interventions des différents Membres? L'Ambassadeur du Maroc, Président du G77, a la parole.

M Hassan ABOUYOUB (Président du G77)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Sur cette question, la réunion plénière du G77 vendredi dernier m'a chargé d'un mandat de consultation avec la personne du Directeur général que je voudrais ici féliciter et remercier au nom du G77. Parmi les éléments de mon mandat, on voulait vous transmettre Monsieur le Directeur général, l'appréciation du Groupe pour le travail mené et pour votre militantisme en faveur de la lutte contre la faim. J'ai eu le plaisir d'avoir cette consultation ce matin dans sa disponibilité traditionnelle avec le Monsieur le Directeur général et avec les éléments donnés aujourd'hui qui sont en tous points ceux qu'il m'a communiqués ce matin, je suis dans l'obligation de réunir de nouveau le G77 et pour cette raison, Monsieur le Président, je vous demanderai que l'on ait le maximum de temps nécessaire pour que cette proposition du Directeur général soit traitée comme il se doit en fonction des règles, bien sûr, qui ont été largement mentionnées par Monsieur le Directeur général et du besoin de continuité de l'action du Secrétariat y compris pour le maintien des objectifs sur lesquels nous allons nous prononcer au sein de ce Conseil. Merci pour votre attention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur l'Ambassadeur. Donc je suis devant une demande de deux Membres d'un délai pour pouvoir rediscuter, appuyée par le Président du G77. Je me dois donc d'accepter une suspension de séance. La question posée Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Maroc le maximum, je ne sais pas le fixer, mais moi je dirai le minimum pour pouvoir bien gérer notre temps. Est-ce qu'un quart d'heure est suffisant? Un quart d'heure est suffisant donc je lève la séance pour un quart d'heure. Merci.

The meeting was suspended from 10.47 to 12.40 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 47 à 12 h 40

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.47 a las 12.40

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme nous ne pouvons pas reprendre la séance puisque nous n'avons pas le quorum et qu'il y a des problèmes avec l'interprétariat ce matin, je prolonge la suspension de séance jusqu'à 14h30, heure à laquelle nous reprendrons.

Je vous encourage à bien déjeuner ce midi car d'ores et déjà je vous annonce qu'il y aura une séance complémentaire ce soir.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40

Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
11 April 2011

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda reunión plenaria a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Procedure of the Session (continued)**Questions de procédures (suite)****Cuestiones de procedimiento (continuación)****1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1; CL 141/INF/5) (continued)****1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1; CL 141/INF/5) (suite)****1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario (CL 141/1; CL 141/INF/1; CL 141/INF/5) (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ouverte la deuxième séance de la Cent-quarante-et-unième session du Conseil. Je le rappelle pour tout le monde mais la première séance a été interrompue ce matin au Point 1, afin de permettre aux Groupes Régionaux de se consulter sur la proposition d'ajouter un point à l'Ordre du jour dans le cadre du Point 24, concernant la nomination du Directeur-général adjoint.

Y-a-t'il des délégués qui souhaitent intervenir sur ce point?

L'Ambassadeur du Maroc, Président du G77, qui avait conclu d'ailleurs les interventions tout à l'heure. Vous avez la parole.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Président du G77)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous rendre hommage pour votre indulgence, il est vrai qu'on avait demandé un temps relativement court, vous aurez compris que l'enjeu en valait la chandelle et on a prit des libertés avec votre accord, avec le calendrier que vous nous avez imposé et grâce à votre indulgence on a pu mener à bien des consultations extrêmement utiles sur une thématique extrêmement sensible, vous le comprenez mieux que moi. Je dois aussi saisir cette occasion pour rendre hommage à tous les Présidents de groupe avec lesquels le G77 était en interactivité. On a rencontré beaucoup d'ouverture d'esprit et une grande disponibilité. Je m'en félicite en tant que Président du G77 et je considère cela comme un vent de bon augure pour notre Conseil.

Ces consultations, s'il est vrai qu'elles procédaient d'une tentative de converger vers un consensus fort, se sont faits sur la base de trois nuances importantes, par rapport aux points que vous nous avez demandés d'examiner, mais les trois nuances convergeaient toutes vers l'objectif de garder à cette institution toute sa crédibilité et aux organes de cette institution toute la marge de manœuvre que leur confère la constitution de notre Organisation. Je dois dire que finalement comme le dit l'adage «le mieux pouvant être l'ennemi du bien». Nous avons trouvé qu'aussi bien dans l'intérêt du futur Directeur général et de la qualité du dialogue entre la direction générale et le Conseil et plus tard la Conférence, il était important de donner un soutien à la proposition du Directeur général.

Au nom du G77, je voudrais vous dire combien nous sommes heureux de nous joindre à la proposition d'insérer au Point 24 de l'Ordre du jour la question de la nomination du Directeur général adjoint. Il est évident, Monsieur le Président, que certaines délégations du G77 avaient émis le souhait de commenter sur cette proposition, non pas dans son principe, mais dans les formalités qui l'accompagnent et je vous remercie pour votre attention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur. Y-a-t'il d'autres demandes d'intervention? J'ai l'Union européenne qui a demandé la parole. L'Union européenne, vous avez la parole.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The European Union would have preferred this Agenda item to have been proposed at a future Council Session, in line with the good practices. Clearly, this has nothing to do with the individual concern, but it is simply a matter of good governance.

It is unfortunate that we are in this situation, but in order to support consensus we are ready to agree to this Item being included under Any Other Business. We look forward to continuing consultations with other Regional Groups in order to reach consensus on this matter before it arises at the end of the session.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme vous vous adressez au nom de l'Union européenne, je suis obligé, pour la bonne règle du Conseil, de demander si les huit membres de l'Union européenne présents ont des remarques à faire sur votre intervention.

Ce n'est pas la cas, donc je considère que c'est la position des huit membres du Conseil d'administration de l'Union européenne.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres demandes d'interventions, nous pouvons considérer que l'Ordre du jour présenté dans le document, avec les amendements proposés, est adopté. Aucune objection? Il en est ainsi décidé.

L'Ordre du jour a été adopté avec les amendements donc l'élimination des Sous-points 10 et 11 et le rajout au Point 24. En ce qui concerne le calendrier de la Session qui figure dans le document CL 141/INF/1: pour une meilleure gestion du temps, je vous propose que jeudi matin, au lieu de commencer par le Point 20 nous commençons par les points qui sont à l'Ordre du jour le matin, donc les Points: 17, 21 et 24 avec l'amendement que nous venons d'adopter, c'est-à-dire, la nomination du Directeur général adjoint et nous continuerions ensuite avec le Point 20 qui est l'expression sur l'évolution des débats au sein des autres instances intéressant la FAO. Je vous rappelle qu'il y a sept points, ce qui nous permettrait éventuellement de le découper si nous ne pouvions pas le terminer dans la matinée. S'il n'y a pas de remarques, je considère donc le calendrier échangé dans ce cadre là.

Cette session étant relativement chargée, j'invite le Conseil à gérer notre temps de façon efficace afin de terminer nos travaux dans les délais prévus. Je maintiens la position malgré les deux heures que nous avons passé mais la démocratie est à ce prix. Ce n'est pas un problème et nous devons prendre le temps de bien faire les choses et maintenant je vous propose la vidéo habituelle sur la sécurité.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Video presentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

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

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

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

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons donc pouvoir commencer notre Ordre du jour et, à mon tour, je vous remercie les uns et les autres pour votre participation et votre patience dans cette discussion de ce matin.

Le deuxième point à l'Ordre du jour est l'Élection des trois Vice-Présidents et la Nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction. Après consultation des Groupes régionaux, les trois Vice-présidents proposés sont: Son Excellence Monsieur Luis Calvo Merino pour l'Espagne, Son Excellence Monsieur Javad Shakhs Tavakolian pour l'Iran et Son Excellence Madame Hope Mesigwe pour l'Ouganda. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, je félicite les trois Vice-présidents.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, les Groupes régionaux ont proposé le Sri Lanka pour la présidence du Comité et les délégations des pays suivants comme membres: la République islamique d'Afghanistan, l'Argentine, l'Australie, le Brésil, la Chine, les États-Unis d'Amérique, la Fédération de Russie, la France, le Gabon, le Japon, la République arabe syrienne, le Royaume-Uni, la République-Unie de Tanzanie et la Thaïlande. S'il n'y a pas d'objections, il en est ainsi décidé.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme indiqué dans ma lettre du 7 mars transmise par le biais du site des Représentants permanents, j'invite tous les Membres à faire des interventions succinctes et ciblées pour plus d'efficacité et de concision, conformément à nos méthodes de travail. De même, les déclarations de groupe de pays permettent d'éviter des répétitions. Comme notre emploi du temps sera très serré, nous aborderons aussi le Point 11: Communication des candidats au poste de Directeur général le mercredi 13 avril. Je compte sur votre coopération pour assurer un bon déroulement dans les meilleures conditions. Je vous informe que le Conseil se réunira dans la Salle plénière au troisième étage afin de disposer d'un espace plus ample pour l'audition des six candidats. En outre, la Salle verte sera utilisée ce jour là comme salle d'écoute supplémentaire.

En ce qui concerne les autres points de l'Ordre du jour, je tirerai les conclusions des débats sur chaque thème afin de faciliter la rédaction du Rapport de la Session comme nous l'avons fait au dernier Conseil. Je vous rappelle que le Rapport consistera en conclusions, décisions et recommandations tandis que les débats figureront intégralement dans les Procès verbaux de la Session. Pour sa part, le Secrétariat s'efforcera de produire des projets de rapport concis portant essentiellement sur les conclusions et décisions du Conseil. La tâche du Comité de rédaction sera ainsi facilitée en lui permettant d'achever les travaux plus rapidement.

Je vous saurais gré aussi de remettre à l'avance, quand c'est possible, vos interventions au Secrétariat, de préférence à l'adresse courriel indiquée sur l'Ordre du jour, afin que les interprètes puissent les rendre au mieux dans les autres langues. Je vous rappelle aussi que les interventions doivent être faites à un rythme raisonnable pour une meilleure qualité de l'interprétation. Vous pouvez aussi remettre une version intégrale de vos interventions pour inclusion dans les Procès verbaux et présenter oralement une version plus condensée. Dans ce cas, une annonce sera faite par la Présidence.

Regional Conferences **Conférences régionales** **Conferencias Regionales**

7. Programme and budget matters arising from the Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (Khartoum, Sudan, 4-8 December 2010) (CL 141/2)

7. Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant du rapport de la trentième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Khartoum (Soudan), 4-8 décembre 2010) (CL 141/2)

7. Cuestiones relativas al programa y al presupuesto planteadas en el informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Jartum, Sudán, 4-8 de diciembre de 2010) (CL 141/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc de passer tout de suite au Point 7: Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant du Rapport de la 30^{ème} Session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient à Khartoum, Soudan, du 4 au 8 décembre 2010. Comme vous le savez, le PAI prévoit que les Conférences régionales fassent leur Rapport au Conseil par l'intermédiaire du Comité du programme et du Comité financier sur des questions relatives au Programme et au budget, et à la Conférence sur des questions de politiques et de réglementation.

Le Rapport de cette Conférence régionale a été examiné par les Comités des programmes en février dernier, nous recevrons les commentaires de ces Comités cet après-midi sur le Point 3 en ce qui concerne les orientations données par les Conférences régionales.

J'ai le plaisir d'accueillir et de donner la parole à Monsieur Adbelatif Ahmed Mohamed Ijaimi, Sous-secrétaire au Ministère de l'agriculture qui représente Son Excellence Monsieur Abdul-Halim Ismail Al-Mutaa'fi, Ministre de l'agriculture pour le Soudan et Président de la Conférence régionale.

Mr Adbelatif Mohamed Ahmed IJAIMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Regional Conference for the Near East, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Council regarding the outcome of the Thirtieth Regional Conference, which was held in Khartoum, from 4 to 8 December 2010.

The Regional Conference was attended by 17 delegations and 13 observers. The final report includes a summary of the main recommendations, as well as a detailed report and seven appendices.

With reference to the agenda item on Matters Arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, specifically Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) and the Decentralized Offices Network, the Regional Conference urged FAO to further strengthen the Decentralized Offices network and endorsed the overall vision for decentralization, as well as the proposals on the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices network as presented.

With regard to the establishment of one global Shared Services Centre, the Regional Conference recommended that a decision on consolidation to a single Shared Services Centre be based on a detailed and in-depth study, and take into consideration consultations with the Regional Conferences.

After discussing the report on FAO Activities in the Region in 2008-2009 and actions taken on the main recommendations of the Twenty-ninth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, the Regional Conference called for strengthening the Regional Offices to enable them to better respond to Member Nations' needs.

Regarding consideration of the Regional Priority Framework for the Near East, the Regional Conference endorsed the proposed Regional Priority Framework as presented. It also expressed support for its implementation, in the form of financial and human resources support.

Considering the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and areas of priority actions for the Near East for the following biennium, the Regional Conference supported the formulation of regional results for the years 2012-13 as a means of addressing the regional areas of priority action endorsed by the Conference, and their contribution to Organizational Results, and urged that adequate resources be mobilized to address the priority areas of action in the region.

After discussing the implications of soaring food prices and global financial and economic crises for food and nutrition in the Near East, the Regional Conference requested FAO to provide technical assistance to Member Nations in updating their agricultural and food security and nutrition policies, including food security monitoring systems in view of soaring food prices, the establishment of a "Regional Forum" on Food Security, a call for a preparatory meeting for Near East countries to convene prior to the CFS Session in order to reach consensus on regional food security issues, support for Member Nations' capacity regarding agriculture and water management, and enhancement of cooperation at the regional level, development of guidelines on international land acquisition and foreign direct investment in agri-business and establishment of a regional forum to continue the discussion of various issues related to investment in agriculture in the Near East Region, which would include information-sharing and building a repository of best practices, regulations and legislation. The forum would also provide input to the ongoing elaboration of the Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI) principles.

After discussing transboundary plant pests and diseases in the Near East, with emphasis on Wheat Black Stem Rust (Ug99), the Regional Conference requested FAO to continue providing technical assistance in developing national and regional interventions to monitor and control the transboundary pest outbreaks, particularly the witch-broom disease which broke out recently on lime in the southern part of the Islamic Republic of Iran, assist in strengthening national human and institutional capacities in applying phytosanitary measures, and support establishing an early warning system for the Near East for outbreaks of plant pests and diseases, particularly as regarded the Wheat Black Stem Rust.

The Regional Conference reviewed the outcome of the recent session of the Agriculture and Land and Water Commission for the Near East (ALAWUC), and requested FAO to provide technical assistance to Member Nations regarding sustainable land and water resources management.

The Regional Conference reviewed the outcome of the recent session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), and requested FAO to continue providing technical support to enhance cooperation among the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Kuwait in the FAO/RECOFI initiative for sustainable fisheries management by applying the eco-system approach to fisheries, continue providing technical assistance to enable Member Nations to abide with international fish trade standards, stand against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and give due support to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organization in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and implement the regional project on "Marine Resources Assessment Programme in the Red Sea" without further delay.

The Regional Conference also reviewed the outcome of the recent session of the Desert Locust Commission in the Central Region, and requested FAO to continue to support the capacity-building at national and regional levels in the fields related to desert locust control activities.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Ijaimi. Je vous donne donc tout de suite la parole, si vous voulez bien lever vos pancartes et donc j'ai l'Egypte, l'Afghanistan, la Jordanie et la Russie.

Bien. Nous allons commencer par l'Egypte, vous avez la parole.

Mr Mohamed ABUBAKR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We are very grateful to the Representative of the Regional Conference for presenting this report now which reflects, in a very precise and exact manner, the deliberations, discussions and debates that took place throughout the course of the Regional Conference held in Khartoum last December.

The delegation of my country would like to take this opportunity to underscore what was said by the Chairman of the Regional Conference, especially with respect to the Regional Office in charge of Food Security, the Regional Programme for Food Security, the Regional Forum and its effects on food security at large throughout our region.

We would like to know, through the Secretariat, the date and place of the preparatory meeting on food security that we proposed holding, as we would like to begin making the necessary preparations for this meeting.

Many of the countries in this region at present are going through serious political conflicts, in different degrees from country to country, and this constitutes a real political earthquake. This is accompanied by a certain number of economic problems that we have to tackle head on, especially as regards food security for our population. We do feel that this difficult economic situation is going to last and linger, and therefore we feel that the whole issue of food security has become of capital importance and utmost urgency, especially in the wake of recent historical events in our part of the world.

I would like to underscore the following. In certain countries such as Egypt, recent developments were accompanied by international enthusiasm, and especially so on the part of certain international specialized organizations, that resulted in a certain number of high-level visits, in particular those of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Executive Heads of other Specialized Agencies. We feel that FAO should not be missing in the chorus of enthusiasm within that framework, and it should not do less than other organizations that have become very intensely mobile, especially with respect to food security which, as you know, is at the very heart, at the very core of this Organization's endeavours.

By way of conclusion, I trust that the preparatory meeting to which I have referred shall be managed in such a way as to take into due consideration the extent of the historical events currently underway in our region.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Thank you Mr Chairperson for this brief statement. I would like to comment only on two aspects of this Report as Council members are only supposed to comment on the programmatic side and on the structural side.

From the programmatic side, we find that the Regional Conference has approved priorities for the region based on 5 items. Five priority items were identified: (i) enhancing food security and nutrition; (ii) fostering agricultural production and rural development for improved livelihoods; (iii) sustainable natural resources management; (iv) response to climate change impacts and development of adaptation strategies; and (v) preparedness for disasters and response to emergencies.

Chairperson, these five items are 30 Organizational Results of the Programme of Work and Budget, and we agree. The only problem is that the Regional Conference makes no distinction between the Regional Priorities for 2010-2011 and 2012-2013, and they are more or less identical.

The second issue I would like to raise is about Decentralization and the structure of the Regional Office. On this issue, I do not want to say anything right now because the matter will be discussed under Item 5 when we review the Programme Committee's Report, in which the recent evaluation of the Office is covered.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'en profite pour dire que nous avons essayé de rassembler les sujets qui sont sur plusieurs points pour ne pas en parler plusieurs fois. Merci de l'avoir précisé pour ce dernier point, c'est un exemple à méditer. La Jordanie.

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

Thank you, Chairman, and thank you to the Chair of the Regional Conference for the Near East for this presentation which was very compelling at a time when the Committee on World Food Security has been reformed. I agree with previous speakers, the delegates of Egypt and Afghanistan. As we know, the Regional Conference for the Near East was organized at the end of 2010. When we look at the request addressed by Member Nations for technical assistance for food assistance, have those requests been reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013, or what else has been done if that is not the case?

Mr Igor SHERBAK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation considers the FAO to be the main organization of the United Nations responsible for achieving the objectives of Millennium Development Goal One, to reduce by half the number of hungry around the world by 2015. The Russian Federation is sure that the Organization is equal to the task of tackling the problems of food security in the world, and the reasons for the current difficult situation with food security are well known. The most important thing required now of the international community is to carefully plan calibrated measures to resolve practical issues relating to food security. It is precisely in this key direction that the coordinating role of the FAO should be manifested as the global forum for developing a consolidated approach in creating a world food security system.

The resolution of these tasks to a large extent will depend on how quickly and successfully the planned reforms are undertaken in the FAO in order to allow it to purposely begin its work in providing assistance, in introducing cutting-edge methods for farming and technologies for food security, and in ensuring that there are legal mechanisms for an eco-system approach to exploiting agrarian resources at the international level.

The Russian Federation feels that the policy chosen is the right one and a good deal has already been done. Strategic and organizational goals of the Organization have been selected, the outcomes have been determined, the planning of the work of the Governing Bodies of the FAO has been implemented and work is underway for intensive joint collaboration between the Representatives of Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat. There has been an increase in the responsibility of the Governing Bodies for the decisions taken, and the process of Decentralization is underway.

At the same time, we feel that Reform itself should not be perpetual in nature and that there needs to be a clear-cut time-line for its completion. The most important component for the successful implementation of the Reform, in our opinion, is the implementation of the right personnel strategy.

There is a need to foster professional specialization of the staff both at Headquarters and in the Decentralized Offices of FAO as a basis for providing informed assistance to national governments in developing the best possible feasible programmes for the sustainable development of agriculture. Russia supports the proposals to increase the representation of the Council in which all regions' and territories' voices will be heard. We hope that the efforts of the current Independent Chair of the Council to enhance the effectiveness of this body, including constant monitoring and scrutiny by Council of the course of implementation of plans and outcomes, will give a fresh boost to the process of renewal of the Organization.

As we recall, the difficult times of the Organization four years ago meant that the Member Nations moved towards a substantial increase in the volume of the rate of the budget of the FAO. We view this as an exception which should not become established practice. The FAO must observe stringent financial discipline, and establish its budget on the basis of fiscal criteria and real need, rational utilization and possible cost recoveries through a division of labour between other United Nations Organizations.

We believe that the budget proposed by the Secretariat of the FAO for 2012-2013 may be revised downwards in the expenditure column.

We are convinced that one of the most important instruments for the effective work of the Organization is the equal use of all United Nations languages as a key element for mutual understanding and access to information, knowledge and legal normative instruments of the FAO.

Russia is also interested in comprehensively strengthening the Organization and in providing what assistance it can in the fight against hunger as a donor country, actively tapping its natural advantages and scientific, technical, genetic, industrial and other resources.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

The United States reviewed the Report of the December Near East Group with great interest. We viewed the report as helpful in that it presumes the results of the deliberations of the Near East Group in a prioritized manner.

Given the difficult financial climate we all face in our capitals, prioritization of FAO's work is an important first step in maximizing resources, so we applaud the Near East Group for its approach to prioritizing its regional concerns and look forward to further work by the Group to reduce and refine their list of priority actions.

We do have some questions for the FAO Secretariat, however. For instance, we are not entirely sure what action the Council is asked to take. Are we being asked to forward the Near East Regional Group meeting report to the Conference for approval? Or, are we asked to actually determine to what extent items in the region's list of work priorities will impact the PWB.

If we have been asked to do the latter, we do not have the information we would required to achieve this goal. For instance, there is no explanation in document CL 141/2 as to which of the Near East regional priorities are already addressed in the Programme of Work and Budget. If such regional priorities are not addressed, the Council would require better data as to their potential resource impact on the PWB. Lacking this type of essential information makes the job of determining the impact of matters arising from the Regional Conferences nearly impossible.

Additionally, the document does not address progress within the Near East Regional Office in implementing relevant portions of the IPA. Lastly, we would also like to learn more about interregional cooperation on issues of mutual concern.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

We compliment the report of the Chairperson of the Regional Conference of the Near East. We welcome the emphasis given by the Regional Conference for the Near East to the Wheat Block Stem Rust Ug99. My delegation would like to urge FAO to specifically focus attention on finding ways and means to control the spread of the disease because of the potential disastrous consequences that it will have on the wheat crop and consequent food security.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Africa Group, we want to congratulate the Near East Region for this report and I want to thank Dr Abdelatif Ijaimi, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan.

This is a well-focused report and a well focused meeting. What we as a Region have picked out which is very important is that the meeting has taken all the Regional Conferences which had taken place from the different commissions in the other regional meetings. We think that this is very important, and we shall incorporate it within our region.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, pas d'autre prise de parole? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je demande à Monsieur Ijaimi s'il y a des points auxquels il faut répondre avant de donner la parole au Secrétariat.

Mr Adbelatif Mohamed Ahmed IJAIMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In point of fact, I wanted to thank all who have spoken on this item. My presentation was a summary of document CL 141/2 essentially. This document comprises forty-three pages in which we indicate the priorities for the region.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. La parole est au Secrétariat pour répondre aux quelques questions qui ont été posées. Monsieur Basharat Ali.

Mr Ali BASHARAT (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

Firstly, I would like to thank the delegations for their comments and observations which have been duly-noted. With regard to the question on the date and time of this preparatory meeting for the Near East countries to convene prior to the CFS session in order to reach consensus on regional food security issues, we have noted the question but unfortunately I do not have the specific dates with that kind of detail with me. Later we will consult the Secretariat entity which deals with this, and convey this information to the delegations if that is agreeable.

With regard to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium and whether the recommendations and the programmatic recommendations have been included in that document, I believe that the best way to discuss this would be under the Programme of Work and Budget discussion to be covered under different agenda items. So I believe that will be the best opportunity to take up this issue. Obviously this is the first time that the Regional Conference Reports are being presented under the Reform to the Council on programmatic and budgetary matters, and will subsequently be presented to the Conference on policy and regulatory matters. It is the first time we are having this. So it is certainly expected that the recommendations would be duly taken into account in all our programmes of the Organization, including the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

The PWB question came from Jordan and the United States of America. With regard to what the Council is expected to do, as I already noted, this is the first time we are having this item in the Council Report from the Regional Conference on programme and budgetary matters. I believe the Council could consider endorsing the Report as far as the programme and budgetary recommendations made there are concerned. I believe that the Council is expected to consider these.

Regarding IPA implementation, as the honourable delegate from Afghanistan mentioned, some of these issues on IPA implementation, Reform and the empowerment of the Regional Office to

undertake certain Reform issues will feature in the discussion under the agenda item on Decentralization.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Just one clarification to our colleagues who asked the question regarding the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, English text, on pages 197,198 and199 spells out the Organizational Results for the Near East Region, and on page 182 spells out the budget for all the regions, including the Near East Region.

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

We are faced with a new experiment here, that is why we asked for the floor. It is a new experiment because Regional Conferences determine their priorities and programmes in order to improve the image of the Organization at the regional level, as well as at the local level. As my colleagues from the United States of America and Afghanistan have said, the countries of the region determine their own priorities but they also have to take into account the principles of financial and human resources available. In the Near East Office, there has been a slight improvement in terms of human resources. Having seen the new budget, however, we have not seen a clear-cut improvement in what is to be allocated to the countries in the region.

We also observe a number of problems regarding some ambitious programmes. If we are to make the most of the Organization's potential, we cannot confine ourselves to just reading reports. We need to actually link the reports with the actual sums earmarked. A Regional Conference was organized in December, and we did not have much time to prepare for it. So time needs to be afforded for the financial planning involved. When we attend Regional Conferences, we need to know clearly what resources are available to the region. Ministers cannot go to a meeting just to make speeches. So if we are to be pragmatic and practical in the future, then we must be able to move on to genuine programming which will allow us to attain the objectives of the Organization and of the countries of the region.

When my colleague from Afghanistan said that the Report might reflect just a part of what was said, I was not too optimistic. We need to wait, but I think the Near East Region for a long time has been neglected. That is the feeling of the other countries of the region as well. I am conveying it to you now because this region has not been accorded the importance and interest it deserves. This is borne out by the figure earmarked for technical assistance, for it is some eight percent – a paltry figure compared to what is earmarked for other regions.

The last technical report asked us to create a special fund for countries in the region so that they could progress. It is a delicate, vexed issue. We need to address it so that the Regional Conference can play its role to the fullest in the ongoing reforms. We all want the Regional Conference to play a major role in the organization of FAO for the Region of the Near East.

Mr Ali BASHARAT (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

Just one but of information that I wanted to provide in response to the question from Egypt. I have the information now regarding the preparatory meeting. The concerned Secretary informed me that the date has not yet been fixed, but there will be a number of meetings planned in the Near East Region including those related to high food prices, and it will be considered whether this meeting shall be convened together with one of those meetings. However, no date has yet been agreed upon.

Mr Mohamed ABUBAKR (Egypt)

Thank you to the Secretariat for the prompt reply. However, we would like to ensure that the meeting will be held well before the next CFS meeting.

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

As far as the Regional Conference on Food Security is concerned, I would like to schedule for next May. There is the Programme of Work which has been established by the Regional Conference as well

as the agenda of the Committee on Food Security, which I think will take place from 14 to 17 May 2012. While the dates are not fixed, we will take into account what you have said on this issue and we will then reply specifically to the question of Regional Conferences and Decentralization. I do think we will have an opportunity to come back to this fully, not just for the Near East. I think it will be one of the most important tasks we have to perform during the second half of the year, that is, the preparation of future Regional Conferences taking place in the first quarter of 2012. So it is at the end of 2011 that we need to be preparing ourselves in terms of principles, agenda, framework and also the questions you have actually asked. So it is not a specific answer to your question, but we will have a chance to come back to this issue during the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien merci. Comme cela a été dit, il n'y a pas de date fixée, mais on tient bien compte de ce que vous avez dit. Sur ce sujet, et sans répondre de façon précise à la Jordanie concernant l'aspect des Conférences régionales et de la décentralisation. Je pense que nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir de façon plus globale, pas uniquement pour le Proche-Orient, et d'ailleurs ce sera un des travaux les plus importants que nous aurons à réaliser dans le deuxième semestre, c'est la préparation de nos futures Conférences régionales qui auront lieu au premier trimestre 2012. Il nous faut les préparer en fin 2011, sur le principe, sur le cadre, sur les Ordres du jour et aussi à travers les questions que vous avez posées. Donc, pas une réponse spécifique pour vous, mais on aura l'occasion à non sens d'y revenir pendant le Conseil.

Y-a-t'il d'autres remarques? S'il n'y en a pas d'autres remarques, je considère que les interventions qui avaient été faites vont plutôt dans le sens d'approuver le Rapport de la Trentième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, en notant d'ailleurs que la Conférence a approuvé le cadre des priorités régionales pour les activités de la FAO dans la Région, c'est-à-dire, de bien faire le lien entre la FAO et la région, et puis, on le cite «elle a également appelé à la mise en place d'un Forum régional sur la sécurité alimentaire dans la région».

Voilà les points qui peuvent être ajoutés et adoptés, et on en prend note.

Y-a-t'il des demandes de précision sur ces points-là? Ce seront les éléments qui serviront à mettre dans le Rapport.

Merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, pour cette intervention. Merci aussi au Président de la Conférence avec lequel j'ai eu l'occasion de passer quelques jours lors de la Conférence qui a eu lieu il y a maintenant quatre mois.

Technical Committees

Comités techniques

Comités técnicos

8. Programme and budget matters arising from the Report of the 29th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (31 January - 4 February 2011) (CL 141/3)

8. Questions relatives au Programme et au budget découlant du rapport de la vingt-neuvième session du Comité des pêches (31 janvier - 4 février 2011) (CL 141/3)

8. Cuestiones relativas al programa y al presupuesto planteadas en el informe del 29.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (31 de enero – 4 de febrero de 2011) (CL 141/3)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose donc sans plus attendre de passer au Point 8, et donc les questions relatives au Programme et au Budget découlant du Rapport de la Vingt-neuvième Session du Comité des Pêches qui a eu lieu du 31 janvier au 4 février. Le document de référence est le CL 141/3. En l'absence des Messieurs Mohammed Pourkazemi et Johán H. Williams, respectivement Président et Vice-président du Comité, qui n'ont pas pu se joindre à nous aujourd'hui, je donne la parole à Monsieur Árni Mathiesen, Sous-directeur général des pêches et de l'Aquaculture, pour présenter le Rapport. Monsieur le Sous-directeur, vous avez la parole.

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

The Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI), held in Rome from 31 January to 4 February 2011, was chaired by Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Johán Williams from Norway, First Vice-Chairperson. This was one of the largest Committee meetings, attended by 565 participants, including 115 Member Nations, Specialized UN Agencies and observers from over 70 Intergovernmental and International Non-governmental Organizations.

During this session, the Committee received the Seventh Periodic Report on the progress achieved in implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRR) and related instruments, including International Plans of Action (IPOAs) and Strategies. The Committee recognized that progress was being made to implement the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its associated instruments, but agreed that additional efforts were required to broaden and intensify implementation. The Committee requested FAO to prepare a report on the extent of the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA-Sharks), and also stressed the need for well-targeted capacity-development activities to be continued and strengthened, inter alia, to implement the eco-system approach to inland fisheries.

The Committee endorsed the Report of the Twelfth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. In doing so, it adopted the Guidelines for the Eco-labelling of Fish and Fishery Products from Inland Capture Fisheries and agreed that additional work should be carried out to develop an FAO Evaluation Framework to Assess the Conformity of Public and Private Eco-labelling Schemes with the relevant FAO Guidelines, including consideration of the need to convene a Technical Consultation on this matter. The Committee expressed its view that technical aspects related to trade and management should be considered by the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for Assessment of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species in accordance with the existing terms of reference and also requested FAO to study the possibility of funding the Advisory Panel under the Regular Programme. FAO is also expected to initiate work to develop international best practices guidelines for traceability of fish and fishery products in order to facilitate the coherence of different traceability systems. The Committee agreed to continue FAO collaborations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products, and in particular the ongoing negotiation on fisheries subsidies.

Endorsing the Report of the Fifth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, the Committee recognized the growing importance of aquaculture for food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, the creation of employment and its overall social and economic benefits to people worldwide, and recommended that more emphasis should be given to FAO's work toward the development of aquaculture as well as greater priority given to Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its work on aquaculture in the future FAO Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). The Committee also approved the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification, and recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the Guidelines. The Committee underscored the necessity for improving biosecurity in aquaculture, and strongly recommended the assistance to address the two fastest spreading diseases in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia.

Regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU), the Committee agreed that it continued to be a major global threat to the long-term sustainable management of fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy eco-systems. The Committee agreed that Port State Measures were a potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing and recognized the critical role of capacity development as a means of assisting developing countries to combat IUU fishing through Port State Measures. The Committee requested FAO to report to the Thirtieth Session of COFI concerning progress with the implementation of its capacity-developing work to support Port State Measures. Considering that compliance by Flag States with their obligations under international law is an essential factor in achieving sustainable fisheries and combating IUU Fishing, the Committee welcomed the arrangements made to convene the FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance in May 2011. The Committee noted the recommendations of the Technical Consultation on the Global

Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, reiterated its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU Fishing and recognized that capacity development in the management of fisheries is an essential aspect of assistance to developing countries for their participation in the Global Record.

In recognizing the significant activities undertaken by FAO intersessionally regarding climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation, the Committee recommended, inter alia, that FAO should continue efforts to keep Members informed of the implications of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture and help to raise the profile and awareness of the role of fisheries and aquaculture regarding food security under climate change. The Committee agreed that marginalization of fisheries and aquaculture is a major problem, and requested FAO to continue the effort to raise the profile of the sector and encourage it to improve interagency coordination among UN organizations and agencies for stronger synergies. The Committee noted FAO's roadmap for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change and further noted that such work should be complementary to other core areas of work such as the implementation of the Code as well as the Eco-system Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA).

The Committee supported FAO's role and effort to improve the integration of fisheries and aquaculture development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection and reaffirmed that FAO is the primary source of scientific expertise and advice regarding global issues on fisheries and aquaculture. The Committee recommended that FAO collaborate with relevant international organizations such as CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as well as with Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) and relevant non-governmental organizations. The Committee reaffirmed the relevance of EAF and EAA and took note of the need to strengthen the technical capacity of developing countries in this context. The Committee endorsed the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards, and recommended that FAO provide support in capacity-building and the implementation of these guidelines.

Concerning small-scale fisheries, the Committee welcomed the conclusion and recommendations stemming from an extensive process of consultation, including three Regional Workshops, with the effective participation of stakeholders. The Committee agreed on the important role played by the small-scale fisheries sector, particularly for developing countries, and further agreed that FAO should continue to give high priority to small-scale fisheries. Consistent with the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Workshops, the Committee approved the development of a new international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would draw on relevant existing instruments, complementing the Code. The Committee agreed that the new instrument should take the form of international guidelines, rather than an international plan of action or a new Code article. The Committee also agreed to the establishment and implementation of a global assistance programme.

Concerning FAO's programme of work in fisheries and aquaculture, the Committee expressed its support for the Organization-wide reforms, including the new Strategic Framework and agreed with the priorities, including areas for emphasis and de-emphasis as proposed, while it took note of some conflicting views regarding the priorities. In particular, the Committee agreed that activities of a continuing nature linked to FAO's prime responsibilities and core functions should primarily be funded by the Regular Programme funds. The Committee also took note of the way in which extra-budgetary resources are related to the regular budget and stressed that, as a matter of principle, extra-budgetary funds should be allocated to priority areas as identified in the PWB. The Committee agreed to review its practices including its Rules of Procedure at its Thirtieth Session.

Under Any Other Matters, the Committee approved Sri Lanka's proposal to convene an Asian Regional Ministerial Meeting entitled "Aquaculture Development for Food Security and Economic Development" and request FAO to be a partner in this activity.

Finally, the Committee agreed that the Thirtieth Session of COFI should be held at FAO Headquarters from 9 to 13 July 2012.

Mr Chairman, this concludes my presentation. The Council is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 29th Session of COFI as recorded in its Report, and provide the appropriate guidance, in particular on Programme of Work and Budget matters.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mathiesen. Les commentaires des délégués: je prends note des candidats à la parole, la Norvège, le Mozambique, le Brésil, l'Argentine, la Thaïlande et l'Union européenne.

La Norvège, vous avez la parole.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I can speak for the Chair of the COFI that I apologize for the Vice-Chairperson not being here to give the report and the Assistant Director-General has done it in a comprehensive and excellent matter anyway, so I will tell Mr Williams that his seat was well-filled.

We think that COFI has done an excellent job after the Reform and the governance structure and the new role of the Technical Committee. We think that the COFI has done the best job in setting priorities and also pointing to what needs to be de-emphasized and emphasized. In that sense, when you look at one of the papers that were distributed during the weekend, the Information Note No. 1 (C 2011/3) explaining resources between and within Strategic and Functional Objectives, under Strategic Objective C which we are discussing today, you can see that COFI, the strategy team and the Fisheries Department has done a thorough job in explaining how the shift has come about for Strategic Objective C, very well worked out by all those units. We also appreciate that the strategic teams have played a major part in this.

So by and large, Norway endorses the Report and the shifts in the Programme of Work and Budget. Let me also say that this is probably the most important area that FAO is rationally engaging in at this time. We have a very great interest in COFI and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. In that respect, allow me to make a general observation. We think that Strategic Objective C should play a larger part in the work of the Committee on Food Security, as fisheries and aquaculture products are definitely part of food security worldwide.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Speaking on behalf of Africa, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for presenting the Report, and we would also like to welcome the conclusion reached by members of the COFI during the Twenty-ninth Session. It is our belief that fishing and fishery activities play an important role in ensuring food security and nutrition, and in reducing poverty, particularly in the developing countries, where many poor and vulnerable communities depend on fishery resources.

We particularly welcome the agreement reached by the Committee with regard to the priorities in this sector. We, therefore, recommend that the FAO Programme of Work and Budget pay great attention to the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in order to better fulfill its objectives. In this endeavor, we would like to reiterate that fishery activities of a continuing nature and that linkages to FAO primary responsibilities be primarily funded by the regular budget. We call upon FAO to continue providing its support to Member Nations, especially to developing countries in relation to artisanal fisheries, and in this context, to create a special programme to promote activities in this important sector as recommended by COFI.

We recall that the Committee underlined the need to fight against illicit fisheries and to implement the existing instruments, such as the Code of Conduct. Therefore, capacity-building should be reinforced in order to allow developing countries to apply those instruments in a more integrated way.

Africa reiterates its appeal for support in implementation and entry into force of the IUU Agreement, knowing the negative impact of IUU Fishing on the economies of affected countries. The position to form an Open-Ended Group under Article 21 of the Agreement to assess the capacity needs and explore funding mechanisms is welcomed by Africa.

Mr Claudio POLES (Brazil)

First of all, Brazil wishes to commend the work carried out by the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and welcomes the Report presented in document CL 141/3. Brazil recognises the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in achieving greater food security. The economic sustainability of this sector is of paramount importance to generate income and provide jobs, mainly for small-scale fisheries.

For this reason, we encourage this Committee to put a greater emphasis in the development of the productive chain of this sector. Furthermore, Brazil considers that striking a balance among environmental, social and economic issues should also be a guiding principle of the work of COFI. Brazil reaffirms its commitment to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF).

With regard to CITES, we congratulate the work done by FAO Expert Advisory Panel, and stress that the costs related to this Panel should be covered by the FAO regular budget taking into consideration its permanent character.

Brazil supports the aim of helping to control the proliferation of private certification schemes. However, we insist that the FAO guidelines should not lead to unjustified barriers to trade. We stress the need for the guidelines to be implemented gradually, taking into account discussions on the subject that are taking place in other fora.

Brazil welcomes the recently-approved Port State Measures agreement and is willing to make progress in fostering complimentary measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU Fishing, provided that they are internationally-agreed upon in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory process.

Brazil urges the establishment of an ad-hoc Working Group for the development of funding mechanisms as well as of guidelines to support the implementation of the agreement. We also encourage Members to sign the Agreement so that it can enter into force as soon as possible. With regard to Flag State performance, we would like to point out that any initiative aiming at enhancing performance by Flag States should include capacity-building programmes in developing countries in the areas of monitoring, control and surveillance.

Brazil also believes that market-related measures can indeed be a useful tool to combat IUU Fishing, particularly when they are adopted and implemented through a multilateral process. On the other hand, Brazil believes that unilateral adoption of import control measures with the aim of combating IUU Fishing, however commendable, can lead to the imposition of unjustified non-tariff trade barriers.

Brazil agrees with the establishment of a world record of fishing refrigerated transport and supply vessels. We recall, however, that developing countries may face financial and operational difficulties in this regard and, therefore, FAO's assistance in capacity-building would be very welcome.

Brazil has also been engaged in efforts to apply the eco-system approach to fisheries and aquaculture, including the assessment of the extinction risk of more than 5000 aquatic species, an exercise that is expected to identify and minimize the impact of fisheries and aquaculture activities on the more rare and vulnerable species.

Mr Chairman, as other delegations we also support the work done by FAO in the field of fisheries and aquaculture and we do encourage the strengthening and expansion of capacity-building initiatives, much needed in order to ensure the sustainable development of those activities, particularly in developing states.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Brazil strongly supports paying special attention to the promotion of aquaculture in regions such as Latin America and Africa, and highlights that decisive steps should be taken to increase the aquaculture production and the cooperation to that effect within the network of aquaculture of the Americas. In this regard, the delegation of Brazil welcomes the inclusion of cooperation for development as a priority in many items, both of the FAO PWB, as well as the Medium-Term Plan. We would like to see the topic of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture given due priority in those as well.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Agradecemos a la Secretaría la elaboración del documento CL 141/3 relativo al Informe del 29.º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Pesca. Al respecto, quisiéramos referirnos a los siguientes aspectos del Informe del COFI que se incluyen bajo el punto “Asuntos que Requieren la Atención del Consejo”.

En primer lugar, con respecto a los sistemas de auto certificación de acuicultura, párrafo 23 del Informe del COFI, se estima que la FAO debería elaborar un marco de evaluación que apunte a asegurar la conformidad de los sistemas de certificación públicos y privados con las directrices de la FAO para la certificación en la acuicultura. En ese sentido, se estima que los sistemas de certificación no deben constituir obstáculos al comercio y deben mantener consistencia con los estándares internacionales de referencia.

En segundo lugar, con relación al Artículo 21 del Acuerdo del Estado Rector del Puerto, párrafo 33 del informe del COFI, atento a la solicitud que los miembros del COFI realizaran a la FAO sobre la creación de un Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta para que elabore el proyecto de mandato destinado al grupo especial previsto en ese artículo, deseáramos conocer las acciones previstas para cumplir con esa solicitud.

El tercer punto se refiere al tema de actuación del Estado del Pabellón. Al respecto, estimamos que la Consulta Técnica que se reunirá en mayo próximo deberá examinar varios asuntos con miras a lograr el desarrollo de un Acuerdo Internacional sobre Performance del Estado del Pabellón. En ese sentido, consideramos que es vital el proceso de participación amplia de los Estados en las Consultas Técnicas.

Por último, con relación al establecimiento del Registro Mundial, quisiéramos subrayar en conformidad de los párrafos 35 a 37 del Informe del COFI, que dicho Registro debe elaborarse como una iniciativa voluntaria bajo la supervisión de la FAO y debe adoptarse un enfoque gradual de implementación.

Asimismo, se debe continuar la labor para perfeccionar algunos de los términos utilizados en las recomendaciones para el establecimiento de este Registro.

Con estos comentarios, nuestra delegación aprueba el Informe del COFI en su 29.º Período de Sesiones, y agradece mucho su presentación.

Ms Jirawan YAMPAYOON (Thailand)

My delegation thanks the Secretariat for the presentation for the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI Report. We believe that, in determining emphasis and de-emphasis areas of work in fisheries and aquaculture for the next biennium, the Secretariat has taken into consideration the concerns raised and instructions given by the last COFI session.

We only have some brief points to underline on the Port State Measures as follows:

First, the need for FAO to enhance capacity of developing countries is crucial so as to enable them to ratify the Port State Measures and be ready to assume their obligations accordingly. In this regard, FAO's Technical Assistance on port inspection is required, as well as related training for any preparatory stages to translate the Measures into practice.

Second, we encourage FAO to organize a Regional Workshop on Implementation of the Port State Measures, Port Inspection Co-management, MCS and Global Record Development. The Workshop should also discuss development of Guidelines for Small Fisheries for ASEAN members under the Operation Framework of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum, of which Thailand is currently the Secretary-General and Chair.

Lastly, we wish to recall that Thailand is hosting a Ministerial ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries from 13 to 17 June this year. The Conference aims at developing a resolution and plan of action. Preparatory works have been completed, and we hope to welcome soon Ministers of ASEAN Member Nations for this very important meeting.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (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, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the results of COFI and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken. However, the outcome of the COFI could have been strengthened if documents such as the Work Plan could place more emphasis on analytical and substantive contents. Regarding the document on Priorities for the Next Biennium, we thank the Secretariat for its efforts to provide relevant information even if we would have liked to get further information, such as analyses of the most urgent problems and consequential resource allocation tables with more details, explanations and justifications. The document does not provide enough information of this sort.

In relation to the proposed system for the allocation of the budget to core and special activities, the European Union supports the principle that activities of a continuing nature linked to FAO's prime responsibilities and core functions should primarily be funded by the Regular Programme funds. While realising that in the current budget both regular and extra-budgetary funds are included, we believe that supporting activities can be financed from extra-budgetary funds. This commitment would be facilitated by more predictable funding from the donors to guarantee continuity and a multi-donor approach would be preferable.

The European Union regrets that some very urgent and important tasks could not be incorporated in the Work Plan, such as: the development of recommendations for targeted measures to restore and reverse the deterioration of the global stocks, a study requested by the 2010 UN General Assembly Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries to establish the impacts of fishing on marine species occupying low trophic levels; or an initiative to tackle the different aspects of aquaculture and its sustainability.

The European Union would like to highlight the importance that FAO has through its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. In particular, the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries and Aquaculture could play a pro-active advocacy role in redirecting the FAO role and activities in fisheries and aquaculture issues, within their respective mandates, through regular high-level, direct contacts with Members and stakeholders, especially with regard to promoting the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its related instruments; proposing priority areas of work; but also by making better use of the biannual COFI gathering of world fishery stakeholders.

The European Union welcomes that the Committee agreed to review its practices, including its Rules of Procedure at its Thirtieth Session in 2012. We still think that an increased role of the Bureau would be a significant improvement. In this respect, we would suggest open-ended Bureau meetings at least annually to keep track of ongoing work and prepare for COFI and other meetings, with reports open to all FAO Member Nations.

Finally, I would also like to express our support to other important decisions adopted by COFI, especially the endorsement of International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I am a little bit confused by the interventions made by other colleagues. Our task as Council Members should be to focus on budget implications of the COFI Report only, and we should avoid duplicated discussion between COFI, Council and Conference.

I want to ask the Members through you, Mr Chair, to concentrate on our discussion. Does the item on Priorities in the PWB 2012-13 duly reflect the priority presented by the COFI Report or not? Japan, as a Programme Committee member, thinks that the PWB does duly reflect the priority in the COFI Report.

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

First of all, I would like to thank Mr Mathiesen for a fine Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. Speaking on the same subject as the delegate of Japan, I will be very brief on this.

First of all, I would like to express full support for the ideas which were developed at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Committee and say that the Russian Federation attaches or accords the Committee, a very important role in ensuring there is compliance for the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as well as international plans and measures to fight against IUU Fishing. And at the Twenty-ninth Session, the Russian Federation put forward a number of initiatives. Now we would like that during the forthcoming talks on the Flag State performance, all the Member Nations take an active part in these Technical Consultations. We would also like to support the proposal from the European Union with respect to strengthening the participation, or let us say, the role of the Bureau of the Committee on Fisheries in the intersessional work, and express the wish that the Committee on Fisheries, taking into account the priorities which have been developed, may become a more important international forum or platform for developing international fisheries with the view to ensuring food security.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As other colleagues have indicated, we are surely thankful for the ADG/FI Report on the COFI outcomes. We only have three quick points we would like to highlight.

Firstly, while COFI supported the Global Record as others have mentioned, it also clearly stated the preference for funding initiatives out of FAO's Regular Budget. This is a key point that we must discuss and hopefully it will be reflected in the draft PWB as our colleague from Japan noted, because they need to look at budget implications of some of these decisions.

This initiative requires a stable source of funding if it is to succeed and provide the needed global vessel information that can form the basis for activities to combat illegal fishing.

Secondly, Canada and others are concerned about the FAO's de-emphasis of work on deep-sea fisheries and the implementation of deep-sea guidelines.

We believe that the FAO is the appropriate expert organization to lead further technical work on protecting vulnerable marine eco-systems. As mentioned by other colleagues, the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on sustainable fisheries contained very specific commitments for which technical guidance from the FAO needs to be provided.

Implementation of these provisions of the UN General Assembly resolutions both in 2006 and in 2009 and the related FAO Guidelines on deep-sea fisheries is part of the eco-system-based approach to fisheries management, and thus needs to be informed by further FAO work and expertise in this area.

Finally, Canada fully supports the Committee's recommendation to develop international best practices' guidelines for traceability of fish and fishery products in order to facilitate coherence of different traceability systems. It thus requests this decision to be reflected in the matters requiring attention by Council and Conference.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

The United States endorses the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of COFI and supports its recommendations, in particular the recommendations to continue ongoing efforts to develop a global record of fishing vessels and a process to evaluate the performance of Flag States, which are key elements of the continuing effort to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

We support work to facilitate the implementation of the new FAO Port States Agreement including through the establishment of mechanisms for capacity-building and assistance to developing states, and the improvement of collaboration with other UN Agencies, regional fisheries bodies and non-governmental organizations to share informational and development synergies to advance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

We would also like to emphasize the call to review COFI's practices in advance of the next session in 2012.

The United States welcomes and supports the opportunity to discuss at the Thirtieth Session arrangements for COFI's work, including the review of rules of procedure and other aspects. We think this is the ideal time to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of COFI's work including by looking for ways to revitalize and hone COFI's agenda.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, Australia would like to thank Mr Mathiesen for his briefing. It was a comprehensive and quality briefing, so we appreciate that.

Secondly, Australia would like to endorse the Report of the Twenty-ninth Session of the COFI as others have today. Australia strongly supports the request to prepare a report on the extent of the implementation of the 1999 FAO International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (IPOA). The implementation of the IPOA on Sharks has been patchy and, as a consequence, continues to attract global attention. Action is needed in this area.

Australia also supports funding under the Regular Programme for the FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of CITES listing proposals for commercially-exploited aquatic species. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that work undertaken by the FAO panel remains focused and consistent with the terms of reference, and does not extend beyond the remit of the experts on that panel.

COFI reiterated its support for the Global Record as one of the useful tools to combat IUU Fishing. Australia does support the establishment of the Global Record noting, however, that the agreement at the Twenty-ninth Session was that it should be developed as a voluntary initiative under FAO's supervision.

Australia stresses that careful consideration and consultation by the FAO Secretariat is needed before pursuing any major expenditure associated with this request, particularly given that significant expenditure would be needed to support the proposed record on an ongoing basis.

Finally, consistent with Australia's strong stance on combating IUU Fishing, it is very supportive of the COFI Report recommendations regarding capacity-development work to support Port State Measures, forming an Open-Ended Working Group or similar mechanism regarding the ad hoc working group envisaged in Article 21 of the Port State Measures Agreement and the convening of the FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

Mauritius supports fully the statement made earlier by Mozambique who was speaking on behalf of the Africa Group. Mr Chairman, I have one question and I think that the other one would be more of a request. With regard to the recommendation regarding the implications of climate change, my delegation thinks that the frequency of tsunami could be also a consequence of climate change. Therefore, we would like to know much more about the observatory system, the early warning system that was put forward at the international level so that the countries in the Indian Ocean could be informed as early as possible whenever such events occur.

The second point is a request. My delegation fully adheres to the support to be given to the Agreement on Port State Measures to combat IUU Fishing. I believe that in addition to this Agreement, we would also like the FAO, together with its Legal Office, to urge eligible members of SIOFA, that is, the Southern Indian Ocean Fishery Agreement, to consider signing and ratifying the Agreement so that it can be implemented as early as possible and it can enter into force.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I will briefly touch on two points, one is about deep-sea fishing. I would like to mention the discussion on COFI and the Programme Committee that there is no consensus on this issue. The second point is the Global Record of fishing vessels. We recognize the importance of the recording, but the

Programme Committee clearly said that this should be done in a cost-effective manner, and the costs should be covered mainly by the monthly contributions.

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

I would like to begin by thanking the delegates for their very positive and constructive discussion about the Report and the presentation. There are not many direct questions. However, there is one from Argentina about the Open-Ended Working Group in relation to Article 31 of the Port State Measures Agreement. This is something that we are presently preparing, and hopefully within not too long, we will need to consult with Regional Groups about how we approach this subject.

The second direct question was from Mauritius with regard to the frequency of tsunamis and climate change. I would not really want to venture into a discussion about that, but at least at the present the early warning systems on tsunamis relate to underwater earthquakes. It is mainly on this geological front that these early warning systems have been developed, but I do not know of any work that we have been involved in with regards to that.

Thirdly, I would like to comment on what the EU said about the increased role of the Bureau. We hope to have a very good relationship with the present Bureau and we have, in fact, already scheduled the first meeting of the Bureau here in Rome at the beginning of May.

Then there are two major issues which have been touched upon here in the discussions that I would like to comment on: the Global Record and the deep-sea fishing issues. As the delegate of Japan mentioned, there was no unanimity about the emphasis on deep-sea fishing. However, if things go as planned with the work that we are trying to develop with other organizations, I would expect that deep-sea fishing would be a part of the so-called ABNJ programme that we are working on with GEF. That would probably mean that we would be doing even more work in this area than we have been doing in recent years, and that would be financed through extra-budgetary funding.

With regard to the Global Record, and as reflected in comments from delegates, this is an extremely expensive exercise. I think that was recognized by the Committee in the discussion. We are now looking at ways to cut costs there, but the numbers are still of a size that I would not expect us to be able to cover within our regular budget. So we would need to have a very substantial part of those costs covered by extra-budgetary funding. We are working on that, and hopefully we will be successful because I believe that this is an extremely valuable and important instrument in our work.

I think that I have covered the major points that have been mentioned and answered the questions, and I thank you again for a very constructive discussion.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Mathiesen.

Après cet échange et après la présentation du Rapport, je vous propose le cadre des conclusions sur le Rapport de la Vingt-neuvième Session que nous approuvons, en soulignant la priorité accordée au développement des activités dans le domaine de l'aquaculture en rapport avec la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi qu'au renforcement des dispositifs normatifs relatifs aux pêcheries, notamment pour prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, en collaboration avec les instances des institutions internationales et régionales concernées, on a parlé aussi de l'élaboration d'un instrument international sur les pêches artisanales, et comme cela a été dit, pareillement au développement des capacités nationales dans ces domaines. Enfin, on a dit que les priorités définies dans le Rapport devraient être reflétées dans le programme de travail et de budget de 2012-2013.

Voilà les principales conclusions qui pourraient faire l'objet de notre projet de Rapport. Pas de commentaires? Je vous remercie de votre travail.

Other Matters**Questions diverses****Otros asuntos**

23. Margarita Lizárraga Medal (CL 141/INF/7)

23. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (CL 141/INF/7)

23. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (CL 141/INF/7)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pas tout à fait merci Monsieur Mathiesen, puisque nous avons le Point 23 à voir, qui est la médaille Margarita Lizárraga. Cette médaille est décernée pour rendre hommage à Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, fonctionnaire du Département des pêches de la FAO, médaille qui est décernée à un individu ou une organisation, s'étant distingué(e) dans l'application du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable.

Je demande à Monsieur Mathiesen de présenter le dossier sur lequel nous devons donner un avis pour le transférer à la Conférence. Monsieur Mathiesen, s'il vous plaît.

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

The FAO Conference, at its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, by Resolution 18/97, instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal, to be awarded biennially by the Conference upon the proposal of the Council to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The Medal pays tribute to the late Dr Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code, for her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, for her great dedication to FAO and for her strong commitment towards fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

For the 2010-2011 Award, the Selection Committee unanimously agreed to award the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) in Thailand. NACA was selected in recognition of its significant contribution to sustainable aquaculture development in the Asia and Pacific Region. NACA serves as a cohesive intergovernmental forum for the formulation of regional policies, as well as for cooperation and coordination in aquaculture research, development and training. In particular, NACA has noteworthy achievements in the areas of environment and aquatic animal health, support to small-scale fish farming, promotion of better management practices and aquaculture certification. The NACA model as an intergovernmental organization and a regional aquaculture network has been and is being emulated in other regions as a catalytic effect of the achievement. The contribution of NACA to application of the Code of Conduct is therefore outstanding, practical, tangible and sustainable, as well as catalytic for other regions to follow.

Before concluding, I wish to reiterate the deep appreciation of the Organization, and in particular its Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, for the continuous support provided by the Government of Mexico with regard to this Award, which commemorates an eminent Mexican national, Margarita Lizárraga, and her contribution to the process of negotiation and adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

Mr Chairman, you may wish to invite the Council to endorse the nomination of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific in Thailand and recommend that the Medal be presented to it as part of the proceedings of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je demande au Conseil si vous avez des commentaires ou des questions à poser sur ce sujet.

Je propose donc de transmettre cette nomination pour cette médaille à la 37ème Session de la Conférence et je vous demande d'approuver cette décision, pas d'objections? Il en est ainsi décidé. Merci Monsieur Mathiesen.

Programme and Finance Committees
Comité du Programme et Comité financier
Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas

4. Report of the Joint Meeting (23 March 2011) of the 106th Session of the Programme Committee and the 138th Session of the Finance Committee (CL 141/10)

4. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe (23 mars 2011) de la cent sixième session du Comité du Programme et de la cent trente-huitième session du Comité financier (CL 141/10)

4. Informe de la reunión conjunta (23 de marzo de 2011) del Comité del Programa en su 106.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 138.º período de sesiones (CL 141/10)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Point 4 de notre Ordre du jour, le Rapport de la réunion conjointe du 23 mars 2011 et de la 106^{ème} session du Comité du Programme et de la 138^{ème} Session du Comité financier. Pour l'efficacité de nos délibérations, je propose que l'examen du Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 et du Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 soient abordés au Point 3 de l'Ordre du jour, cet après-midi, c'est-à-dire tout à l'heure, et que la Vision de la structure et du fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés soit traitée lorsque sera examiné le Point 14, en principe demain.

Je demande donc aux délégués de s'abstenir de faire référence aux questions relatives au Programme de travail et budget et aux bureaux décentralisés jusqu'à ce qu'elles soient abordées au Point 3 et 14. Ainsi je suggère que nous traitions au titre du Point 4 les questions suivantes:

Stratégies de mobilisation et gestion des ressources;

Stratégies en matière de partenariat avec le secteur privé; et

Progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des activités au titre du Programme de coopération technique.

Mais en l'absence de Monsieur Sorour, Président de Comité financier, qui avait présidé la Réunion conjointe et qui n'a pu se joindre à nous, j'invite Madame Laatu qui nous a déjà rejoint, Présidente du Comité du Programme à présenter ce point. Madame Laatu, vous avez la parole.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I want to introduce to you briefly part of the work of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred-and-sixth Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session of Finance Committee. There are two items that will be introduced later in the section and those are the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget on the one hand, and then the Vision on the Structure and Functioning of the Decentralized Offices. So I will not touch on them in this presentation. I will just briefly introduce the other three items that were discussed in the Joint Meeting a couple of weeks ago.

The first one of them is the resource mobilization and management strategy outline of the FAO. This was an issue which was discussed by the Joint Meeting for a second time, actually. We wanted to have the outline presented to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees as a result of an earlier discussion in those Committees. This time we welcome the outline. We appreciated the corporate nature of this outline. It was considered a very good outline, and we look forward to reviewing the final version of the resource and mobilization and management strategy in the next session of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, which will be in October. Furthermore, the Joint Meeting requested the Secretariat to publish information regarding voluntary contributions.

Let me now turn to the next agenda item which I want to introduce at this stage, and this is the FAO strategy on partnerships with the private sector. We discussed the provisional outline for this strategy in the Joint Meeting. The meeting considered the provisional outline as a positive step towards the

finalization of the strategy. It, however, recommended a few amendments to be made. Firstly, it was recommended that the criteria and principles for the selection of private partners be further refined. Secondly, it was recommended that the strategy include a chapter on the guiding principles for partnering, as well as the risks associated with the private sector engagements. Thirdly, it was recommended that the role of the Committee for World Food Security, as well as the role of the Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, be better harmonized and that the FAO look for partnership options beyond those two. Finally, the Joint Meeting requested the final version of this strategy to be also presented to its next session in October.

The third item that I wanted to report about just now was the progress on the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Joint Meeting noted the progress made, and recommended to earmark 0.4 percent of the TCP appropriation to facilitate the reporting on the results of the projects. The meeting further stressed the need for TCP projects to be strategic, catalytic and more gender-balanced. This is what I wanted to report on the Joint Meeting under this agenda item.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame la Présidente et, sans plus attendre, je vous donne la parole, vous voudrez bien dire qui veut intervenir. L'Union européenne, la Chine et l'Argentine. Nous allons commencer par l'Union européenne, vous avez la parole.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union welcomes the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Hundred-and-Sixth Session of the Programme Committee and the Hundred-and-Thirty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee.

The European Union stresses the importance of greater financial discipline and savings as was strongly recommended by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki- Moon, and the need to identify further efficiency gains.

The EU reiterates its strong commitment to the Reform of FAO and, therefore, also the full and rapid implementation of the IPA as a top priority for the Organisation.

The European Union also recalls the IEE recommendation of a single Shared Services Centre in Budapest, which already accounts for 85 percent of all services, and endorses its implementation, which will lead to further efficiency savings of about USD 2 million per biennium.

The European Union welcomes the effort to reflect the proposed areas of emphasis and de-emphasis and align the programmatic work with the new Strategic Objective structure, as well as the need for savings. The requested further information and clarification concerning the proposed shifts that has just been provided will need to be carefully analysed in order for us to be able to engage in well-informed discussion with a fully-implemented results-based management framework.

The European Union appreciates the progress achieved so far, and also welcomes the further deliberations concerning the structure and functioning of the Decentralised Offices.

The European Union has repeatedly asked for basic statistics on each of FAO's Decentralised Offices, for example staff costs, size of programme, etc. but this information has yet to be delivered in full. This request has been made through the European Union's Representatives at the Regional Conference for Europe and Central Asia, in the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as at the CoC-IEE meetings. This type of information would help us to have a well-informed discussion on the network.

Within the vision of Decentralised Offices, FAO Management still needs to develop a number of key issues including: recruitment procedures, competency profiles, benchmarking exercise and rotation policy.

Specifically with respect to rotation, highly-qualified staff are a prerequisite for the quality and visibility of FAO in the field. The recent evaluation of the Near East Region clearly demonstrates this.

We are concerned by the limited progress reported in the Update on IPA Implementation, Section I on "Mobility". Therefore, we wish to emphasize the need for FAO to develop a policy on rotation and the urgent need to implement the rotation agreed in the IPA.

The European Union very much appreciates the evaluation of the Near East Decentralised Offices, which clearly shows the need for further progress in streamlining, prioritization and rationalisation.

The European Union congratulates FAO Management on tabling a first draft of the Resource Mobilization and Management Strategy, and supports all recommendations including further deliberations within the Joint Meetings and the urgent need to establish a Website that publishes all voluntary contributions to FAO. The European Union encourages Management to continue to develop the full Strategy.

The European Union also welcomes the long-awaited FAO strategy on partnerships with the private sector, but feels that further improvement is still needed. The European Union, in this regard, stresses the need for further elaboration of criteria, including risk assessment and more information on the tools and strategies mentioned.

The European Union does not believe that the Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition (AAHM) is the only and best entry-point for engagement with the private sector, and therefore urges the Secretariat to also work out other options. The CFS should become a platform that also attracts partners from the private sector. The European Union awaits proposals for further progress in this field.

Concerning the TCP programme, the European Union welcomes the progress achieved, but very much underscores the need for TCP to be strategic and gender-balanced. FAO should also see how the TCP could be better used in capacity-development.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

On the Shared Services Center we would strictly abide by your request, and not go beyond the scope of this discussion this afternoon.

Mr Chairman, the Chinese delegation welcomes the Report from the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee. As for paragraph 13 of the Report, mainly on the Strategic Framework for partnerships with the private sector, our delegation agrees with the proposal put forward by the Joint Meeting. We hope, however, that the Secretariat will further improve on the basic principles and criteria for the partnerships with the private sector.

We believe that FAO is constituted by Member Nations. It is a government organization based on knowledge. Launching collaboration with the private sector should not go against the principles of the Organization, and the Organization should have the interests of the Member Nations in mind. We hope that the Secretariat in its future work will abide by these principles.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci et avec nos excuses pour le début de l'intervention. C'était l'engagement de l'interprétariat qui n'était pas assuré. Ce n'était pas un retrait sur votre engagement. La parole est à l'Argentine.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

En primer lugar, mi delegación acoge favorablemente el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del Comité de Programa y del Comité de Finanza. Al respecto, queremos destacar el Punto 8.a) del Informe de esta Reunión Conjunta en el documento CL141/10, referido básicamente a la cantidad del presupuesto para el 2012 y 2013. Según el apartado 8.a), hay dos opciones sobre la cantidad del presupuesto para 2012-2013 para su examen por parte de este Consejo. Una opción es el mantenimiento de la cuantía de las cuotas propuestas en el PTP para 2012-2013, y la segunda es una reducción de la cantidad de las cuotas en atención al llamamiento del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, en el sentido de "hacer más con menos recursos", y se tomó nota de la reducción propuesta del 3 por ciento en el presupuesto de las Naciones Unidas.

Si bien se considera conveniente mantener el nivel de las cuotas, no queda claro si ello es posible en un escenario marcado por la Reforma de la Organización y por la Descentralización. En ese sentido, nos gustaría tener una opinión de la Secretaría sobre esta opción de mantener el nivel de cuotas, si ello efectivamente es posible. En ese sentido, también cabría considerar el impacto de las cuotas de la propuesta de un aumento del presupuesto del 5,6 por ciento. También se estima necesario poder tener una clarificación con respecto a la Escala de Cuotas para el período 2012-2013.

Por su parte la otra propuesta, que propone la reducción del 3 por ciento, esto es la de “hacer más con menos”, resulta alentadora en términos presupuestarios y financieros pero muy difícil de implementar en organismos como FAO que, como ya se indicó, está en pleno proceso de instrumentación de su Reforma. Además, estimamos que se trata de una propuesta del Secretario de Naciones Unidas, siendo los Estados Miembros los que deben decidir sobre el tema. Por todo ello, nuestra posición es una posición abierta a la discusión y al debate sobre este tema que entendemos tendrá su definición durante la Conferencia.

Con respecto al presupuesto de evaluación del 0,7 por ciento para el período 2012-2013, ello implica un aumento aproximado de un millón de dólares sobre el presupuesto de evaluación del PTP 2012-2013, y también lo vemos conveniente.

Asimismo queremos decir que acompañamos el aumento de la consignación presupuestaria para el Objetivo Estratégico K (género) sin repercusión en la cantidad global del presupuesto. Cabría insistir en la necesidad de focalizar mejor las acciones en esta materia, entendiendo que el tema género es transversal en el Programa de trabajo de FAO. Se debería considerar más bien el uso y distribución de los recursos que el necesario aumento de los mismos.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

On behalf of the Africa Group, we welcome the Report of the Joint Meeting under consideration, which we find informative, short and precise. We would like to make some comments towards the debate.

I will also start with the Shared Services Centre, which my other colleagues have also started with. While the question of the Shared Services Centre has been under discussion for long, Africa feels that more thorough reviews are necessary and consultations are still required in order to ensure that the final decisions to be reached would be balanced, fair and non-regrettable in the future.

Regarding resource mobilization and management strategy, the role of the Decentralized Offices is not well-defined. This role should be clearly articulated in order to facilitate their future involvement.

Regarding FAO Strategy on Partnerships with the Private Sector, we consider it critical that any proposals made to harmonize the role of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) with other arrangements should minimize complexity, and create room for more flexibility and operational possibilities.

Lastly, we are glad that TCP Officers have been deployed at the Decentralized Offices. We pray that their presence will ensure accelerated implementation of TCP programmes, which is what we have been advocating. We also welcome the 0.4 percent of the TCP appropriation to facilitate the TCP Officers to report on closed TCP programmes.

With these comments, we endorse the Report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Ouganda, il y a-t-il d'autres demandes de parole? Le Mexique.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Gracias, señor Presidente. Mi delegación entiende que posiblemente veremos lo relativo al Programa de Presupuesto y de Trabajo para el año 2012-2013. En esta ocasión, quisiéramos hacer una petición que hemos hecho en ocasiones anteriores relativa al Centro de Servicios Compartidos y su unificación en uno solo.

Hemos recibido diferente información, que no siempre lleva a concluir a la conveniencia de que este Centro se integre en uno solo, sobre todo cuando vemos los niveles de satisfacción de los usuarios del centro, al cual se le piensan agregar tanto el que está en Asia como el que está en América Latina.

Con lo que respecta a la cooperación con el sector privado, mi delegación está de acuerdo y cree que es un elemento muy importante, pero que es un proyecto que tiene que reflejar un cierto grado de flexibilidad, ya que los sectores privados en los diferentes países actúan y responden de forma diferente a este tipo de cooperación. Igualmente, no hay que olvidar la necesidad de que al respecto haya una especie de evaluación sobre los aspectos jurídicos que pueden implicarse en esta cooperación.

Sr. Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

Mi delegación también acoge el Informe Conjunto presentado y pensamos que este es un tema muy importante, sobre todo el que se refiere a las cuestiones relativas al presupuesto para el 2012-2013. En cuanto a las variantes que existen, nosotros pensamos que en ningún momento se puede reducir el nivel actual, lo cual sería una cosa muy lamentable.

En cuanto a la reducción de las cuotas por eficiencia del 3 por ciento, habría que examinarlas, pero bien recuerdo que todavía ésta no ha sido aprobada por la Asamblea General.

La otra cuestión es la que se refiere a la labor del sector privado. Creemos que podría ser de interés y que por supuesto cualquier aspecto o cualquier decisión que se tome, la Secretaría debe basarse sobre los principios básicos de la Organización, y nunca se debería ir en contra a estos principios básicos que la rigen.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

First, let me start by thanking the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the Secretariat for the Report and members of both the Programme and Finance Committees.

Next I would like, on behalf of our delegation, to endorse the Report before us. We understand the items addressed in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees including the Programme of Work and Budget, and the issues on the Vision Structure and Functioning of the Decentralised Offices, will be addressed in other parts of our agenda, so we will reserve further comments until those agenda items.

That said, I would like to closely align our delegations views on prioritisation in the Shared Service Centre, as well as rationalisation of the Decentralised Office structure, with the statement made just earlier by the European Union delegate.

Likewise, we also welcome FAO's renewed focus on partnerships and resource mobilisation. We, too, are also very strong supporters of the Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, as well as the CFS, but we encourage here, as we did in the Joint Meeting, a strategy where FAO focuses on the private sector and its resource mobilisation strategy. We would urge FAO to focus on its relationships with third parties, rather than with subsidiary bodies.

We look forward to further elaboration of the strategies in the coming months, and hope to contribute to this process as we move forward.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

As far as the principle is concerned, we welcome the Report of the Joint Meeting, and are most thankful for the very important information contained therein. Regarding the Shared Services Centre, as we see it, it is necessary to receive more precise and concrete data in that area. Hence, we would like to state that we associate ourselves to the position of the G77 in this area. We have to maintain the situation as it stands.

We understand the point of the UN Secretary General, that is, the three percent reduction, but this should not be done to the detriment of essential elements in the Organization's field of work or impact

on the level of living in countries assisted by the Organization. We feel that it is necessary to wait and see what the international organization will do in this area, and especially wait to see what the UNGA will do. We, too, should not be too hasty in this area, and rush to assert the importance of the paragraph which focuses on the need to give the Regional Offices, the Decentralised Offices, the role they deserve.

We also have other comments that we shall bring to the attention of the Council later on.

Finally, we generally support this Report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Syrie. Pas d'autres interventions? Madame Laatu du Secrétariat, si vous voulez répondre aux questions ou faire des commentaires.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I do not think that there were any questions addressed to the Chair. I think that the questions were addressed to the Secretariat, so I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat if they wish to respond.

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

I will refrain from commenting on the interventions on the budget level and Decentralized Offices, as you have asked that these be taken up under Items 3 and 14, respectively. With that, I do not have any other interventions to make. Other members of the Secretariat, perhaps on the Shared Services Centre, would like to intervene.

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

If you agree, perhaps the Management could provide its responses on the Shared Services Centre after the introduction of the Finance Committee Report which received the in-depth review and discussed it.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Tout à fait en accord, merci. Puisque nous sommes sur des rapports qui se chevauchent, on prend les points les uns après les autres. Je vous remercie de ce débat et j'essaie de tirer les conclusions précises pour préciser des points abordés.

Donc, d'un avis commun, le Conseil a approuvé le Rapport de la Réunion conjointe. Il a accueilli favorablement l'ébauche de stratégie de mobilisation de ressources en attendant d'examiner la version finale de la stratégie par le Comité du Programme en octobre 2011. Le Conseil a également apprécié le projet de stratégie en matière de partenariat avec le secteur privé et là aussi attend que la version finale du document soit soumise au Comité de Programme en octobre 2011. Il a noté l'allocation préparée pour faciliter l'évaluation des résultats des projets du Programme de coopération technique, ainsi que le besoin de faire en sorte que les projets du PCT soient stratégiques avec un meilleur équilibre de genre dans les crédits alloués. Nous avons les trois points qui ont été abordés.

Avez vous quelques remarques à faire? Si cela n'est pas le cas, cela servira de base à la préparation du Rapport sur ce sujet là. Merci.

Nous avons abordé le Point 4 à l'exception des Points 3 et 14 et juste une petite remarque en anecdote. Normalement, nous avions déjeuné à cette heure-ci. C'était ce qui était prévu ce matin! Alors vous voyez, cinq heures un quart, nous avons quelques deux heures et demie de retard sur la programmation.

5. Reports of the 105th (8-9 February 2011) and 106th (21-25 March 2011) Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 141/4; CL 141/8)

5. Rapports des cent cinquième (8-9 février 2011) et cent sixième (21-25 mars 2011) sessions du Comité du Programme (CL 141/4; CL 141/8)

5. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 105.º (8-9 de febrero de 2011) y 106º (21-25 de marzo de 2011) del Comité del Programa (CL 141/4; CL 141/8)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons essayer d'ici vendredi d'ajuster l'Ordre du jour. Donc, vous avez bien déjeuné, merci et nous passons au Point 5: Rapports des 105ème (8 février 2011) et 106ème (21-25 mars 2011) sessions du Comité du Programme. Je ne rappelle pas comme convenu les transferts de Points qui ont été vus et je donne tout de suite la parole à Madame Laatu.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ¹

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame pour cette présentation et pour la photo de famille.

La parole sur ce sujet, comme convenu, à l'Égypte.

Mr Mohammed ABUBAKR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, let me thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for introducing the Report. In its Hundred and sixth Session, the Programme Committee discussed the Evaluation Report of the Near East Regional Office. The evaluation highlighted the gaps and needs with regard to the Regional Office's capability to respond to the region's needs. In addition to providing precious lessons on the work of the Decentralized Offices, Egypt supports the recommendation in the Report on encouraging the Office of Evaluation to carry out similar studies on other Decentralized Offices. Of particular concern, which I personally observed since I am coming from the capital, is the observation that FAO has lost its comparative advantage in the region to other actors. This is a point which highlights the need to explore the services provided by FAO in the field, and how the Organization responds to requests and national priorities.

Another related point is the severe lack of funding for FAO's work in the region. Unfortunately, the Report underlined that no region in the world receives such a limited share of FAO field programmes as the Near East. In the PWB 2010-2011, the Near East received the smallest allocation out of the assessed contributions for TCP projects, a figure that did not exceed 8 percent as already spelled out under another Agenda Item by our colleague from Jordan. In the PWB 2012-2013, it is proposed to retain the same level of allocation. The Near East Evaluation stated that excluding emergency and largely unilateral programmes, technical cooperation to Near East countries decreased from USD 13 million in 2004 to USD 11 million in 2009. Let me emphasize that this minimal level of appropriation for FAO field programmes will only lead to FAO losing visibility and its comparative advantage in the region as indicated in the Evaluation Report. This comes at a time when the region faces one of the most critical moments in its history. The assistance and support provided by the UN Agencies and the international community will contribute in directing the countries to further democracy and stability. I look forward to discussing this question in more detail during the discussion on the draft PWB 2012-2013.

Mr Alf Havard VESTRHEIM (Norway)

Let me just make a brief statement. Norway welcomes the Report from the Programme Committee. We would like to express our appreciation for the progress made by the Organization in producing this mid-term review.

¹ CL 141/PV Appendix A.

This represents an encouraging improvement in the results-based management of FAO. However, the Report is still dominated by descriptions of activities rather than results achieved according to the indicators in the results framework.

We trust that future mid-term reviews will address this need.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The EU welcomes the first Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2010 under the new results-based monitoring and management framework as a first step in the right direction. The new format should be followed and improved in line with the recommendations of the Programme Committee.

We welcome the draft of the PWB that aims to provide aspects of resource comparability, but reiterate the need for full implementation of results-based budgeting and management framework.

The EU reiterates its strong commitment to the Reform of FAO, and therefore also the full-fledged and rapid implementation of the IPA as a top priority for the Organization. The European Union welcomes the new format of presenting the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. The same format should be applied to Functional Objective X, which was still lacking the transparency hoped for.

However, the EU notes that there was a need for further information in order to be able to engage in well-informed discussions, including explanations on proposed resource shifts between and within all Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives, and clarification on whether the shifts were programmatic in nature or just proposed in order to align activities better with the results-based framework. In particular, this information was necessary to be sure that these shifts were consistent with the decisions taken by the Governing Bodies.

The requested additional information on resource shifts between and within Strategic and Functional Objectives was only just received and will need to be carefully analysed. The EU expects this information to be included in future PWBs.

The European Union places utmost importance on gender equality in FAO's work, as stressed in the latest SOFA-Report, as well as the need for the further improvements outlined in the Gender Audit. We also want to reiterate the need for full gender mainstreaming within the Organization and all its programmes and projects. The European Union reiterates that strengthening the work on gender should not lead to an increase of the overall budget, and the EU would highly appreciate if the Secretariat could identify any options for savings in other parts of the PWB.

Regarding the proposed increase of the level of the evaluation budget, the European Union agrees with the advice of the Programme Committee to increase the level of the evaluation budget to 0.8 percent of the regular budget by the end of the next biennium and, as a first step, to increase the level to 0.7 percent. The European Union encourages the Programme Committee to decide on further corporate evaluations on the Regional/Country Offices.

The European Union has always been committed to the normative work of the Organization, as well as the importance of cross-cutting issues and their coordination. This core area of work should be ensured through the first pillar of net appropriations and not moved to the second pillar. Climate change, nutrition, gender, land and water and capacity-development need to be further integrated into the PWB.

The European Union endorses the new Corporate Strategy on Capacity-Development (CD) and reiterates the need for mainstreaming Capacity-Development throughout FAO's work, not only at Headquarters, but also throughout the Decentralised Office structures. Therefore, the European Union appreciates the DDG's commitment to coordinate meetings with Senior Management and Strategy Teams and Decentralised Offices to monitor the implementation of the strategy. The European Union reiterates the importance of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action as a fundamental basis for this work.

The European Union also welcomes the increased focus on animal health and containing animal-related human health risks, and the emerging “One-Health” agenda. Nevertheless, we stress the importance of further prioritization of planned activities and the need for more information in order to attract further funding from all potential donors.

The European Union endorses the Evaluation of FAO’s Regional and Sub-regional Offices for the Near East that clearly reflects some of the most pertinent issues of the Organization, especially with regard to Decentralization. The European Union is extremely concerned by the Evaluation’s findings, that FAO in the Near East has lost its visibility and comparative advantage. This needs to be addressed with the utmost urgency by FAO Management. The EU also urges FAO and all Member Nations to take these findings into account in discussions on Decentralization.

The European Union stresses the need for prioritization, streamlining, rationalization, a new recruitment policy, effective rotation and an appropriate skills mix. The European Union also reiterates the need for FAO to play an active part in the “One-UN” approach, working jointly with other relevant UN Agencies in regaining strength in the region in areas falling within the Organization’s comparative advantage. Most of these recommendations are applicable for all FAO Decentralised Offices, and should be considered beyond the Near East Region. As recommended by the Programme Committee, the European Union also wants to see similar evaluations in other regions.

Finally, the European Union feels that programme planning and priority-setting in the framework of the ongoing Reform, as well as monitoring the evaluation work of the Organization, are core responsibilities of the Programme Committee, which require time and effort. The European Union cannot continue to accept delays of documents, such as for the Hundred-and-Fifth Session of the Programme Committee. The European Union urges the Secretariat to ensure that documents are available two to four weeks before meetings.

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

I speak to emphasize the point raised by the delegate of Egypt with respect to the Evaluation of the Near East Office. Of course, the Report highlights the fact that other organizations have stepped in to play the role our Organization had recently. There are regional and international organizations which are currently taking on the role that should be that of the FAO.

In this regard, I would like to recall what the Regional Conference of the Near East had stressed. When we spoke about the need to evaluate the Near East Office, our concern was one of drawing attention to the need to cater for the region, to cover the region. The Report does not answer that question. Rather, it has left it to the countries to choose freely whether or not they belong to the region, so to speak. So I would say that this Regional Conference was attended by 16 countries, 13 of which hold regular seats in the region, 13 out of 22. Of those countries which were invited, only 16 actually participated, so there must be a problem. Whether those countries were invited to attend, did not feel that they were concerned by what was happening or whatever other reasons.

As far as resources are concerned, if we are talking about the figure, it covers not just the Near East, it also covers North Africa. Now if those resources are to be apportioned, then the Near East proportion would be lower, so we need to address this issue so that we are on time to request resources for the budget for the Near East and North Africa where many of the countries are not sufficiently served by the Tunis Office. When we talk about priorities and the tasks which the Regional Conference should take onboard, it is also essential for the budget for the region to be commensurate with what is required, and it is well below what is needed. Other Regional Offices have already adopted the principal of a Trust Fund, and the question then is what the share covered by the Trust Fund will be.

The same goes for the Technical Committees. Does the Trust Fund have a positive impact on countries of the Region when it comes to extra-budgetary contributions? If we are only to be able to rely on the Trust Fund, will that cover all the projects in the region? Will we have another share of extra-budgetary resources forthcoming? When we talk about the Trust Fund, it is a very alluring, but it may have other ramifications. So it is essential for us to ensure that we have pledges and contributions in order to nourish this Trust Fund for us not to be dependent on random contributions. We need to address that issue before we agree on the principle of a Trust Fund. So this Evaluation has highlighted

a number of areas where there are tremendous needs. If it is to be extended, then it might also highlight other needs which have not yet been identified. This Evaluation also needs to span other regions so we have a full grasp of all the needs.

The Organization should consider these questions painstakingly in order to understand first and foremost why its role has fallen behind other organizations. When we talk about the Organization, it would come about tenth in a league table. There are countries where agricultural issues are of secondary importance. Nevertheless, many organizations who treat agricultural issues as secondary importance are making much faster progress than FAO.

Mr Javad SHAKHS TAVAKOLIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I will try to be very brief. This is just to support completely the concern raised by Egypt, Jordan and many other delegates regarding the Evaluation made by the Evaluation Office in the Near East Region. I would also like to focus particularly on those parts that regard the visibility and comparative advantage of the FAO in the region in which it is going to last. I would also like to draw the attention of the Secretariat and the FAO to take into account the recommendations made by the Evaluation Office in the region in including the need to enhance its capacity and resources of the Regional Office to enable it to meet the needs of its own members in the region.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I want to touch very briefly upon three points. The first is about the Evaluation Report for Decentralized Offices in the Near East. This Report raises a very serious question: whether the three layers - the Regional Office, the Sub-regional Office and the Country Office - work effectively or not. This issue will go beyond the Near East. In the future, we should seek the best mix of the three layers, their functions and resources, in order to provide better services to countries and to realize the best performance and recover the credibility of FAO.

The second point is about capacity-development. The Evaluation Report for Africa tells us of the importance of the sustainable approach. However, the TCP criteria we have now do not permit the poorer projects, so I am really expecting that in 2012 we will discuss this issue again so that the TCP can support the capacity-development of Member Nations.

The third point is one that could not be agreed upon in the Programme Committee. I want to reiterate, however, that ordinary TCPs should be provided for rich countries on a cost recovery basis, not free of charge.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic)

Very briefly I want to thank Madam Chairperson for the excellent and debriefing report covering our region. I am not going to repeat what my distinguished delegates from Jordan, Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran have said. I just want to support what they have said, especially the point regarding increasing the budget for the TCP.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

As a member of the Programme Committee, I should not be intervening on this Item but the things that I heard compel me to make comments on three points.

One point that was raised is also in the Evaluation Report. It was raised by Egypt and others, and it concerns the fact that FAO has lost its comparative advantage in the Near East Region to other organizations. In the Programme Committee, I asked the person who introduced the Evaluation to please name these organizations. He named the World Bank. So, there is no Organization in the Near East that is really competitive with FAO. That was an exaggeration on the part of the Evaluation Report.

As far as the World Bank is concerned, if you ask them, they will say that they don't consider FAO as a competitor, but as a partner. That is my first point.

The second point is that mention is made that the field programme in the Near East region is small. True, it is small, but we have to realize that the report, when it says it is small, refers only to

18 countries in the region. The region, according to the Council structure is made up of 26 countries, so eight countries are not covered in that figure. And out of these eight countries, the two most important countries, where FAO has enormous delivery, are excluded. These are Sudan and Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the delivery of FAO is about USD 20 million a year, which is equivalent to the delivery of FAO to the 18 countries that are covered in the Report. So, that has to be put into proper perspective.

My third point is about the Trust Fund. The Evaluation Report suggests a Trust Fund. It doesn't say how much, and its modalities still have to be worked out. It says that the Trust Fund will be used for re-shuffling the structure, at the both Country, Sub-regional and Regional Conference. It is not very clear. So, one of the recommendations, I think my Chairman would agree, was that this report, including the question of the Trust Fund and the Action Plan based on the Evaluation, should go back to the Regional levels in 2012.

Ms Sarah HANSON (United States of America)

We thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee for her Report, and we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Committee for the Reports in general.

The United States fully supports and endorses the Reports of the Committee.

However, we are concerned that despite the hard work and the extra sessions of the Committee, the prioritization of the technical and programmatic work of FAO is not yet optimal. We especially request that funding commitments for the various conventions and treaty bodies be made easily distinguishable in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013. From our perspective, it would appear that the vital normative work of the International Plant Protection Convention deserves further consideration and support.

We note that the prioritization process needs to incorporate all regional bodies, including those without a formal Regional Conference.

We continue to be concerned about what appears to be a move away from the normative work to a decentralized network. Additionally, while we appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to produce a comprehensive table outlining the resource shifts between and within all Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives and the reference, decisions for such shifts, we are disappointed that we did not receive the document in sufficient time to allow us to conduct a thorough analysis.

Lastly, on the issue of evaluations, the charter of the Office of Evaluation was debated and crafted carefully by Members. We believe that the current Director should serve his full tour of four years.

Again, we do support and endorse the Reports of the Committee.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Africa Group, we welcome the Report of the Programme Committee. Also, we express our appreciation to the Committee for approving the strategies of the Organization in capacity-building and, in particular, the need for capacity-building to be adapted to the particular situations of countries and included in all field projects.

We therefore look forward to the implementation of this strategy in Africa and, in particular, to issues which were raised in the Evaluation Report on this subject in Africa.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is very important to Africa. We hope the capacity criteria will soon be concluded by consensus through your efforts, and that more funds will be able to be accorded to those who need to receive more assistance.

On the issue of evaluations, we note that the Programme Committee would be able to absorb the supplementary workload. However, we would also like to know the management capability to absorb the increased workload.

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

This is just to comment as to what was said by Afghanistan, regarding the 18 countries being serviced by the Regional Office. This is the crux of the problem. He gave as an example Sudan; Sudan belongs to East Africa, although Sudan is part and parcel of the Near East Group. When we said that we should define the limits of coverage, that is what we meant. That was not determined by the Report of the Evaluation, and it was left to be decided in the future.

As to the visibility of FAO as compared to other organisations, we did not mean exclusively the World Bank, but others. The Islamic Bank for Development, the Arab Fund, the Kuwait Fund, IFAD, WFP, the Arab Organization for Agriculture, the Arab Office for Studies and Research in Arid and Sub-arid Countries, ICARDA, USAID, GTZ, among other actors, are playing the role which should be related directly to FAO. We do not know actually why FAO is losing its role in the region.

The other thing which the Evaluation didn't answer is that we have two Sub-regional Offices, one in the Gulf States which is newly-established and the other one in North Africa. What I don't understand is why there is a special team to serve the eastern part of the Near East countries. There is a recommendation in the Twenty-second Session of the Regional Conference to establish an office in a Sub-regional Office to serve these countries. Tomorrow I will bring the document which requested the Director-General in 1994 to have a consultation to establish such a Sub-regional Office for the Near East.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

As our colleague from Afghanistan has mentioned, I usually do not take the floor on items related to the Programme Committees because Canada is actually on the Committee itself. But I thought I would just give a couple of quick perspectives. Certainly as mentioned by other colleagues, Canada does welcome Report of the Hundred and sixth Session of the Programme Committee, and we certainly endorse its contents. More specifically, under section one with regard to the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, Canada would certainly like to thank the Secretariat for its extensive work and long hours in developing the current draft.

As a member of the Programme Committee, Canada has certainly debated some of the specific programming activities of the last several weeks. We were strong advocates for specific requests from the Secretariat to provide additional details on the programmatic shifts highlighted in the draft Programme of Work and Budget proposal since we found the financial resource allocations, i.e. the increases and decreases across and within Strategic Objectives, did not clearly articulate the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. Of course, we have been requesting this for the last 18 months.

Unfortunately, the information generated by the Secretariat only arrived late on Friday afternoon, which has not allowed us or either our capital much time to assess the implications. This is critically important for our current discussions, but must also be a prerequisite document for future Programme of Work and Budget prioritization processes. Having said this, we have several key observations to make.

Canada certainly appreciates the fact that this Programme of Work and Budget allows for greater sense of comparability vis-à-vis the last PWB 2010-2011. However, we still have significant concerns with the slow progress in efficiently and effectively defining areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. Some of this input is reflected in the tables under the respective Strategic Objectives. However, the words and the financial resources are not fully congruent, and in most cases only a few 100.000 dollars are being reallocated within the Strategic Objectives. We do not believe this can be deemed a successful priority-setting process.

With regard to one-time savings reallocation, this wasn't defined in any detail until the Information Note that was provided, once again by the Secretariat, on Friday afternoon. This has implications, as we the Governing Bodies have not had any ability to engage pro-actively in assessing whether or not these are the areas in most need of additional financial resources.

We are also deeply concerned about the funding of some of the core FAO work, especially within the context of the normative work which appears to have shifted from net appropriation to extra-budgetary

resources. Some concrete examples can be found in Strategic Objectives A,B,D and F. The Programme Committee recommended that we protect these key activities under net appropriation, and Canada is certainly supportive of this position. It should also be noted that we raised this very point during the last Council meeting where Canada and the United States provided Council Members with the outcome of our North American Informal Regional Conference.

Canada would also like to express some frustration in getting a good understanding of programmatic shifts identified as Strategic Objective H and Functional Objective X. The latter did not provide any specific areas of emphasis and de-emphasis. In both instances, significant resources were being shifted and transferred from other sections of the Organization without a clear sense of its key priorities.

More work is required by the FAO Secretariat in highlighting how the various Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives will effectively address cross-cutting issues. We do not believe that has been adequately discussed or elaborated in the current draft of the PWB.

Finally, prioritization is of most importance to us. Unfortunately while we have seen some incremental steps in ensuring positive progress on the Results-Based Management Approach, significant work is still required. We therefore look forward to additional debate and discussions on priority-setting during Item 3 of this Council Session.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I would like to make a very short statement here relating in part to the issues that the Chairperson of the Programme Committee explained but also more generally to the Programme Committee. In this regard, my comments are very similar to those delivered by Canada. Before I get to that, I actually would like to take the chance to congratulate the Chair of the Programme Committee. I think she has done a tremendous job as Chair. Australia is, of course, a member of the Programme Committee and we certainly appreciate her calm and professional way of dealing with our work. More to the point, the group worked very well together during the biennium.

I would like to thank the Secretariat, Mr Boyd Haight and his team, for the work that they have done throughout the biennium. As is the case with Afghanistan, as a member of the Programme Committee, we tend not to speak on this issue, but I would like to make three high-level comments. First, similar to Canada, it is clear that the efforts towards prioritization were greatly improved this biennium, but they are still far from perfect. We appreciate that everyone is still learning this process, but the reality is that those outside the FAO sphere do not understand that we are learning these things and don't understand that we are practicing and getting better. They just look for results, and this year hasn't seen a tremendous amount of results in terms of how we prioritize. We need to exert more efforts in coming biennia and learning lessons from this process that we have gone through. In particular we note, and this is my second point, that the minutes for this meeting were very comprehensive but they were received on the afternoon before the meeting began and, in some cases, languages versions were received after the meeting ended which made it difficult for some members of the Committee to get access to papers in their respective languages. I think this is something that we need to very much reflect on. Perhaps more importantly are those papers. They are good start to the process, but they are mainly at a very high level and it was very hard to see where emphasis and de-emphasis was really being placed. So we certainly believe the information provided over this last weekend has been helpful to understand this better, but we think this should be a very core part of future prioritization efforts.

Finally, we of course note, and will come back to this in much more detail later, the importance of fiscal responsibility at the moment, and in particular the recent comments by the UN Secretary General.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Mi intervención va a ser muy breve, sobre todo porque se encuentra en la misma línea de la intervención y de las ideas del Grupo Africano manifestadas por Tanzania.

Queremos volver a subrayar la necesidad del establecimiento de prioridades como un proceso que está en curso en esta nación y sobre todo que necesita una mejora.

Nuestro continente reconoce que se trata de un proceso que se encuentra en marcha, pero deseamos subrayar que este proceso debiera ser cada vez más claro para que las prioridades puedan efectivamente afectar las necesidades de los Países Miembros.

África subraya la importancia de las áreas internas dentro de los Objetivos Estratégicos y los Resultados de la Organización.

África valora el fruto de las acciones ligadas al reforzamiento de capacidades, sobre todo en las oficinas descentralizadas. Hemos visto tratar en muchas ocasiones el tema del reforzamiento de las capacidades que tienen que ver con las oficinas descentralizadas para que éstas cuenten con una capacidad suficiente para poder apoyar cabalmente a las necesidades de los Países Miembros.

Sobre todo durante el fórum del PTP, hemos reconocido la importancia de los avances conseguidos dentro de la cultura misma de la Organización con el aumento de las contribuciones voluntarias. Es importante efectivamente desear mejorar la dilación de estas contribuciones voluntarias y su repercusión real en los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO.

Finalmente, quería comentar respecto de los criterios del PCT en el sentido que son efectivamente criterios que deben ser orientados para apoyar a los Países Miembros que necesitan la cooperación y que necesitan la asistencia técnica.

Por lo tanto, es importante para los Países Miembros que necesitan asistencia que la FAO pueda encontrarse en la medida de poder ofrecerles y dedicarles esa asistencia.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just have one comment. Jordan and Afghanistan talked about the Trust Fund proposal in the Near East Evaluation, and I did not cover this in my introduction because I tried to make it very brief. The Programme Committee actually did endorse a Regional Trust Fund for programme-related purposes, but also stated that core activities of FAO should be funded out of the net appropriations. So that was the Programme Committee's view on the Trust Fund. This is as far as we got.

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

As for the last item, I would defer commenting on the interventions that have been made on the Programme of Work and Budget and prioritization to Item 3, as you have previously requested.

There was one remark by the European Union on the Mid-Term Review Report. Certainly we will be making improvements in the next report that is due in two years time. However, it is also important to realize that we will be preparing the Programme Implementation Report for the 2010-11 biennium later this year, where we will be reporting on the indicators of progress in the first two years of the Medium-Term Plan, that is the 2010-11 biennium. So already in a year from now, you will be seeing a slightly different and, I would hope, improved Programme Implementation Report.

Mr Robert MOORE (Director, Office of Evaluation)

Just a couple of very brief points. Most of the comments that were made about the Near East Evaluation Report referred to items that were in the Report. The Evaluation did address the problem of the different coverage between the Near East Regional Conference and RNE, it did say in Recommendation 8a, that being a matter that is eminently political, the evaluation team recommended that concerned FAO Member Nations urgently take the initiative to address the issue. And then about having further regional level evaluations, I just wanted to say that the Evaluation Office will be presenting a new rolling work plan to the Programme Committee in its October 2011 Session, and the comments made here and in the Programme Committee will be taken into consideration.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. A l'issue de ce point, quelques éléments pour le Rapport. Le Conseil a décidé d'approuver le Rapport de la 106ème Session du Comité du Programme, observant que le Comité a approuvé la stratégie en matière de renforcement des capacités. Le Conseil a jugé utile l'examen à mi-parcours, et le rapport de synthèse 2010 dans la mesure où il a donné une vue d'ensemble des progrès réalisés, tout en soulignant le besoin de l'améliorer dans le futur. C'était donc un rapport d'étape.

A procéder à l'examen de deux importants rapports d'évaluation, d'une part en matière de santé animale durable, d'autre part, en ce qui concerne le Bureau régional et les Bureaux sous-régionaux pour le Proche Orient, le Conseil a apprécié la qualité et la pertinence des Recommandations résultant de ces évaluations qui pourraient être effectuées dans d'autres régions. Le Conseil a aussi encouragé les Groupes régionaux à poursuivre leur consultations en ce qui concerne les critères d'admissibilité aux PCTs à titre de don. Et enfin, il a demandé d'envisager la prolongation du mandat du Directeur de l'Évaluation.

Voilà les points que nous pourrions en tirer en sachant qu'il y a des commentaires qui seront formulés sur d'autres points, en particulier le Point 5, qui sera formulé avec la discussion du Programme de travail et de budget.

Je voudrais profiter de l'occasion pour m'associer à l'intervention d'un certain nombre de représentants pour féliciter le Comité du programme et en particulier, le Secrétariat, mais surtout sa Présidente, puisque j'ai pu mesurer moi aussi sa ténacité, sa volonté et son esprit d'entreprise et de faire des Comités quand c'était nécessaire et d'en faire encore en plus. Il y a eu un travail remarquable et très dense. Merci, Madame. Voilà donc pour ce point.

6. Reports of the 136th (8-9 February 2011), 137th (10-11 February 2011) and 138th (21-25 March 2011) Sessions of the Finance Committee (CL 141/5; CL 141/6; CL 141/9; CL 141/LIM/1)

6. Rapports des cent trente-sixième (8-9 février 2011), cent trente-septième (10-11 février 2011) et cent trente-huitième (21-25 mars 2011) sessions du Comité financier (CL 141/5; CL 141/6; CL 141/9; CL 141/LIM/1)

6. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 136.º (8-9 de febrero de 2011), 137.º (10-11 de febrero de 2011) y 138.º (21-25 de marzo de 2011) del Comité de Finanzas (CL 141/5; CL 141/6; CL 141/9; CL 141/LIM/1)

6.1 FAO Audited Accounts 2008-09 (C 2011/5 A and C 2011/5 B)

6.1 Comptes vérifiés de la FAO 2008-2009 (C 2011/5 A et C 2011/5 B)

6.1 Cuentas comprobadas de la FAO correspondientes a 2008-09 (C 2011/5 A y C 2011/5 B)

6.2 Status of Contributions and Arrears (CL 141/LIM/1)

6.2 État des contributions et des arriérés (CL 141/LIM/1)

6.2 Estado de las cuotas y de los atrasos (CL 141/LIM/1)

6.3 Scale of Contributions 2012-13

6.3 Barème des contributions 2012-2013 2 CL 141/1

6.3 Escala de cuotas para 2012-13

6.4 Other Matters Arising from the Reports

6.4 Autres questions découlant des rapports

6.4 Otras cuestiones derivadas de los informes

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au Point 6 concernant les rapports des Comités financiers à ces 136ème, 137ème et 138ème sessions tenues début février et 21-25 mars 2011. Vous avez les documents. Dans le cadre de ce point, nous aborderons les sous-points suivants:

- les comptes vérifiés de la FAO 2008-2009;
- l'état des contributions des arriérés;
- le barème des contributions 2012-2013; et
- les autres questions découlant des rapports.

La 136ème session du Comité financier a été consacrée à des questions intéressant le Programme alimentaire mondial. La 137ème Session spéciale a examiné les questions concernant le PTB 2012-2013 et la 138ème était une Session ordinaire. Comme convenu, les questions touchant le PTB seront

discutées plus tard au Point 3. Les délégués sont donc priés de réserver leurs commentaires sur ce point mais aussi à la 138ème Session. Le Comité financier a examiné la situation des contributions et des arriérés au 16 mars 2011. Une mise à jour a été faite au 5 avril 2011, c'est-à-dire la semaine dernière, de l'état des contributions et des arriérés qui se trouvent dans le document. Le 5 avril, l'Organisation a reçu plus de 61 millions de dollars EU et plus de 60 millions d'euros au titre des contributions dues pour 2011. Cela représente 28 pour cent des sommes dues en dollars EU et 29 pour cent des sommes dues en euros. Le montant des versements d'arriérés s'élève à 4 550 000 dollars EU et 1 340 000 euros, ce qui représente un niveau inférieur à celui de l'année dernière à la même période.

Il est regrettable aussi que 105 États Membres, soit 55 pour cent des Membres de l'Organisation, n'aient pas encore versé leur contribution pour l'année 2011 alors que le règlement des contributions pour les États Membres avait connu une amélioration en 2010 à la date du présent Rapport. Soixante-huit États Membres ont encore des arriérés de contribution pour 2010 et pour les années précédentes et 25 États Membres risquent de perdre leur droit de vote à la prochaine session de la Conférence en vertu de l'Article XXXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Le Conseil est donc invité à souligner une fois de plus qu'il importe que tous les États Membres sans distinction s'acquittent de leur obligation financière envers l'Organisation afin de lui permettre de continuer à remplir son mandat. Je voulais dire cela en préambule à la discussion comme nous le dirons en conclusion. Je ne le relirai pas et nous le mettrons dans le Rapport.

Je demande donc maintenant à Monsieur Elkhuisen, Vice Président du Comité financier de bien vouloir nous présenter le Rapport du Comité financier. Vous avez la parole.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Mr Independent Chairperson, Members of the Council, I am pleased to be here with you today to present the Reports of the three sessions of the Finance Committee that have taken place since your last session. These Reports are submitted to the Council in documents CL 141/5, CL 141/6 and CL 141/9. In addition, document CL 141/LIM/1 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the Status of Contributions and Arrears as of 5 April 2011, and the Independent Chairman has just given an overview of the situation.

While our Hundred and Thirty-sixth Session was dedicated to World Food Programme matters, the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session was a Special Session convened to consider elements of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2012-13 under the mandate of the Committee. The PWB was then considered in a comprehensive manner at the Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session. I shall report on the Committee's discussion of this matter separately under Item 3.

Similarly, discussions of the Finance Committee relating to the IPA and Conditions of Appointment of the Director-General shall be taken up by the Council under Items 12 and 15 of your Agenda, respectively.

At its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session, the Committee considered in addition an extraordinarily large number of items on its agenda covering a wide range of financial, budgetary, administrative, human resources and oversight matters.

At its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session in March 2011, the Committee reviewed the Status of Assessed contributions and Arrears, and welcomed the marked improvement in the cash position of the FAO and the significant reduction in the level of arrears at the end of 2010. The Committee also urged all Member Nations to make timely payment of Assessed Contributions to ensure the FAO could continue to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work.

The Committee welcomed the External Auditor's issuance of an unqualified opinion on the Organization's financial statements for 2008-09, and recommended that the Council submit to the Conference, for adoption, the Audited Accounts for the 2008-09 biennium. The Committee also looked forward to reviewing the progress on follow-up actions to the recommendations arising from the External Auditor's Report of its audit for the 2008-09 biennium.

The Committee reviewed the results of the annual valuation by external actuaries, noting the overall level of staff-related liabilities had reached USD 1.15 billion. The Committee noted that this factor was contributing to the rising level of the General Funds Deficit, which stood at USD 566 million at the end of 2010 due mainly to accumulating charges for unbudgeted costs of staff-related after-service liabilities. The Committee noted the amounts that would be necessary to fully fund the liabilities over the long term, but in the light of the difficult worldwide economic climate, the Committee recommended to Council to continue partial funding of USD 14.1 million in 2012-13 towards the After-Service Medical Coverage (ASMC) liability.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed the Scale of Contributions for 2012-13, and accordingly transmitted to the Council a related Draft Resolution for Adoption by the Conference.

The Committee welcomed the Mid-Term Review Synthesis Report 2010, which included the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance 2010-2011 and Programme and Budgetary Transfers to the 2010-11 Biennium. The Committee requested the Secretariat take account of lessons learned for the first Mid-Term Review (MTR) process so as to improve the format and content of the next MTR Synthesis Report, and to review best practices in implementation reporting by other UN Agencies.

The Committee took note of the forecasted biennial performance, recalled that any unspent balances in the Technical Cooperation Programme, Capital Expenditure and Security Expenditure Chapters would be transferred to the forthcoming biennium, and authorized the forecasted budgetary Chapter transfers from budgetary Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 13 and 14 in favour of Chapters 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, as outlined in Annex II of document CL 141/9.

Progress Report on Upgrade to Oracle R12 in parallel with the IPSAS Project:

On that issue, the Committee recognized the cost estimates for the project, noted that these were reflected in the Capital Expenditure proposals of PWB 2012-13, and supported the high priority given to the synergistic R12/IPSAS project in the budget proposals.

The Committee noted that, following extensive regional consultation, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) had, at its session in March 2011, endorsed a revised proposal on the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Ethics Committee. At its Hundred-and-Thirty-eighth Session, the Finance Committee endorsed, with minor amendments, these revised terms of reference and composition, including the proposal that the Ethics Committee be established for a period of four years beginning in January 2012.

The Committee welcomed the provision by the Secretariat of the in-depth review of the Shared Services Centre requested by the Council at its Hundred-and-Fortieth Session, and recommended submission of two proposals to the Council, namely: (i) consolidation of the hubs in one Centre in Budapest; and (ii) maintaining status quo of two hubs in Santiago and Bangkok, with the Centre in Budapest.

The Committee endorsed a resolution for transmittal to the Council appointing the incumbent External Auditor, the Commission on Audit of the Republic of the Philippines, as External Auditor of the Organization for a further period of two years commencing with the year 2012.

The Committee endorsed the draft resolution as outlined in Annex I of document FC 138/24; and recommended the draft resolution be submitted to Council for its consideration and decision on the Committee's recommendation to maintain the current level of the annual allowance. The Committee further recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of an adjustment mechanism that would enable the General Committee of the Conference to review the level of the annual allowance on a biennial basis, and this, of course, concerned the conditions appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Finally, the Committee endorsed the proposed amendment of Staff Regulation 301.11.1, as outlined in annex to document FC 138/23, to allow the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to rely on the services of the FAO Appeals Committee.

And that leads me to the end of my intervention on these issues.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole aux Représentations: la Thaïlande, le Gabon, l'Union européenne, le Maroc et le Mexique. Donc, nous avons dans l'ordre la Thaïlande, le Gabon, l'Union européenne, le Mexique, la Norvège et ensuite nous aurons le Maroc qui a demandé la parole, hors Conseil. La Thaïlande.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation would like to request the floor for the distinguished delegate of Morocco who will speak on behalf of G77 in his capacity as the G77 Chair.

M. Aristide ONGONE OBAME (Gabon)

La délégation du Gabon intervient au nom de la Région Afrique. Permettez-nous, tout d'abord, de remercier le Président du Comité financier pour la clarté de la synthèse du Rapport qu'il vient de nous présenter. Notre intervention ne portera que sur quelques points de ce Rapport.

Sur les comptes vérifiés de la FAO 2008-09, le Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes recense, semble-t-il, un certain nombre de faiblesses au niveau du contrôle administratif et du fonctionnement des structures décentralisées. Nous apprécions dans le Projet, l'élargissement de l'échantillon des structures décentralisées à contrôler au cours du présent exercice. Nous marquons aussi notre satisfaction quant au programme de travail du Commissaire aux comptes car celui-ci porte également sur l'audit de plusieurs domaines thématiques des activités des opérations de l'Organisation qui intéressent au premier plan notre région. Nous soutenons donc le Projet de résolution approuvé à la Conférence sur les comptes vérifiés de l'Organisation.

Sur la situation des contributions mises en recouvrement, au-delà de la satisfaction que nous éprouvons suite à la nette amélioration de la situation de la trésorerie de l'Organisation, il nous faut cependant reconnaître que seul le paiement intégral et dans les délais des contributions mises en recouvrement permet de garantir la solidité de la structure financière de l'Organisation. Par conséquent, l'exécution de son Programme de travail, auquel les États Membres tiennent énormément car il contribue, non seulement au développement économique à travers une meilleure évaluation de nos productions agricoles mais aussi à assurer la sécurité alimentaire de nombreux États-sécurité alimentaire sans laquelle les risques de déstabilisation sociale et de remise en cause des progrès enregistrés sur le plan économique demeurent vivaces.

La région Afrique invite donc tous les États Membres, en particulier les premiers bénéficiaires des prestations de l'Organisation, à manifester, par le respect de leurs obligations financières, leur attachement à la mission de cette Organisation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Gabon et je dois mes excuses au G77 qui s'était bien organisé pour intervenir en demandant la parole au Président et je n'ai pas fait attention dans l'ordre. Je donne donc tout de suite la parole au Président du G77, l'Ambassadeur du Maroc.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Président du G77)

My intervention on behalf of the G77 plus China is under the different Item 6.4 and it is a declaration on Shared Services Centres based on the proposals of two Sub-regional Groups as proposed by GRULAC, and I will be reading the text as it was agreed.

Regarding the proposal on the consolidation of a single Shared Services Centre in Budapest, the G77 wishes to affirm its support of proposal number 2 in paragraph 66 of the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session of the Finance Committee CL 141/9, that is "Maintaining status quo of two hubs in Santiago and Bangkok with the Centre in Budapest".

The Hundred and Fortieth Session of the Council recognized that due consideration regarding this matter should be given to the positions expressed by the Regional Conferences in their new role as Governing Bodies. This is focused in document CL 140/REP paragraph 24. Based on this, the G77 plus China expressed the following positions.

One, the process of evaluation of changes in the Shared Services Centres requires further reflection and the incorporation of criteria additional to cost-related factors.

Two, the analysis of SSCs structure in factions should be carried out in a deliberate manner, and should include criteria related to quality and effectiveness of services delivered, striking a balance with possible long-term cost savings.

Three, services currently provided by SSC hubs in Santiago and Bangkok show good results in terms of competency profile of the existing team, languages, local knowledge, time differences and cost savings.

Four, while the G77 appreciates the quality of the services provided by the SSC hubs in Bangkok and Santiago, concern is expressed about the ability of a centralized SSC in Budapest to provide adequate services to field programme activities in both regions.

The support of all Members of the Council in this matter will uphold the views of the Regional Conferences regarding this issue and, therefore, strengthen their role as Governing Bodies of the Organization for the benefit of the whole Membership.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union reiterates its strong commitment to the Reform of FAO and the full-fledged and rapid implementation of the IPA as a top priority for the Organization. Rebuilding confidence in the Organization is vital for the future.

On human resource management, the European Union stresses the importance of continuing and extending the mobility programme, which should shift from its current voluntary status to a more mandatory model, both at Headquarters and in the field. The EU also points out that sufficient resources should be made available for urgent implementation as agreed in the IPA.

On financial highlights and Status of Current Assessments and Arrears, the EU welcomes the lowest levels of arrears of contributions in nearly three decades. This is a marked improvement of payment of arrears and contributions in 2010 and the European Union encourages Member Nations to pay their contributions and arrears in a timely manner and without conditions. We also call up on Management to review and report on the measures introduced to improve prompt payment of contributions and arrears by Member Nations particularly those concerning the Incentive Scheme for Prompt Payment of Contributions, whose efficacy has been proven.

With regard to the 2008-2009 Report of the External Auditors, the European Union stresses that the Report and Management response to the recommendations should be made available in a timely manner. The European Union welcomes the fact that in addition to the tendered financial audit, the plan of audit work for the 2010-11 biennium also covers audits of emergency operations and rehabilitation activities, treasury operations, human resource management processes, the implementation of the IPA including the related risk management assessment and the introduction of IPSAS as well as a number of audits for Regional and Country Offices.

The European Union takes note that the total amount related to After-Service Medical Liabilities as at 31 December 2010 is USD 1,149.8 million. The European Union also recognizes that the growth of the liabilities has stabilized. The European Union recalls the ACABQ appeal for a UN System-wide approach on cost containment measures as part of the response to the problem of funding After-Service Medical Liabilities. The European Union also subscribes to the Finance Committee view that the credible long-term strategy to address the funding requirements of this liability is needed.

On one hand, the European Union agrees with the opinion of the Finance Committee that technically there is no immediate financial need to address full funding in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13. The European Union also agrees with the recommendation to Council that the Organization continue following the same approach previously approved by Conference, i.e. partial

funding of USD 14.1 million as a minimal measure to face the considerable liabilities. On the other hand, the European Union considers that the Organization and the Membership need to address the significant unfunded After-Service Medical Coverage Liability with credible long-term strategies as already identified with the complete and unequivocal picture consistently provided by Management.

The European Union recognizes that FAO was among the first to tackle After-Service Medical Coverage by according the liability and seeking funding solutions, and encourages the Secretariat to explore measures that have been adopted by other UN Agencies and identify alternative comprehensive strategies for financing these liabilities.

Regarding the financial health of the Organization, the European Union agrees with the Report of the Finance Committee and endorses its recommendations. The European Union agrees with the cost estimates presented for the upgrade of Oracle R12 in parallel with the Programme of Work.

The European Union agrees with the current policy on support costs and encourages the Secretariat to move forward with the implementation of measures within the current scope of the FAO Support Cost Policy. The European Union looks forward to reviewing the policy in further detail at a later stage, and requests the Secretariat to diligently continue undertaking consultations on a UN System-wide basis, as well as with resource partners, to further develop these proposals.

The European Union welcomes the proposal on the technical merits and the proposal of introducing a single Shared Services Centre in Budapest. The European Union draws attention to the fact that the survey mentioned in the creation of a Single Shared Services Centre Study, document FC 138/15, is an old one that dates back to 2009 when the SSC in Budapest was a new hub compared to Santiago or Bangkok, which had already been operating for a long time. Reassurances have been made by Management to the Finance Committee that there have been significant improvements since then, which have been confirmed by the more recent report by the Inspector General. The European Union acknowledges that 85 percent of FAO Staff is already serviced from the Budapest Centre, which has yielded savings in excess of USD 10 million in the first biennium of operations. The European Union also recognizes that the expected savings will amount to approximately USD 2 million per biennium. Taking all these reasons into account, the European Union supports the rapid implementation of a single SSC in Budapest. Clearly, if the creation of the single Shared Services Centre is postponed, the same amount of savings will have to be found elsewhere in the budget.

The European Union agrees with the proposal of the Finance Committee and the CCLM on the Ethics Committee.

The European Union welcomes the in-depth 2010 Annual Activity Report of the Office of the Inspector General and the issues presented by the Inspector General. The European Union encourages the work of the Office of the Inspector General in support of the Management of key risks of the Organization, including the Decentralization and those related to major gaps in Management control over the Reform Process.

The European Union stresses the importance of ensuring complete transparency in the establishment of the conditions for the Director-General to be elected by the Conference in June 2011. The EU emphasizes the need to ensure clarity on all aspects including those related to accommodation costs.

The European Union attaches great importance to the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the selection and conditions of service of the Executive Heads in the United Nations System organizations, and stresses that its recommendations, which have been accepted by the Chief Executive Board and the Director-General, should be strictly followed in establishing the Terms and Conditions of Appointment for the new Director-General.

The European Union takes note of the proposal not to change the conditions of service for the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Finally, the European Union agrees with the Report of the Finance Committee.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

Regarding the Shared Services Centre matter, Thailand aligns itself with the statement made by Morocco, Chair of the G77. The status quo was the position expressed by the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in its new role as a Governing Body and is now supported by the G77 Group.

My delegation's remark is that the proposed consolidations will neither lead to substantial savings as originally planned, nor assure efficiency of operations. The Report itself reveals that the cost of four human resources P3 posts proposed to be established in the four Regional Offices would be equal to the savings accrued by the consolidation of the SSC hubs. We learned that there would be one-time implementation costs of USD 200,000 which need to be deducted from the expected savings. However, the Report does not at all mention anywhere about separation costs of the two Professional staff and twenty General Service staff whose posts will be abolished in Bangkok and Santiago. This will certainly lead to a certain amount of additional costs at the end of this exercise, instead of savings, which is the original purpose.

With regards to efficiency, we are not in favour of expanding less satisfactory units and closing the best functioning ones. We support a savings policy, but do not support sacrifice of efficiency which is inconsistent with the principle of the Performance Evaluation Management System. We commend Management and the Secretariat in their efforts for achieving savings under the IPA. We encourage them to find some innovative ways to obtain savings, not only in operations but also in culture change, where there will be no negative impact on existing efficiency.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente. Voy a referirme solamente a unos de los aspectos del Informe presentado por el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas donde mi delegación expresó ya en forma más amplia una serie de puntos.

En primer lugar, mi delegación se congratula por la situación de la mejora de los pagos atrasados, y vuelve a reiterar la necesidad de que todos los Países Miembros, independientemente del monto de sus cuotas, contribuyan a un esfuerzo multilateral conjunto de esta Organización.

En segundo lugar, damos la bienvenida a los avances que se han hecho en relación con el Comité de Ética, los avances que se han hecho para proveer la información financiera de una serie de funcionarios así como la política de protección a quienes señalen irregularidades en las operaciones de esta Organización.

También creemos que el documento preparado es un documento todavía en progreso y pensamos que es un paso en la dirección adecuada que eventualmente permitirá ver las razones de las transferencias y si estas transferencias se van apegando a las prioridades establecidas por la propia Conferencia de la Organización.

Queremos también reconocer los esfuerzos realizados hasta el momento por la Secretaría de la FAO para lograr ahorros importantes por eficiencia por un monto de 26.5 millones de dólares. Pero queremos destacar en este sentido, que el Gobierno de México mantiene restricciones financieras en los presupuestos de los Organismos Internacionales y está a favor de un Crecimiento Nominal Cero, favoreciendo en lo posible las restricciones presupuestarias promoviendo la eficiencia y el ahorro en el presupuesto.

Asimismo, quisiéramos exhortar a sumar esfuerzos para estar con el planteamiento que se presentó en la 138.^a Reunión del Comité de Finanzas en congruencia con el anuncio que hizo en su momento el Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas sobre la búsqueda de reducciones presupuestarias en virtud de la difícil situación financiera que impera a nivel internacional.

Mr Alf Havard VESTRHEIM (Norway)

We welcome the Report from the Finance Committee. We have a few remarks, however, that we would like to make regarding the Sub-items 6.1 and 6.4.

First of all, we reiterate our concern for the delay in presenting the Audited Accounts and the External Auditor's Report. This must be avoided in the future.

Secondly, we are concerned about some of the findings of both the External Auditor and the Inspector General. Regarding the lack of sufficient checking of expenditure, as identified by the External Auditor, we recommend FAO to fully exploit the potential of the upgraded Oracle system to ensure satisfactory control. Regarding the low degree of implementation of the recommendations made by the Inspector General, we would like to know why the Organization is unable to follow-up on this more swiftly. We support the request made by the Finance Committee to have a comprehensive Management response plan for a follow-up of the Inspector General's future reports.

Thirdly, we are particularly concerned about the findings of both the External Auditor and the Inspector General regarding the weaknesses in the Decentralized Offices. We would welcome more information on how this is followed up, what actions have been taken, what actions are planned and within what deadline. Have any cases of suspected fraud been identified, and have these been investigated?

Now when it comes to the Policy on Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports, we welcome the proposed policy. We would suggest, however, that the right to request such disclosure should not be restricted to Permanent Representatives to FAO only, but rather expanded to include any official request made by the Member Nations.

To conclude, we strongly support the Director-General's proposal to establish one single Shared Services Centre in Budapest. This is an important demonstration of a renewed FAO that is capable of ensuring efficiency and savings, thus strengthening programme delivery.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada welcomes the Report of the Finance Committee, including its call for very close follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the External Auditor's Report. Secondly, on the Shared Service Centre it is useful to recall that what we are calling up here are backroom operations, not services to Member Nations nor to the public, but purely internal functions supporting FAO staff. We note that the suggestion of maintaining the status quo in effect means that USD 2 million will have to be cut from either programming or efficiency savings. Therefore I wonder, Mr Chair, how you intend to deal with this and whether it might be also a part of the discussion of the PWB level that follows under Item 3. Perhaps we might have a better chance of progress on this decisive issue in the type of Friends of the Chair process that is inevitably necessary to establish the budget level. The third comment has to do with CL 141/LIM/1 which we have just received on the Status of Contributions and Arrears. The last time we got this document, at the last Council, Canada noted that Assessed Contributions are in fact assessed to individual Member Nations and are paid by individual Member Nations and not regions. They are individual Members Nations' responsibilities and are therefore it was inappropriate that we have the types of pie charts that are demonstrated in paragraph 5. As I recall, Mr Nelson responding for Management gave the appropriate assurance that these pie charts would not be repeated, and therefore Canada is surprised as well as very disappointed to see this paragraph in this document.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

Allow me to start by endorsing or giving our delegation's endorsement for all three Reports of the Finance Committee, the Hundred and Thirty-sixth session, the Hundred and Thirty-seventh session, and the Hundred and Thirty-eighth session and recommend their adoption en block. As for the Report of the External Auditor on the Audited Accounts, we agree with Gabon and Norway, just before us, that Management controls over the decentralized field network are and will remain a concern of ours and will require careful attention and continued monitoring.

Likewise, considering comments made here under this Item by several delegations, my delegation is disappointed by the debate over the Shared Service Centre and the rejection of what we believe to have been a clear and well-argued evaluation by Management on this issue. We believe this debate does not bode particularly well for our hope to have a sober and technical debate in the coming months

and years over the decentralized network. Needless to say, we support option one in paragraph 66 of the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session. We also align ourselves with comments just earlier made by the European Union regarding the JIU reports 2006-2008 as well as those by Mexico regarding the Ethics Committee's terms of reference, a Financial Disclosure Policy and a new Whistleblowers Policy at FAO, all of which we believe are helpful for the integrity framework of the Organization.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation's intervention will be very brief.

First of all, we welcome the Report of the Finance Committee and also the presentation made by the Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Regarding the proposal made by the Secretariat on improving the financial situation of the Organization, the Chinese delegation supports paragraphs 21 and 39 of the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-Eighth Session of the Finance Committee i.e. to defer any decisions on the incremental funding proposals by the Secretariat to improve the financial situation. FAO should look into the approaches of the General Assembly and of the other UN organizations to avoid overloading financial burdens on the Member Nations which will only result in more arrears.

Regarding the SSC, my delegation, in principle supports the opinion of the G77's Representative, and also the comments made by the Thai Representative. As in the session in March of the Finance Committee on this issue no consensus was reached, we hope that the Secretariat will provide a more comprehensive and analytic report or information so that we can have more consultations and study this issue.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, deseo agradecer los Informes que se han presentado sobre las diferentes reuniones del 136.º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas. Además tengo algunas observaciones que vamos a dejar para el Punto 3. Ahora solamente quiero referirme brevemente a la intervención hecha tanto por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y por Tailandia sobre el tema de los Centros de Servicios Compartidos.

Como se sabe, la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe que se reunió en abril de 2010 fue informada de los avances de la reorganización de los Servicios Administrativos de la FAO. En el último proceso de revisión, según fue incluido en el Plan Inmediato de Acción, se identificaron servicios adicionales que podrían ser desplazados, niveles necesarios de equipo técnico y líneas de dependencia y evaluación de la actual estructura de los tres Centros de Servicios Compartidos, proponiéndose la creación de un solo de éstos para todo el mundo en Budapest, Hungría, como una fusión de los establecidos en Santiago de Chile y Bangkok.

La Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe estimó y señaló a la atención de la Conferencia de la FAO que el proceso de evaluación sobre los cambios en los Centros de Servicios Compartidos requiere ulteriores reflexiones y también requiere incorporar criterios adicionales respecto a los costos. En esa oportunidad identificamos que, en particular los servicios prestados actualmente por el Centro de Santiago tienen buenos resultados en función de los perfiles de competencia del equipo existente, idiomas, conocimiento local y uso horario. Sin embargo, podría mejorarse si se considerara separar los Servicios de Recursos Humanos respecto de los Administrativos y de Viaje, de esta manera asegurando agilidad y coherencia en las actividades de ambas esferas.

En tal sentido, algunos miembros de nuestro Grupo Regional, el cual ya está representado en la intervención que hiciera el G77, han ratificado en distintas oportunidades en los Comités y en otros Órganos Rectores que es importante que tomemos en consideración que el rol de las Conferencias Regionales, que deben ser reconocidos como Órganos Rectores de la FAO, muchas Conferencias Regionales ya han fijado posición respecto a este punto. Igualmente exhortamos a que los Comités Técnicos tomen decisiones que se apeguen a las resoluciones que allí se toman.

La problemática planteada por una eventual oficina única centralizada en Budapest, creemos que no favorecería a la eficiencia en los procedimientos de trabajo porque hay elementos de burocracia que quedarían concentrados en esa oficina que deben tener una evaluación posterior también a este Consejo.

Recalcamos la importancia del factor cultural de mantener las oficinas existentes. El factor Descentralización, opuesto a centralizar, es un elemento clave que se ha planteado para la reforma de la FAO y es un argumento fundamental en respaldo a esas posturas, tomando en consideración la realidad de los países y la realidad de esas Sub-regiones. Adicionalmente, hemos tenido informaciones que deben ser tomadas en cuenta: estamos hablando de dos países con un producto interno bruto menor, si lo medimos numéricamente, que el que tiene Hungría, por lo cual la eliminación de estos dos servicios afectaría aún más a Chile y Tailandia.

Tomando particular consideración de la crisis que se ha manifestado desde los años 2008-2009 y que todavía afecta a Europa, sabemos que la recesión ha afectado a Hungría, habiendo disminuido su crecimiento y los niveles de desempleo, y afectado la deuda pública y la inflación. Por tanto, consideramos que debería establecerse un estudio más detenido para que se pudieran poner a la orden de nuestros Grupos Regionales, tanto del G77 como del GRULAC, documentos de soporte a todo lo que me estoy refiriendo en este momento.

Los otros aspectos los vamos a tocar en el Punto 3.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am going to be brief and I speak on behalf of the Near East Group here. First of all, I welcome the results published by the Finance Committee and the performances, and I would like to thank those who contributed to the drafting of this document. We agree, of course, with promoting efficiency as highlighted in the Report.

Now, as regards a single Shared Services Centre, as I said earlier, when we had our earlier discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget, our position was expressed also by the G77. In other words we are in favour of maintaining the status quo and this, because of the reasons that were mentioned by our different colleagues – colleagues from GRULAC, from the Asia Group and our colleagues from Thailand – namely, the fact that the presence of these centres contributes to one of the most importance objectives for us in the Organization, namely, the struggle against centralization. I think that we should continue to further study the matter and not make any hasty conclusions or decisions.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Australia supports the reports from the Hundred and Thirty-sixth session, the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session, the Hundred and Thirty-eight session of the Finance Committee and has a few very short comments to make. Firstly, in terms of contributions and arrears, we now have a very positive contribution in terms of arrears and would urge countries not to use this as a reason for complacency but instead to see if we can again improve that situation further. I know it has slipped a little in recent months, and this really does underline the importance to all countries that make their payments.

I also would like to follow up a point made by one other delegation about the document CL 141/LIM.1 particularly the pie charts on page 6. My concern perhaps is not so much about portraying this by regions but actually combining my region with that of Asia because they of course, are two separate regions and it would be good to have them reflected as two separate regions. I recognize this would make my region, of course, almost invisible in this pie chart, but to me that is not such a bad thing to have. So if the Secretariat could keep that in mind for future versions, or we could perhaps go with the previous suggestion and delete these entirely.

When it comes to the more difficult issues, in particular the issue of the Shared Services Centre, we have carefully considered this issue for some time and we see both sides of this argument. As a country which is at times 10 hours out of the time gap with Rome, it is very hard to deal with time gaps and things like, so we certainly understand both sides of this argument. But we also know the advice of the Secretariat, and the ongoing efforts and ongoing dedication of the Secretariat to this Reform. I think that speaks volumes in itself, the fact that they have pursued this very earnestly for

some considerable time. I think that shows the Secretariat is truly convinced that this is a good thing to do; it is not just something they found as a quick way to save money.

We note that the other hubs have already been merged into Budapest and emergency services are already handled out of that office since 2008, and it does seem to be delivering expected efficiency gains. On balance, the Australian delegation realizes that these are difficult times and we all have to make difficult decisions and, on that basis, we support the FAO's proposal to merge the Shared Services Centres into one global hub. We believe we cannot in good faith ask the Secretariat to make savings, and then disempower the Secretariat when it makes a well-argued proposal.

Finally, I guess on this issue we know that agreement will not be reached here, but somehow we have to find USD 2 million savings in this PWB.

Mr Igor SCHERBAK (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, I would like to apologize because my colleague from Korea I believe put his flag up first, but it seems to be that I have jumped ahead in the queue.

I would like to express gratitude for the documents which represent the work of the Finance Committee, and first of all support the position of the European Union. The Russian Federation would also like to support Norway and the United States with regard to the Secretariat's proposal regarding a Single Shared Service Centre in Budapest.

We would like to support the new Scale of Assessments of the FAO, based on the UN Scale and in accordance with the previous resolution of FAO. We would also like to support the approval of the Audited Accounts of 2008-2009.

We also support the payment in good time of contributions, and welcome the improvement in financial discipline which has been seen.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to thank the Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee for the clear report and presentation. We have three points to highlight.

The first point relates to the staff-related liabilities. The Republic of Korea agrees with the recommendation of the Finance Committee which is, in light of difficult world economic situation and given that there is no immediate financial need to address full funding in the PWB 2012-2013, FAO continues to partially fund the ASCMC past service liability put at USD 14.1 million. We also would like to encourage the Secretariat to seek alternative comprehensive long-term strategies for financing the liabilities, as well as investigating other measures adopted by other UN Agencies.

The second point relates to the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013. The Republic of Korea would like to stress the importance of applying greater fiscal discipline in the FAO budget, given the budgetary constraints of many Members as well as the still sluggish world economic situation.

Our final point relates to the implementation of corporate human resource strategies. We appreciate the Secretariat for the progress made so far in human resource reform, in particular in introducing the Staff Mobility Programme, the Junior Professional Programme and Performance Management. In implementing these measures, we would like to encourage the Secretariat to focus on bringing about genuine Culture Change across the Organization for a greater focus on research and efficiency.

Finally we would like to stress the need to enhance geographic representation and gender balance while recruiting qualified staff members.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y-a-t'il d'autres demandes d'intervention? Si tel n'est pas le cas, la parole au Vice-président et ensuite au Secrétaire.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Thank you for your kind words addressed to the Committee, its work and its Report. That is much appreciated.

Most of the questions are, of course, addressed to the Secretariat. I just want to refer to one issue, which is the External Auditor's Report and its availability in a timely manner. I wish to report to Council that we had an intense discussion with the External Auditor on this issue and also with Management on the importance of having both the Report by the External Auditor and the Management Reply in time for the Finance Committee to deal with it and to report on it to Council. So we have reasons to understand that a proper, concise cycle will now exist regarding these issues.

For the other questions, I refer to the Secretariat.

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

Let me start off with the Shared Services Centre since that has taken up many interventions from the floor. Let me first, in fact, recall the long chronology of the discussion on the Shared Services Centre. This was first tabled in the current Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 nearly two years ago, where a proposal for a consolidation of the hubs was made following the Root and Branch Review which was commissioned under the Immediate Plan of Action, and it arose from a factual comment which was made by Ernst & Young that comparable organizations providing worldwide back-office services, provide these services from a single location. A paper was then presented to the Regional Conferences, as you had requested, to get their feedback. The key feedback from the Regional Conferences, which was also underlined by the Council, was to request Management to prepare an in-depth report which addresses both cost savings as well as qualitative aspects. That in-depth report was prepared, and that in-depth report, in Management's view, comprehensively covers both cost savings and qualitative aspects. The Finance Committee undertook a technical review of this in-depth report. It welcomed the in-depth review but, as you know from paragraphs 62 through 66 of the Finance Committee Report in CL 141/9, it was not able to reach a decision.

I have noted calls from several Members for a thorough review and for more data, but I would submit to you that you already have all the needed elements to take a decision. In fact, you have more details on this proposal for consolidating the two hubs than the original proposal that Management submitted back in 2006 when the Governing Bodies decided on setting up a Shared Service Centre structure. The magnitude of that proposal back in 2006 was four times the amount of this present proposal, and it led to demonstrable savings of USD 10 million per biennium. You have more information now for this proposal than you received then. I would therefore appeal to the Council to take a decision based on the extensive information that is already available.

On Management's part, I can repeat that we are satisfied with the analysis and the recommendations that are contained in the in-depth report which includes qualitative factors, as well as quantitative factors and would point out, as you already know, that the quantification of the savings are already reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget. I would also echo, in this regard, comments made by Australia that the Emergency Operations worldwide are already successfully backstopped from Budapest, and would also echo comments from the European Union that there have been significant qualitative improvements since the survey was conducted in 2009 - a survey that was summarized in the in-depth review. Specific improvement measures have included service baskets in the human resources area, more service-level agreements, more comprehensive training for the newly-recruited staff, and more effective tracking tools to deal with the work flows of the transactions that are processed in Budapest.

In conclusion on this point, all I can say is that Management's task is to propose what we believe to be a technically-sound proposal, but it is up to the Governing Bodies to take a decision on this proposal. Through whatever mechanism that you may wish to set up, Management will try to diligently support the decision process, and in any event we will follow your guidance and whatever decision that you take on this matter.

I would also like to touch upon some interventions made on the Rotation Policy. We appreciate the importance that has been given to the need for a sound Rotation Policy in FAO. We advised the Finance Committee that the IPA activity on rotation is delayed, but we also advised that corrective action is being taken. While the Interim Rotation Guidelines are in place, we are accelerating our actions to develop a Rotation Policy before year-end. This will be done with due consultation, including consultation with our Staff Bodies, and we will take account of the opinion expressed at the Finance Committee and repeated here, that a mobility policy should be based on a more mandatory model. I should also recall that the rotation proposals for the PWB 2012-13 are fixed at the same level as the PWB 2010-11 as included in the IPA, so while there were some calls for an expansion in the Rotation Policy as we move forward, I should point out that the resources are not programmed in the proposed budget for such expansion.

Turning briefly to the intervention from Norway on the External Audit recommendations and, in particular weaknesses that were found in the Decentralized Offices, I would like to assure you that we will provide a comprehensive response to the External Audit Report at the next regular session of the Finance Committee in the autumn of this year. This will include, of course, actions already being taken on the items that are regarded as either urgent or fundamental.

There was a comment made by Norway on the low degree of implementation of the Inspector General's recommendations. I should recall here that these are being very carefully-monitored by Senior Management. We accelerated the process of implementation, particularly during 2010 and this first part of 2011. The rate of implementation of our outstanding recommendations is also overseen by the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee. In fact, the Finance Committee noted last month that there was a substantial improvement on the part of Management in dealing with outstanding recommendations.

Finally, with regard to the comment made by Canada on CL 141/LIM/1, we would indeed be happy to remove the chart. This time I confirm that we will remove the pie chart in the future versions of this document.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Juneja.

Nous arrivons au terme de la discussion sur ce point. J'essaie de vous faire un peu une synthèse des éléments qui ont été évoqués. Le Conseil approuve le Rapport de la 138ème Session du Comité financier formulant toute une série d'observations sur les différentes questions examinées au cours de cette réunion qui sont illustrées à titre indicatif. Le Conseil note que le Barème des contributions proposées pour 2012-2013 a été approuvé. Le Conseil a, par ailleurs, accueilli favorablement le Rapport de synthèse de 2010 sur l'examen à mi-parcours, notant l'état d'avancement du Programme de travail, tout service de financement confondu.

Le Conseil a noté les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie de gestion des ressources humaines à l'échelle de l'Organisation, et cela a été apprécié. Pour ce qui est des Comptes vérifiés de la FAO 2008-2009, l'opinion sans réserve du Commissaire aux comptes a été accueillie favorablement. Le Conseil a approuvé le mandat et la composition du Comité de l'éthique tels que proposés par le Comité financier et les Comités des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques. Les informations fournies concernant les Conditions de nomination du Directeur général ont été notées, sachant qu'un complément de renseignements sera soumis au Bureau de la Conférence en juin et juillet 2011. Enfin, s'agissant du Centre de service commun, le Conseil a pris note de deux options proposées soit le status quo, à savoir deux pôles à Santiago et Bangkok plus un Centre à Budapest, soit le regroupement des pôles en un seul Centre à Budapest. Je suggère que cette question soit débattue plus en profondeur dans le contexte du PTB pour voir si nous pourrions faire une marche supplémentaire. Voilà ce qui pourrait nous servir de cadre. On aurait pu mettre beaucoup d'autres paragraphes, mais comme c'est indiqué directement dans le Rapport, ce n'est pas la peine que nous nous redisions une deuxième fois. Les points les plus essentiels ont été retenus. Cette base nous servira à faire l'élément de Rapport sur ce Comité.

Je vous remercie de la présentation du Comité et je remercie tous les membres du Comité et le Secrétariat, sans oublier aussi Monsieur Sorour qui n'a pas pu être avec nous, qui le regrette beaucoup et qui a donné quand même beaucoup de son temps et de son énergie pour ce Comité. Merci, donc, au Vice-président de l'avoir remplacé.

Le Point 6 est clos et je vous rappelle, à l'exception des commentaires sur le PTB, qu'il y a des points qui pourront être relus comme celui d'ailleurs que je viens d'évoquer concernant le Centre de services communs.

3. Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (Recommendation to Conference on budget level) (C 2011/3)

3. Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 (révisé) et Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 (Recommandation à la Conférence concernant le montant du budget (C 2011/3)

3. Plan a plazo medio (PPM) para 2010-13 (revisado) y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (recomendación a la Conferencia sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) (C 2011/3)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Point 3: le Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 révisé et le Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 qui figurent dans les deux documents. Avant d'aller plus loin, je voulais vous faire savoir comment nous allons essayer de travailler, puisqu'il n'est pas prévu qu'il y ait une session de nuit. Nous arrêtons à 20 heures et demie parce que nous ne pourrions pas tout faire ce soir.

Je vous propose, comme je vous l'ai dit ce matin dans mon introduction de continuer jusqu'aux 20 heures. Le Conseil a une mission beaucoup plus forte que par le passé dans le cadre de la Réforme du PAI. Nous devons fournir un niveau de budget pour la Conférence. Alors bien sûr nous pouvons y passer cette nuit et la nuit d'après. Je vous propose que la présentation soit faite par le Secrétariat, ensuite il y aura les interventions et tant que celles-ci ne seront pas terminées, ce soir ou demain matin, nous continuerons et nous ferons un point à l'issue de toutes les interventions préliminaires pour faire l'état de la situation sur les points qui sont partagés, ceux qui peuvent être partagés et ceux qui doivent être discutés.

Et en fonction de la situation et de l'heure demain matin, nous verrons si nous suspendons le sujet pour continuer notre Conseil et le continuer demain soir. Mais, d'ores et déjà, en regardant le temps que nous avons passé aujourd'hui il est mieux que vous prévoyez que demain soir nous recommencions une série de cinq heures et demie à huit heures et demie, et si c'est nécessaire pour le budget nous aviserons à ce moment là soit sous forme de Conseil complet soit sous forme de Groupes de travail d'aller plus loin. Donc, on ne prend pas de décisions formelles pour l'instant, mais voilà toutes les décisions, car j'entends bien, en tant que Président, aller d'ici vendredi midi sur ce sujet là, le plus près possible d'un consensus.

Je ne suis pas tout à fait naïf pour dire que ce soir ou demain matin nous aurons un accord, mais le rôle du Président et celui du Conseil c'est d'aller le plus loin possible, le plus près possible d'un accord avec ce qu'il restera à faire, les lignes cadres sur lesquels nous demanderons au Secrétariat, entre le Conseil et la Conférence, de continuer à travailler. Voilà donc l'esprit dans lequel nous allons travailler et je vous demande encore un peu d'ardeur. Monsieur Haight je vous donne la parole pour votre présentation.

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

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In fact I had intended to be relatively brief in view of the limited time.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 2012-2013 biennium in the context of the Reviewed Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013.

The elements of the proposal under review are found under document C 2011/3, including two annexes on the FAO Website.

In addition, at the request of the Programme and Finance Committee sessions two weeks ago, three information notes have been prepared and were made available on the FAO Website and on the

Permanent Representatives Website on Friday of last week. They are also available at the Documents Desk outside the room.

Information Note 1 provides further explanation of resource shifts between and within the Strategic and Functional Objectives;

Information Note 2 provides additional information on Functional Objective X on effective collaboration with Member Nations and Stakeholders;

Information Note 3 provides further details on the inflation factors and cost breakdowns used in estimating the anticipated cost increases.

In my introduction I will touch on what the PWB aims to accomplish, how it was prepared and six main elements of the proposal.

As the Director-General emphasized this morning, FAO is at a crossroads. The PWB is designed to help you, the Members, address the critical challenges in food and agriculture that we all face. It focuses on achieving agreed results set out in the Medium-Term Plan, producing measurable outcomes on the ground. The PWB continues the Reform and the renewal of the Organization as agreed in the Immediate Plan of Action. It continues the drive for efficiency savings, which is all the more important at this time of financial and economic difficulties for many Members.

This Programme of Work and Budget is the first to have been prepared under the full cycle of formal governance input under the Results-Based Planning Process. This process has involved extensive consultation on the priorities for the work of the Organization at the five Regional Conferences and the five Technical Committees starting one year ago and ending only in February of this year. It has involved three rounds of consultations with the Programme Committee on the process of priority-setting and two rounds with the Finance Committee on financial matters.

Internally, the preparation process has been led by the multi-disciplinary strategy teams responsible for each of the Strategic and Functional Objectives. The teams have worked to define the contributions required from units across the House to achieve the Organizational Results. Regional Strategy Teams have been formed, and they have defined the regional results that address the regional areas of priority action that have been agreed by the Regional Conferences and contribute to the Organizational Results.

I will briefly outline six main elements of the PWB proposal that the Council needs to consider.

First, the results-based frameworks in the Medium-Term Plan have been reviewed and sharpened. As requested by the Conference in 2009, this review has focused on improved formulation of the indicators, the baselines and the targets for achievement. These can be seen in section 4 of the document as well as in Annex 14 where the change is highlighted. Information Note 2 provides additional information on Functional Objective X on the effective collaboration with Member Nations and Stakeholders. The Functional Objectives, both X and Y, apply a results-based framework to the delivery of essential services to support the achievement of the Strategic Objectives. Functional Objective X comprises four sets of non administrative services involving cooperation among many Organizational Units. The Information Note indicates the budgeted resources for each contributing office to Functional Objective X, the key services to be delivered and the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis for the coming biennium in the same format as was used for the Strategic Objectives.

The second main element of the PWB relates to priorities for the technical work of the Organization. These are areas of programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis within and between the Strategic Objectives. These areas take into account the guidance received from the Governing Bodies, the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, as well as recommendations from relevant evaluations and lessons learned from the first year of implementation in 2010, in particular the Mid-Term Review. The areas of emphasis in resource comparisons are provided in Section 1.B of the PWB document. Information Note 1 explains further the four sources of change in the net appropriation for each Strategic Objective and Organizational Result. These four areas of change relate to the IPA actions including IPA efficiency savings, the reallocation of the USD 10.4 million in resources for reinstatement in 2012-2013 of the one time fortuitous savings mandated by the Conference, only in the

2010-2011 biennium. They also relate to programmatic change as areas of work that will be reduced or no longer carried out and new or enhanced areas of work. And it also shows the non-programmatic transfer of areas of work between Objectives and Results, that is, work that will still be carried out but has been placed under more appropriate Organizational Results. The Summary Table 1 in Information Note 1 also shows the allocation of the FAOR Programme resources to the Strategic Objectives, as called for by the 2009 Report to the Conference Committee for IEE Follow-up. This is a first step based on the Regional Results, pending full implementation of the Country Programming Frameworks in the coming biennium.

Now I would like to depart a moment from my prepared remarks to make an observation on the expectation of priority-setting in this biennium.

We have had a very intensive consultation with the Governing Bodies, five Regional Conferences, five Technical Committees, and several meetings of the Programme Committee on prioritization. At the outset of this process, it was made clear by the Secretariat and was recognized by the Programme Committee and the Council, that this was a long-term process, that we will make progress in this biennium and we have attempted to do so. We aimed to have in place a systematic prioritization process for the 2014-2015 biennium, remembering that we have to review the Strategic Framework starting next year in 2012 and prepare a new Medium-Term Plan for 2014-2017.

I would also like to recall that when the IEE reviewed the programme structure that was in place up until the 2008-2009 biennium, it observed that there was significant fragmentation in the presentation of the programmes. There were at the time over two hundred and fifty programme entities where you could, indeed, see the resource allocations at a very detailed level, and this type of a presentation did not convey to Members a sense of focus or prioritization. Therefore, when the new Results-Based Frameworks were put in place, the 49 Organizational Results under the Strategic Objectives were intended to be the expression of the priorities that Members wanted the Organization to address and the outcomes it expected the Organization to achieve in the two- and four-year period. It would appear that we are trying to find a balance now between a very detailed presentation of a programme budget and a high level presentation of priorities. I would submit that the discussions we have had during the course of the last 15 months and as we move forward in reviewing this Programme of Work and Budget will help us to find the appropriate balance, so that the guidance that the Secretariat has received from the Members can be put into a prioritized programme structure that meets those requirements.

If I can continue, the third main element of the Programme of Work and Budget is the implementation of the reforms in the Organization. The IPA is fully mainstreamed in the net appropriation, and is aimed at delivering six main benefits. The financial plans which have been reviewed by the Finance Committee were developed based on delivery capacity of the Organization, the sustainability of the actions, the integration into the regular work of the Organization and avoidance of administrative positions. The IPA includes USD 16.6 million in investment costs in 2012-2013, USD 31.8 million in recurrent costs and these are offset by USD 10.6 million in recurrent savings arising from IPA actions, for a total net cost of USD 37.8 million. This is USD 1.8 million less than the IPA programme in 2010-2011.

The fourth main element of the PWB is the drive for efficiency savings. As was noted by the Director-General this morning, the PWB includes USD 26.5 million in new recurrent efficiencies. Of these, USD 10.6 million as I mentioned arise from the IPA actions used to fund the IPA Programme. Of the total USD 22.6 million in efficiencies, USD 22.5 million arise from the lower cost of inputs from FAO's work and USD 4 million are coming from approved cost recovery through better implementation of our cost recovery policy. The Innovation Fund which was established in the current biennium and is managed by the Deputy Director-General will continue to be used to encourage innovative cost-saving proposals in the future biennium.

The fifth element of the PWB is the resource requirement presented in the integrated budget. The Council will recall that the Results Frameworks are designed to deliver outcomes based on resources provided by the budgetary appropriation voted by the Conference and an estimate of the Voluntary Contributions. For the 2012-2013 biennium the proposed budgetary appropriation to be funded from

Assessed Contributions is USD 1,057.1 million. This is a 5.7 percent increase over the 2010-2011 appropriation of USD 1,000.5 million. This increase comprises three elements: first, the reinstatement of the USD 10.4 million of one time fortuitous savings mandated by the Conference only in the 2010-2011 biennium. Secondly, a reduction of USD 1.8 million in the cost of the Immediate Plan of Action, and thirdly the anticipated cost increases of USD 48 million. The level of cost increases has been reviewed twice by the Finance Committee. These cost increases for the next biennium arise mainly from inflation, and they apply only to the net appropriation. Information Note 2 provides additional information on the inflation factors and the breakdown of the goods and services portion of the budget. The Secretariat is keeping these inflation factors and decisions which may affect the cost increase assumptions under close review. We will provide further updates to Members prior to the Conference.

The level of Voluntary Contributions is estimated at USD 1,393 million. This estimate is built from operational and pipeline projects that will have budgets active in the 2012-2013 biennium and prospects for Voluntary Contributions to be delivered in 2012-2013. As shown in Annex IV of the PWB, the level of assurance of this estimate is relatively low for the coming biennium, just under 24 percent. This estimate will need to be reviewed and revised based on more updated information as we proceed to and after the Conference, remembering that this PWB has been prepared nearly a year before the start of the next biennium. By comparison, we prepared the 2010-2011 PWB only five to six months before the start of the current biennium.

Finally, the sixth main element of the PWB are measures to improve the financial health of the Organization. These were touched upon in the previous item of the Finance Committee. While these measures do not directly impact the level of the budget, they could impact the level of Assessments. The measures include the funding of the After-Service Medical Coverage and Terminal Payments Funds past service liability, and the replenishment of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account.

We look forward to the outcome of the deliberations of the Council on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. As always, the Secretariat is at your disposal to provide any clarifications and additional information that you may require to facilitate your discussions and recommendations.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Haight, je donne la parole à Madame Riika Laatu, Présidente du Comité du programme et de la Réunion conjointe pour ce Rapport sur le Programme de travail et budget et ensuite à Monsieur Elkhuisen pour nous donner vos conclusions sur ces deux Comités.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

The Programme Committee spent a lot of time discussing the Programme of Work and Budget and the prioritization before seeing the actual Programme of Work and Budget. We had an informal session first of all on the priorities and after that we discussed the priorities again in the Hundred and fifth Session of the Programme Committee, to be followed by the actual discussion on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget in the Hundred and sixth Session of the Programme Committee.

I just have a few slides on the issues on which we particularly tried to focus in the Programme Committee. It is very short. Firstly, we wanted to focus on the results-based approach and see how it came out in the Programme of Work and Budget, and we recognized that there was progress being made in using the results-based approach during the present round in the proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget. At the same time, it was also recognized that we would really see the full implementation of the results-based budgeting in the next biennium when we are discussing the budget for the next biennium.

Another focus of ours was the integrated budget, because this is also a new feature after the Reform that we really have an integrated budget incorporating the extra-budgetary resources in it. Our main finding on that was that the way it was applied was not fully consistent across the various Strategic Objectives, so there is still room for improvement in the next round as well.

Another aspect that we looked at was how the recommendations from the various Governing Bodies had been taken into account in the Programme of Work and Budget proposal, and we found that the way they were reflected was clearer than it has been in the past. There were some recommendations made to change a few issues, particularly in relation to some recommendations from COAG and COFI, and those changes have already been made and are part of the Programme Committee Report itself.

The Committee members also requested more information on the particular reference of proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget. Where did these proposals originate, particularly which Governing Bodies? We have been provided with some more information on that as mentioned by Boyd Haight in his presentation Information Note 1 also has some of this information.

Our main focus really throughout the discussion has been the prioritization of FAO work, and therefore we have had these extended discussions on areas of emphasis and de-emphasis, first with the strategy teams and then later in the proper Committee sessions, and we have spent hours on this issue. We were quite happy when we saw the present Programme of Work and Budget to see that there was a separate section now on areas of emphasis and de-emphasis, which is about 20 pages long and it is certainly expanded from the previous similar document. We felt it was very, very useful. The only objective which was missing is this description of FOX. All the rest had clearly indicated their areas of emphasis and de-emphasis for the coming biennium.

Then, we came to consider the tables next to the narrative part of the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis and we realized, to our frustration, that it was really difficult to see how these areas were reflected in the Tables. This was particularly so because in the figures there were several elements which had been included in the same figures. First, there were the real programmatic changes that we were really interested in, but then you also had reallocation of certain unit results, which are justified as such, but when they are presented together with other elements, it is difficult to know which is which. Also the IPA allocation and the FAOR allocations were included in the same figures, so after having discussed this for a very long period, we ended up by asking for more information indicating which of the shifts were a result of which of these various elements that I indicated. That information actually is now included in the Information Note 1 that has been distributed on the FAO Website, and will also be distributed as paper copies outside the meeting room later on.

Another thing that we wanted more information on was clarification on the proposed allocation of the one-time savings, and that is also available in more detail now.

Finally, the Programme Committee recommended two changes to the allocation of resources, based on its deliberations so far. One was to strengthen the SOK, which deals with gender issues, based on the Gender Audit and SOFA Report and this, according to the Programme Committee Report, should be done without an overall change in the budget level of FAO. The second recommendation that the Programme Committee made was to confirm the target funding of 0.8 percent to be evaluated by the end of the IPA implementation period in 2013.

I will come to the Joint Meeting after my colleague has presented the Finance Committee deliberations on the Programme of Work and Budget.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame La Présidente. Madame Laatu, nous n'avons pas d'autres projections.

Mr Ronald EL KHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I will be very brief in summing up the main elements of this section of the Report of the Finance Committee. Let me also start by saying that we recognized the progress made in the results-based format and that we requested the Secretariat to, indeed, continue to optimize the presentation and the level of information.

The Finance Committee considered elements of the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2012-13 in February in our Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session and in our Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session

in March we focused on a technical review of the PWB proposals within our mandate, and I have seven elements to sum up the advice of the Committee.

We reiterated support for the mainstreaming of the IPA in the Assessed Contributions of the PWB, and agreed in principle to the financial aspects of the implementation of the IPA, noting that the financial aspects of the IPA would be revisited within the context of the agreed funding level of the overall PWB.

We requested the Secretariat to provide further information to the Council on anticipated cost increases, so as to facilitate a more detailed review of the cost increases figures as presented in the PWB 2012-2013. This information is provided in Information Note 3.

We requested the Secretariat to report on any significant changes to the cost increase assumptions and estimates prior to the Conference in June 2011.

The Finance Committee requested the Secretariat to provide further information to the Council on the costs and proposed work under Functional Objective X, in particular Organizational Result X04, and this information has been provided in Information Note 2.

We agreed with the proposals under the chapters on Capital Expenditures (IPSAS, including FAS, the upgrade of Oracle Release 12) and Security Expenditures.

The Finance Committee acknowledged that its recommendations related to various proposals by Management contained within the PWB 2012-2013 would be negotiated in their entirety with respect to the Net Appropriation; and finally, beyond its recommendation to partially fund the After-Service Medical Coverage liability at a level of USD 14.1 million, deferred any recommendations on the incremental funding proposals to improve the financial health of the Organization to future biennia.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

Finally, to the Joint Meeting which, of course, holds discussions after the Programme Committee and Finance Committee has their deliberations on the Programme of Work and Budget. The purpose of the Finance Committee is really to address the financial implications of the Programme of Work and Budget, and try to recommend the budget level as well.

The Joint Meeting broadly noted that the Programme of Work and Budget proposal broadly reflected the Governing Bodies' recommendations. It noted that the format would improve with experience and it noted the same thing that has been already mentioned, that is the programmatic emphasis and de-emphasis and the associated resource shifts were not very clearly presented.

The meeting stressed the importance of greater fiscal discipline and welcomed efforts by the Secretariat to attain efficiency gains.

In relation to the budget level that the Committee is really supposed to recommend, the Committee could not conclude with a recommended budget level, it rather agreed to put forward two options on the budget level—one with no decrease on the level of Assessed Contributions and one with a reduction noting a proposed 3 percent reduction in the UN budget.

The Committee discussed the evaluation budget that the Programme Committee had discussed before and proposed a 0.7 percent evaluation budget for 2012-2013 which is an increase of about USD 1 million compared to the present evaluation budget, which stands at about 0.6 percent of the net appropriation.

The Joint Meeting recommended increasing the budget allocation for Strategic Objective K, Gender, which had already been discussed by the Programme Committee earlier. It requested further information on the resource shifts which have been mentioned already, and we also now have the Information Notes 1 and 2 providing us with more information. Finally the Joint Meeting requested a table indicating the reference for decision, as well as implications for the net appropriation and extra-budgetary resources.

We have part of that information in the Information Notes already, in particular pertaining to the references for decision.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour ces rapports des trois Comités et de la première présentation. J'ouvre la discussion maintenant. Nous avons une demi heure ce soir pour commencer les interventions et ensuite nous continuerons demain. Je prends les noms: la Tanzanie, la Norvège, le Brésil, l'Union européenne, l'Afghanistan, l'Argentine, le Venezuela, le Canada, les États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Australie, le Japon, l'Inde et la Chine. Je redonne les noms pour m'assurer que je n'ai oublié personne: la Tanzanie, la Norvège, le Brésil, l'Union européenne, l'Afghanistan, l'Argentine, le Venezuela, le Canada, les États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Australie, le Japon, l'Inde et la Chine. Le Mexique, la Corée, la Russie et la Thaïlande. Vous ne me demandez pas que tout le monde intervienne avant de partir. On est bien d'accord. On va commencer dans l'ordre qui est établi et on s'arrêtera et on recommencera demain matin. Je donne la parole à la Tanzanie. Le Vice président du Comité financier propose 2 minutes. Ce n'était pas prévu mais si vous pouvez faire assez court, c'est mieux. La Tanzanie.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I want to thank the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, the Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee and Director Boyd Haight for their good presentations.

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Region Group. The Africa Region Group supports the Director-General's proposed net appropriation budget level of USD 157.1 million to be funded by Members for undertaking the 2012-2013 programmes, projects, capital expenditure and security services. We underscore the need to keep this level and, in particular, levels for Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives, protected. We welcome the continued alignment of extra-budgetary funds in the regular programmes. The methodology used for updating the unit costs is accepted and has been endorsed by the Governing Bodies. Therefore, we are in agreement with the introduced cost increase of USD 48 million to the nominal net appropriation budget.

Africa is aware of the current global challenges, including the financial crisis which affects all Members. Therefore, prudent spending is a must and cutting down unnecessary costs or extraneous expenditures should be the strategy for the survival of any organization today. We therefore welcome Management's financial saving measures incorporated in this Programme of Work and Budget for efficient use of the Organization's resources. The efficiency gains exercise should be pursued on an ongoing basis, and it has also to be done carefully, well-guided by the administrative rules and regulations and in consultation with the Staff Bodies' views.

As we make our deliberations on this Programme of Work and Budget, we should also take into consideration that we are supposed to make the renewal of FAO with growth, that is, FAO regains its loss of almost 30 percent in real terms in its budgetary funding between 1994 and 2008. It is only recently, in 2008 and 2009, in the Programme of Work and Budget that we had a maintenance budget and until today we have not got out of it. Therefore, even the UN Secretary General's call for a 3 percent reduction in the budget for the UN institutions should be taken by FAO very carefully, and in accordance with FAO's situation.

We note the increase in the Organization's extra-budgetary and voluntary resources, and thank all the contributors. We take seriously the question expressed in paragraph 64 that the amount, timing and earmarking of these resources is subject to some risk. In 2012-2013, about 58 percent of the budget under extra-budgetary resources is expected to come from Voluntary Contributions. Out of this, 57 percent of Voluntary Contributions, excluding the emergencies, is of low-funding assurance as expressed in paragraph 67. This is a risk to the programmes. Therefore, we welcome the resource mobilization in the management strategy. A partners' meeting should attract decision-making level representatives to attend and be open, critical, transparent and give feedback on their impressions, assessment and advice regarding FAO's work.

We agree that the 2012-2013 Programme of Work and Budget has been formulated in a short time. We urge prioritization to continue to be a work in progress and with improvements. This emphasis on arrears started late in the process. It should be an area for consideration in the Regional Conferences. Therefore, we urge Management to support Regional Offices in the organization of Regional Conferences, to provide clear guidance and sufficient time for the discussion of priorities.

We are satisfied with the IPA-planned activities and the funding level in the Programme of Work and Budget. We support the formation of a Programme Management Unit for the IPA to keep track of the streamlined IPA activities. We would like to know its lifespan, terms of reference, and the way it intends to perform its work. We propose that these answers be provided through a briefing at a later date.

We are also interested in the piloting of teamwork structures in the AGP and ESC divisions. The teamwork structure should be rolled out in the other divisions, as the initial results of the pilot are very positive.

To conclude, we are concerned with the continuing year after year deficit in the total general and related fund which at the end of December 2010 was at USD 521 million. We should not be overwhelmed by the current improvement of Members' payment of Assessed Contributions because the major inhibiting factor, that is, the past liabilities for After-Service Medical Coverage and the Terminal Payment Funds remain unchanged and continue to accumulate. This situation keeps the Organization at risk in its financial operations, and re-appears as a recurring query in the External Auditor's Report. Therefore, the Council needs to make a note in its conclusion that the financial health of the Organization remains an area of concern and a mechanism for a way out needs to be put in place. However, for the proposed biennium, we are endorsing the recommendations which have been put to us by the Programme Committee concerning this item.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

In many ways I feel that I could have given the African statement but there are slight differences and a little different emphasis on certain points. So I will go ahead with the Norwegian statement.

Norway welcomes the Programme of Work and Budget and the presentation given tonight to further enlighten us on the PWB. We also appreciate the revision of the Medium-Term Plan and a clearer focus on priorities in the budget, which indicate that progress is being made in the Results-Based Management of the Organization in line with the Reform Process. We recognize the wish to protect agreed programmes and essential projects and agree to maintain the purchasing power. However, we also believe that there is scope for further efficiency gains and savings.

Norway is of the opinion that there are compelling reasons not to reduce the Organization's core budget for the next Biennium.

FAO is in the middle of a complicated and demanding Reform Process. We all expect the results of this process to make FAO a more relevant, effective and efficient tool to secure food security and agricultural development. The IPA is an integral part of the PWB. In fact, the IPA is now the stepping stone for achieving and fulfilling our Strategic Goals and Functional Objectives. A reduction in the budget will impact the Reform Process negatively and deepen the proverbial J-curve, thus slowing down the true benefits of the Reform. We are particularly concerned about possible fewer resources available for the vision of "Functioning as One FAO".

We are facing a situation with high volatility in food prices, which has surged to a new historic peak. More than ever, there is an urgent need for investment in food security and agricultural development. FAO plays a major and crucial role in helping countries cope with these challenges. So the time is wrong for any reductions in the PWB. The SOFA Report "Women in Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap" is a prime example that both FAO's normative work, technical cooperation and development projects can have a major impact not only on hunger alleviation and agricultural development, but just as important on human dignity and development. Equal terms and gender equality are also good economics.

We are therefore, particularly in light of the latest SOFA, disappointed that Strategic Objective K: Gender, in our view, is short-shrifted in the PWB. We strongly endorse the Programme Committee's view on this, so more resources should be reallocated to Strategic Objective K without impacting on the overall budget.

Improved priority-setting is a major challenge in any PWB. We have in place new institutional procedures for this. We must realize, however, that for the first PWB where the Regional Conferences

and the Technical Committees should have had a major impact, it has not worked fully satisfactorily. More reflection, and perhaps preparation, is needed for this system to fulfil its promises. It also requires trust among Regional Groups, and a common understanding of both efficiency and result achievement. We think the discussion on only one Shared Services Centre is a case in point and Norway would, like we said during the former Agenda Item, strongly endorse such a step. We will also be very disappointed if the Council did not come to the conclusion so strongly recommended by Management and, after a very thorough documentation and discussion, must be ready for the right decision by the Council.

Like others, Norway is always looking for efficiency and results in the PWB. We endorse the Finance and Programme Committees' recommendations in this respect.

Again, like others, Norway has concerns about some of the shifts in priorities and appreciates the information given in the three Information Notes received before the weekend. It is important that this information is available, in particular, on the budget allocation for Functional Objective X, as this Objective represents more than 20 percent of the net appropriation. This will thus be the most likely area for efficiency savings together with Functional Objective Y. As for the programmatic priorities, we are particularly concerned about the reductions in Strategic Objective E, Forestry, and SO F regarding genetic resources. We are looking forward to a thorough discussion on this during the Council and, if necessary, in due time before the Conference. An open-ended "Friends of the Chair" is a possible venue for this purpose.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

Brazil would like to voice its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat, the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and all other Technical Committees and Regional Conferences that are now part of the FAO governance and the priority-setting process.

We agree with the views expressed by many countries, that the elaboration of this PWB was an important improvement in transparency and governance, noting however that many more improvements are needed in all steps of the priority-setting process.

With that said, Brazil would like now to comment more specifically on the proposed overall budget level to be recommended to the FAO Conference. In order to carry out this discussion, it is always useful to recall first our own priorities as Member Nations. In times of financial and budget constraints, food security, rural development and agriculture cannot be put aside on any list of priorities. Indeed, if there has been one consensus in recent years, here and elsewhere, be it in the UN System or in other international fora such as the G20 or the G8, this consensus is that these issues are paramount. Feeding people is a challenge that morally and politically obliges us to build and strengthen an international regime in support of national policies, of which FAO is a vital part. Thus international efforts should be strengthened, not weakened, in hard times like this.

In this respect, Brazil would like to recall the first message from the Independent External Evaluation Report, which stressed the need to promote Reform with Growth in order to increase not only the efficiency but also the relevance of this Organization. We will continue to push and commend FAO for all its efforts to increase efficiency and to do more for each dollar spent. However, efficiency gains should be to the benefit of our collective efforts to promote agriculture and food security, and not against them. It makes no sense to penalize the efficiency gains of this Organization by reducing our support to it.

There is an important aspect on the proposed net appropriations in the PWB 2012-2013 that should be highlighted. A major part, USD 48 million out of a total of USD 57 million, of the increase is serving solely to maintain the Organization's purchasing power and, as detailed in the Information Note 3, with anticipated cost increases, additional information and inflation factors and a breakdown of goods and services, the real increase in the proposed budget is therefore less than one percent in real terms.

For many years before the approval of the IPA in the 2008 food crisis, this Organization has lamentably seen its capacity purchasing power and expertise eroded year after year because of a policy of Zero Nominal Growth.

Mr President, we should call things by their true names. Zero Nominal Growth means a real, considerable reduction. Just a few years of such reductions caused a drastic fall in output and capacity, in spite of efficiency and productivity gains. It is true that the United Nations Secretary General has pledged its Agencies to do more with less. However, it is worth noting that in the ten years from 1998 to 2007, the general UN Assessed Contributions approved by the Fifth Commission increased by 50 percent in nominal terms. Meanwhile, FAO's Assessed Contributions increased by less than half of that, only 22 percent in 10 years. Considering that the accumulated cost increase during this period amounted, as a rough estimate, to more than 35 percent, this means that FAO lost about 50 percent of its capacity, even while the rest of the United Nations grew and the challenges in food security and agriculture grew even more.

We are all passing through the same harsh financial situation. This, however, does not stop us from knowing our priorities. In order to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, Brazil would like to express its support to the proposed 5.7 percent increase in FAO's net appropriation for the next biennium.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

As already mentioned by the European Union under Item 5, the first Mid-Term Review and the next review should take account of lessons learned so as to improve its format and content, especially regarding financial information on expenditures incurred by the budgetary Chapter. The European Union encourages the Secretariat to review and take into account best practices in implementation reporting by other United Nations Agencies, including on the level of detail of financial information.

The European Union considers the ongoing reform of FAO, including the full and timely implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, to be an overarching priority. The Reform will lead to an Organization that performs well and makes more effective use of the resources available within the integrated budget, thereby building confidence and increasing its ability to attract additional funding. Therefore, the IPA should be fully funded by Assessed Contributions during the biennium, as proposed in the PWB for the 2012-13.

Regarding the level of the budget, we are convinced that we should aim to "do more with less" as recommended by the UN Secretary General. The European Union stresses the importance of greater financial discipline and welcomes the recommendation of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to apply budgetary restraint and to call upon Senior Managers to prepare a budget with a corresponding reduction for the next biennium. The aim of this is to achieve further efficiency gains and savings. Having ambitious targets for efficiency gains is standard good business practice in public financial management, and we expect no less from UN Organizations, particularly at a time of heightened fiscal discipline and cutbacks among the Member States within their own national budgets. The European Union is the biggest provider of Voluntary Contributions to the FAO, and we stand ready to continue supporting the Organization as Reform progresses and overall performance improvements and efficiencies are demonstrated.

The European Union is convinced that there is no justification for the reallocation of the USD 10.4 million of one-time savings in the PWB 2012-2013. The European Union urges the Secretariat to continue seeking cost savings measures, including in the area of travel.

The European Union endorses the Report of the Finance Committee on the PWB 2012-13 and recognizes that its format and presentation is still a work in progress and, consequently, the European Union urges the Secretariat to continue to improve the level of information provided.

The European Union agrees that, in line with current practices, any unspent balances in the Technical Cooperation Programme (Chapter 15), Capital Expenditure (Chapter 17) and Security Expenditure (Chapter 18) will be transferred to the forthcoming biennium. The European Union also agrees with

the forecasted budgetary Chapter transfers from Budgetary Chapters 1- 4, 7 and 13-14 in favour of Chapters 4, 6 and 8-12.

With regard to the proposed increases for personnel costs and goods, in particular inflation factors and breakdown of goods and services, for consultants and travel, the European Union notes that these costs are based on projections rather than on actual costs. The European Union thanks Management for having responded to the Finance Committee's request to provide more information on the cost increase assumptions and estimates. This will now need to be carefully analysed so as to facilitate a more informed discussion of the cost increase figures proposed in the PWB 2012-2013.

The same applies to the additional information only recently made available by Management on Functional Objective X. We are concerned about the lack of clarity and transparency regarding the USD 238 million for this Objective and will now need to examine the new information provided.

The European Union reiterates its strong commitment to the Reform of FAO and the full and urgent implementation of the IPA as a top priority for the Organization. Regarding the proposed increase of the level of the Evaluation budget, the European Union agrees with the advice of the Programme Committee to increase the level of the Evaluation budget to 0.8 percent of the regular budget by the end of the next biennium and, as a first step, to increase the level to 0.7 percent. It also recalls the IPA target on rotation.

The European Union fully supports the consolidation of all Shared Services Centre functions in Budapest, which will lead to savings estimated at almost USD 2 million per biennium. The proposal is already reflected in the PWB proposal for 2012-2013. This means that if the proposal from the Secretariat is not adopted, additional savings of about USD 2 million per biennium will have to be found elsewhere.

In addition, the European Union fully agrees on the Programme Committee request for more information on the basis for decision-making, including input from Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Council and Strategy Teams. The financial implications for net appropriations and voluntary resources should be presented to the Membership. The European Union would furthermore appreciate additional differentiations of financial and human resources.

Regarding the "sustainable animal health and contained animal-related human health risks," we would like to know how the Action Plan will be prioritized and sequenced under the PWB, the availability of resources, staff and partnerships.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Union européenne et je vous propose de nous arrêter là pour les travaux de ce soir. Demain matin nous recommencerons à 9h30 par l'intervention de l'Afghanistan et comme convenu nous épurerons toutes les interventions qui sont prévues, nous essaierons de faire une synthèse pour voir les points d'accord et en fonction de la situation, nous ajusterons notre planning de la journée. Je vous souhaite une bonne soirée.

The meeting rose at 20.39 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.39

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
12 April 2011

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.51 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième réunion plénière est ouverte à 09 h 51
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera reunión plenaria a las 09.51
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Programme and Finance Committees (continued)
Comité du Programme et Comité financier (suite)
Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

3. Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (Recommendation to Conference on budget level) (C 2011/3) (continued)
3. Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 (révisé) et Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 (Recommandation à la Conférence concernant le montant du budget (C 2011/3) (suite)
3. Plan a plazo medio (PPM) para 2010-13 (revisado) y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (recomendación a la Conferencia sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) (C 2011/3) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour à tous, j'espère que vous êtes bien reposés. Nous allons avoir encore une journée dense et donc il faut être en forme pour intervenir. Je vous rappelle que nous avons clos notre session hier soir sur le début des interventions, puisque nous avons eu sur le PTB successivement la Tanzanie, la Norvège, le Brésil et l'Union européenne qui sont intervenus. Nous avons 14 autres demandes d'interventions, que je vais vous lister et s'il y a un pays qui souhaite s'ajouter on le fait. Nous allons commencer par: l'Afghanistan, l'Argentine, le Venezuela, le Canada, les États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Australie, le Japon, l'Inde, la Chine, le Mexique, la Corée, la Russie, la Thaïlande, Cuba, le Salvador et l'Égypte. Je vous demanderai de faire le plus concis et précis possible, puisque à 16 pays, même si vous faites chacun trois minutes cela fait déjà 48 minutes, et comme certains feront plus d'une minute je vous demande de faire au mieux possible, bien sûr chacun à droit à l'expression totale.

Je donne la parole sans plus attendre à l'Afghanistan.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. First, we appreciate the introductory statements made yesterday by the Secretariat, the Chairperson of the Programme Committee and the Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee. The Near East Group wishes to limit its observation to selected aspects of the draft of Programme and Work and Budget 2012-2013. But first let me register some points on prioritization. The Near East Group shares the views expressed by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee on the process of prioritization in FAO, the progress that has been made so far and the weaknesses that still exist. Yesterday, our Canadian colleagues also touched on some significant points requiring further improvement in the approach to prioritization. We concur with his views.

One thing that needs special attention is the definition of area of emphasis and de-emphasis. Given the large number indicated which is close to 200 items, one does not know which is a truly programmatic shift and which is just a minor resource suggestion. The Programme Committee needs to address this issue further. While the work is still in progress, the loopholes need to be fixed diligently.

In our view, three areas call for special attention by the Management and the Governing Bodies: one is the contribution coming from county-programme frameworks, second is the better treatment of cost-cutting issues in priority-setting; and third is the alignment of priorities with the resource allocation system.

It is our hope that FAO will have a firm grip on prioritization in the biennium 2014-2015, which was also referred to by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee.

We note a 6.9 percent jump in the level of integrated budget in comparison to 2010 and 2011. But this increase is almost exclusively attributed to the high expectation of extra-budgetary resources. Also, the share of extra-budgetary resources in the integrated budget reaches 58 percent in the draft Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013 compared with 55.5 percent in the current biennium. This has to be watched very closely by Management and the Governing Bodies because high dependency on core warranty contributions puts at risk the mandatory work of FAO which ought to be funded from net appropriations. If I am not wrong, the European Union stressed this point yesterday. In contrast to the

integrated budget, the Regular Budget of FAO, which is composed of net appropriation plus core warranty contributions, remains more or less unchanged in comparison to the current biennium showing an increase of less than 1 percent while extra-budgetary resources are estimated to increase by 12 percent.

From the point of view of risk assessment, extra-budgetary resources need to be treated with caution. Despite the steady rise in recent years, extra-budgetary resources for emergencies are more unpredictable when compared with extra-budgetary resources for development projects and for core warranty contributions linked to normative work. In the dialogue with Strategic Team Leaders on Strategic Objectives during the primary session of the Programme Committee and in the session last month, I personally got the impression that the estimate of core warranty contributions and extra-budgetary resources for field projects were kept low in order not to raise high expectations. Experience also confirms this point. Over the last three biennia, the actual delivery of extra-budgetary resources exceeded the planned delivery by 21 percent. Actual delivery was on a USD 3.73 billion against planned delivery of USD 3.07 billion. However, as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee alerted us yesterday, there is no consistent pattern in the movement of net appropriations, core warranty contributions and extra-budgetary funds for field projects among the 11 Strategic Objectives. Again, net appropriations could be accompanied by a heavy loss in core warranty contributions, or vice-versa.

We think that an increase of USD 11.5 million in the allocation of the 11 Strategic Objectives is a good sign amounting to a growth of 2.2 percent for the biennium 2010-2011. We also think that the loss of USD 2.1 million in net appropriations for the two Functional Objectives is equally a good sign. It needs to be reminded that the share of the two Functional Objectives in the net appropriation is one-third and some Members pointed this out yesterday in their statements. In this connection, we wish to point out that in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, USD 229 million is allocated to Functional Objective X alone, which is more than half of the net appropriation allocated to all the 11 Strategic Objectives. Therefore, in our view, a close look at Functional Objective X for potential savings may be worthwhile.

Historically-speaking, the budget of FAO has been Headquarters-Centred, but Decentralization is expected to start a reversal of this process. It would seem, however, that the progress in reversal is not that encouraging. Extracting from Annex 8 on pages 223 to 230 of the English texts of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, one comes to the conclusion that close to 77 percent of the integrated budget of 2012-2013 will be administered by Headquarters and only 23 percent by the Decentralized Offices. This position is a minor setback when compared with the situation in the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011. Recalling the statement of my colleague from Jordan yesterday about the low level of funds allocated to the Near East Region, we wish to point out that in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, the share of the Near East and North Africa in total net appropriation is only 3.1 percent, and less than 1 percent in all extra-budgetary resources. If the budget of all Decentralized Offices are combined, then the share of the Near East and North Africa will be 13.8 percent for net appropriation and 4.1 percent for extra-budgetary resources.

The Near East Group wishes to associate itself with statement yesterday by the Distinguished Ambassador of Tanzania, who spoke on behalf of Africa about the importance of net appropriation for developing countries.

In this connection, the Near East Group supports the level of net appropriation as stipulated in the draft budgetary solution on page 95 of the English version of document C 2011/3. We give the support for the following five reasons: any cut in net appropriation will be a setback to the Reform Process which is yet to be completed; the current food prices and the challenges of climate change compel FAO to both strengthen and deepen its analytical capability in food security aspects and climate change adaptation on an urgent basis with Regular Programme funds; since the share of TCP has remained at 11 percent of net appropriation in recent biennia, any decline in net appropriation will automatically be a loss in TCP to which the developing countries assign high priority and wish to protect it from any erosion; since core warranty contributions are subject to risk, medium or high, any cut in net appropriation could jeopardize the mandatory activities of FAO; any decline in net appropriation could

adversely affect FAO's partnership with other United Nation Agencies; and finally, viewing the fiscal difficulties facing major contributors and in view of the disaster that hit Japan, which is the second largest contributor to the FAO's assessed budget, the prospects of an increase to net appropriation for 2012-2013 does not look to be a realistic proposition. Equally, however, a cut in net appropriation would be a setback for FAO. Therefore, maintaining the purchasing power of the net appropriation of 2010-2011 for the biennium 2012-2013 is probably the best course for arriving at a decision.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Vous êtes pardonné car vous intervenez au nom d'un grand groupe mais si chaque pays met autant de temps que vous nous serons là tard ce soir. Je demande à chacun de bien vouloir faire le plus court possible. Mais bien évidemment si vous intervenez au nom d'un groupe, il y a une tolérance un peu plus large. L'Argentine.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Deseo agradecer a la Secretaría la preparación del Plan a Plazo Medio para 2010-2013 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-2013. Los documentos son una buena propuesta que integran los principales elementos de los marcos basados en resultados de los Objetivos Estratégicos, los ámbitos prioritarios de repercusión y una cualificación de los costos derivados de todos los resultados de la Organización y de todas las obligaciones.

Si bien se trata de un trabajo en progreso, han tomado en consideración las prioridades establecidas por las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos, como así también de otros Órganos Rectores. Se valora el cuadro 2, que presenta en forma comparada la propuesta de presupuesto para 2012-2013, por objetivos estratégicos funcionales y el PTP 2010-2011.

Se valora también la presentación integrada de los recursos. Se apoya la reasignación neta de los ahorros recurrentes de 2010-2011, cuyo monto asciende a 10,4 millones de dólares EE.UU., a determinadas áreas de gran prioridad, tales como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, la Plataforma del Agua de la FAO, la Secretaría de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, las actividades de sensibilización en materia de seguridad alimentaria, entre otras.

No obstante, preocupa que gran parte de las acciones programadas se financiarán con las contribuciones extra-presupuestarias, situación que genera un margen importante de inseguridad sobre su efectiva implementación.

Se apoyan las modificaciones ya anunciadas por la Presidencia del Comité de Programa del documento C 2011/3, en el Objetivo Estratégico CC1 y en el resultado de la Organización B4.1, que deberá constar como Anexo del mencionado documento. Se agradecerá también recibir una copia de dichos Anexos.

Con relación a la propuesta de aumento del presupuesto ordinario en un 5,7 por ciento, que impactará las cuotas, ayer esta delegación se refirió al tema manifestando su apertura para la discusión y el debate. Entendemos que aplicar el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto en el marco de la profundización de la Reforma de la Organización requiere de los recursos necesarios, que sean utilizados de manera transparente.

Por último, deseamos proponer que cuando, en una próxima oportunidad, se consideren el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto y los trabajos del Comité de Programa y de Finanzas, se haga una presentación con una metodología de trabajo menos fraccionada y más integrada, para permitir tener una mejor visión de conjunto.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela quisiera agradecer la presentación del proyecto de Plan a Plazo Medio 2010-2013 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2012-2013 hecha por el Director General y demás integrantes de la Administración de la FAO, en especial a los expositores que hicieron las presentaciones en el primer día de sesiones de este Consejo. Expresamos nuestra satisfacción, ya que el documento confiere los aportes y recomendaciones de las Conferencias Regionales y el resultado de las consultas con los Comités Técnicos y otros órganos rectores respecto

de las prioridades de trabajo de la Organización indicando algo que, a nuestro modo de ver, es importante, que son las acciones dirigidas al fortalecimiento de la Agricultura Familiar y de la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Como es conocido por todos, la comunidad internacional enfrenta el signo de una crisis de múltiples causas que coloca enormes desafíos en el ámbito del mandato de la FAO, principalmente el de reducir el número de personas en situación de hambre, el cual está estimado, según datos de la Organización, en 925 millones de personas, es decir un 13 por ciento de la población mundial, cifra que consideramos inaceptable.

Este proyecto, de PPM y PTP, es presentado en momentos en que las acciones para dar respuestas a esos desafíos se enfrentan al incremento de las presiones sobre el uso de recursos naturales, de los que depende la agricultura, la pesca y las actividades forestales, con un énfasis dedicado en los objetivos funcionales y estratégicos. Este contexto se agrava por la volatilidad de los precios en los alimentos, los que se han elevado hasta un nuevo máximo histórico en febrero de 2011, por lo que consideramos que este Plan de Trabajo de la Organización será un instrumento para dar una mayor asistencia a los países más vulnerables en hacer frente a estas eventualidades como a las acciones devastadoras del cambio climático cada vez más recurrentes. Será además un instrumento para reforzar el rol de la FAO en la elaboración de opciones de políticas que permitan detener los efectos negativos derivados de esta crisis en los países en desarrollo.

Nos parece entonces apropiado el ajuste propuesto por el Comité de Programa, para colocar las medidas indicadas en el PTP en coherencia con las recomendaciones del Comité de Agricultura (COAG) y del Comité de Pesca (COFI). Igualmente, es importante reforzar el trabajo sobre los temas de Género que se contemplan en el Objetivo Estratégico K, considerando las recomendaciones del informe de la Auditoría de las cuestiones de Género en la FAO de 2010 y las conclusiones del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación 2010-2011 en lo referente al rol de la mujer en el desarrollo de la actividad agrícola.

En cuanto a las necesidades de recursos, se nos presenta una visión integrada para llevar a cabo el Programa de Trabajo con cargo a la consignación presupuestaria neta y a las contribuciones voluntarias. No deja de preocupar a la República Bolivariana de Venezuela el alto nivel de gastos que se ejecuta en la Sede, lo que nos desanima en la aspiración de avanzar más rápido en el proceso de Descentralización de la Organización. Exhortamos a todos los Países Miembros a actualizar sus compromisos de consignaciones a fin de fortalecer la liquidez y la salud financiera de la FAO, lo que permitirá llevar adelante el Programa de Trabajo y para atender las áreas que han sido definidas como prioritarias.

Entendemos que la definición de la cantidad del presupuesto que está siendo examinada durante este Período de Sesiones debe igualmente hacer importantes aportes y modificaciones. Si fuera el caso así, con las recomendaciones correspondientes en su condición de Órgano Rector que debe remitir éste a la próxima 37.º Conferencia de la FAO.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Venezuela, je rappelle à tous ceux qui ont des documents qu'il n'est pas trop tard pour les transmettre aux interprètes, et je vous demande de parler plus lentement. Le Canada a la parole.

M. Kent VACHON (Canada)

Monsieur le Président, dans la proposition de la gestion, le Canada trouve des bonnes nouvelles et des mauvaises nouvelles. Une mauvaise nouvelle est que l'ébauche ne correspond pas à l'appel du Secrétaire général de faire plus avec moins. Au lieu de cela, la FAO propose de faire plus avec plus. Dans les circonstances fiscales actuelles, une demande pour la création d'un corps de poste et une augmentation budgétaire de 5,7 pour cent ne gagne pas d'amis dans mon gouvernement. Au plan national, nous sommes au milieu d'un cycle pluri-annuel de coupures. Même si nos circonstances fiscales sont difficiles, je suis content de dire que le Canada ne demande pas de coupures aux plus values, c'est-à-dire, la programmation que livre la FAO. Hier, mon collègue brésilien a caractérisé

Croissance Zéro une coupure réelle et cela peut effectivement être le cas quand il y a un taux d'inflation élevé. Actuellement, nous sommes dans une période d'inflation minime et de gel de salaire.

Continues in English

The projected cost increases are clearly, themselves, inflated. The same methodology used in other UN capitals has not resulted in wage and benefit increases nearly as high as proposed here. The proposed increases are on top of a distorted salary scale in which locally-engaged assistants earn as much as P2s and P3s. There is clearly something wrong in Rome, and it needs fixing fast because we, the wage-frozen, are not prepared to keep swallowing indefensible increases for our International Civil Servants.

The good news: Zero Nominal Growth is actually within reach, all elements are in this draft PWB. The IPA and other efficiency gains identified can easily offset any real cost increases, leaving the current programming level untouched. Yesterday, the Director General highlighted the USD 26.5 million in efficiency gains identified for the coming biennium. The USD 10.4 million in one-time savings for the current biennium could be matched at the same level in the coming one. Instead of creating new posts, vacant ones could be re-profiled to match the areas of FAO comparative advantage identified by Programme Committee, including the one health initiative where FAO has a key role. In short, with the savings that FAO has already effected in 2010-2011 and identified for 2012-2013, we can have the same appropriation and the same level of regular budget-funded activity.

The good news does not stop there. In 2010, donors provided more Official Development Assistance (ODA) globally than in any prior year, despite the impacts of the financial and economic crisis. An FAO that prioritizes its comparative advantages and demonstrates efficient use of regular budget resources, respecting restraint, can increase its programming level through increased extra-budgetary resources. As the European Union said yesterday, make the FAO more attractive and it will attract more Voluntary Contributions. Indeed, Canada, in 2011, and we are only part way through April, has already committed more extra-budgetary resources to FAO than ever before. Why? L'Aquila, as I mentioned yesterday, and because FAO is reforming. In particular, what it is doing at field level is getting better in many countries, and developing country partners are asking us to channel more agricultural development ODA through FAO-led projects. I note, these are not just emergency or recovery projects, I am talking also about long-term development ones.

So Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) is doable and is good for the FAO. It incentivizes prioritization of existing resources, and would earn FAO considerable political capital.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

We support the points just read by my Canadian colleague. I also want to remind all of our colleagues here today that the United States is spending more on food security and agricultural development now than ever before. Nevertheless, the difficult international financial climate and financial circumstances that many of our nations are facing, including my own, require us to focus on ways to best utilize the limited resources that we will undoubtedly have over the next several years.

The United States views the proposed budget for 2012-2013, which includes a 5.7 percent increase in the assessed portion of the budget and an overall 6.9 percent increase when extra-budgetary resources are included, as unacceptable. The budget increase requested by FAO is higher than the vast majority of all other UN Agencies, despite Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon's recent call for cuts in UN budgets.

The United States has re-evaluated its approach to growth in international organization budgets recently. Because of the presence of a large deficit in our own governments and efforts to contain or even reduce spending levels, we cannot afford expanding budgets in international organizations. For FAO, this means requiring a flat budget that also includes continued implementation of its Reform process. Funding for international organizations is undergoing increased scrutiny in my capital. We need to continue to be vigilant and demonstrate that taxpayer funds are being used prudently. When considering a proposed budget, we are looking for the Secretariats' willingness to demonstrate restraint in the budget proposal and responsiveness to Member Nation concerns. It is vitally important

that this Council forward to Conference a workable and realistic budget. This must be achieved through prioritization of FAO's work, to focus on what FAO does best, namely its ability to harness world class technical expertise, its capacity to provide neutral information and analysis and its convening power. FAO must establish a clear, systematic approach to prioritization of its work programme within these core strengths, focusing on its comparative advantage and not try to be all things to all people.

We understand that this is the first year for a "reformed PWB", but still we are disappointed that a better effort was not made to achieve prioritization of the technical and programmatic work of FAO over the present biennium. We also closely align with those who have spoken before us who believe that Functional Objective X and Functional Objective Y can be examined much more closely, with an eye toward significant savings.

In addition, FAO must look to ways to further conserve resources, including through a rationalization of its Decentralization process, including no net transfers to the field, through cooperation and coordination with other international organizations and through the continued search for operational savings, including through consolidation of the Bangkok and Santiago Shared Services Centre hubs into a Budapest global Shared Services Centre.

We, likewise, have many questions about specific elements of items addressed within the Strategic Objectives. For example, we understand that FAO will jointly sponsor with WHO an International Conference on Nutrition in October 2012. While we welcome efforts to revitalize the role of nutrition at the international level, we would be keen to understand funding implications, as well as where this major undertaking falls within the proposed PWB 2012-2013. We are concerned that such efforts may place a huge burden on an already burdened AGN staff, and believe it would be helpful to have the results of the ongoing evaluation on FAO nutrition to know what results are reasonable to expect for this Conference.

We remain deeply concerned about this budget and Results-Based Management process and believe the PWB was insufficiently transparent in its description of reallocation of resources among Strategic Objectives. Despite repeated requests for more information on this subject, we only received explanations late Friday night in detail. These would have been far more advantageous and useful had they come for the Special Sessions of the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Finance Committee and Hundred and Fifth Programme Committee, and the March sessions of the Finance and Programme Committees.

In closing, let me say that it is our strong belief that FAO is well-positioned to exercise leadership as a knowledge organization dedicated to food and nutrition security and increased agricultural productivity. FAO is quite fortunate to have nearly USD 2.5 billion in resources at its disposal, with a budget growing over the past decade faster than any other UN Specialized Agency.

The Director-General, in his opening statement, identified the challenges of applying fiscal discipline. We believe that with a fully-revitalized FAO, we can deliver a programme of work that accomplishes more while using fewer dollars and euros. Working in partnership with countries, development agencies, financial institutions, the private sector and civil society, FAO can become the Organization that we are all truly proud of.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the dedicated work in preparing the 2012-2013 Programme of Work and Budget. We have noticed distinctive improvements in the budget documentation this biennia over previous biennia, and hope that this trend continues as reforms continue to progress.

We would like to echo comments made by other delegations here about the need for financial discipline and fiscal restraint. This point has already been recognized by the Finance Committee who reported in the last document: "In its review of the proposals, the Committee reflected on the need for fiscal discipline and the importance of reviewing the assessed budget level in its entirety."

We also reflect the UN Secretary General himself has called for UN Agencies to 'do more with less'. In our view, the FAO is no exception.

In looking at the FAO budget, it is instructive to consider the situation in which other UN Agencies find themselves, and the way in which they are approaching the budget issues.

In terms of Assessed Contributions, FAO has the highest by a considerable margin over comparable organizations. When Voluntary Contributions are taken into account, this gap is even starker, with most other organizations forecasting a decrease in contributions, while FAO is forecasting a significant increase, and history has shown that it regularly exceeded these expectations.

Overall, Australia is of the view that more can be done to bring the budget in line with global financial trends, without impacting on the programmatic performance of the Organization.

The first thing that needs to be done in our view is to begin a true discussion of the budget to determine the baseline of that budget. The IPA, in our view, is central to this.

Australia supports the proposed costings for the IPA outlined in the PWB. We further agree, as established in the previous biennium and reconfirmed by the Finance Committee, that the IPA should be included within the Assessed Contributions.

We do need to recognize that the costs of the IPA should not be capitalized into the baseline of the budget. While this will not have any effect on the overall Assessments we need to make clear that the IPA implementation is a on-going, recurrent cost.

The current presentation in our view is somewhat misleading as it suggest there is USD 1.8 million savings for the IPA, when the reality is that the cost is around USD 38 million. In terms of savings and efficiency gains, we very much appreciate the work of the Secretariat for the explanation provided regarding the possibility for savings and efficiency gains. We appreciate that the Secretariat is working towards a more efficient and effective organization and in the PWB has in itself identified USD 26.5 million in savings. We note that more than USD 110 million is being saved per year, which is being redirected into the FAO's programs and other work. We find that this in itself should be the incentive we need for all of us to push for further efficiencies.

The reality of this budget is that FAO will need to avoid some cost increases or, in the event that this is not possible, find further savings to offset these increases. The efficiencies need not come at the expense of programmatic activities – instead they can be found through 'doing more with less', as outlined by the UN Secretary-General.

In line with the views of other delegations, we question why these efficiency savings are not being used to offset cost increases occurring elsewhere in the system. In our view offsetting cost increases from other parts of the budget is vital.

We note that working through the list given in the paragraphs 199-218 in the PWB referring to the cost savings, we cannot seem to add up the USD 26.5 million figure. Perhaps it is our bad mathematics that is the problem here, or there may be other small efficiencies found elsewhere in the system.

We would also like to align our comments here with other delegations in terms of Strategic Objective X. This is an area that accounts for significant costs, but the exact role of some of these areas are unclear.

We appreciate the recent information provided by the Secretariat and are progressively trying to understand those details. As noted, we feel that there is actually scope within the Strategic Objective X to find additional savings. We can give three examples in areas where significant costs could be further explored with a view to their reduction.

First is the 41 staff in Liaison Offices around the world which comes to USD 15.6 million each biennium, including 15 staff in Washington. We also note the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension has 96 staff, which is more than the entire Fisheries Department, Natural Resource Department, Europe and Central Asia Region or Near East and North Africa Region, and it costs USD 43 million each biennium.

The cost for the Office of the Chief of Information is USD 52 million. Each of these is a significant cost, and further exploration could be given to the role that each of these areas plays.

In terms of anticipated cost increases, we understand Management is proposing USD 48 million for the common biennium at a 4.8 percent increase, and to deliver no additional services. We find this is an area where other organizations which are facing exactly the same types of pressures are managing to make savings.

We have carefully considered the information provided in the PWB on this issue, particularly in pages 80 to 85. We note that personnel cost increases are very hefty, USD 29.8 million. These are explained in paragraph 230 and in the subsequent notes provided at the request of the Finance Committee. We align our views with those outlined by Canada in this regard.

The goods and services increases are USD 11.8 million, yet very little is provided in terms of detail. Even the new note only provides one page of detail, and the previous eight lines of detail is very scant for a USD 12 million increase. We feel that this is an area where savings can be found. Given the difficult financial situation, all organizations and governments are finding themselves in at the moment, we feel that it is appropriate for these increases to be either absorbed or deferred to future biennium. Increases in budgets for furniture replacement, travel and equipment, for example, are not essential.

For example, Australia would not be pleased to see a repeat of the activities of the last biennium, where people going to many of the meeting rooms around the building were greeted by brand new 60 inch plasma televisions. Surely this is a luxury that is not essential.

Creeping in the cost of consultants and contractors, too, is hard to justify. In terms of improving the FAO's financial health, we agree with the findings of the Finance Committee and will take note for the details here. And finally, in terms of the one-time savings, we know the proposal for reinvestment of the USD 10.4 million worth of one time savings. We have mixed views on this proposal. As noted by the regions, this is not a time to seek increases in budget, which is exactly what this is. As one delegation said yesterday, we should call things by their true name, and reinvestment of previously-found savings is truly a budget increase.

Nevertheless, we feel that there is some merit in the idea of reinvesting in high-priority issues – this indeed is exactly the role that the Programme Committee was trying to play, with limited success during this biennium.

On balance, we feel this is a good model to pursue and suggest we support the reinvestment, but at the same time we call for similar, one-time savings to be found in the 2012-2013 biennium, with a view to reinvesting such savings in the following biennium against high-priority areas.

This would allow for a new process for further prioritization of the FAO programmes. It would, however, suggest that the Programme Committee be involved in such prioritization processes.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

As concerns the results-based budget, since we do not have enough results yet, I have to say that our priority-setting work was very difficult and far from perfect. We are on the way. We have to wait for 2014-15 PWB for the full application of a results-based approach, and the Programme Committee has to do more for that period, as our Afghan colleague has already pointed out.

However, I have to say that we have shown significant progress. Technical Committees and Regional Conferences have discussed priority issues very seriously, and the participants of the meetings understand now that priority-setting is not only to emphasize the programmes we want to see, but to find de-emphasized areas to concentrate our limited resources on the most needed areas. I want to say that this is a big change. Change of the mindset. Thank you, Programme Committee Chair, Ms Riika Lattu and Mr Boyd Height for your tireless effort regarding these points.

Secondly, I want to recognize the work done by the Finance Committee. They gave us clear recommendations on many technical points, including liability accounts and reserves. At this time, I fully support these points and this is also a significant progress, I believe. So we can concentrate now

mainly on the level of the budget and assessment, and several important points related to the level of the budget.

Certainly, in terms of the level of assessment, the Joint Committee Report proposes two options. Japan prefers the second option, reduction of the level of the budget. I want to seek clarification by the Management. The 3 percent reduction proposed by the Secretary General doesn't really mean that the nominal reduction of the budget level or cost increase factors such as inflation are not included. This is not for me. Japan's position is Zero Nominal Growth, so I want to make this point clear.

I want to urge the Secretariat to make more efforts towards reducing the level of the budget through efficiency savings and one-time savings in the administration part of the budget. Since Japan is supporting the IPA, the IPA part should be protected. In the period of 2010-2011, Management realized a significant one-time savings upon our request. I appreciate this a lot. But I want to request, again, one time-savings for 2012-2013, and the current one-time savings realized mainly through decreasing travel costs. Through the delegation of authority to Decentralized Offices and the extended use of video conference and conference facilities, the need for travel has been decreasing. So, the Secretariat can apply savings here again.

As for the Shared Services Centre issue, I sympathize with Thailand and the other previous speakers requesting the *status quo*, but I also have to say that if we keep the *status quo*, we have to find an additional USD 2 million to the Director-General's proposal and the Joint Committee recommended the increase of USD 1 million for the increase 0.6 percent through 07.7 percent for Evaluation cost, so this is a USD 1 million increase. This is also in addition to the proposal of the Director-General. We have to be careful on this point.

Again, I would like to emphasize the direction FAO-less money for administration and more money for programme activities. This is the meaning of efficiency for the development of the Organization.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

India welcomes the document on Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, and the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013.

We agree with the view expressed by some of us that this is not the proper time to reduce the budget for the next biennium. This is especially so, as we are in the midst of a food crisis and we are witnessing spiralling food prices, increased natural calamities and climate variability, declining productivity, decreased output and consequent increase in the absolute number of hungry and malnourished people on the globe.

Soaring food prices are actually on the way to becoming a long-term phenomenon. For the first time in 50 years, the yields of major crops are rising more slowly than global population. We are seeing a change in the composition of demand for food, the effects of climate change, the growing constraints of land and water, large storage losses and wastages which are resulting in losses of productivity. These structural issues have been exercised over the years through the policies of some countries in the form of distortive trade barriers, farms subsidies, use of food crops for bio-fuels and the cutting back of public-funded agricultural research.

Though a call has been made to do more, it is a fact that due to the current uncertain situation we are actually getting less with more. Maybe such an appeal is relevant to organizations which have not adopted reforms and cost-cutting measures. FAO is not one of these organizations. We are all aware that FAO has embarked on an elaborate Reform Process, and continuous efforts are on to find savings and efficiency gains in its operations.

In our opinion, the policy of funding that we have been witnessing over the last many years in the food and agricultural sector will definitely have long-term adverse consequences, part of which is manifesting itself now, in various forms.

While we strongly believe in the more efficient use of available resources, we do not feel that this is the time to do with less resources. The need of the hour is to produce more with fewer inputs and in this background, there is a need for greater allocation of resources to the food and agriculture sector in

general, and FAO in particular. It is our firm belief that perhaps that at this juncture, FAO has greater relevance than ever in history.

My delegation would also like to draw the attention of the esteemed Members of this august house of the deliberations that took place in the COAG from 16 to 19 June 2010, and the general endorsement that it received from the FAO Council at its Hundred and Fortieth Session in November 2010 to allocate greater resources to the livestock centre. It is seen from the document that the allocation of resources under Strategic Objective B, dealing with increased sustainable livestock production, has received less allocations in the next biennium compared to the current biennium. Further, we note with concern that the funding requirement of USD 193.8 for this sector has not been provided in the proposed PWB, and the call made by the Chairperson of the Programme Committee yesterday to look at exploring alternative sources of funding gives full attention to this.

We observe that the proposed budget increment is limited to cover the cost of inflation and take care of the one-time savings and implementation of IPA. Therefore, we support the proposal to increase the net appropriation for 2012-2013 by 5.7 percent, details of which are mentioned in Table 24 on page 92 of the document.

Mr LI Zhengdong (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to make a comment and then make three proposals.

We have a consensus that financing is very important and money is very important too, but I think that for any organization or individual, that is the golden rule. So the item under discussion today deals with money. FAO is the largest Specialized Agency in the field of agriculture in the world and it has the responsibility of addressing the problem of world food security. Over the last 60 years or so, FAO has played a crucial role in this endeavour. So FAO needs to be funded in order to be able to continue to discharge its responsibilities and its mission. Obviously each Member Nation is also contributing to world food security. The Chinese Government and China, as a major agricultural country and a major country in demographic terms in the world, is contributing immensely to world food security in the world. Not only have we resolved our own problems of food security, but we have also taken measures, and are taking vigorous measures, to help other countries – developing countries – to resolve their concerns of food security to the best of our capacity.

In light of the comment I have just made, I think that in producing the draft Programme of Work and Budget, FAO has to take into account the problem in general terms, in broad strokes, and in a balanced fashion. What does that mean? It means, first and foremost, taking into account the funding of FAO in a way that allows it to implement its projects and programmes, while also taking into account the economic situation of the Member Nations. Some Member Nations have made substantial contributions to our Organization, so we need to take into account the economic clout of each Member Nation.

We believe it is important to plan and to assess the economic impact of the Reform of FAO, and the efficiency savings first engendered. We are trying to achieve greater economy savings and become more efficient. However, I have not seen any detailed information to this effect in the Medium-Term Plan for 2010-2013. We need to be able to understand how these efficiency savings have been produced through the Reform of FAO.

I think the preparation of this PWB document needs to be improved. I have attended 14 discussions on the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget, however, I think this document is not reader-friendly; it is very difficult to understand. I think only experts could understand this documents and diplomats would be hard pressed to do so. I have listened very carefully to the statements with comments on figures and percentages. Of course, I understand that those findings have come about through different approaches and different calculations, but for those listening it creates a great deal of confusion. So I think that the preparation of this PWB needs to be improved. My speciality is economic management, but I am finding it very difficult to understand the document. It is very complicated and, I hope that when I attend this debate for the fifteenth time, I trust this document will be more straightforward and simpler.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Como ya hemos mencionado en varias ocasiones en relación y estima que el Plan a Plazo Medio para el 2010-2013 y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para el 2012-2013, son un paso en el camino correcto. No obstante, hay algunas adiciones y algunas clarificaciones que habrían que hacer para el futuro y para lograr una mayor transparencia en este documento.

Sin embargo, hay una cuestión que es relativamente urgente y es la de una mayor información sobre las áreas de énfasis y de desénfasis, porque en ciertas aéreas se hace esta diferencia. ¿Cual es la razón sustantiva y sobre todo cual es la repercusión financiera de estos énfasis y desénfasis?

También es un documento que nos presenta por primera vez un presupuesto integrado entre las Cuotas y las Contribuciones Voluntarias. Eso es un gran paso que nos debe permitir una serie de análisis para ver realmente como se está evolucionando el presupuesto de nuestra Organización.

El PTP para el 2010-2011, hizo una previsión de 1 300 millones de dólares en contribuciones voluntarias, se afirma que se prevé recibir cerca de 1 600 millones de dólares, es decir 300 millones dólares de más a lo que originalmente se había calculado.

Para el 2012-2013, se calculan 1 400 millones dólares de Contribuciones voluntarias. Creo que esto nos debe llevar a un análisis detallado del porqué de este fenómeno y, por otro lado existe la objeción férrea y la propuesta de varios Miembros de este Consejo y del Secretario de las Naciones Unidas Ban Ki-Moon.

Creo que son dos fenómenos que se encuentran, la conciencia amplia y general del problema de la alimentación y del hambre. Nadie niega que esa es una prioridad global en la cual todos compartimos la preocupación y de alguna forma los esfuerzos.

No obstante el hecho de que las Contribuciones Voluntarias aumenten a un ritmo mayor de lo que se esperaba, significa por un lado que la Organización ha tenido un mayor presupuesto para llevar a cabo sus programas sustantivos, y de eso no hay la menor duda, pero también la disposición de aquellos países, de aquellos asociados para los programas de la FAO que están en capacidad de aumentar su participación en el esfuerzo. Por una lado estamos viendo países e instituciones y asociados que están contribuyendo más de lo que se esperaba de ellos, y por otro lado un grupo de países importantes, quizás contribuyentes significativos entre los que se encuentra mi país, que están enfrentando fuertes carencias presupuestales en términos nacionales.

Teniendo estos dos fenómenos en cuenta y sabiendo que se está discutiendo una parte del presupuesto y presuponiendo otra, mi delegación se pronuncia por un Crecimiento Nominal Cero y que dentro del presupuesto se favorezca todos los ahorros presupuestarios, la eficiencia y los ahorros por una vez en forma reiterativa. Todo esto dentro del margen propuesto como la segunda opción dentro de los documentos que han circulado de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, y en el espíritu de lo propuesto por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas.

Mr KIM Jong Chul (Republic of Korea)

I would like to join the previous speakers in stressing the importance of greater fiscal discipline in the FAO budget, in light of budgetary constraints of Members and the world economic situation.

While we recognize the chronic and emerging challenges to food and agriculture, we believe FAO's capacity to address these changes are not necessarily undermined with a lower budget. If FAO places greater focus on priority areas and enhances efficiency and value for money, this is possible.

We encourage the Secretariat to identify further cost-savings in the area of administrative costs, including travel costs. Costs related to personnel services also need further review.

Finally, we support the mainstreaming of the IPA in the Assessed Contributions of the PWB.

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

First of all the Russian Federation would like to thank the Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees for the enormous amount of work which they have performed. Undoubtedly, the

documents on the MTP and the PWB of the Organization are becoming better. Nonetheless, still many questions arise. I wanted to note many of the points that have already been expressed, but there is no need to repeat those points which have been made.

The budget proposed by the Secretariat and the figures included in it for inflation of 4.8 percent are more than what we have in reality, and in this regard the budget can be revised downwards. There is no need to say that the budget should be formed on the basis of stringent financial discipline. As has already been pointed out by the Russian Representative, there should be no boiler plate analogy for each Strategic Objective and programme. Everything should not be just scrupulously implemented on the basis of a systemic approach. Clearly taking into account the period of implementation and the necessary human, material and financial resources is intended to ensure that we move towards an end product indicative of the real volume of resources which are necessary for implementation.

Like any other organization in the UN, the FAO needs to follow the recommendations of the UN Headquarters and adhere to the goals which are placed before all of the organizations in the UN System. So when considering and compiling the current budget and the 3 percent decrease, it should be noted that this recommendation has not been taken into account.

We would like to have more information on Functional Objective X. It is not quite clear how the tasks listed therein are going to be properly funded.

Furthermore, in addition to many of the comments made on the budget I would like once again to point out that I have attended many meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees. I have to say that the work could be implemented much more effectively if these committees met in conjunction. Once again, I would like us to come back to the question of establishing a Programme and Finance Committee of the Organization which would allow us to enhance the effectiveness of compilation and formation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

One further point is that we would propose for the Council to consider the Secretariat proposal and for it to look at the possibility of discarding that proposal, that is to make additional payments under the health insurance scheme and other services. These questions in many other organizations of the UN System, except perhaps the WHO, have been refused. We feel that it would be appropriate to look at this question, that is, the possibility of declining such actions.

Furthermore, we think it would be advisable to do away with a reserve for the Working Capital Fund, and that a special reserve be established to take advantage of major currency fluctuations. At least, in the current economic situation, that money should be put to work. And in this situation, from our standpoint, it would be advisable to do that.

What we support in this budget is the appropriation of additional resources in order to fully fund the Russian language to the tune of USD 21 million. Over the last four years our work in FAO, since our entrance into the Organization, unfortunately has not allowed us to develop a Russian language service at the appropriate volume and scale as compared to the other language offices and to ensure that it has been fully funded accordingly.

As regards efficiency savings, we also look at the possibility of unifying and consolidating possible areas of work, for example the creation of one Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest because from our standpoint, that could generate real savings for the budget.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

My delegation would like to make some points with regard to the proposed PWB 2012-2013. Firstly, on the budget level of the net appropriation for 2012-2013 our position is that, in the current circumstances of fiscal difficulties, the proposed Zero Real Growth budget scenario aiming at maintaining the purchasing power of 2010-2011 for 2012-2013 seems to be the highest level we could set for the next biennium. As for the UN Secretary-General's appeal to reduce 3 percent of the budget in UN organizations, careful reflections are needed as it may impact FAO's interventions in Member Nations, especially in developing countries.

Secondly, on the proposed improvement of financial health, we agree with the Finance Committee's recommendations to defer any decisions that lead to an incremental budget for 2012-2013. The world economy is still not in a good condition, and many parts of the world are struggling for survival due to the frequency and large scale of natural disasters. We would, therefore, like to encourage the Finance Committee and the Secretariat to seek some innovative ways to address this problem.

Thirdly, on the proposed consolidation of the Shared Services Centre in Budapest, my delegation heard many delegations raise their concerns on where to find new savings of USD 2 million if we keep the *status quo*. We wish to underscore that this exercise does not really lead to savings, as the review team mentions in its report and shows in paragraph 104 that they propose to establish four Human Resources P3 posts, one each in Accra, Cairo, Bangkok and Santiago, to handle HR work in these four Regional Offices. I can quote that part of the paragraph. It says "The standard cost of four P3 positions, one for each Regional Office in Santiago, Bangkok, Accra and Cairo, would be approximately equal to the savings accrued by the consolidation of the Shared Services Centre hubs, thus the whole reorganization would be budget neutral." Apart from this, the report does not mention at all the separation costs of the 20 posts to be abolished in Bangkok and Santiago, so I would like to have an explanation from where these costs will be borne. Will they be in part of the PWB 2012-2013? If this is the case, this means that the expected savings are not real savings, but lead to additional costs which are fixed somewhere in the PWB 2012-2013.

Sr Enrique MORET ECHEVERRÍA (Cuba)

En este Punto del programa del Consejo nos corresponde el análisis de un tema de la mayor importancia para el trabajo de la Organización. Agradecemos a la Secretaría la preparación y presentación del Informe. Como se ha evidenciado, en los reportes analizados en puntos anteriores, la presentación del Plan a Mediano-Plazo y el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto ha sido mejorada sobre la base de las orientaciones recibidas de los Comités de Programa y de Finanza. Consideramos que es una buena propuesta y nuestra delegación la apoya, dado que fueron tomadas en cuenta las prioridades orientadas por las Conferencias Regionales y los Comités Técnicos. Además, están bien articuladas con sus Objetivos Estratégicos y los resultados de la Organización.

La Secretaría también ha considerado la necesidad de hacer ajustes de gastos administrativos, aspecto que se deberá seguir mejorando. En este sentido mi delegación apoya el aumento del 5,7 por ciento con cargo a la consignación neta para los próximos dos años.

No obstante, es importante que la Secretaría tenga presente que en la gestión de mayor recuperación de costos deberá ajustarse la aplicación de las metodologías que están acordes a los principios establecidos por las Naciones Unidas al respecto. La propia Secretaría manifiesta estar consciente de los nuevos riesgos que se enfrentan con el aumento de actividades financiadas con recursos extra-presupuestarios en cuotas de recuperación de los costos. En particular, me llama la atención el anuncio sobre el examen de los costos incrementales existentes en el terreno para normalizar su recuperación. En este sentido, reiteramos la necesidad de ajustar la aplicación de las metodologías que estén de acuerdo con los principios establecidos por Naciones Unidas al respecto.

En otro orden, vale la pena recordar que la propia dependencia común de inspección al analizar los temas de las contribuciones extra-presupuestarias, a la vez que se han reconocido sus beneficios, ha llamado la atención sobre los problemas que ha planteado esta forma de financiación. Una de las principales preocupaciones identificadas ha sido la imposibilidad de predecir la financiación voluntaria y su recuperación en la ejecución sostenible de los programas. Ha concurrido a la dependencia común la inspección que, dado que la base de donantes de Contribuciones Voluntarias es restringida, la ejecución de los programas es inherentemente vulnerable. Ha existido un claro impacto negativo en los casos en que los donantes importantes han reducido enormemente o interrumpido por completo su contribución.

Además de estos aspectos, dado que se trata de un documento que considera los desafíos, las principales tendencias, los retos y otros factores a los que deberemos enfrentarnos para resolver el problema del hambre en el mundo, no podemos obviar la mención de otros factores que van más allá

de los mencionados en el documento y que son la verdadera razón por la que no acabemos con ese flagelo.

En los diferentes contextos en que se ha tenido que desenvolver el trabajo de la Organización, se han esgrimido diferentes argumentos así como promesas a las que ni nos acercamos a cumplir. Ahora nos afectan la crisis mundial y las difíciles circunstancias económicas y financieras actuales. Esto sería entendible si no se dilapidaran tantos recursos en otros gastos, como los militares, los que en cambio podrían dedicarse para ayudar a reconstruir e impulsar la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo.

Instamos a los Estados Miembros que están en condiciones de hacerlo a aportar los recursos necesarios en las condiciones de previsibilidad y la flexibilidad que la Organización requiere para contar con una financiación segura y fiable a largo plazo. Cuba boga por el perfeccionamiento de resultados que la Organización se propone alcanzar con los recursos a su disposición, pero a su vez reitera en este fórum la necesidad de que se aporten los recursos necesarios para eliminar las enormes brechas que hoy separan a unos países de otros.

Sr Ernesto NOSTHAS (El Salvador)

Nos complace saludar y agradecer todo el trabajo que ha hecho la Presidencia y los Comités Técnicos en preparar los documentos que están a discusión en estos momentos.

Al respecto, nuestra delegación se complace del nivel presupuestario que ha alcanzado la FAO en la presentación realizada. Consideramos que uniéndonos a lo que muchos países han dicho previamente, no es quizás el mejor momento para pensar en reducciones de tajo a las estructuras presupuestarias de la FAO, considerando la situación débil mundial asociado al tema de la seguridad alimentaria.

La FAO es sin duda la institución del sistema internacional con mayor ventaja para trabajar en estos temas por lo que en un momento como el actual pensar en reducir por reducir no sería quizás la solución más feliz.

Creemos no obstante, que se debería hacer un trabajo más intenso de racionalización y ser más creativos con lo que se puede hacer, buscando hacer más con los pocos recursos que se disponen.

Aquí es importante destacar el hecho de que la FAO debe explorar con más vehemencia la posibilidad de trabajar de manera coordinada con otras instituciones del sistema y con otras instituciones en los países, en las regiones donde actúa de manera coordinada para evitar redundancias o duplicidades. De esta manera, podemos ser más efectivos con los recursos disponibles. Ello implicará por supuesto tener acuerdos específicos para intervenir en regiones o países de acuerdo a las circunstancias.

Adicionalmente, se pueden explorar otras opciones de trabajo entre las cuales destaco muy especialmente para nuestra región, la posibilidad de trabajar con mayor vehemencia apoyando los esfuerzos de cooperación Sur-Sur.

Adicionalmente nos unimos a la consideración ya previamente destacada por varios países y la Unión Europea del hecho que el Objetivo Estratégico de Género merecería mayor atención de la que actualmente tiene. Pensar que con la declaración tan vehemente que se hace en el presupuesto y la importancia que tiene la lucha o el afrontar las desigualdades de género en el tema de seguridad alimentaria y pensar que con el 1 por ciento del total presupuestario va poder resolver la situación, es un poco ilusorio. Creemos que es muy importante incrementar el presupuesto total sin hacer algunas resignaciones importantes y estratégicas, como el tema de género.

Adicionalmente nos unimos también a lo expresado por la hermana Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela en la importancia de los micro-emprendimientos rurales, o lo que en estos momentos se conoce más universalmente como los Programas de Agricultura Familiar. Creemos que ese puede ser la base para intervenir en muchos territorio en los cuales la pobreza es muy recurrente. En ese sentido, consideramos que los Programas de Agricultura Familiar y toda la lógica que supone esta atención debería de ser uno de los principios rectores que orienten las actividades asociadas a los Objetivos Estratégicos A y B del Plan de Trabajo y Presupuesto presentado.

Agradecemos la oportunidad y nuevamente reiteramos nuestro aprecio y nuestra complacencia por el presupuesto presentado y el trabajo realizado para construirlo.

Mr Mohamed ABUBAKR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

May I begin by expressing my endorsement of the statement by the Representative of Afghanistan on behalf of the Near East Region. I would also like to express my satisfaction with the preparation of the PWB for 2012-2013 by the Secretariat.

In preparing the documents submitted to the Regional Conferences on regional priorities, we would like the Secretariat to spell out how these Strategic and Functional Objectives tie in with those priorities. I would like to also say that I am gratified to see specific increases for the Strategic Objective on Natural Resources and Food Security and Nutrition.

With respect to the statements by previous speakers on the world crisis and the implications thereof for the Organization's budget, may I repeat that achieving global food security and eliminating poverty should stand as the major priorities of this Organization. The international community must be allied, therefore, to be involved in this struggle, in this fight, and that should not have an impact on the budget of the Organization.

Furthermore, the volume of funds earmarked for Technical Cooperation, regrettably, remains relatively low. This is one of the few elements which has not seen any progress or increase compared to the previous period which is at variance with the principle of Reform with development in progress. I would like to repeat what I said yesterday in my statement that the share of the Near East Region in the PWB is one which gives rise to our concern. This is further compounded by the historic changes taking place in our region, and we would still hope that the Organization will respond to these changes in a favourable manner befitting the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations in general and those based in Rome in particular, who should contribute to the reorganization of development priorities in the region.

So I would call on the Secretariat to review and revise the monies earmarked for the Near East in the development of the PWB in general when the issue will once again be discussed during Conference.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Égypte. Nous avons donc terminé les interventions des délégations inscrites. Est-ce qu'il y a une autre délégation qui souhaite intervenir dans ce premier tour de table? Pour les Membres du Conseil, pas d'autres interventions? La Suisse? La Suisse a la parole.

M. Hubert POFFET(Suisse)

Monsieur le Président, en ce qui concerne le budget, la Suisse est en faveur du maintien du budget à son niveau actuel, tout en étant cependant prêt à faire preuve d'une certaine flexibilité en tenant compte des coûts de l'inflation. Cela dit, en cette période de difficultés économiques et financières, l'augmentation de 5,7 pour cent demandée par rapport au budget 2010-2011 nous paraît exagérée, d'autant plus qu'elle sert pour une large part à financer les services du personnel.

Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO doit consacrer d'avantages de moyens pour des programmes et des projets et moins pour des dépenses administratives en faveur du personnel. Nous sommes également d'avis qu'il convient de rechercher des solutions pour que la Commission de la Fonction publique internationale améliore les méthodes de calcul des traitements des agents des services généraux.

Selon nous également, la FAO doit continuer à rechercher des gains déficients supplémentaires et nous pensons qu'il existe une marge de manœuvre à ce sujet. Un autre élément, nous pensons que le Plan d'action immédiat doit continuer à être financé par des ressources budgétaires. Nous pensons également qu'il convient de reporter toute décision sur les propositions de financements supplémentaires pour rétablir la situation financière de l'Organisation. Finalement, nous sommes en faveur d'un Centre de services communs à Budapest. Merci Monsieur le Président.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Suisse. Y-a-t'il d'autres interventions? Si tel n'est pas le cas je vais demander à Madame Laatu et Monsieur Elkhuisen, mais aussi à Monsieur Haight ou aux autres membres du Secrétariat, de faire des commentaires sur les questions qui ont été posées, commentaires et réponses. Madame Laatu.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

There are just two comments that I would like to make because I do not think they were questions really posed to those Committees.

First of all, I would like to thank everybody for the appreciation for the Programme Committee work and I think that needs to go to the whole Programme Committee which has been working, in my opinion, in a very good spirit. Everybody has contributed, and also the Secretariat has also been very helpful in our work.

My first comment is on prioritization and I think virtually everybody that made statements has addressed that in one way or another. I think that China made it very clear what the problem is at the moment - that it is still not very easy to understand priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget. I think that we still need to, within the remaining period of our work here in the present Committees and also in the future, address at least two sets of issues. One has to do with the process within the Governing Bodies. What kind of inputs go to the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, and what kind of inputs come from there into the Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Council etc., including the informal meetings? We need to consider that side of it, but then we also have to consider the presentation side which, of course, is also a result of internal processes within FAO. So how to present the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis? There is clearly an improvement in that in the present Programme of Work and Budget, but we still need to think about it. How that needs to be reflected in the figures? What is the presentation again? What are the definitions exactly so that things are applied in a similar way throughout the Strategic Objectives and Functional Objectives? We have to ensure that there is uniformity in the presentation.

We have more information available now which has come just prior to the Council meeting. This information was not available in the Programme Committee and Finance Committee meetings, and that needs to be processed somehow between today and the Conference. However, some of the more systemic issues we can address in the May meeting of the Programme Committee still. One of the agenda items there is the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Programme Committee itself, and there we will certainly consider ways of improving the work of the Committee itself. There is also scope for discussing the Programme of Work and Budget, for instance, among other issues, and I am also hoping that these reflections of the May Programme Committee meeting can be included when we finalize the paper on the Working Methods of the Council, as the Programme Committee is a Council Committee. We will have a discussion on that later today, but I hope that we can still include the inputs coming from the May Programme Committee session there, finally when it is presented to the Conference.

My second point is related to the intervention by the Russian Federation where they proposed that a Joint Programme Committee and Finance Committee might be more effective than the way these two Committees are working at the moment. I can just inform the Russian Federation and the others that we have had some discussions on this with the Finance Committee Chair, and we consider that it might be useful in the next round to have more time for the Programme Committee and Finance Committee, particularly on the Programme of Work and Budget, to have at least two days maybe for a Joint Meeting, for those Committees to address that issue together and, of course, this is something that we will continue discussing between now and the Conference as well.

Those are the comments I wanted to make at this point in time.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Let me echo the words of the Chair of the Programme Committee in thanking you for the work of the Finance Committee. It has indeed been hard work, especially the last meeting on the Programme of Work and Budget for which we had two evening sessions to finalize our work. I would also like to

express our appreciation for the effort made by members of the Finance Committee and also the contribution of the Secretariat to our deliberations.

Just to echo the points that the Chair of the Programme Committee has made, on the results-based format, we do agree with remarks made by China that the level of information and presentation could be improved and made more readable. Even for experts, sometimes it is difficult to get a full grip on the facts and figures. It is a work-in-progress, and I am sure that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Member Nations and members of the Finance and Programme Committees, can come up with a satisfactory format within a reasonable time frame. It cannot be a work-in-progress forever. Finally, concerning the additional information that has been provided on Friday afternoon, in future, such information should be part and parcel of deliberations in the Committees to enable us to come up with informed advice to the Council. So, while much appreciating the work done by the Secretariat, in future that should be part and parcel of the information to the Committees.

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

At the outset, I would like to thank all the Members of Council for the very constructive comments that have been made. In particular, I thank the Programme and Finance Committees for their work on reviewing the various aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget this biennium. The Programme Committee, with which I myself and many other members of the Secretariat have spent many productive hours, was a unique experience and has contributed greatly to helping us move forward on our Results-Based Management prioritization. Sometimes it can be a challenge, and I think that challenge has helped us to make progress.

If I may turn to a few general points and then answer some specific questions. First, in terms of the presentation of the documentation, I refer in particular to China's comment but others have echoed it. It is the Secretariat's job to present a clear and transparent set of programme budget documents and, as I mentioned in my introduction, I think that now we are trying to find a balance between what used to be a very detailed presentation in the pre-IPA days and one that has become fairly high-level in the immediate outcome of the IPA. The work that we have done in the last fifteen months, including the additional information that we have just provided to you, will help us to find that balance so that you can understand the proposal and receive enough information to allow you to have your discussions on the proposals themselves.

In terms of the prioritization, we are going to have to start working on the next Medium-Term Plan later this year. So, already we will be able to take into account what we have learned from these first fifteen months and I think we have a chance, as we prepare the inputs for the Regional Conferences which start in January next year and the Technical Committees, to get much more useful and meaningful outputs from those Bodies to guide the Medium-Term Plan. You have covered several of the areas, as did the Chair of the Programme Committee, in terms of better definition of the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in the presentation of resources. So I think that here we have the guidance, and now the job ahead of us is to prepare those documents. From the point of view of Members, this will enable you to have a meaningful discussion and clear reports coming from those Governing Bodies back to the Programme Committee and Council.

In terms of the resources and the resource allocations, which is another very important part of the Results-Based Management, the Joint Meeting in October will be seeing the full resource mobilization and management strategy which will include an allocation mechanism for extra-budgetary resources as they are mobilized against the impact focus areas and Strategic Objectives. Thus we have again the opportunity to be clear about how these resources are allocated in the PWB. But I must stress again that extra-budgetary resources in the PWB are estimates. They are our best estimate of what we believe we will be able to mobilize in the coming biennium, and they are certainly subject to variance. I think, as Afghanistan and others have pointed out, that we have been conservative because we do not know in advance the level of Voluntary Contributions we will actually get. Given the economic and financial difficulties now, the signals are perhaps we will not be as successful in the coming biennium as we have been in the past, but that remains to be seen. What is being received in the current biennium, which is 28 percent higher than we had estimated in the PWB 2010-11, we would hope is due in part to the effectiveness of FAO in delivering in the field.

In terms of the cost increases, we are striving to provide you with the best information, the best estimates we can, in particular on the inflation factors, and we have committed to providing updates as we move forward. I will leave it to Mr Manoj Juneja to provide more information on the status of the International Civil Service Commission discussions that are ongoing.

In terms of the efficiency savings initiatives proposed in the document, we are working with the Secretary General's team, within the High-Level Committee on Management, to pursue further savings. Working with others should help us in the future, for example the UN General Assembly has been having debates on travel costs and we can see whether we are in line with the UN in general here. Also, the eventual outcome of your discussions on the Vision for the Decentralized Offices could contribute to further savings, but we do not yet know the outcome of that discussion.

Several delegations have asked questions about Functional Objective X. We have provided additional information in Information Note 2, breaking down the contributions that are coming from the key service offices in the Organization. Australia pointed out a couple of these offices, for example, the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension. This is an office which provides some very important services within the Organization, supporting the strategy on capacity development and its implementation by the units across the House to support the Strategic Objectives, as well as the knowledge and information generation and sharing. It covers the library, and the document repository of the Organization, coordinates the external Websites and also publishing, so there are many key services within these offices and we can provide additional information on top of the note. Also you noted that the Chief Information Officer Division is large and, indeed, all of the information technology and communication services are amalgamated in the CIO Division. This was recommended by the Root and Branch Review, so in contrast to past PWBs we can give a very clear picture of the ICT costs of the Organization. We are developing our strategy on information technology, as set out in the document, which should help us to find streamlining and potential savings in the future.

If I could cover just a few specific questions that were asked. Yesterday the European Union and then today also India asked about the Animal Health Strategy that was proposed and endorsed by the Programme Committee. This strategy has a requirement of USD 193 million from extra-budgetary resources. Because this Strategy was not seen by the Programme Committee until March, it was not explicitly included in the Programme of Work and Budget. However, under that Strategy already exists the HPAI Programme – the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Programme - and follow-up, and about USD 40 million in extra-budgetary resources for that programme are included under Strategic Objective B in the PWB. As we move forward and revise the extra-budgetary estimates, we would have the opportunity to revisit the extra-budgetary amount that is under Strategic Objective B for the work on Animal Health.

Argentina, you asked about the revisions to the framework for Strategic Objectives B and C, which were agreed in the Programme Committee. These revisions are actually an Appendix to the Report of the 106th Session of the Programme Committee and would eventually find their way into an adjusted Programme Work and Budget after the Conference.

The United States asked about the International Conference on Nutrition which is proposed as a joint initiative by FAO and WHO. The meetings related to this Conference are included in the List of Scheduled Sessions in Annex 13 of the PWB document with a budgeted contribution from FAO for these meetings of USD 400,000 in the 2012-2013 biennium. This is covered in part from the allocation of the USD 10.4 million in savings as is shown in Information Note 1. The rest of the costs of this meeting will be shared with WHO, and will be funded from extra-budgetary resources. Of course, the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, AGN, is supporting this as part of their regular work, both the preparatory activities and eventually the follow-up, given the high priority that is given to nutrition through the Standing Committee on Nutrition and other initiatives.

The Russian Federation made a comment about the Russian language coverage. Of the USD 10.4 million of savings that have been allocated, USD 1.25 million of that is allocated to increase the coverage of Russian language, both in the Governing Bodies as well as the specialized technical committees: CODEX, the IPPC and so on, and that is also indicated in Information Note 1.

Egypt asked about the regional results for the Near East and the relationship to the Organizational Results. This is shown in Annex I of the PWB document against the five priority areas that were identified by the Near East Regional Conference in December of last year.

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

I wanted to briefly address four points. First the scope of the 3 percent efficiency savings asked for by the UN Secretary-General, second some more information on cost increase updates, third the Shared Services Centre and fourth the point raised by Australia on flat screen televisions.

On the scope of the 3 percent efficiency savings, let me say first of all that the topic of doing more with less was discussed between the Executive Heads of the UN Agencies earlier this month at the CEB at which, of course, the Director-General participated. The intention is for much greater collaboration across the UN System to identify efficiency savings. This would be done through the High-Level Committee on Management, in which I participate, which will identify system-wide measures for efficiency savings by September. In trying to understand what the scope of the exercise might be for the United Nations itself, we have seen statements from the spokesperson of the Secretary-General. We have also seen the outcome of some discussion between Senior Management of the UN and the Fifth Committee, and we have been in contact with the CEB Secretariat.

What we have gathered so far is that the normal re-costing procedures, which we in FAO refer to as cost increases, will be applied at the UN and, therefore, presumably the doing-more-with less-exercise will be one step of a process of coming up with a budget for the UN in the next biennium, for which a cost increase exercise will be one element.

Now, of course, the final result at the UN will presumably be an outcome of a political negotiation, which will presumably also bear in mind that the current budget of the UN in 2010-2011 is USD 5.16 billion versus the 2008-2009 budget of USD 4.17 billion. In other words, the UN had an increase of some 23 percent between 2008-2009 and 2010-2011.

On cost increases, the Finance Committee called for Management to report on significant changes to the cost increase assumptions and estimates prior to the Conference in June 2011. As you heard earlier, personnel services account for three-quarters of the total cost increases. With respect to our Director and above, Professional and General Service salaries worldwide, we are bound by the actions of the ICSC, given that the Governing Bodies adopted the Charter of the International Civil Service Commission in 1975. The ICSC held an important session at the end of March and although their Report is not yet available, we expect that their discussions and their decisions may result in some downward adjustments to the cost increase calculations that we presented to you in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013. We will provide details, as reflected also in the Finance Committee Report, before the June Conference.

There was some suggestion in the interventions today that somehow, when compared with other UN Agencies, FAO overestimates cost increases. This is not the case. I say this with confidence, particularly *vis-à-vis* the specific situation of FAO in Rome and FAO costs worldwide, because the Finance Committee monitors very carefully the single largest element of our cost increase estimates, and that is our staff costs.

The Finance Committee monitors our staff costs variance in the annual reports on budgetary performance and this is the difference between our standard costs, which are budgeted many months before implementation in the Programme of Work and Budget, and the actual costs, which we incur during the implementation cycle. Therefore, if we see the results for 2010-2011, we would estimate only a forecast variance of USD 1.2 million, and it is an unfavourable variance which would suggest, in fact, that we underbudgeted our costs for 2010-2011 and that is an underbudgeting of USD 1.2 million on personnel services of some USD 700 million over the biennium. This gives you an indication of, firstly, the accuracy that we try to have in these estimates, despite the great difficulty one would have in estimating these cost increases, and secondly, the fact that for this biennium we estimate a negative staff cost variance. So for Management, the cost-increase exercise is a technical exercise with objective forecasts, to which we then return during the implementation cycle.

Turning to the question raised by Thailand on the Shared Services Centre, it is important to distinguish between the savings from the Shared Services Centre consolidation, which are estimated at almost USD 2 million, and what the Review Team in its in-depth report felt could be done with those savings for the benefit of four regions.

The reinvestment of the savings from the consolidation of the Shared Services Centre is an independent proposal, a separate proposal aimed broadly at improving the quality of human resources services in all the regions. There is no insistence on the part of Management to establish the four HR Offices, so the efficiency savings from the consolidation of the SSC are indeed real savings.

Finally, on the comment made by Australia on flat screens. I am taking the floor on this just to avoid the impression that there is some waste within the FAO buildings. Firstly, many rooms include audio-visual equipment, which is provided through Voluntary Contributions. They are paid for by donors, so what Members might see within the building in these rooms does not always come from Assessed Contributions. That equipment comes from Voluntary Contributions.

Those proposals in meeting rooms that are funded under the Regular Programme are done on the basis of clear return on investment criteria. What I mean by that is that these flat screens result in quantifiable reductions in our travel budget through greater use of video-conferencing facilities. They also lead to qualitative improvements in our contact between Headquarters and the Decentralized Offices. To give an example, the Senior Management Meetings, which now for some time have been held simultaneously with five regions on video-conference, has clearly led to qualitative improvements, including functioning as well.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après les interventions des Présidents du Comité et du Secrétariat sur des questions de réponses, si quelqu'un veut la parole, on ne recommence pas le débat mais je vais vous dire comment on continue. Puisqu'il n'y a pas de questions particulières, je vous remercie les uns et les autres de votre contribution dans les Comités et au Secrétariat pour les présentations qui ont été faites et pour le travail réalisé. Je vous rappelle aussi, comme je l'ai dit en introduction hier, que notre mission au Conseil est d'aller le plus loin possible concernant l'évolution du budget pour préparer la Conférence et nous y avons déjà contribué par l'échange.

Je vais maintenant tirer des pré-conclusions de ce qui a été dit hier soir et ce matin. Nous sommes contraints d'avoir une séance supplémentaire ce soir de 14 h 30 jusqu'à 20 h 30. Nous reprendrons donc l'Ordre du jour classique et enfin, nous reprendrons la discussion à partir des points de conclusion qui vont rester en suspens comme je vais l'évoquer. Nous jugerons à ce moment là si nous faisons plus demain et après-demain. Mais en toute état de cause, l'objectif est d'arriver, non pas forcément à un consensus absolu mais au moins à un cadre sur lequel nous devons continuer de travailler ici entre le Conseil et la Conférence en fonction de groupes appropriés que nous définirons entre nous. D'ores et déjà voila le cadre global de conclusion que je peux tirer en vous disant qu'il est possible que sur la forme je le réajuste d'ici ce soir pour être plus précis.

La première chose qui a fait l'unanimité c'est que nous avons réaffirmé le rôle de plus en plus important de la FAO dans le monde concernant le problème de la faim et comment le résoudre avec la sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre du développement. Je pense que cela a été unanime et il est important qu'on le redise.

Ayant discuté de manière approfondie du projet de Plan à moyen-terme 2010-2013 et du Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013, le Conseil a apprécié le document présenté, notamment les informations complémentaires fournies à la veille de la Session du Conseil, même si vous avez été nombreux à regretter que c'était aussi tard, et considérant que dans l'ensemble, cette documentation prend en ligne de compte les recommandations des Organes directeurs donc le Comité des finances, le Comité conjoint et le Comité du programme. Le Conseil a convenu:

Premier point: réaffirmer l'objectif du PAI, de porter le budget alloué à l'Évaluation à 0,8 du montant net des crédits ouverts et de proposer de fixer ce chiffre à 0,7 pour 2012-2013, soit environ 1 million de dollars E.U. de plus;

Deuxième point: augmenter le budget de l'Objectif stratégique K «équité entre les hommes et les femmes» sans répercussion sur le montant global du budget (redistribution);

Troisième point: accepter le financement du PAI au titre des contributions ordinaires telles que proposées dans le projet du PTB 2012-2013;

Quatrième point: en ce qui concerne les montants prévisionnels des augmentations des coûts, des informations additionnelles sur les augmentations dues à l'inflation ont été fournies et seront prises en compte pour actualiser les coûts des biens et services après le Conseil en vu de leur examen pour la Conférence;

Cinquième point: recommander un financement partiel d'un montant de 14,1 millions de dollars E.U. en 2012-2013 pour l'assurance maladie après-cessation de service reportant aux prochains exercices biennaux les propositions de financement destinées à améliorer la situation financière de l'Organisation;

Sixième point: en ce qui concerne la priorisation, il importe d'améliorer la présentation et les incidences des domaines à mettre en avant ou en retrait au sein des objectifs et des résultats de l'Organisation;

Septième point: s'agissant du Centre de services communs, les deux options présentées hier ont été réitérées, à savoir le *status quo* ou l'intégration des pôles existants dans un centre unique à Budapest; et

Huitième point: en ce qui concerne le niveau de budget 2012-2013, deux options ont été considérées, la première: pas de diminution des contributions ordinaires proposées dans le projet du PTB ou réduction du projet proposé en réponse à l'appel du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies de diminuer de 3 pour cent le budget de l'ONU.

Je pense que c'est sur ce dernier point que nous pourrons, en fin de soirée, reprendre les débats pour, à la fois, peut-être rassembler nos positions ou les resserrer mais surtout pour le travail qui nous reste à faire. Il faut d'engager les points sur lesquels nous sommes d'accord pour essayer d'agir pour rapprocher les points de vue. Bien sûr, il faut aussi discuter le dossier de la Décentralisation que je n'ai pas abordé ici puisque nous allons l'aborder tout à l'heure dans le cadre du Point 14.

Si c'est bien clair, jusqu'au Point 7, ce sont les reprises des positions qui ont été données dans les différents Comités et qui ont suivies le débat qui font pour ainsi dire un accord même si c'est avec des options. Je souhaite que nous retenions le Point 8 pour parfaire le travail et faciliter la prise de décision à la Conférence. Voilà comment je vous propose de travailler maintenant, c'est-à-dire, suspendre la discussion budgétaire, continuer notre Ordre du jour et ce soir dans la deuxième partie de la réunion de l'après-midi reprendre sur ce dernier point et les éléments qui nous permettent de faire avancer les propositions pour plus tard. J'espère qu'il y aura accord sur le processus mais, bien sûr, je vous donne la parole. La Thaïlande.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I would like to thank Mr Juneja for providing the explanation on the distinction between the proposal of the team for the Services Centre and expected costs, but I am not sure whether I have heard an explanation on the cost savings of the posts that are expected to be abolished from Bangkok and Santiago hubs. So I would like to have that clarification.

M. Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Il faut faire le lien entre la discussion que nous avons eu à propos des priorités durant le point précédent auquel le Représentant de l'Afghanistan a fait référence, c'est-à-dire qu'il n'y a pas d'accord sur la proposition du travail du Budget: reflète-t-elle les priorités énoncées par le Comité de programme pour ne pas mentionner des Conférences, notre conférence informelle qui a été plus ou moins ignorée?

Continues in English

On the ICSC, it is indeed a technical exercise as Mr Juneja indicated. The concern we have there, particularly in Rome, is the choice of indicators, comparators, organizations which seem out of line and which produce hard results. If it is really the choice of competitor organizations that is most problematic, I hope we will indeed get some improvements following the meeting in New York you referred to.

Suite en français

Mais pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais aborder le processus de comment aller de l'avant. A ma connaissance, nous n'avons jamais réussi à établir un niveau de budget dans cette salle. Ce n'est pas le Conseil entier qui peut entrer ligne par ligne les détails de la proposition ou l'ébauche de Résolution. Cela nécessitera un Groupe d'amis qui se réunit le soir ou la nuit, jusqu'à ce que nous arrivions à un compromis. Nous sommes tout à fait prêt à aller de l'avant avec un Groupe d'amis ce soir, étant donné surtout que nous irons probablement jusqu'à 20 h 30 pour finir l'agenda prévu aujourd'hui. Nous sommes toujours au Point 3 et il est midi. Donc, nous pourrions continuer jusqu'à 20 h 30 ce soir pour finir l'Ordre, du jour et ensuite après une petite pause pour manger nous réunirons un Groupe d'amis. Car notre mandat n'est pas d'aller un peu plus loin pour continuer à la Conférence. Notre tâche et notre responsabilité en tant que Conseil, c'est de fournir un niveau précis du budget et une recommandation précise. Il faut essayer de faire de notre mieux pour respecter la Résolution de la Conférence et le PAI.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Sur les deux premières questions posées concernant le CSC, sur les priorités et sur le dernier point, je donnerai quelques informations complémentaires.

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

On the question posed by Thailand on the Shared Services Center, we have had a lot of experience in dealing with staff redeployment since 1994. I referred yesterday also to the experience we had when the Shared Service Centre was created in Budapest, resulting in a large number of abolitions here at Headquarters but also in Accra and in Cairo. Based on that experience, we are confident that we can deal with the human aspect through proper planning, such as planning for retirements and vacancy management. For example, one of the hubs, at the time of review, had two vacancies.

We have also stated at the Finance Committee that in order to facilitate a planned approach *vis-à-vis* a staff redeployment exercise, it is important to have as much lead time as possible. Therefore, it is important to have a decision from the Governing Bodies sooner rather than later. So we believe, based on our prior experience, that we can handle this exercise as we always have in the past, without any forced terminations in Bangkok and in Budapest. There is, aside from that, as the Representative from Thailand noted, one-time costs of USD 200 000 which have been included in the in-depth review.

Turning to the question posed by Canada, it is the ICSC that determines the methodology for the setting General Service salaries, including the choice of employers for Rome, which is proposed by a Task Force in Rome and is approved by the ICSC itself. Once the ICSC has approved a methodology, our task is to faithfully follow that methodology, and this is what we would intend to do at the next Salary Survey which the ICSC has proposed for Spring 2012. The main point I would like to underline here is that the choice of employers is based on the parameters for the choice of employers as determined by the ICSC. Our task is to follow the methodology, and submit the list of employers for endorsement by the ICSC as part of the Salary Survey process.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour le dernier point évoqué par le délégué du Canada Monsieur Vachon, je partage tout à fait ce qu'il a dit sur la mission qui nous est confiée d'aller à un chiffre. Nous avons jusqu'à vendredi midi pour le faire, c'est clair. Ce que j'ai voulu dire c'est que si nous n'y arrivons pas, l'objectif est de serrer au mieux le travail que nous aurons à faire après le Conseil pour préparer au mieux la Conférence. Pour

l'instant, je vous propose de nous en arrêter à la réunion de ce soir, à l'issue de laquelle nous verrons exactement la façon dont nous le ferons. Je n'exclue pas la proposition faite par le délégué du Canada, mais je rappelle que nous avons aussi la possibilité demain soir après les auditions des candidats au poste de Directeur général, d'avoir une autre séance. Mon objectif, même si je pense qu'une réunion des Amis du Président peut être utile, c'est d'aller le plus loin possible tous ensemble avec les 49 Membres et ses traductions. Cela n'exclut pas un Comité des amis, mais si nous avons encore une autre séance que nous pouvons faire ensemble, je pense que ce sera positif pour tout le monde. Donc rien n'est exclus, mais nous y allons étape par étape, l'objectif étant bien sûr le même pour tous. Êtes-vous d'accord, avez-vous bien compris? Nous avons encore un peu de temps avant midi. Nous recommençons cet après-midi à 14 h 30 jusqu'à 20 h 30 dont une partie budgétaire, je l'espère, si tel n'était pas le cas, on ajustera et la possibilité de définir ce soir la façon de travailler par la suite. Nous nous arrêtons là.

Governance Matters

Questions relatives à la gouvernance

Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza

12. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 141/13)

12. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action immédiate (CL 141/13)

12. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción (CL 141/13)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous remercie pour ces sujets, je vous remercie les uns les autres. Le point de l'Ordre du jour n'est pas clos puisque nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir.

Je vous propose donc avant d'aller déjeuner de passer au point suivant, le rapport d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du PAI et je demande aux deux Vice-Présidents du CoC-EEI de bien vouloir m'accompagner à la tribune, l'Ambassadeur Ngirwa et Madame van Ardenne-van der Hoeven.

Nous passons donc au Point 12 de l'Ordre du jour, le Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du PAI. Je remercie les deux Vice-Présidents du CoC-EEI d'être avec moi. Ce Rapport présenté pour l'information du Conseil, pour en prendre note, indique les progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre du PAI. Ces progrès ont été examinés en février et mars dernier par le CoC-EEI et sur le plan budgétaire par le Comité financier. Je propose et je demande à Monsieur David Benfield, Directeur de l'Unité de gestion du programme d'exécution du PAI, d'introduire ce Rapport. Nous aurons des échanges, mais nous n'avons pas à adopter le Rapport en tant que tel.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, Immediate Plan of Action Programme Management Unit)

As requested by the Council at the Hundred and Fortieth Session in November 2010, this Progress Report provides a balanced reporting of both the quantitative and qualitative progress with the IPA implementation. It summarizes the 2010 Annual Progress Report that was presented to the February 2011 Conference Committee for follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

In quantitative terms, the report indicates continued good progress with implementation, with a further 25 IPA actions completed in 2010. Now this is fewer than the number of completions than the number of completions in 2009, but represents progress as anticipated because many of the actions contained in the 2010-2011 IPA programme are larger and more complex actions, many of which are scheduled to complete either later in 2011 or continue into the biennium 2012-2013.

The Report predicts that only 20 percent of IPA actions will remain open as we start the next biennium 2012-2013. However, this 20 percent by number contains some very large and complex actions and these represent 40 percent by effort, by cost and by time scale for the IPA Programme. Indeed the report indicates that owing to this variance in size and complexity between the IPA actions, this quantitative information provides only a partial metric in terms of progress with implementation and it needs to be supplemented with qualitative information relating to the achievements and contributions to tangible benefits to provide a reliable indicator of progress.

The Report indicates positive achievements during 2010, and provides examples in the thematic areas of managing for results, functioning as one, human resources reform and in the reform of administrative and management systems. Full information on achievements in 2010 and contributions to tangible benefits is contained in the 2010 Annual Report provided to the CoC-IEE.

The Report also covers the importance of effective organizational change management in limiting the period and the intensity of disruptions that are inherent in the early stages of major change programmes and in ensuring a focus on achievement of reform benefits, rather than simple completion of the reform-related tasks.

Effective Risk Management is one aspect of organizational change management and the Report describes the risk assessment exercise carried out in the second half of 2010 and the Management responses to the recommendations.

Effective staff communications is another important element of organizational change management, and the launch by the Director-General in January 2011 of the Employee Survey across the Organization marked an important milestone in our efforts towards greater understanding of employee awareness, understanding and support for FAO Reform and of the impact of our efforts in communicating FAO Reform to our employees. The Employee Survey closed at the end of February and over 4,700, or two thirds, of our employees responded. This is a very high response rate and it indicates a strong employee willingness to participate. The Survey was conducted by an external organization to ensure the confidentiality of responses. The analysis of these results was conducted by the external organization during March, and they will be reporting back to Management during April. The results will, of course, also be shared with our employees.

Moving to IPA finances, the unspent Trust Fund balance of USD 3.08 million as at the end of 2009 was fully expended in 2010. The total IPA expenditure for 2010 was USD 19.06 million and IPA funding for 2010-2011 will be used exclusively for IPA activities. Unspent 2010-2011 funds, if any, will be carried forward into 2012-2013. The initial funding request for 2012-2013 totalled USD 39.5 million.

Management is aware of the difficult financial and economic circumstances faced by many Member Nations and the consequent need for financial discipline in public expenditure. The Director-General has personally insisted that further savings be found in FAO programme expenditures, and this included a re-examination of savings available under the IPA programme for 2012-2013. Indeed, opportunities were identified for further savings associated with collaborative inter-agency work with the Rome-based agencies in the areas of procurement and travel. The IPA estimates for 2012-13 were reduced accordingly, from USD 39.5 million to USD 37.84 million, which is the figure you see in the PWB 2012-2013.

As reported by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, or will be reported by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee recalled the decision of the March 2011 Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees to recommend an increase in the level of the evaluation budget to 0.7 percent of the net appropriation for 2012-2013 and this is equivalent to an increase of approximately USD 1 million over the IPA budget proposal of USD 37.84 million.

In summary, positive progress has been achieved in IPA implementation in 2010 and early 2011, and Management looks forward to a continuing, active and participative partnership with Members as IPA implementation continues in 2012-2013.

Mr Ronald ELKHUIZEN (Vice-Chairperson, Finance Committee)

The Finance Committee considered aspects of the Immediate Plan of Action under its mandate at its February and March sessions, respectively the Hundred and Thirty-seven and Thirty-eighth Sessions. The Committee reviewed the composition of proposed 2012-2013 IPA programme costs which comprised investment costs of USD 16.61 million and a net recurrent cost of USD 21.23 million. This is comprising recurrent costs of USD 31.78 million and savings of USD 10.55 million, and the proposed overall 2012-2013 programme cost of USD 37.84 million.

The Committee supported that the mainstreaming of the IPA programme in the Assessed Contributions of Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013, and agreed in principle to the financial aspects of implementation of the IPA, noting that this would be revisited within the context of the agreed funding of the overall PWB 2012-2013.

The Committee also reviewed additional information on IPA expenditure in 2010 on the reduction on the scope of IPA actions, and on proposed savings arising from the initiative on common procurement with the Rome-based Agencies.

The Committee welcomed the Secretariat's continued efforts to attain efficiency gains and appreciated the proposed savings figures of the IPA were higher than previously reported. As already mentioned by the Secretariat, the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session also recalled the decision of the March 2011 Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees to recommend an increase of the level of the implementation budget to 9.7 percent of the net appropriation for 2012-2013, which is equivalent to an increase of approximately USD 1 million over the IPA budget proposed in the PWB 2012-2013.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je donne la parole à qui veut la prendre sur ce sujet. Y-a-t'il des candidats pour des interventions? La Norvège, l'Union européenne, le Cap Vert, le Brésil et la Guinée Équatoriale. Je passe la parole à la Norvège.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I can be very brief as this is a synthesis summing up the Report of what has been done and what we have been discussing in the Conference Committee. I want to thank the Secretariat for the introduction, and we absolutely agree that the positive results are now manifesting themselves in the IPA and the Reform Programme and we appreciate that.

There are still uncertainties and risks as we all know and this will be further discussed in the next meeting of the Conference Committee that will finalize the Conference Committee's Report to the Conference. Particularly important, of course, is the whole Risk Management structure. Institutional mechanisms are certainly in place for that, and we really appreciate the work that has been done in that respect, but we also remember, during the last Conference Committee's meeting, that we should make more room in the report for the Inspector General's recommendations and views on the IPA and the Management Report in that respect.

We are particularly concerned about the whole programme of FAO Functioning as One, and we think that it is a real challenge. We think that it is probably the largest challenge that we are facing in the IPA and the Programme of Work and Budget for that matter. So we are looking forward to a follow-up discussion in the next meeting of the Conference Committee.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Norvège. Cela n'a échappé à personne que nous avons une réunion du CoC le 21 avril, qui donc adoptera le Rapport mais, bien entendu, en tenant compte des commentaires qui peuvent être faits aujourd'hui, c'est tout à fait dans la normalité. L'Union européenne.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union appreciates the information provided in the draft Progress Report on the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. The European Union commends the progress made, appreciates the ongoing commitment of Management and Members to FAO Reform and stresses the need to maintain the momentum and increase the urgency of implementation. This Report gives a good overview of quantitative and qualitative progress of the IPA and will be presented to the Conference in June 2011. The European Union notes that this will be the final act of the CoC-IEE, and

that it will not continue after the Conference as the existing Governing Bodies will take over its responsibilities of monitoring the implementation of the IPA and reporting on progress.

The European Union notes that its comments made at recent sessions of Governing Bodies and the last CoC-IEE meeting could not yet be included in the Progress Report. Therefore, the European Union wishes to raise the following points.

At the CoC-IEE meeting in February, Members asked for more concrete and substantive information about the Progress of the Reform in the draft Progress Report to the Conference. The European Union welcomes this draft, which the Chair and Members can build upon. The European Union assumes that the requested information in the Updates on different aspects of the Reform will be inserted in the next version of the draft Progress Report, such as on Partnerships and Human Resources. The Member Nations wish to report back to capitals with facts and figures as far as possible.

On Human Resources, the European Union would like to see a clearer defined strategy, including timelines on rotation and estimated costs. The same goes for the 50 percent gender target, the reduction of recruitment time and regional representation, bearing in mind that competence should remain the priority criteria to be applied. Regarding rotation between Headquarters and Decentralised Offices, the European Union thinks that FAO should double its efforts as originally foreseen. Finally, career development, incentives and rewards linked to staff performance evaluations should be considered in order to improve staff motivation.

The European Union would appreciate receiving more detailed information in the Progress Report on the estimated number and selection criteria of Young Professionals that will be appointed on an annual basis, and also on the estimated number of assigned staff members per annum for mobility within Headquarters and from Headquarters to the field and vice versa. Given the fact that the current number of voluntary assignments is low, we would like to see the proposed solutions to resolve this problem. It would also be interesting to include some highlights of the Performance Evaluation and Management System (PEMS) and the Staff Survey in the Report.

In the Chapter “The Way Ahead” the European Union suggests to elaborate on the most important bigger projects, namely, Prioritization, Decentralization, Oracle and IPSAS.

The principal objectives we want to achieve by 2013 and the associated risks should be included in this part of the Report. The European Union would like to ask that the Report also include a programme of Culture Change for the next biennium.

The European Union emphasizes the importance of continuing transparency and accountability in this Reform Process, and the need for separate reporting on IPA Implementation, also in 2012 and 2013, to the Finance Committee and Programme Committee.

Finally, the European Union would like to recommend including an Executive Summary as part of the Progress Report.

Mr José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Cape Verde)

On behalf of the Africa Group, let me first of all thank the Management for the excellent Report that it presented to us on work done during 2010, and recognize the great effort that has been made so far by Members, Secretariat and the staff in the process of implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO renewal. However, we need to continue this work in a robust and as fast as possible pace, taking into consideration that although we are optimistic of our collective capacity to implement timely actions that have a timeframe, the effort that we still have to make corresponds to more or less 40 percent of the total work to be performed to implement IPA by 2013.

Furthermore, as progress cannot be measured only in quantitative terms, it is necessary and important to continue paying the utmost attention to the qualitative aspects of IPA. In this regard, we cannot but appreciate the achievements mentioned in this IPA report to the Hundred-Forty-first session of the Council such as to name some of them: the structural advice of the Regional Conferences on agenda priorities, the guidance of the Technical Committees and issues within their mandates, as well as the network capacity upgrade involving 56 country officers.

The creation of the IPA Programme Board by the Director-General, responsible for oversight, as well as the Programme Management Unit and other measures contributed immensely in fostering the IPA implementation process.

These measures represent, in the view of the Africa Group, very bold steps that can contribute to ensure a Management that minimizes risks. For these reasons, these actions need to continue as fundamental tools that only can leverage progress in the road of implementation of the IPA.

As the Africa Region consistently stated throughout the whole process and especially during the FAO African Regional Conference, Decentralization is for the continent of Africa one of the key issues. Therefore, we do strongly expect that funds from Assessed Contribution will be flowing to adequately support the attainment of this essential objective, that is one of those that really can make the difference in FAO's work in Africa. Therefore, while we are in favor of efficiency gains and of investing them in the IPA, we hope that our regional programmes, especially at the level of countries, will be adequately and totally protected.

Delegation of authority training and capacity-building are also of utmost importance if you want the Decentralized Offices at the Regional, Sub-regional as well as the country levels to fulfill their job as they should.

We also support the measures aimed at improving staff communications. The positive responses through the Survey that was launched shows clearly its importance as a motivator but also as a means of mobilization of inputs that are very much needed and important for the Organization. The Africa Group takes note of the Report contained in document CL 141/13, and looks forward to continue cooperating actively in the work still needed to be done with a view to its approval by the FAO Conference, in a way that will fit the real needs of the Organization as it accomplishes its noble mandate of combating hunger in the world and of promoting food security for all.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous propose de lever la séance pour le déjeuner, nous reprenons à 14 h 30 par l'intervention du Brésil et de la Guinée équatoriale et nous continuerons notre séance. Je vous demande tout de suite de réserver votre soirée jusqu'à 20h30.

The meeting rose at 12.44 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.44

Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
12 April 2011

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.49 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 49
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta reunión plenaria a las 14.49
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Governance Matters (continued)**Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza****12. Immediate Plan of Action Implementation Progress Report (CL 141/13)
(continued)****12. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action
immédiate (CL 141/13) (suite)****12. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la ejecución del Plan inmediato de
acción (CL 141/13) (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Je vous propose de continuer notre Point 12 de l'Ordre du jour et vous demande si vous êtes d'accord pour qu'aussitôt après nous puissions passer au Point 18 qui est prévu pour le Conseil d'administration du PAM, car nos amis du PAM avaient prévus de venir en début d'après-midi et ils sont là, puis nous recommencerons notre Ordre du jour par la suite. Aucune objection?

Je demande aux délégations inscrites: le Brésil m'a signifié qu'il n'interviendrait plus, donc j'ai deux pays qui ont demandé la parole: la Guinée Équatoriale et les États-Unis d'Amérique, y-en-a-t'il d'autres? La Guinée Équatoriale, vous avez la parole.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Guinea Ecuatorial tiene el placer de tomar la palabra agradeciendo la Secretaria por la presentación del documento relativo a los progresos en la Ejecución del Plan inmediato de acción. Apreciamos los avances positivos, cuanto cuantitativos, como los cualitativos en la ejecución de ese PIA, si bien valoraríamos mucho más este trabajo si la administración pudiera ser más precisa en las medidas ejecutadas en niveles de satisfacción y su repercusión del éxito del programa de la Organización.

Acogemos con satisfacción los detalles reflejados en el Informe Anual 2009-2010 sobre los progresos del PIA y con respecto a la capacidad de la Red de Oficinas de los países. Valoraremos mucho más estos avances si todas las oficinas nacionales de la FAO pudieran contar en breve tiempo con equipos de alta definición para video conferencias con el fin de mejorar las comunicaciones entre las oficinas, completando así el total de 56 oficinas como está previsto.

A nivel de gestión de cambio de riesgos valoramos los esfuerzos al respecto y, se espera que la encuesta pudiera incluir la percepción de los Estados Miembros con respecto a la Reforma de la FAO, de modo que en el Marco Estratégico de la FAO, de forma global, se oriente cada vez más a las acciones tendentes a reducir el hambre en el mundo con especial atención en los países y regiones más afectados.

Superamos la importancia de clases diferentes para las temáticas del PIA y su especial atención a la necesidad de reflejar avances concretos en la Política de Rotación basada en incentivos, Programa para Jóvenes Profesionales respetando el equilibrio regional y la representatividad de los Países Miembros.

Mi delegación suscribe la declaración presentada hace poco por nuestros compañeros del Cabo Verde, en nombre del Grupo Africano sobre la importancia del programa PIA en la descentralización con el reforzamiento de la capacidad de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y la formación del personal.

Finalmente, valoramos los avances en la colaboración y decisión entre los organismos con sede en Roma en los ámbitos de compras conjuntas, gastos de viajes administrativos y suparemos la necesidad de que esta colaboración pueda avanzar hacia otros ámbitos aprovechando las ventajas comparativas y organizativas para obtener más ahorros.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

Allow me to start first by thanking all the FAO staff and its managers who we know are working very hard at reforming this Organization. It is a very complex process, we are deep into this Reform Process, and we are obviously committed to the success of its full implementation.

The United States remains deeply committed to the ongoing efforts to revitalize the FAO as encapsulated in the negotiated Immediate Plan of Action. We understand the major challenges associated with the implementation of this ambitious plan, and recall that our overall aim is captured in the instructions to the Independent External Evaluation Team within its Terms of Reference to “make FAO fit for the 21st century and the challenges ahead”.

Broadly speaking, we believe IPA implementation is moving in the right direction even with the substantial risks noted by the Inspector General’s Annual Report for 2010. All of us will need to work hard to sustain the necessary motivation and momentum to carry this effort forward to its full completion within the five-year timeframe agreed by FAO Members at our 2009 Conference.

Likewise, as noted in our March 30th CoC-IEE meeting, there is one remaining IPA item that we will have to complete after the next biennium, specifically, an Independent Review of Governing Structures of the Organization with an aim to its completion by 2015. This is Item 2.74 of the IPA.

We would like to underscore the critical importance of the human resource elements of the IPA which, as we know, are the most costly and the most important. As it has been pointed out in the CoC-IEE process and, again, here today by several delegations, the reduction of hiring times, staff rotation and performance evaluation are some of the key areas where improvements can be made.

With respect to PEMS, when the Finance Committee spoke with the Commissioners of the ICSC during their March session, the Commissioners urged the FAO and its Members to propose approaches on Rewards and Recognition which they will debate this summer. That will include ideas on what to do when performance is unsatisfactory.

A separate and critical issue within the IPA is Decentralization, which I will address shortly. As discussed in the CoC-IEE Meeting of March 30th, FAO must concentrate on rationalizing and improving its already existing field presence, captured in Item 3.84 of the IPA, as well as continuing implementation and evaluation of the results of pertinent IPA reforms before the Membership can realistically reach agreements on a strategy and plan for rationalizing FAO’s present field structure.

Member Nations should not allow FAO to dilute the important knowledge-based work done in headquarters by spreading itself too thin in the field without sufficient strategy and, ultimately, weakening the effects on global food security.

A clear systematic approach to prioritization is critical, and we believe that the CoC-IEE Report to Members provided a somewhat overly optimistic account of the results-based budgeting exercise. We would like to see a thorough assessment among Members in this regard.

We welcome the move to assess the risk associated with the Reform Process as part of the broader Enterprise Risk-Management exercise and we are pleased that the newly-formed IPA Programme Board is focused on how to accomplish the remaining, most complex and most costly IPA items by the close of the next biennium.

We look forward to receiving information on the results of the Staff Survey that Mr Benfield discussed earlier, and we believe that the Membership should discuss how we will consider a final Independent Evaluation of the IPA process at the conclusion of the five-year plan.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, the Chinese delegation appreciates the work done by the Secretariat in providing the Progress Report. The Chinese delegation believes this Report is concise and very informative, and has also provided the qualitative analysis for the implementation progress of the IPA. It has also introduced the risk analysis method.

We are pleased to see that FAO’s Reform is marching in the right direction. The Chinese delegation in principle supports the budget for the IPA for the next biennium. Just like the other Members, we hope that the Secretariat will further promote the implementation of the IPA, and also the Reform of FAO. At the same time, we wish to make further savings.

Mr David Benfield (Director, Immediate Plan of Action Programme Management Unit)

Just one or two responses I would like to make regarding a number of questions about the importance of risk assessment and following up on the risks of the programme. As we move towards the second half of the programme, the programme implementation cycle, looking towards the qualitative aspects and the benefits and, as I indicated, as we move into 2012 the number of IPA actions is reducing significantly. But, of course, within those small number of IPA actions, are some of the most challenging IPA projects that we are responsible for. So we will be putting more emphasis as we move into the second half of the programme on following through on the risks that have been identified, and making sure that mitigating actions are followed through completely in conjunction and integration with the overall Enterprise Risk Management exercise that is taking place in the Organization.

Also, we will be looking very carefully as these projects move towards completion and achieve their milestones to make sure the milestones reflect the benefits and not just completion of the task. Particularly with these more complex projects, it is very important that we recognize the benefits that are being achieved.

In terms of the comments from the European Union, we have incorporated a number of updates in the latest version of the Conference Committee Report to Conference, and I hope we have covered all of the issues raised this afternoon.

Equatorial Guinea asked a question related to the capacity of the country network offices and the wish to move more quickly in terms of high-definition video-conferencing facilities. This project, 390, which concerns improving the capacity of the network to Decentralized Offices, has two purposes. The first purpose is to make sure that the Decentralized Offices have good access to all the corporate applications and that is also linked to the project on International Public Sector Accounting Standards and the new field accounting system and also, wherever possible, to introduce video-conferencing facilities to as many of our Country Offices as is possible, sometimes subject to local conditions and local telecommunication constraints and within that, where possible, to include high-definition video-conferencing facilities.

The final point I would make is a question that was raised by the distinguished delegate from the United Republic of Tanzania earlier relating to the Programme Management Unit and its terms of reference and its timeframe. Its full title is the IPA Programme Management Unit, and this unit will disband at the end of 2013. It is very important to establish these units to improve our management of risk and our management of the overall programme. It is equally important to disband these units when that programme has finished. Therefore, the IPA Programme Management Unit will disband, as is indicated in the Report to the Hundred and Thirty-seventh Session of the Finance Committee, upon completion of the IPA Programme. Its terms of reference are very much linked to working between the IPA Programme Board and the individual project leaders, ensuring high-quality project management standards, monitoring the programme, monitoring the risks associated with each of the projects, coordinating and managing the interdependencies between the projects, improving the overall management, monitoring expenditures and, of course, reporting both to the Internal IPA Programme Board and also to the various Governing Body Sessions. So that covers its terms of reference, but they are very specifically linked to the IPA so the costs for the Programme Management Unit are investment costs. They are not recurrent costs and the Unit will disband at the end of 2013.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just a quick response to the comment by the United States regarding the evaluation called for in IPA Action 274. As discussed at the last meeting of the CoC-IEE, that discussion was reflected to in the revised version of the Draft Report of the CoC-IEE to the Conference.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

Thank you, Mr Mekouar, for that point. I just saw this morning the Report that was circulated and I do acknowledge that it was mentioned in there. I don't think it was covered in terms of what exactly would happen in the coming biennium, how it would be addressed, so hopefully at the meeting on 21 April, we can include that with a little more specificity, but I do thank you for that comment.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Ce que je voulais dire en complément du travail qui a été fait auparavant, du rapport proposé au 21 avril et des interventions d'aujourd'hui, nous intégrerons, si nécessaire, ce qui n'a pas été introduit le 21 avril. Pas d'autres interventions? Monsieur Juneja.

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

I just wish to acknowledge the importance that the European Union and the United States, among the several speakers, have given to human resources work under the IPA: clear strategy on rotation, gender targets, recruitment, the PEMS system and a competency framework. I want also to underline the importance that Management has given to the entire human resources area and indeed considerable resources that have been earmarked both in the 2010-2011 biennium, as well as 2012-2013 proposals for human resources.

With regard to the specific comment made by the European Union on rotation, I would like to reconfirm that it is Management's intention to replace the Interim Rotation Guidelines with a rotation policy by the end of 2011. The intention is also to do so with a more mandatory model, as requested by the Council and, before that, the Finance Committee, with due consultation with the Staff Bodies. There was, however, also a suggestion by the European Union that we should "double the efforts" to bring it back to the level that was originally foreseen in 2009. Let me try explain my understanding, that the European Union is suggesting that we should bring the additional rotation target back to 80 additional rotations per year as was originally proposed in 2009. I would like to clarify that the present level of rotations, and the rotation targets in the 2012-2013 proposals, stand at a figure of USD 2.8 million which would be sufficient to undertake 50 additional rotations per biennium. Of course, on top of those geographic rotations we envisage, under the present Interim Guidelines as well as the future Mobility Policy, the possibility of a substantial number of transfers within the same geographic location which achieve the purpose of providing broader experience and greater cross fertilization for the staff of the Organization, but without additional costs.

Turning to the question raised by the United States on performance evaluation, I should like to recall that in 2011 we are going through the second year of the PEMS Pilot - the performance system pilot. From 2012, it is envisaged that the PEMS system will become fully operational, and will therefore be used for administrative purposes.

With regard to our engagement with the ICSC, I can confirm that FAO does intend to participate actively and propose ideas for debate in the summer session of the ICSC so that the incentive aspects of the Rotation Policy and ways and means of dealing with unsatisfactory performance can be combined with the implementation of the PEMS System for administrative purposes from 2012.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Juneja. Sur ce Rapport, sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre du PAI, nous notons 3 points en termes de conclusions:

le Conseil s'est félicité des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre du PAI, du double point de vue quantitatif et qualitatif au cours de ce biennium;

le Conseil a également noté les projections en terme d'efforts qui restent à consentir, pendant le prochain biennium, en vue de compléter les réformes inhérentes au PAI, y compris, cela a été dit à plusieurs reprises, les risques encourus et les moyens d'y remédier; et

le Conseil note enfin l'intégration du PAI dans le PTB 2012-2013 et la prise en compte des financements y afférent. Et bien sûr, toutes les autres questions qui ont été vues seront intégrées dans le Rapport ou le sont déjà.

J'espère que cela vous convient.

Avant de passer au point suivant, et comme je l'ai dit à l'entrée de la séance, nous allons prendre le Point 18 avec le PAM, mais j'ai deux informations à vous transmettre:

Une première dans un cadre complètement administratif. Je rappelle aux Membres qu'ils n'ont pas encore fait, et si on me le demande c'est signe qu'il y en a quelques uns qui ne l'ont pas fait, qu'ils doivent enregistrer leur participation à la Session du Conseil auprès du Centre des inscriptions de la Turquie situé à l'entrée du bâtiment A.

Pour essayer d'être le plus efficace possible et le plus rigoureux possible, demain, dans le cadre de l'Audition des candidats au poste de Directeur-général, qui je le rappelle aura lieu dans la salle de Plénière au troisième étage, je vous informe que ce sont les Membres du Conseil qui interviennent, et si vous le pouvez et si vous le voulez, parce que ce n'est pas une obligation, de transmettre le nom des personnes ou des pays qui interviendront sur chaque question, cela me faciliterait la tâche.

Si, pour des raisons de confidentialité, vous ne souhaitez pas le transmettre ce soir, vous pouvez me le transmettre demain matin à l'ouverture, je pense que cela nous évitera quelques problèmes d'organisation. Donc, ce n'est pas une obligation, mais c'est une demande pressante du Président, et je le rappelle, ce sont les Membres du Conseil, et compte-tenu de l'aspect réglementaire, je tiens à ce que cela soit respecté.

Voilà pour ce qui concerne ce point, merci à Monsieur Benfield, et merci à mes Vice-présidents.

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

18. Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its Activities in 2010

(C 2011/INF/11)

18. Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2010

(C 2011/INF/11)

18. Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2010

(C 2011/INF/11)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous allons passer au Point 18 qu'allons réaménager. Je donne la parole à Monsieur Abdulla du PAM.

Mr Amir ABDULLA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I am very pleased and have the privilege to present to you today the WFP Annual Report on 2010, the Report that will go to ECOSOC and the FAO Council. This document that is before you was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February of this year, and the Report is in line with the 2004 General Assembly Resolution 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development, commonly known as the TCPR. This Report is an annual report and in it we highlight many of our operational activities, but we believe it is of great interest to those Governing Bodies as many of the highlights, as you will note from it and I hope from my brief presentation of that paper today, of the true inter-agency collaboration and partnerships within the UN System and in the wider system of those working in humanitarian and development affairs.

In 2010, the issues of food security and nutrition remained very high on the global agenda and while the number of hungry may have declined to 925 million people, it is not exactly a decline. I think if we looked on a graph it would show a small decline. The number remains an unacceptable level, however and this level is higher than it was before the financial and food price crisis that occurred a few years back. In addition, this year 2010 was marked by perhaps an unprecedented level of humanitarian emergencies. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary-General Baroness Amos, has named these mega-disasters and the incidence of mega-disasters is on the rise. We saw these types of emergencies in Pakistan, in Haiti and perhaps not in the same way as a shock such as a flood or an earthquake but the slow onset of drought exacerbating the situation in countries like Niger. These emergencies have actually set back hard-won achievements in the development sphere. So, people often refer to a continuum as one moves from relief recovery through development. I have often said that unfortunately it is not so much a continuum as a pendulum, it swings forward but unfortunately also swings back, and we had many setbacks this year. Events such as the resurgence of price volatility, particularly on food but also on other commodities such as fuel, highlight and further

emphasize the need for urgent action to mitigate the impact, particularly on high food prices, to protect the most vulnerable people, in other words to protect the food costs for the poorest segment of society.

WFP plays an active part in this area together with other UN Agencies, particularly our sister agency here FAO as we follow-up and lead into the G20 Summit and, particularly on response to price volatility, with broader discussions around food security and nutrition. Much of this is being done within the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

The 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Summit in New York underscored the urgency of immediate action needed to achieve the MDGs. The follow-up to the earlier G8 L'Aquila Summit, the 2009 World Food Summit and all of these have been prominent in the inter-agency and multilateral collaboration and how we have all worked together through 2010. WFP, particularly supporting emergency food and nutrition intervention, our working safety nets for the most vulnerable, investments in smallholder agriculture and our work in general food supply systems, all are in support of that call to action.

We have also strived, where we can, to give further attention to capacity-development, South-South Cooperation, gender issues and all of these implemented within a very strong context of partnership and using partnership arrangements.

WFP inter-agency collaboration, as so many of our partners, is really grounded in where we work. We look and try to come up with multi-links, especially regarding the MDGs. When one looks at the MDGs, one can see that one almost will not achieve two without one, three without two - they are very inter-linked and trying to deal with just one of them is not an issue. In fact, much of the work we do aims at these inter-linkage areas, rather than specifically just targeting a single one.

We have deployed efforts in support of improvements in mother and child health, and in child mortality activities. We have worked in activities on the Scaling Up Nutrition, known as the SUN. We have worked very much within the "thousand day" initiative and we have worked within the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women and Children's Health, HIV/AIDS activities and so forth, all of these very much with an inter-agency or multi-agency dimension. I believe that we have assumed the correct role that we should, and joined in with our partners FAO, UNICEF and WHO in the reform of the Standing Committee on Nutrition, the SCN. The four of us have worked together building on lessons that we have all learned from the REACH project.

More specifically, within WFP and our recent reform to our WFP financial framework, this has allowed us to move and expand in the areas of a forward-purchasing facility which provides a rapid reaction to advance food reserves and food stocks to countries in need. With those tools, they have helped us with the shift, as it were, from food aid to food assistance, in other words trying to iron out the ups and downs in supplies, and assisted us in support of the Strategic Plan. In all of these, partnerships, again, play a key role as we further improve, develop, roll-out and implement the new approaches and new tools over the past few years such as P4P, increasing our use of cash and vouchers, new forms of school meals and such activities. All of these were implemented through extensive partnerships.

In 2010, in line with the UN General Assembly resolutions on system-wide coherence and the TCPR that I mentioned, which is going to be extended to quadrennial, so it will become known as the QCPR, WFP will continue to engage with partners to support our work in realizing the MDGs and to assist the global community do that. WFP was through 2010, and remains so in 2011, into the future, very active within the United Nations Chief Executive Board, known as the CEB, as well as its Subsidiary Bodies, the UN High-Level Committee on Management and the High-Level Committee on Programmes. The UN High-Level Task Force on Global Food Security was another area where WFP played a prominent role, and we included work on the updating of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA). Within our emergency spheres we have remained very active, and are on the Emergency Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) and on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) where we often join with my good friend Changchui He in taking up matters, particularly in the food security domain.

Partnerships with other UN Agencies as well as the World Bank, as I said, have been key through 2010 as they have in prior years and I am sure they will continue to be into the future. In 2010 we

revised or established and developed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with a range of Agencies, two in particular were UNDP and UNHCR. With UNDP it was a new MoU, but with UNHCR it was an updated one, updated with many of the changes within both of our organizations.

At the country level, WFP is very involved in this joint work and we have 74 UN joint programmes in 45 of the countries within which we work in 2010. That has been an intensification of this collaboration and the level of these joint type programmes has been rising steadily since 2007. Just to give an example, for instance in Sub-Saharan Africa, 80 percent of our Country Offices now have at least one joint programme or project.

Partnerships are not limited to within the UN System. We have improved and developed those with our NGO partners, regional entities, the private sector, the European Union through CAADP, and other bodies such as IGAM for a particular area of focus where we have tried to join in with country-led actions. Through 2010, we have continued to work with our partners, particularly to ensure and improve effective humanitarian responses and to leverage the humanitarian assistance programmes to take them into that next step where they can be used not just in response, but can be used in prevention, transition, peace-building and eventual longer-term solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

Within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) the cluster approach to humanitarian operations which was introduced during the UN Humanitarian Reform has enhanced coordination and brought greater coherence to many relief operations. It strives, and I believe does achieve in many areas, to diminish incidences of overlap and duplication, in other words eliminate the overlaps and fill the gaps. WFP's global leadership in this area was further confirmed in 2010 where, based on the IASC review and evaluation of the cluster system, some of the absences or gaps in the cluster roles themselves were resolved. WFP, for example, was given the lead for the emergency telecommunications and perhaps more excitingly, from where the perspective of where we sit today, the new global food security cluster which is jointly led by FAO and WFP. This has really helped introduce and solve a missing gap, there and we look forward very much to working together on that.

We also worked in the post-flood situation in Pakistan on introducing another innovative approach which was born out of the clusters. It was known in that response as the 'Survival Strategy,' and this actually pulled WFP, UNICEF and WHO together to look at those linkages where our logistics infrastructure and our supply system and food assistance could work together with the shelter and the water and sanitation and medical issues to really tackle root causes of nutritional problems. That, with the directors of emergencies of those four organizations, is being taken as a step forward in trying to develop an actual way, a framework, of working together in similar crises so we do not have to go back to square one, to start again. Much of what we have learned should be institutionalized in developing a framework there.

A common theme that we have followed, largely driven by the HLCM which is actually chaired by WFP's Executive Director Josette Sheeran, looking at effectiveness and efficiency gains. We have looked for reforms in the area of security, human resources and joint projects, and within there we are looking at areas where perhaps using each others ICT services and systems to try and get benefits and gains. At a recent meeting, much of the UN system was actually using the same software that WFP did, SAP, and they are now looking to WFP to assist them with their implementation. We are looking to how we can do that, as we believe it could result in significant savings for the UN System as a whole.

As those of you who attend the WFP Executive Board will know, WFP was the first operational large UN Agency to implement IPSAS and there too we are sharing our experience within the broader UN implementation of this standard. Our office of evaluation is very active, our Director of Evaluation, Caroline Heider, is a very active member of the UN Evaluation Group.

Of course, Rome-based agency collaboration had a key focus through 2010. I have mentioned the birth of the food security cluster, which I think really was a really tangible and key result from that collaboration. Without the way in which we approached it together, I am not sure that the gap in the system would have been filled. Our cooperation and collaboration covers policy, operations and administration and as I mentioned earlier, is very evident in the field but also here at Headquarters.

The 2010 State of Food Insecurity Report, the SOFI Report, is another key tangible result of that, where it was jointly developed, finalized and issued by FAO and WFP. We have basically worked on priority areas, we have looked at the four pillars or four areas that we collaborate on; policy advice, knowledge and monitoring, operations, advocacy and communications and then administrative collaboration. We have pilots and initiatives in many of these areas and we are looking at our information systems and looking to do that. Following the earthquake in Haiti, the three Executive Heads pulled together a Joint Task Force of the three organizations, WFP, FAO and IFAD, and we looked at short-term, medium-term and long-term responses. The integrated agricultural production, social safety nets and assessed how each one of us could leverage our individual inputs to ensure a more holistic output. We had several very useful meetings at our level, but also in the field, and when we needed to implement our programmes, it basically became a country-led and country-driven process, which is what it needed to be.

We are working jointly on procurement actions and that is another example, maybe not as highly aspirational as those of policy and operations working together. We are looking toward providing tangible cost savings in the areas of joint procurement, specifically in the areas of travel or other types of services. Basically, we believe that at least savings in the order of somewhere between three to five percent can be achieved, which might not be huge but every dollar that we can save on our administrative costs can be used in programme costs, and therefore are very important.

Our operational activities in the field as I mentioned, are of note and they are in many, many countries. For example, our collaboration with FAO in 2010 in the field is in 62 countries of the 80 countries in which both WFP and FAO operate.

We have been an active participant of the UNDG Reform through 2010, and we hope to work there to assist with the sharpening of focus and making sure that it becomes a collective approach. We hope to have significant impacts and to push very much through all of this to achieve country-led coordination using the UN country team. True initiatives that we want to work best will work best at country level. No amount of Headquarters coordination will ever replace true country-led coordination. We, therefore, need to make sure that these partnerships are grounded at country level. In that regard, we have remained very focused within the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, the UNDAFs, and the Delivering-as-One initiatives in the countries where we work, Mozambique, Tanzania, Cape Verde, Pakistan and Rwanda.

We have, of course as would be expected and required and of benefit to us, devoted considerable attention to the work of the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS, and there we wish to play our full role as a key player with the other UN Agencies, NGOs and private sector. We believe that the Thirty-sixth Session of the CFS in October 2010, the first since the CFS Reform, was a milestone. It paved the way for a more active role of the CFS as the over-arching global platform for coordination and support of food security and nutrition issues. We further believe that the next session will be a second milestone as the CFS goes on to approve its new Rules of Procedure. Within that process, WFP, of course, stands ready to play our full role as a full and equal member of the Secretariat together with our Sister Agencies, FAO and IFAD.

In closing, I would just like to say we look forward to any comments or queries that you may have on this Report but also, and perhaps more importantly, on how we, along with our Sisters Agencies, can continue to enhance our partnership and work together to truly do what we are all here to do, which is to end hunger and malnutrition.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Abdulla pour cette présentation du Rapport du PAM et, sans plus attendre, je voudrais donner la parole aux Membres du Conseil. Qui veut intervenir? L'Union européenne, les États-Unis d'Amérique, le Ghana, la Tunisie et le Canada. Nous commençons par l'Union européenne. Vous avez la parole.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union takes note of the Annual Report to ECOSOC. We commend WFP on their efforts in 2010 – a year that marked what has been termed as mega-emergencies – to address the emergency food assistance needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises, such as those in Haiti, Pakistan and Somalia.

We commend the Rome-based Agencies on their efforts – including those of WFP as described in the Report – to further step up cooperation among them. This increased cooperation is vital if the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable populations is to be addressed in the most efficient and effective manner. In this context, we welcome the reinforced cooperation between WFP and FAO on information systems and WFP's active participation in the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security. We strongly support a division of labour among organizations according to their core strengths and comparative advantages, notably in the field of nutrition. We expect WFP's "programme toolbox" to be shaped in line with its comparative advantage and field of expertise.

We note WFP's efforts to improve cost-efficiency and effectiveness, including the Executive Board's approval of reforms to WFP's financial framework, which should also enhance transparency. We encourage WFP – as with its Sister Agencies – to continue seeking further improvements.

With respect to the humanitarian response system, we appreciate WFP's role as lead agency for the logistics and telecommunications clusters and for its vital logistical support to the UN System, including operation of the crucial humanitarian air service (UNHAS) in often challenging environments. We also welcome WFP's co-leadership with FAO of the recently-established Global Emergency Food Security Cluster. We consider it a welcome step to further the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian food assistance, and deepen cooperation between WFP and FAO.

We acknowledge WFP's continued efforts to achieve its transition to a food assistance agency and encourage WFP to make increasing use of food assistance tools at a larger scale, where this is possible. At the same time, we encourage WFP – and all partners with whom it works – to increase its focus on demonstrating results and in building the evidence base on "what works best".

Finally, we pay tribute to the staff of WFP – and indeed those of its Sister Agencies – who work in often difficult and dangerous circumstances. The European Union fully supports the enhancement of safety and security for WFP and its partners.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

The United States congratulates WFP for another well-written and comprehensive Report, as well as for the many achievements in 2010. In particular, we commend progress made in gender and protection. Sensitization through training and mainstreaming of both gender and protection in programming is an imperative to build the capacity and understanding of both WFP and the national governments that you serve.

We are equally pleased with the alignments being made in the food security arena where the new Food Security Cluster will bring, we hope, more coherence to WFP and FAO emergency operations, in addressing food security challenges and under-nutrition.

We also commend WFP's role, both in the High-Level Committee for Management and among the Rome-based Agencies in advocating for coherence and efficiency gains. We would like to see WFP and its Sister Agencies in Rome attain more efficiency gains in future.

With regard to humanitarian reform, we would like to relay two broad points on humanitarian clusters and humanitarian coordinators. Cluster lead responsibilities can no longer be considered as ad hoc, voluntary or separate from core functions if the system is to be effective and predictable. Similarly, Cluster coordination should produce clear priorities and result in tangible improvements to overall

operations in each sector with strategic outcomes, and Cluster lead responsibilities must be mainstreamed into annual programmes of work.

Finally, we encourage WFP to find ways in their human resources system to reward employees who have served as humanitarian coordinators or deputy humanitarian coordinators, to encourage these types of rotations.

Ms Evelyn Anita STOKES HAYFORD (Ghana)

Let me first thank you for the able way in which you have handled the Council session so far. I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group wishes to thank the WFP Executive Board for the Annual Report on its activities in 2010. We welcome the Report which is quite comprehensive and provides information on the various activities undertaken by WFP in collaboration with its partners during the year.

The Africa Group acknowledges that as a humanitarian organization that depends solely on Voluntary Contributions for its operations, which in most cases are unforeseen and unpredictable, WFP definitely needs technical and financial support, as well as the collaboration of other Agencies and governments.

In this regard, the Africa Group takes note of the collaboration between WFP and its partners in various areas to save lives through the provision of emergency assistance, and to restore human dignity by supporting victims of calamities to regain their livelihoods.

We take note also of the shortfall in expected funding required by WFP in 2010 to meet its assessed needs. However, we commend WFP for the innovative approaches adopted broaden its donor base and promote cost-sharing with Host Governments, the twining of cash donation with in-kind contributions, as well as, the developments of innovative private sector partnerships. The Africa Group encourages WFP to continue with these innovative approaches, and to explore other avenues to enhance its funding requirements.

The Africa Group appreciates the in-depth review of the WFP Financial Framework to increase its alignment with the Strategic Plan. The Group also welcomes the approval of the increased level of the Working Capital Financing Facility for the WFP Secretariat which could enable the Organization to increase not only the efficiency and effectiveness of food assistance, but also ensures maximum accountability and transparent funding of new food assistance tools such as cash vouchers and capacity-building.

The Africa Group takes note of the involvement of WFP in the global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition, and encourages its continued participation in this process.

The Group appreciates the centrality of child nutrition at the MDG Summit and thus encourages WFP and its partners to redouble their efforts to address under-nutrition among children, pregnant and lactating women. The Africa Group endorses the launch of the 1000 Days Initiative by the United States of America and Irish Governments that support the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN), the Scaling Up Nutrition Framework and the Secretary General's Global Strategy on Women and Children's Health.

We appreciate WFP's continued support to the Regional Bodies in Africa and in particular the assistance given the Africa Union to create the African Risk Capacity (ARC) to provide timely access to pre-defined funds in implementing response plans in the event of weather-related disasters.

The Africa Group further welcomes the study to be undertaken by WFP in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission on "The Cost of Hunger in Africa: The Economic and Social Impact of Child Under-nutrition". We believe the results of the study will provide useful information to guide policy decisions on the continent, and to reduce child malnutrition.

The Africa Group commends WFP for establishing a Gender Innovation Fund to promote and encourage innovation and partnerships that address hunger within a gender perspective.

We further appreciate efforts by WFP to address Gender Issues at the Corporate level. We wish to encourage the Organization to explore avenues for retaining its female staff, and consequently attain gender balance in the Organization.

We welcome and appreciate the new initiatives of WFP and encourage them to actively pursue the targeting of local procurement from small-holder women farmers through the Purchase for Progress Initiative.

We believe future Reports should highlight the lessons learned from two critical activities at country level.

Joint activities with other UN Institutions and the Private Sector: we feel that joint activities with other UN Institutions should highlight the developmental synergies challenges encountered and how they are addressed to benefit recipient countries.

Private Sector Partnership: the Report should also highlight the experiences with the private sector during their operations, and how this helps in the attainment of food security and nutrition in Member Nations.

In conclusion, the Africa Group endorses the Annual Report 2010, and wishes to congratulate the Executive Board for effective guidance provided to the WFP Secretariat in 2010 and for completing three successful sessions in the year.

Mme Afef BEN REJAB (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier l'équipe du PAM pour les efforts déployés afin de lutter contre la malnutrition surtout dans les cas urgents.

Je voudrais présenter une proposition au Programme, surtout que nous avons collaboré jusqu'en 1998 avec le PAM, ceci a été une expérience positive qui a permis la promotion de la sécurité alimentaire dans mon pays. Malheureusement, ce projet a dû être suspendu à cause des événements dans mon pays et en Afrique du nord. C'est pourquoi, je propose au Programme qu'il intervienne afin de procurer une aide alimentaire pour le bétail en plus des repas fournis à la population car ceci va contribuer de façon indirecte à la promotion de l'emploi dans mon pays et dans la région et va de même contribuer à limiter les changements climatiques et à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire en général. Merci.

Ms Adair HEUCHAN (Canada)

We are very proud to be key partners of the World Food Programme in the delivering of its programmes, and in particular we are very involved with the P4P in school feeding along with others.

It is difficult to say much more than what has been said by the European Union, United States of America and Ghana in its glowing commendations, so we will not repeat anything but just highlight a couple of things.

We are very welcoming of the achievements that have taken place this year in terms of the new financial framework, prepositioning and forward purchase, which have all led to cost savings and will likely lead to more.

We think the Rome-based collaboration is excellent and should be encouraged and further deepened. I think particularly in the field there is the potential for some more collaboration and, even potentially, cost savings.

We welcome the World Food Programme's full participation in the Committee on World Food Security, including the willingness to assume the role of Secretary, what we call rotation. We are very hopeful that this will happen. We also commend the work done on safety and security of staff, and of course the work that is being done with women and on gender in general, and child nutrition. We are very happy with all of these.

We commend the cost savings. Three to five percent is excellent and these funds have been put back into the Organization, into programmes, and we encourage further efficiencies going forward.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Group of the Middle East. I would like to thank WFP for the report presented and the efforts deployed in countries suffering from humanitarian crises, such as Haiti and Afghanistan and others, particularly in countries of the Middle East, for example in Yemen, Somalia and the occupied Palestinian Territories.

Allow me to express the hope that these cooperations will also include the Gaza Strip and not only the West Bank. Our Palestinian brothers are suffering from the Israeli blockage of the Gaza Strip in contradiction to all humanitarian standards and that is why I would encourage WFP to extend this cooperation and assistance to other areas.

With regard to paragraph 84, in Arabic there is a mention made of Iraqi refugees in Syria which says that WFP has worked with 32,000 individuals assisting them and in 2011 that will reach 70,000 Iraqis. I would like, on behalf of the Government, to thank WFP for its assistance to Iraqis in Syria, but I would recall that the total number is 1.2 million and I do not see then any consistency in these numbers. My own Government is making massive efforts to provide these refugees with a decent life.

We have also more than half a million Palestinian refugees in Syria and half a million refugees of other nationalities, and that is why during the WFP session we have asked for enhanced assistance, particularly in light of the good results in the Report which outline the fact that cooperation between FAO and WFP is bearing fruit. I would continue to encourage these organizations to continue this cooperation to alleviate suffering. We would support the request made by Tunisia to increase the amount of assistance provided.

Sr. Ernesto NOSTHAS (El Salvador)

Nos complace mucho, no solamente la preparación sino el contenido del Informe del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Consideramos que son pasos en la dirección correcta el coordinar el trabajo en campo de la triada de Roma, esto en sus oficinas centrales. Nos gustaría, sin embargo, destacar que igual esfuerzo debemos de dedicarlo a coordinar en los países y en las regiones, y en los terrenos en especial.

En mi país estamos haciendo un trabajo muy sensible tanto con la FAO como con el PMA para hacer arrancar nuestro Programa de Agricultura Familiar. No ha sido para nada un lecho de rosas. El tema de los procedimientos, de la compatibilidad de los esquemas, siempre es un pequeño problema que se puede superar con buena voluntad y buenos deseos, pero merecería un poco más de apoyo por las oficinas de las sedes centrales para que esto se lograra hacer realidad de manera más efectiva, porque esa sería una de las maneras, una de las formas en las que, con los limitados presupuestos que disponemos, podríamos ser más efectivos en las operaciones en los territorios.

Nuevamente felicitaciones por la calidad del Informe y por los pasos correctos que se están dando en la dirección correcta.

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

I would like to thank Mr Abdallah for the presentation and outline of the Programmes' activities which have really had an impact, particularly in those countries that need this assistance. Everybody knows that times are difficult for the work of the World Food Programme in countries experiencing crisis and emergencies. We are aware that most activities in those countries are subject to crisis situations.

It is worth noting that there is a need for several billion dollars as mentioned in paragraph 2. Only a part of this amount has been received by the Programme so there is a problem. There are many crises. The Programme is trying to face these crises and assist those suffering, and it is therefore necessary for the international community to assist the WFP by providing the necessary resources.

The WFP has managed effective work in the area of P4P, and coupons and its efforts have been well-coordinated with the world-based agencies. Its work in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has been effective particularly with the permanent representation on that committee. Mr Abdallah mentioned that the next meeting of the Committee on World Food Security would be very important. We agree with that, because the Rules of Procedure for the Committee will be adopted. The

rotation within the Secretariat is very important. It is a significant and major issue which will be discussed with the Secretariat and the relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat will need to work on the basis of rotation. The most important thing is to get the best results in the best possible way.

The WFP so far has had good results in its work with Members and with the private sector. I am proud to say that my country is a member of the Executive Board, which has adopted the programme which has been presented today. I agree with what has been said by my colleague from Syria, that it is necessary to ensure the financial resources for all countries that are suffering. We have seen a lack of resources in the occupied Palestinian Territories, for example, and in other countries as well.

There is a lack of financing because of insufficient donations or because some donations are already earmarked for specific activities in specific countries. That is why non-earmarked donations would be welcomed to ensure greater leeway for the Organization to work as it needs to.

For humans who are suffering from malnutrition and hunger, whatever their nationality, wherever they are, they need assistance. That is why the WFP needs to be able to fight hunger wherever it is found.

Mr AMI ABDULLA (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I don't think there were many directed questions. There were a few sort of programme issues, of programmes within countries which I believe can be probably dealt with best on a bilateral basis. All your comments, I will take very much on board and will look forward to very much discussing from directly and bilaterally. I would just say, if I may, something on one or two points. I would like to thank everyone for their very constructive and complementary comments. I would like to thank the European Union on behalf of their members and others for the kind words regarding our staff and the staff of other Agencies working in some of the most difficult places, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice in 2010 losing their own lives. So I would like to take a moment to thank you for that reflection. These words will be passed on to our staff, and it does mean a lot when they know that we sit in assemblies like this and often deliberate on how they can work better, how they can improve this, what they can do, all of which is important because it is important that we do improve our work and that we do find ways to do this better. But that recognition, that so many of them are giving up so much to achieve our goals that is very much appreciated. As I said on the very programme-specific issue, I welcome very much the comments. I will look into each of them and will welcome an opportunity to expand on them.

I would like to just take a moment to respond to Syria and note that our programme is a subset of the total number of refugees. The same is also true of the refugees, the residual caseloads in Iran, of Afghanistan refugees that we supported in Iran. Our programmes do support a residual caseload, it is a subset of the total case and the Host Governments in both cases are picking up a majority of the support. That is, I believe, welcomed by the international community at large. But just to spend a moment on Syria, we are actually expanding there some of our very innovative methods of reaching our target groups through mobile phone technology, using a voucher system, a very progressive one and that has been made available through the support of the Syrian Government. I would like to welcome that, and take the opportunity to thank Syria for the transit. When our operations were in Iraq, Syria was a very important transit country, so the operations are not only just in Syria but often through Syria.

I heard a few comments on levels of funding. We recognize that the world is going through a difficult time financially. These are economically-challenging times across the board, and we do recognize the need that we make every efficiency gain that we can, that we do our targeting in the best way and that we find a way to prioritize. But we also recognize that there are a limit to that and funding levels are needed as the financial crisis and economic crisis impacts so many, those who are most vulnerable. The ones who can do very little about that impact are the ones who are feeling this effect the most.

I think that it is also very incumbent upon us as international organizations to work with all Member Nations and look for every opportunity for funding. Very often some of these can come within the Host Countries and Host Governments. Much of it does today, and that is one area that we would like to look to find a way to increase or to perhaps not only increase but improve the areas in which so many of those countries where we work and where their own resources are targeted, could assist us in

dealing with the issues of food security and nutrition, which is often really at the ground zero and the base working. On the US point on human resources and our work in trying to strengthen the humanitarian coordinators and getting more staff in there, it is certainly something that we are looking at and looking at ways as a UN common system organization. The UN doesn't believe in things like bonuses and rewards very much, but what we need to do is ensure that it becomes part of a career path and that officers that go off to do this find that their time away is not a deterrent on return, but rather a progression upon return. And that it is a good grounding for them to go on and become a Country Director, which is one of the most coveted posts within the WFP system. So we will look as innovatively as we can within the system that we must work. But as I said, I think most of it was comments. I am very grateful for those comments and hope that I have addressed a few small concerns but will certainly pick up those programme issues on a more bilateral basis.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Abdulla et félicitations pour le travail accompli par vous-même et toute votre équipe et puis aussi je me félicite pour nous tous des complémentarités qui se développent à certains moments sur le terrain ou dans des différentes actions et d'ailleurs. En matières de gouvernance, j'ai eu l'occasion d'en parler avec la Présidente lors d'une réunion ici. Nous avons dit qu'il était bon aussi qu'en matière de gouvernance nous fassions un peu d'échange pour savoir, même si nous n'avons pas les mêmes missions, comment nous pouvons être plus opérationnels. Un certain nombre d'entre nous sont dans deux conseils, d'autres n'y sont pas et sont, non pas frustrés, mais un peu gênés de comprendre comment cela se passe. Je pense que nous avons tous intérêt à travailler plus ensemble.

Nous avons deux petites choses à classer, c'est vous qui les présentez.

Mr Sean O'BRIEN (Director, Budget Division, World Food Programme)

I have a slightly unusual but very important request that I would like you to consider. In fact we have circulated a very short, two-page paper on this issue. As you all probably know, WFP General Regulations, which is the highest level of our governance framework, are approved jointly by the FAO Conference and the UN General Assembly. Changes to those regulations are required to go through FAO Council and ECOSOC, respectively. Therefore, prior to going to the FAO Conference, it should go to the FAO Council, and prior to going to the General Assembly it should go to ECOSOC.

As you heard in the last session, WFP has recently completed a review of its financial framework. We had quite a few issues covered in that review but one of them was, in fact, to change our budgetary and planning cycles. In our Executive Board discussions last year, there was consensus on this change, consensus on the change to move towards a three year management plan with an annual budget approval.

We intend to present the changes to all of the regulations, the general regulations and financial regulations in WFP to the WFP Executive Board in June to achieve that. However, this change requires a very small change, in fact one word, to our General Regulation 6A. Instead of using the phrase "biennial budget", we want to replace the word "biennial" with "annual". We would like to get this change in place before our November Executive Board, as the November Board will consider our next management plan and next budget. However, the sequence of meetings and the sequence of approvals generate a problem in this respect.

The regulation change needs first, obviously, to be approved by WFP's Executive Board, they will be presented with that in June. It should then come before the FAO Council before going to FAO Conference which is currently scheduled for late June, early July. We therefore would like to ask the Council to consider approving this regulation change in June by correspondence. The sequence would then be: we present to the WFP Executive Board in June, should they approve the one word change to the regulation, it would then be circulated for approval by correspondence to the FAO Council between the 10th and 25th June, before being presented to the FAO Conference for approval at the Thirty-seventh Session, and then it would go to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. All of this would get us in a place in November, whereby WFP could present its management plan and budget following the new cycle.

I just want to stress that it is a very small change, it is one word, replacing the word “biennial” with the word “annual”. I would also like to stress that it is a very important change from WFP’s perspective, and finally I should stress as well that there is consensus on this in the Executive Board. We had several informal consultations last year and, in fact, the Board are looking forward, and that is the phrase used in the decision, looking forward to the regulation changes needed to implement this change to our planning cycle.

In short, we hope you will consider this request to approve this regulation change by correspondence in June.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous avons deux décisions à prendre: la première, le Conseil est invité à approuver le Projet de Résolution d’amendement au statut du PAM concernant la répartition des sièges au Conseil d’administration du PAM qui figure dans le document que vous avez, qui sera soumis à la Conférence pour adoption. L’Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a approuvé ce même texte par sa Résolution 65266 du 7 mars 2011. S’il n’y a pas d’objections, l’amendement est adopté.

La deuxième chose par ailleurs, comme cela vient d’être dit aujourd’hui, conformément à l’Article 25 du Paragraphe 13 du Règlement général de la FAO, un amendement à l’Article 14 Paragraphe 6 alinéa à A du statut du PAM. Cette procédure s’inscrit également dans l’esprit des Méthodes de travail du Conseil préconisé par le Groupe de travail à composition non limitée au Paragraphe 26 du document CL141/14 «Approbation par voie électronique entre les sessions, les questions ne prêtant pas à controverse». Elles seraient soumises en application comme cela a été dit tout de suite entre la session du Conseil d’administration du PAM qui s’achève le 10 juin et la Conférence de la FAO qui débute le 25 juin, par le biais du site des Représentants permanents.

Le Conseil est-il d’accord sur cette démarche?

S’il n’y a pas d’objections, c’est entendu, vous serez consultés et vous devrez donner votre avis sur annuel ou biennuel.

Nous avons terminé ce point à l’Ordre du jour concernant le Rapport du PAM et ses évolutions là. Je vous remercie d’avoir participé à nos travaux et de nous avoir éclairés sur le travail du PAM et bonne chance pour le travail en commun. Merci.

Governance Matters (continued)

Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)

Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)

14. Vision for the Structure and Functioning of Decentralized Offices (CL 141/15)

14. Vision de la structure et du fonctionnement des bureaux décentralisés (CL 141/15)

14. Visión de la estructura y el funcionamiento de las oficinas descentralizadas (CL 141/15)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous demande d’accepter nos excuses pour ce petit contretemps et nous intervertissons les deux sujets, les Points 13 et 14 dû à des questions d’organisation de nos collaborateurs. Nous allons commencer tout de suite le Point 14 «Vision de la structure et du fonctionnement des Bureaux décentralisés». Je demande tout de suite à la Présidente du Comité du programme d’introduire le dossier, et nous irons ensuite à la parole après une présentation plus complète de Monsieur Basharat Ali.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

This is an issue which was discussed in the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, in addition to it having been discussed, of course, in the Conference Committee, so I just briefly want to inform you of the conclusions of the Joint Meeting discussions before the Secretariat will present the issue otherwise.

The Joint Meeting reviewed the Vision for the Structure and Functioning of the Decentralized Offices in its most recent meeting. It reaffirmed the importance of Decentralization. It underlined the need for a rationalization of all layers of operations of FAO, according to the IPA. It also underlined the need to take action to enhance expertise and performance in Decentralized Offices. Furthermore, it stressed the need for appropriate and adequate resources for the Decentralized Offices. It noted the progress made in benchmarking, and welcomed the consultations with other UN organizations. It also welcomed the steps that have been taken for greater professionalism in the recruitment of the heads of Decentralized Offices, and stressed the urgent need to adopt and implement the Rotation and Mobility Policy, the Competency Profiles and the Recruitment Procedures, as foreseen in the IPA. Finally, it emphasized the importance of a revised Circular concerning these issues within FAO, which I understand has been completed since then.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame Laatu. Je donne la parole à Monsieur Ali pour présenter au nom du Secrétariat l'aspect des Bureaux décentralisés et les structures de fonctionnement.

Mr Basharat ALI (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

CL 141/15, Vision for the Structure and Functioning of Decentralized Offices, was prepared following the request of the CoC-IEE which was endorsed by the 2009 FAO Conference. As requested by the FAO Conference, the document takes into account the views of the five Regional Conferences held in 2010. I wish to recall that the request for the Vision came about following intense discussion on IPA Action 3.84 related to the coverage of the FAO Country Office Network on which there was no consensus among Members. As set out in the document, the overall management vision is "FAO Functioning as One, with the Decentralized Offices an integral part of the Organization, as the worldwide provider of high-quality policy advice, information, support for capacity-development and technical services on food and agriculture". The strategy to achieve this would be to pursue a strong and responsive country office-centred network that provides timely and effective support to Members by drawing on the technical expertise in Sub-regional, Regional and Headquarters Units, as well as from Members and partners.

In order to address the gaps, challenges and risks, the document proposes a number of actions in areas related to structure, staffing, operations and funding. I will not repeat the specific actions proposed, as those are well set out in the document before you.

This Vision document that took into consideration the inputs of the Regional Conferences was presented to the CoC-IEE at its meetings on 23 February and again on 30 March 2011 this year, as well as the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on 23 March. I understand that the Chair of the Programme Committee has already presented the Report of the Programme Committee, the outcome of the consideration of this item by the Programme Committee. So I will now go to the CoC-IEE.

At its two meetings on this topic, the CoC-IEE recognized the commendable progress achieved in advancing the Decentralization agenda in the first two-and-a-half years of the IPA implementation period, and noted that reaping the full benefits of the many reforms implemented so far would require time. The CoC-IEE considered that the next key steps would be to improve coordination to avoid fragmentation, finalize the benchmarking exercise, complete the work on staff policies, including the Rotation Policy and the Competency Framework and move forward on innovative ways to enhance resources to the Decentralized Offices Network. It indicated that discussions on possible Joint Offices should also be initiated by WFP and IFAD. Members also requested a document on short, medium and long-term actions to address the gaps, challenges, risks and issues related to Decentralization. This document should take into account the discussions on Decentralization of the CoC-IEE and the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the relevant evaluations and the Management responses that have been reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees.

In moving forward, Members may wish to provide further guidance on the Vision, Strategy and the areas of major actions as set out in this document, paving the way for rationalization and improving further efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's Decentralization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Ali, et sans plus attendre, je vous demande d'intervenir pour ceux qui le souhaitent. Qui veut intervenir? le Brésil, le Zimbabwe, l'Uruguay, l'Union européenne, le Venezuela, la Norvège, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et le Canada. Ce sera tout pour l'instant. Le Brésil.

Sr. Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brasil)

Brasil intervient en nom du Groupe Latinoaméricain et du Caribe (GRULAC). En relation au Thema 14 de l'Agenda, la présidence pro tempore du GRULAC souhaite souligner en nom du Groupe Régional les orientations relatives à la Vision de la Structure et le Fonctionnement des Offices décentralisés émises dans la Conférence Régionale de la FAO pour l'Amérique Latine et le Caribe. En cette occasion, les membres de la région ont mis en avant les points suivants:

Uno, l'importance d'un réseau solide de Offices Décentralisés qui compte du personnel d'excellence, et qui se trouve articulée avec le siège et étroitement liée avec les gouvernements nationaux;

Dos, l'attention sur l'application indiscriminée des huit critères contenus dans la Mesure 3.84 de l'IPA;

Tres, les critères de réduction des coûts et d'efficacité administrative sont, *strictu sensu*, insuffisants pour orienter par soi-même le processus de Décentralisation;

Cuatro, le besoin d'évaluer dans la pratique le rendement des Offices Décentralisés;

Cinco, les contributions des gouvernements nationaux qui soutiennent financièrement le fonctionnement des offices dans les pays.

Por último, le GRULAC estime que c'est indispensable une approche flexible pour déterminer le dimensionnement et la composition des Offices Décentralisés.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe parle au nom du Groupe Afrique. Au nom du Groupe Afrique, j'aimerais remercier le Secrétariat pour le document sur la Vision et la Structure des Offices Décentralisés, dont la mise en œuvre réussie déterminera la pertinence et la capacité de la FAO de répondre aux besoins des Membres Nations.

The Africa Group est, cependant, conscient du besoin d'assurer que le processus de Décentralisation est soutenu par des politiques convenues dans certaines des zones suivantes:

Développement des ressources humaines pour un personnel plus techniquement compétent et mieux motivé; rotation du personnel afin d'assurer que les besoins techniques spécifiques des Membres Nations sont satisfaits; délégation de l'autorité pour mieux répondre aux besoins des Membres Nations; mobilisation des ressources pour soutenir des structures décentralisées; coordination et cohérence des donateurs dans le soutien à l'agriculture.

The Africa Group est prêt et continuera de soutenir le Secrétariat dans la définition d'une vision plus globale et holistique de la Décentralisation. Le processus a bien commencé, mais doit rester axé sur les résultats pour aider les Membres Nations à relever les nombreux défis.

Pour l'Afrique, les défis sont nombreux mais les opportunités sont nombreuses. Avec le bon mélange de politiques, la volonté politique, les ressources et de bons partenaires, le Groupe Afrique croit qu'il y a de nombreuses raisons convaincantes pour l'Afrique de recevoir une attention ciblée dans le contexte des Offices Décentralisés de la FAO. Ces raisons incluent certaines des suivantes:

L'Afrique est malheureusement un importateur net de nourriture et l'une des plus grandes destinations de l'aide alimentaire internationale. Au cours des cinquante dernières années, la production par personne a diminué en Afrique en raison du manque d'investissement, du changement climatique, et du soutien technique. Des 925 millions de personnes affamées en 2010, 239 millions d'entre elles se trouvaient en Afrique.

Outre les 48 pays classés comme les moins développés, 23 pays se trouvent en Afrique. En ce qui concerne les opportunités, l'Afrique possède 60 pour cent des terres arables du monde. À la Conférence Régionale de l'Afrique 2010

Conference Session in Angola, the Africa Region called for a strong and increased network of Country Offices and for the strengthening of such Offices in order to support Africa's renewed commitment to agriculture as contained in the Maputo Declaration, in which African governments committed themselves to implement, as a matter of urgency, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the new partnership for Africa's development, by allocating 10 percent of the national budget resources to agriculture within five years in order to meet the NEPAD agriculture growth goal of 6 percent growth per annum.

At a recently-concluded meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroun it was noted that 24 African countries had finalized their CAADP compacts which are products of intensive consultation of stock stakeholders in the agricultural sector in these countries.

We note with satisfaction that FAO is working with African governments to prepare these comprehensive investment plans in the agricultural sector. The recent phenomenon of soaring global food prices has, once again, shown the vulnerability of the African Region to external shocks because of its dependency on food imports. We welcome the number of Regional Workshops under way to discuss with governments how to respond to price volatility.

We believe that now is the time for FAO to increase its presence in Africa as countries try to create the right policy frameworks for increased agricultural production and food security.

While we support the development of criteria for the rationalization of Country Offices, we believe that the present criteria does need more work in order to arrive to criteria which is applicable to all regions.

The Africa Group supports FAO as one concept but at the same time notes that FAO's normative work greatly contributes to the sustained development of food security to Africa, while field experience can greatly enhance FAO's normative work and lend it more credibility.

The Africa Group is cognizant of the financial challenges that our Organization faces in meeting its mandate, and we will lend our support to the Secretariat in finding innovative ways in which Member Nations can contribute to cost-sharing and, under the spirit of solidarity, find ways in which those countries which are more food-secure can support others. In this regards, we already have excellent examples which should get more recognition and encouragement.

The Africa Group strongly recommends that FAO should strive for a current level of net appropriation which does not compromise the co-programmes of FAO at a time where Member Nations need FAO's services in order to increase food production and food security in a sustainable way, given the challenges of climate change and other external shocks.

The recent events related to the food price volatility and social unrest migration have shown that it is in everyone's interest to have programmes supporting food production and food security, as the cost of inaction will be high.

Sra. María Marcela DOS SANTOS (Uruguay)

Uruguay desea realizar su contribución sobre el importante tema de la Visión de la Estructura y el Funcionamiento de las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

En primera instancia, mi país privilegia el papel desempeñado por las Conferencias Regionales como Órganos Rectores de la FAO, fundamentalmente porque muchas Conferencias Regionales -entre ellas la de América Latina y el Caribe- se han pronunciado claramente sobre este punto, por lo que simplemente reforzaremos algunos conceptos ya expresados por aquellas.

La presencia regional de la FAO presenta ventajas desde el punto de vista de la eficiencia de los procedimientos de trabajo y de las coordinaciones inherentes a la provisión de la cooperación a nivel regional. La importancia del factor cultural, que es clave en la Reforma de la FAO, es el mejor argumento en respaldo de esta postura, ya que las realidades de cada país y de cada Sub-región son muy diferentes, factor para el cual una Oficina Regional es esencial para la coordinación.

Entendemos que los criterios de evaluación que tomen en cuenta elementos vinculados solamente a una relación costo-beneficio no contribuyen a dar un diagnóstico adecuado a la problemática de la Descentralización. Sobre todo cuando las cifras sobre la que se habla para el bienio no son las que se manejan de modo global y casi sensacionalista.

Entendemos, además, que la FAO debe enfrentar el proceso de racionalización considerando un conjunto de elementos relevantes para los objetivos de la Organización, por la vía de una mejor formulación del enfoque de flexibilidad para determinar el tamaño y composición de las Oficinas Descentralizadas, así como preservar la presencia de la FAO en los países.

Pensamos que no hay suficiente información que permita una evaluación profunda y completa del Centro de Servicios Compartidos, sobre todo con una perspectiva temporal adecuada. Ello permitiría tomar decisiones de manera transparente e informada, recurriendo a un análisis de eficiencia comparativo de las diferentes alternativas.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del documento CL 141/15 sobre la Visión Estructura y el Funcionamiento de las Oficinas Descentralizadas.

La FAO posee una gran red de Oficinas Descentralizadas presentes en más de 130 países, por lo que la unificación de los objetivos y las prácticas en todos los ámbitos de la Organización es fundamental para evitar los solapamientos, la fragmentación y la duplicación del trabajo. En este sentido compartimos la visión de que la FAO, mediante el funcionamiento unificado y contando con las Oficinas Descentralizadas como una parte integral de la Organización es un proveedor mundial de asesoramiento sobre políticas, información, apoyo para el fomento de la capacidad y servicios técnicos de gran calidad sobre agricultura y alimentación.

El Plan Inmediato de Acción para la reforma reconoce la importancia de que la FAO cuente con una fuerte presencia descentralizada para contribuir a la consecución de los Objetivos Estratégicos de la Organización y que dicha presencia es esencial para proporcionar servicios a los Miembros con flexibilidad y crear un flujo efectivo para la transferencia de conocimientos. En este sentido, respaldamos las acciones realizadas para el fortalecimiento de las Oficinas Descentralizadas y, como se ha mencionado en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en Panamá en abril de 2010, son importantes las medidas y cambios realizados respecto de las atribuciones y responsabilidades de estas Oficinas.

Insistimos en que los criterios de reducción de costos y de eficiencia administrativa stricto sensu son claramente insuficientes para orientar por sí mismo las decisiones sobre el proceso de la Descentralización. Por lo tanto debe evaluarse en la práctica el desempeño de las Oficinas Descentralizadas para lo cual es indispensable satisfacer los requerimientos que se deriven del nuevo rol que les asigna el PIA.

Consideramos igualmente que para hacer un mejor uso de los recursos asignados, podría evaluarse la opción de utilizar oficinas conjuntas con otros programas y organismos, cuestión que no debería afectar el mandato de la Organización ni los programas aprobados por sus Órganos Rectores. Como es sabido por todos, los efectos del aumento vertiginoso de los precios internacionales de los alimentos y los efectos del cambio climático han seguido golpeando principalmente a los países en desarrollo de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos, por lo que una fuerte red de Oficinas Descentralizadas podrían ser una gran contribución en los procesos de recuperación y rehabilitación de los sistemas agro-alimentarios.

En lo que respecta a la experiencia de mi país, que ha padecido los embates de estas crisis, el gobierno nacional, en el marco de una respuesta integral, ha puesto en práctica la Misión Agro Venezuela, que es un programa dirigido a aportar insumos, tecnología, mejorar los sistemas de riego y restablecer la infraestructura agrícola, la red de comercialización y distribución, para así fortalecer la producción de alimentos y poder seguir garantizando nuestra seguridad y soberanía alimentaria para el pueblo venezolano. Se prevé que la Misión Agro Venezuela logre disminuir hasta un 30 por ciento las importaciones de algunos rubros alimenticios esenciales para la dieta del venezolano, con la inversión

entre 2011 y 2013 de unos 340 millones de dólares EE.UU. distribuidos en créditos a pequeños agricultores y dotación de maquinaria agrícola. Aproximadamente se han incorporado a la misión unos 580 000 productores.

La ejecución de programas de esta dimensión, en cualquier país del mundo, necesitan también del apoyo de las Oficinas Descentralizadas de la FAO, las cuales estarían en capacidad de ofrecer asesoramiento a los gobiernos para fortalecer esta respuesta en situaciones de crisis en los ámbitos en que les sea requerida esa asistencia. Por lo tanto, es importante avanzar más en el fortalecimiento de estas Oficinas mediante una asignación apropiada de recursos financieros y humanos capacitados que puedan apoyar debidamente a los gobiernos nacionales.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

We support the intervention of the European Union. They have made very important and valid points. We share the Vision in the paper and we link it, of course, to 'Functioning as One FAO' - those two things are so tightly linked that they should be discussed at the same venue.

I think we have had some warning shots fired by the Evaluation of the Near East Decentralized Offices. We had warning shots coming from the Audit Report of the decentralized structure and I also think that we had some warning shots from the Regional Conferences, in the sense that the Regional Conferences do not see one FAO and 'Functioning as One', they are looking strictly at regional and within regional and national interests. So my first point will be that we will not be able to agree to any expansion of the Decentralized Offices Network before we have a full review and a full discussion of the whole Decentralized Office Network, their functions, the personnel, the budgets-even more importantly, what role they should play in the different regions and at the country level. I have often enough made this point, that FAO needs a programmatic approach and should get away from thousands of projects. This can only be solved for the efficiency of the Organization. To be really helpful to the countries and regions, the FAO needs to have a programmatic approach.

We had a discussion, and many of us will remember it, in the working group for the Immediate Plan of Action. We looked at the criteria for the Regional Offices and the structure, and we came to the same sad conclusion that very few of the Regional Offices and particularly the Country Offices fulfilled those criteria. I think practically nobody fulfilled all the criteria we looked at, and far too many fulfilled far too few. So this is a discussion that we must have before we can have FAO Functioning as One. It is also, as pointed out in the mission document, other parts of the IPA have to be in place for this to be functioning or a working system. Of course, the human resources management side has been mentioned practically by everybody. The rotation schemes that must be made at least a lot more mandatory than they are today. The question of training, the question of picking the right personnel for filling the positions in the Decentralized Offices, particularly for the country representative and the regional heads of Offices should be assessed. Those must absolutely be merit-based and nothing else.

So, in a way, sadly, because this is such an important part of the Reform Process, we really have a long way to go before we reach the mission that is laid down in the document. We will have hard work ahead of us, and that is work that demands where we really need a better understanding in all Regional Groups as to what 'Functioning as One FAO' really means.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

My delegation would like to thank the Members for the many useful thoughts and ideas on this topic. As debated in the COC-IEE and in the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees in March as well as the comments here today, nearly all the IPA actions related to Decentralization are well-entrained and we expect that many changes initiated in this regard will continue to bear fruit by improving delivery of quality services and by reducing transaction and other costs. The Decentralized Office Plan should be rationalized, which should not confuse increasing offices with efficient planning for effective execution of those Offices. We recognize that IPA Action 3.84 is one of the most complicated and contentious, but should be pursued in light of the critical importance of matching the normative work of Headquarters with the food security field needs of Members and their respective regions on the ground. Furthermore, we believe all Members and Management must continue to monitor closely the relevant issues identified in the Annual Reports of the External Auditor and the

Inspector General related to the performance and functioning of the Decentralized Offices. We look forward with great interest to receiving the information expected to be provided by Management in the coming year regarding the benchmarking exercise, the general Staff Survey and other information, to help better inform our discussions on this topic.

Finally, the United States will continue to actively work with Management and other Members of FAO on this important issue. Because our ability to implement the Vision for Decentralized Offices to the benefit of hungry people while continuing to also support the normative work the world requires from FAO, will determine the successful future of this Organization.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada endorses paragraph 2 of the Executive Summary, the portion conveying the overall management vision. While we are happy to support the overall management vision, we have on number of occasions raised our concerns about elements of the proposed strategy that follows. Canada very much endorses the intervention of the European Union, as well as those of Norway and United States before us.

On the issue of criteria and IPA Action 3.84. As somebody who took part in the relevant Working Group, let me quickly and immediately debunk this suggestion that has come out that somehow the criteria were a series of hurdles and that one had to hop every single hurdle in order to keep ones' Office, and therefore what was talked about was a radical cut in the number of Offices. Clearly if that had been the proposal, it never would have gotten out of the Working Group, let alone found its way into a consensus Resolution for Conference. Rather, what we were faced with and what the IEE put in front of us was the reality of a proliferation of Offices, most of them too small without critical mass to do much more than to sustain themselves, many providing little value to their Host Governments. The thinking behind Action 3.84 was that when one would cut a small number of Offices, and I understand that an internal exercise identified 29 that might be candidates for cutting, with the view that those resources would then be provided to the remaining 100-plus Decentralized Offices, I repeat, 100-plus Decentralized Offices with the idea that that great large field presence would then have the critical mass to be able to better serve Member Nations, including all the developing states and even better service to those that might lose their own little Country Office.

That was the thinking behind Action 3.84, it was rationalization with needs strengthened on the ability to serve the countries that most need FAO's help. The rationale remains, and we are still waiting for a proper proposal from Management in line with the IPA Action 3.84.

We have discussed this paper at two CoC-IEEs, and it has been discussed since at the Programme Committee. A great number of problems and suggestions have been made. I would also note that North America, at the last meeting of Council, conveyed the results of its informal Regional Conference where we spoke to this issue and it would be helpful if the next version of this paper reflected all those various inputs, and will therefore become more representative of the views of all of the membership.

I will not repeat those past inputs but I would rather want to ask a question - one that has not been adequately reflected upon in the course of the many discussions of this paper. Basically, this paper just continues from the status quo, throws in many elements from the IPA and asks for more resources. But if we go back, the FAO used to provide technical experts in the field. Those technical experts were housed in the UNDP Offices, and they delivered multi-million dollar programmes where the funds were raised by the UNDP. FAO then decided to strike out on its own, spent considerable amounts on bricks and mortar, security guards and flag, cars and so on and so forth to have these several Offices where the FAORs tended to have as actual resources for programming, hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in TCP projects. It is worth reflecting on the cost of striking out on its own, the cost of having that separate flag, those separate buildings, that separate presence. I am wondering whether, in fact, it would not be more logical, more consistent with what our countries are saying in New York, in One UN, Delivering as One, various other UN Reform forums, and asking whether FAO could co-locate in UN houses, the very least with WFP and IFAD, and other partners, so as to spend less on unique stand-alone presences and foster better partnership.

I cannot help but wonder whether striking out on its own, separating itself and, in fact, entering into competition with UNDP for limited development funds is not at least partly responsible for that dip in development assistance, on alleged dip from 19 percent to three percent for agricultural development.

I wonder whether we cannot have a genuine reflection on what the best model is in the Twenty-first Century and that, of course, will require a very different paper, a very different discussion and the kind of information that the European Union and others have asked for on numerous occasions.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNÁNDEZ ESPERÓN (Cuba)

Mi delegación apoya plenamente lo expresado por Brasil en nombre del GRULAC. Queremos referirnos a algunos aspectos específicos sobre la estructura de las Oficinas Decentralizadas.

En el párrafo 14 en la página 19 del documento que se nos ha presentado, se hace mención a cuestiones tales como: la introducción de medidas como los acuerdos de reparto de costos especialmente en el caso de países de ingresos medios, el mayor uso de las Oficinas en los países del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y el uso mejorado de la acreditación múltiple.

Al respecto, aún cuando se plantea que estas cuestiones deberán ser analizadas ulteriormente por la Administración, consideramos que sería oportuno que la Secretaría adelantara al Consejo la información que sobre estos aspectos le fuera posible, es decir si existieran en estas fases del proceso algunas ideas que se estén elaborando.

Por otra parte mi país, así como lo expresado por el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, no considera la Descentralización como una desmembración de la Organización. Queremos fortalecer el trabajo en el terreno, y eso lo queremos para todas las actividades en el terreno en todas las regiones.

Mi país, así como otros países de la región, hemos tenido la posibilidad de apoyar ese tipo de trabajo en el terreno en otras regiones a través de la Cooperación Sur-Sur en el marco de las actividades de la FAO.

Queremos enfatizar que lo que queremos, y pretendemos es fortalecer la Organización y la Red de Oficinas Descentralizadas puede apoyar mucho en este objetivo.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

Several evaluation reports dispatched recently suggest that the work of FAO Country Offices and the quality of the country representatives varies a lot and the Country Offices are so important in fund-raising, the programme implementation and the amount of the project itself relies on the quality of the country representatives. So Country Offices are key for FAO.

We have to consider how we can achieve stronger Country Offices and more qualified FAO Representatives in the countries. As for the quality of FAO Representatives, key would be more transparent recruitment, method and rotation. To strengthen the Country Offices we have to consider the three layers, Regional offices, Sub-regional Offices and Country Offices. Among them, we have to consider the reallocation of human resources and monetary resources. We did not consider this issue a lot.

In the case of Asia, we have only two layers, Regional Offices and Country Offices, and it works well. So each Region has a different character and "one should fit all" is not really true in this case. I have to reiterate the importance of considering three layers as a whole function, maximizing the performance of their capacity.

Finally, I want to emphasize that at the country level, we support the one UN approach. This is the key.

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Thailand)

I would like to align ourselves with the statement made by China and Japan. We commend the progress and achievements made in the Decentralization process. We agree with the flexibility of the structure and staffing of each Regional Office to respond to specific needs and priorities of each Region, while recognizing the critical role of the Regional Conferences to provide guidance on

priorities and adjustment of skill mix needs. While we appreciate the progress made in the Decentralization, it is essential to underscore that sufficient funding is required to support the structure of operations and staffing of the Decentralized Office Network. In this regard, Regional Representatives are encouraged to mobilize increased resources from local partners and emerging donors in the respective regions.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I will be very short and align Australia with the comments previously made by the European Union, Norway, the United States, Brazil and Canada.

Australia agrees with the fact that a strong presence is important, but we certainly disagree with the sentiment that seems to come forward that Decentralization is the solution to all problems. Clearly the recent evaluations have given a mixed picture.

We also disagree with the sentiment that is coming forward that increasing resources in Decentralization is the sole solution to this problem, and we think that these issues should be carefully considered.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Monsieur Le Président, je serai très bref et je tiens à vous dire que la Suisse soutient la position exprimée par le Canada, l'Union européenne, la Norvège et les États-Unis.

Ms Riika LAATU (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I do not think there were any questions presented in regard of the Joint Meeting conclusions.

Mr BASHARAT Ali (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

Thank you for the rich discussion and the guidance and comments and observations that were made and of which we have taken note. We have taken note, for example, of the questions of human resources policies, staff rotation, delegation of authority, resource mobilization and many other areas. There have not been very specific questions, but certain observations and comments have been made, and I would like to clarify a few points.

On the question of IPA 3.84 where we have eight criteria, and there have been many interventions regarding that asking the Management to make proposals based on that criteria. I would like to recall the history of this item. As you know, in 2009, this item was discussed in the Working Groups of the CoC-IEE and there were a lot of discussions. Management was asked to provide the impact of this criteria on individual countries, and provide that information to the joint Working Group. At the Joint Meeting of the three Working Groups of the CoC-IEE on 23 June 2009, the Secretariat presented a table which showed the impact of five of the main eight criteria – the other three are difficult to do – on the individual countries, and how they affected the countries where we have FAO Country Offices and various other types of coverage.

There was an intensive debate in the joint Working Group Session, but Member Nations could not agree on the criteria on this issue and in the end the Member Nations decided to ask the Secretariat to prepare a Vision after flagging these issues to the Regional Conferences, seeking the views of the Regional Conferences regarding FAO's country coverage and based on that to provide a Vision paper. That is why you see the Vision paper in front of you.

Now, I would like to mention what happened in the Regional Conferences. Unfortunately, again, the Regional Conferences did not speak with the same voice so we did not have consensus among the Regional Conferences.

If I could just make a short quotation from the African Regional Conference: it "expressed the view that the criteria on country coverage provided in the IPA was theoretically good, but not practical, particularly in the case of Africa".

I will now quote from the report of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference. It says "drew attention to the possible consequences of indiscriminate application of the streamlining criteria

set out in IPA 3.84". In this regard, it recalled that a theoretical exercise involving the possible application of five of these eight criteria had produced the alarming result that 94 percent of FAO Country Officers be eliminated.

So today, some Members have talked about a flexible approach on the size and make-up of Offices, a comprehensive and holistic approach and some Members drew attention to the importance of these criteria in approaching the issue of FAO's Country coverage. I can see that it is very difficult for the Secretariat, because there has not been any consensus among Member Nations on the way forward and, in fact, the document in front of you was an effort to get guidance from Members in this regard.

We have been asked for various reviews, for example, the evaluations, audit reports etc., that in recent times are very important and that shows the various strengths and weaknesses of our Regional Offices and Decentralized Offices, and to take them into account. In fact, the Secretariat certainly wishes to do so. In the last CoC-IEE Report, their Aide-Mémoire, it does talk about requests for short, medium and long-term actions to address gaps, challenges and risks and that issues related to Decentralization should be prepared by Management and proposed short-term action should be presented to the Programme and Finance Committees in October 2011.

It is the intention of the Secretariat that the document for short-term actions that were to be prepared will take into account discussions on decentralization in the CoC-IEE, in the Programme and Finances Committees, in the Council, as well as the relevant Evaluations and Management responses reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees. So, we will certainly take into account all the views expressed here as far as possible, because they are divergent views obviously.

With regard to certain other issues, like the competency profile and benchmarking, we have taken note. Competency profile and benchmarking are the only IPA actions under Decentralization that we are still implementing and we have not been able to complete the implementation of these two, other than, of course, 3.84 as we talked about. So those will be done.

We have also taken note of the importance of coordination, supervision, guidance, monitoring of the work of Decentralized Offices and FAO 'Functioning as One' – certainly we have done that one. With regard to FAO standing out and not being part of the UN houses, I would like to clarify this point if I may again. An overwhelming number of FAO Offices are provided free by governments, absolutely free by governments, we do not pay a penny for those, but whenever United Nations houses are built and they ask us to join it requires a lot of money; it is very expensive. The cost is truly considerable, and that is why we thought that where the government is providing a good accommodation for us, free of charge in an overwhelming number of countries there was really no logic in moving to the One UN House. Why should you go for One UN and work with them, to spend this considerable amount of money from our limited budget, and be part of the UN House?

With regard to the appointment of FAO Representatives, we have taken note of your many recommendations and certainly they will be taken into account in fine-tuning further the criteria and the selection process of FAO Representations, particularly, we noted that the importance of the experience in FAO in selecting people to serve as FAO Representatives. In this regard, the Deputy Director-General of Operations at the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees did mention, and in fact he quoted figures to indicate that in the last three years while a large number approximately 75 appointments have been made as Heads of Decentralized Offices, only 13 of them are from outside of FAO. I thought I would draw attention to this as the DDG has already quoted the figures.

With regard to the information requested about cost and delivery and staffing etc, the DDG of Operations addressed this issue in the last CoC-IEE meeting, and I am sure he can add more to what he said in the last meeting.

Mr Changchui HE (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I first of all would like to thank all the distinguished delegates for their very frank, constructive and forward-looking advice. To me, this advice which has built on the previous discussions and debates, provided lots of messages with added value upon which we could take action.

Many spoke about the past. I think, after this Council, it is time for both you as Members and the Secretariat as your servant to take a forward-looking approach, and to move further ahead on this matter.

To do that, let me just also echo a few remarks here. I think this is very important. Firstly, some of you already said it is not a issue of Decentralization itself. Decentralization is not to be blamed. When, years back, the Members decided to take a Reform action, you had a firm belief in the need for Decentralization, a need that was based on successful examples in your own government's Decentralization, and building on the successful achievements by other international organizations. Therefore you came to a conclusion that we needed to have Decentralization in order to bring the service to the vicinity of our Members.

I would also like to echo the second point that many have stressed regarding the importance of the country presence. Some of you mentioned that country programme is key to food security. And some of you even take the country-level delivery as a major indicator for a success or failure of an Organization. So no doubt that you emphasise the importance of the country programme.

The third point I noted is what you emphasized is not a matter of how we should be present at the country level; it is a matter of a business model. You have identified and outlined a number of business approaches that can be considered by the Members. You stressed that we need flexibility in business model, and we need to look into different settings and examine different business models, not to argue for one model fitting all. Having said this as a base to start with, I take the liberty to identify a couple of steps as a forward-looking approach.

Firstly (assuming this is the intention of the House), the Secretariat, after this Council and particularly after the June Conference, needs to set up a Task Force, which will continue to be led by OSD under the overall guidance of the IPA Board to look into various matters.

I emphasize the need for overall guidance of IPA Board because some delegations mentioned if we continue to look into the so-called IPA action on Decentralization, it is an isolated approach as it is rather limited in scope. Now with the full implementation ongoing of the IPA, Decentralization action should be able to benefit from the impacts or results of full IPA programme, such as human resources project, rotation policies, competence framework, IT connection/linkages, etc... just to mention a few. So the overall IPA achievements would be very essential and beneficial for a successful implementation of Decentralization action found in IPA recommendations in 3.84.

Secondly, this Task Force should start (by June) to undertake an overall review of all deliberations at CoC-IEE, Joint Finance and Programme Committees, particularly this Council, as well as the Regional Conferences' recommendations. Taking all these into consideration and based on these updated inputs, a revised concept paper (some of you called a Final New Vision) will be developed. In that paper, I would like to stress that a number of areas could be emphasized. You have requested more complete cost information on various business models. The Secretariat is committed to providing, based on an analytical approach/or an analytical methodology, the cost and the delivery of each and every FAO Representations, and to present you with factual information, including those FAORs completely financed by the Member Nations (with buildings, administrative costs, cars, telephones, etc, except perhaps FAO Representative costs).

We will provide a factual-based analysis to you, associated with various business models. We have to present this again back to the Regional Conferences because the Governing Bodies have to take a decision and you would, indeed, be able to make much better decisions based on the factual analysis. I can assure you that the Regional Conferences in 2012 would have better information on business models, would have better analysed costs and benefits on the Decentralized Offices Network.

Finally, I personally believe that the decision of final network model is the hands of the Members. You can have the facts provided by the Secretariat, but you need to tackle the issues and provide final guidance and take final decisions on the way to move forward. There is a Chinese proverb, saying "the bell needs to be untied by the one who tied it up". It is you who should help the solution, rather than the Secretariat taking the decision on such matters.

I feel that it is, indeed, very important to look at these matters in a comprehensive way based on all these lengthy processes and discussions, and based on all the progress made so far under IPA in its entirety. So I personally feel that it is a matter of process, a matter of willingness of all Members to work towards one direction. The issue is not unsolvable.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me le permettez, avant de tirer quelques conclusions, je reprendrais un peu ce que vous avez dit puisque vous avez clairement exprimé que tout ce débat concernant la Décentralisation est une question qui concerne la gouvernance, c'est-à-dire nous. Je pense personnellement que c'est le thème essentiel du prochain biennium, et je dirais même de la première partie du biennium parce qu'il faut que nous soyons quasiment opérationnels fin 2011 pour les Conférences régionales de 2012.

J'ajouterai que derrière la Décentralisation il y a toute la relation, comme vous l'avez dit, avec les Conférences régionales, les Bureaux régionaux ou locaux - en un point l'unité dans la diversité et dans la proximité - la FAO n'existe pas à Rome, elle existe à Rome avec les travaux qui sont sur le terrain. Donc c'est un travail très important, je pense aussi que c'est une façon d'améliorer l'efficacité et les partenariats, donc personnellement, comme j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire dans les groupes. Je pense que c'est un sujet important qui va traverser tout le biennium à venir. Bien sûr, il y en aura d'autres, mais celui-là est important et merci de ce que vous avez dit en nous appelant à la mission.

J'ai bien entendu aussi que le Secrétariat s'engageait rapidement à nous donner les éléments pour continuer cette réflexion et la matérialiser dans des actions concrètes. Dès le deuxième semestre de 2011 nous allons être attelés à la tâche: le Conseil, le Comité financier, le Comité du Programme peut-être CCLM et, bien sûr, le Conseil pour préparer les Conférences régionales de début 2012.

Dans ce cadre, je vous donne trois points pour fixer les orientations de conclusions. Le Conseil a noté les orientations contenues dans la vision sur la structure et le fonctionnement des Bureaux décentralisés, fruits des consultations intenses au sein des organes directeurs concernés en 2010 et en 2011 en vue de favoriser l'unité d'action de l'Organisation.

À cet égard, le Conseil a réaffirmé l'importance de la Décentralisation et la nécessité pour le siège et les Bureaux décentralisés de fonctionner comme une seule Organisation de manière plus efficace et efficiente, en soulignant le besoin de rationaliser les opérations à tous les échelons, renforcer les compétences et performances des Bureaux décentralisés et disposer de ressources suffisantes, leur permettant d'exercer les pouvoirs délégués, ainsi qu'un personnel qualifié et une politique adéquate de rotation et de mobilité.

Le Conseil a également pris note du travail qui reste à accomplir pour affirmer, approfondir et compléter la Vision, notamment à travers les délibérations des Comités financier, du Programme, ainsi que des Conférences régionales et du Conseil en 2011 et 2012, à la lumière des informations complémentaires que la Direction est appelée à fournir à cet égard.

Voilà les trois aspects de conclusions qu'on proposera dans le Rapport: la vision telle qu'elle a été présentée, l'amélioration du fonctionnement et la projection pour l'avenir.

13. Report of the Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation (CL 141/14)

13. Rapport du Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation (CL 141/14)

13. Informe del Grupo de trabajo de composición abierta sobre medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los órganos rectores, incluida la representación (CL 141/14)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons donc au Point 13 de l'Ordre du jour: le Rapport du Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, y compris leur représentation. Vous avez le document CL 141/14. Le Conseil est prié de noter les progrès présentés dans ce Rapport qui ont été accomplis au cours des trois réunions tenues par le Groupe de travail que j'ai présidé. Avant de vous donner la parole, j'aimerais vous énumérer les points qui ont été vus, les questions traitées concernant: la composition du Conseil; les modalités de travail des Comités

techniques; la préparation et la conduite des sessions du Conseil et des Comités, ainsi que l'établissement de leurs Rapports, y compris la rédaction de documents précis dans les délais impartis; la Note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil; et les technologies modernes pour les sessions des Organes directeurs et leurs travaux intersessions.

Le Conseil pourrait approuver les Recommandations du Groupe de travail sur la durée et le format des sessions du Comité de l'agriculture et du Comité des produits que nous avons délibérées mais que nous devons approuver. Nous allons retenir vos commentaires sur le présent Rapport qui seront pris en considération dans le Rapport final du Groupe de travail qui sera soumis à la Conférence. C'est un avis qui est demandé au Conseil sur le Rapport qui a été présenté, qui a déjà été vu dans le cadre du Groupe et que vous avez eu et je vous demande d'intervenir sur ces différents sujets.

Qui demande la parole? La Tanzanie, le Brésil, les États-Unis d'Amérique et le Venezuela. Nous avons déjà eu l'occasion d'en discuter à maintes reprises mais pas directement au Conseil. Le Venezuela. Nous allons commencer par ces quatre interventions. Je donne la parole à la Tanzanie.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

I will speak on behalf of the Africa Region. First of all the Africa Group wants to appreciate your leadership in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies, including Representation. The programme has enabled Members to discuss openly and understand various governance issues. The number of Council seats refers to a proposal which will be tabled to the Conference as submitted by Morocco also on behalf of the G-77 and China. The Africa Group reiterates that the number of seats has to recognize the increased number of countries as Members of FAO, increased from 144 in 1997 to 191 to date, while Council seats remain unchanged at 49.

Furthermore, all Members have the right to have an opportunity by rotation to serve on the Council. A small Council will not allow this to happen, but will only serve a small group. It is not fair that there are some Member Nations which are permanently on the Council while some other Member Nations have not been on the Council for more than 20 years. Under the current situation of having 49 seats, what will a smaller body than this mean then? It will throw more countries out of the Council. If this is understood, we can have a consensus before the Conference. The Open-ended Working Group needs to conclude on obvious matters such as the working arrangements of the Technical Committees which should be left to the Technical Committees to decide, and not otherwise. We endorse the proposed minor extension in duration for both the Committee of Agriculture by one day and the CCP by a half-day, and feel their sessions should continue to be held back to back but over two weeks rather than the same week. We are in a strong view of continuing with the same arrangements for preparations of reports and, in particular, the existing practice of the Drafting Committee. Otherwise we endorse and we are happy to see in this Council action on recommendations regarding the accuracy of Governing Body documents. We also appreciate the proposal for use of modern technology for Governing Body Sessions and inter-sessional work, increasing cost-effectiveness but not at a disadvantage to certain groups.

Sr. Renato Domith GODINHO (Brasil)

Quisiera hacer una intervención como presencia pro tempore a nombre del GRULAC. Con relación a este tema, el GRULAC agradece la elaboración del documento CL 141/14 y quisiera manifestar su acuerdo con las recomendaciones emanadas del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta Relativas a los Mecanismos de Funcionamiento de los Comités Técnicos, en especial en lo concerniente al papel de las mesas y sus métodos de trabajo. Asimismo, se comparte la recomendación con respecto a la duración y estructura de los Períodos de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos.

El GRULAC quisiera también apoyar a la posición ya expresada por el colega de Tanzania en nombre del Grupo Africano, y el G77, respecto a la representación del Consejo. La posición del GRULAC es que la posición del Consejo tiene que adaptarse a su nuevo rol y papel en la FAO reformada. Igualmente, destacamos la importancia de las conclusiones alcanzadas, tanto sobre el mejoramiento de la puntualidad y exactitud de los documentos de los Órganos Rectores, como de la introducción de

tecnologías modernas en y entre los períodos de sesiones de dichos Órganos. Por tanto, alentamos a la Secretaría a la implementación de estas recomendaciones, tomando en cuenta la eficiencia financiera y el beneficio de los Miembros.

Por último, en referencia al mecanismo para la preparación de los Informes, nuestro Grupo Regional estima que los Comités de Redacción constituyen el mecanismo conveniente para la elaboración de los informes de distintos Órganos Rectores. En este sentido el GRULAC entiende que la alternativa de un grupo de validación, listado en el párrafo 35 del documento, no sería la opción más apropiada, ya que la implementación de las recomendaciones del Plan de Acción Inmediata, que apuntan a lograr informes focalizados en las decisiones adoptadas en Plenaria, han contribuido de forma decisiva a agilizar y mejorar la calidad del trabajo de estos Comités.

Continues in English

With reference to the last few points which were raised in the GRULAC interventions, but that would, nonetheless, be also the position of GRULAC that our country share.

With respect to the recommendations and the documents submitted to the Council that should be embedded, and this was the point of consensus of all Regional Groups and countries in the Open-Ended Working Group, that those documents should already contain the draft decisions that are expected to be approved by the Council. Those draft decisions would be read aloud by the Chairperson during the sessions and the countries would be able to debate on them, to finalize their discussions, especially in guiding their conclusions here.

So, throughout this present session of the Council, we have seen that you, Mr Chair, have already read from every item of the Agenda the conclusions and all of them were well drafted and prepared. However, unfortunately, those conclusions that have to be approved by the Council were not included in the documents beforehand, at least for not all the agenda items. So, one conclusion that was reached during the Open-ended Working Group and we have all decided, even during the previous Council meeting, that we would follow, is not being followed.

So, I would like to ask why? It would be very useful if the conclusions of these debates that are being read aloud, and submitted for the sake of precision and included in the documents beforehand.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

My delegation would like to thank all those who contributed to a healthy discussion on Governance issues at FAO. This process has already resulted in several improvements and has forced us to think further about how to improve efficiency of governance at FAO. We remain, however, concerned that expanding FAO Council to a size that would make it larger than any other comparable UN Agency Governing Body is not the answer to improving efficiency of Governance at FAO. Consistent with relevant observations by the Independent External Evaluation, we should adhere to the IPA, particularly Action 2.74 which, as the Members will recall calls upon Conference in 2015 to assess the workings of Governance reforms using an Independent Review.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En primer término quisiéramos felicitarlo a usted como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, por el liderazgo desempeñado en la conducción de los trabajos del Grupo a lo largo del bienio. Por tanto, mi delegación agradece la elaboración y presentación del Informe del Grupo de trabajo de Composición Abierta sobre las Medidas Destinadas a Aumentar la Eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores, incluida la Representación, y presentado a esta 141.^a sesión del Consejo a través del documento CL 141/14.

En este sentido observamos con satisfacción que este Grupo presentara a la Conferencia recomendaciones claras para mejorar los mecanismos de funcionamiento de los Comités Técnicos, la duración de los períodos de sesiones de los Comités de Agricultura y Problemas de Productos Básicos, la puntualidad y la exactitud de los documentos de los Órganos Rectores, la introducción de tecnologías modernas para los períodos de sesiones de los Órganos Rectores, y el trabajo entre los mismos.

Igualmente nuestra delegación desea expresar el apoyo a previos oradores de África el representante de Tanzania que habló a nombre de África y el representante de Brasil a nombre del GRULAC, por los aportes, ya que esto indica la posición que hemos venido manteniendo en el debate sobre el incremento de los Miembros del Consejo tanto en el G77 como en nuestros respectivos Grupos Regionales-tema que ha sido evaluado y examinado nuevamente en este Grupo de Trabajo detenidamente y realmente no se alcanza ningún consenso. Sin embargo, nosotros mantenemos y nos sumamos con la posición expresada por el G77 para elevar el número de Miembros de 49 a 61, propuesta que será examinada por la próxima Conferencia.

Nuestros argumentos han sido debidamente expuestos y en su oportunidad nuestros representantes volverán a hacer los señalamientos que justifican y que se apelan a la necesidad de que el Consejo deba ser convertido en un organismo más efectivo, más democrático y más participativo, sin que eso se contraría con la eficiencia.

Asimismo, queremos recordar en relación al párrafo 33 del documento CL 141/14 el cual indicó que no se alcanzó consenso claro sobre cuál es la fórmula más deseable para la preparación de los Informes. Diferentes regiones han expresado sus conformidad para continuar su práctica habitual de los Comités de Redacción como mecanismo apropiado para formularlos, entre ellos el Grupo del cual esta delegación forma parte integrante, que es el GRULAC.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union appreciates the work done by the Open-Ended Working Group and notes that the OEWG has made progress in some areas. Nevertheless, we think that the OEWG should complete its work by the June 2011 Conference, and not have more meetings afterwards.

The European Union recommends that the OEWG Report to the Conference should be comprehensive and include all Governing Bodies. Text on the important new role of Regional Conferences should also be added to the Report. Inputs from the Programme Committee and Finance Committee discussions of their Multi-year Programme of Work implementation should be incorporated in the Report as well.

For efficient Governing Body meetings, especially the Council, the opportunity for Member States to have a real dialogue with the FAO Director-General and Senior Management will increase transparency and accountability in the Organization.

With regard to the number of Council seats, the European Union position is well known. The European Union believes that an increase in the number of seats would not help to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. The European Union could, however, accept maintaining the status quo. The European Union wishes to underline the importance of reaching a consensus solution to this important issue.

We would like to express our serious concerns on the recurrent delays in the preparation of FAO documents, despite the continuous, numerous requests of Member States to receive them well ahead of the meetings. The European Union cannot continue to accept delays of documents, such as for the Hundred and fifth session of the Programme Committee. The European Union urges the Secretariat to ensure that documents are available two to four weeks before meetings.

In this spirit, the European Union welcomes the point on timeliness of documents in the proposal of the Independent Chair of Council. The European Union also supports the initiative of having more focused and action-oriented documents, more effectively-conducted debates with clear and concise summaries by the Chairperson, and the use of new technologies.

To assist the Independent Chair of Council in inter-sessional work, the European Union recommends using the already existing informal structures. Concerning the proposal of establishing a Bureau, the cost implications will need to be analysed before taking any decision on this matter. The creation of a

Bureau should not lead to a cost increase. Costs implications of all proposed changes in the working methods of the Governing Bodies should be considered.

Concerning the implementation of FAO Reform and the Immediate Plan for Action, the European Union recalls the decisions taken by the Conference of November 2009, namely Resolution 8/2009, concerning the Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action Regarding the Council of FAO. In this regard, the European Union considers that the revision of the Council's Working Methods should take into account its new functions, particularly those concerning the monitoring of the performance of the Organization against established performance targets.

Finally, we welcome a more active role foreseen for the Independent Chair of Council in the IPA. We also think that the Council Report should not only be sent to the Independent Chair of the Council for information, but that the Draft Report should be the draft of the Chair. Moreover, the European Union attaches great importance to the implementation of the Resolution 9/2009 regarding the roles of the Independent Chair of Council for the effectiveness of the Council work.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I will be very brief. First of all I wanted to thank you for your efforts as Independent Chair of the Council. I would also like to welcome the recommendations submitted to us in this Report.

I would like to inform you that I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. Our Regional Group has the same stand as GRULAC and the Africa Group, on the need to increase the number of seats to 61. We perfectly agree with the G77 position on this issue. There are lots of arguments we could use in support of this position. There are 191 Member Nations of the United Nations at present, that has been an incredible increase over the years, so we would like the number of seats in Council to be proportionate to that increase in the number of Members in FAO.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

In terms of Council size, Australia and the entire South West Pacific Region favours the maintenance of the status quo. Increasing the size of the Council in our view will incur costs and efficiency burdens that we could otherwise live without and in the interest of making this Organization more efficient and effective, increasing the size of the Council would be unhelpful in that regard.

In relation to the duration of the COAG and the CCP we agree with the proposals to increase those by the specified amounts, we think these are important committees of the FAO and need to be given due attention. We support the proposal for implementation of modern technologies and we think this is a very useful way of trying to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

We endorse the proposals for improving the timing accuracy of papers and in this regard we support the comments made recently by Brazil and the need for pre-prepared draft inclusions which can be considered by the Council and other Governing Bodies. This would really help focus our attention, help focus our interventions, keep our discussions short and sharp and make the process of the Drafting Committee much simpler.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

There are only two suggested actions on this item. One is endorsing the recommendations made by the Open-ended Working Group on the sessions of COAG and CCP, which Canada is happy to do, and the other is to note the overall progress described in this report and that, also we are also happy to note.

In doing so, we would like to emphasize simply one of the points made in this draft report, which is the primordial importance of consensus when making any changes to governance arrangements. So we very much endorse paragraph 4 on the importance of consensus and note that is the only sensible and responsible way to change governance arrangements. I would also note that consensus sometimes takes some time, and that is not a problem because there is not an urgent deadline on this issue. Indeed, as our United States colleague reminded us, the IPA already asks for an Independent External Evaluation of governance as one of the action items and that report might very well help us in forging consensus on the way ahead on this issue.

I think that we need not spend a lot more time on this issue. There are a great many others that we need to focus on in the coming months and we very much need to keep in mind, all of us, the importance of continuing the process of building trust and confidence and efficiency and effectiveness of the Governing Bodies, something that has noticeably improved in the four years that I have been here and which we would like to see continue.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

Regarding the document on the number of seats on Council, we support in principle the position of the G-77 in this regard and we trust and hope that the Member Nations will be able to give fruitful cooperation and work towards the consensus in an effort to move ahead on this issue and to reach a solution. The Chinese delegation also supports the need to improve the efficiency and distribution of documents in order to streamline the volume of documentation and improve the organization of our ensuing discussions in order to heighten the efficiency of the Council itself. We do support the role of the Drafting Committee in this preceding in order to finalize and fine tune the Final Draft Report.

We do not agree with the establishment of the bureau mechanism as far as Council is concerned but we would propose increasing the discussions between the ICC and the Chairpersons of the distinctive Regional Groups and Member Nations between Council sessions. What we would propose is the adoption of modern technology in so far as possible and in the use of their work, it would be necessary to respect the ability and capacity and also take a look at the cost benefit side of the coin.

The Chinese delegation also supports the proposal relative to the appropriate extension in the duration of COAG and CCP and we also state our support to the fact that those two committees would have their meetings back to back. Turning my attention to the number of members of the two Committees, we feel that the decision pertains to those two Committees regarding the membership of COAG and CCP, the decision is with the members of those two Committees.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I take the floor to strongly support the views of the European Union, the USA, Australia and Canada on the enlargement of the Council. I would also underline, like Canada, the sentence in paragraph 4 of the document. There was a widely shared conviction about the need to foresee a board consensus among Members and we all know Mr Chairperson there is no such the consensus. What we have to avoid now is that this question comes up during the Conference. If it does it will be taken to a vote. We have to use your good office to avoid such an eventuality and we have to find an avenue and mechanism to avoid that and I lay it in your hands Mr Chairperson.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci la Norvège de l'intervention et merci du rappel que vous avez fait.

La Russie.

Mr Victor FEDORINOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian delegation supports the proposal to enhance the representativeness of Council. We think that extending and enlarging the membership of the Council will contribute to finding consensus and will provide for better geographical distribution and representation of regions. This is all the more possible without having additional financial expenditures.

We would also like to share the concern already explored today about the need to ensure timely high quality preparation of documents of the Council.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

I think we need to reach a consensus on the Council's number of seats before the Conference because this is very important and we have said to the Secretariat that we need to find a consensus before the Conference meeting. I do not see why we are failing to reach a consensus on this issue.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

I would like to endorse a comment made by our Canadian colleagues and as well make a point for the record.

Regarding COAG and CCP expansion, we can accept the proposal but we would like to see Members and Management identify corresponding areas where governing body sessions can be shortened as a means of offsetting costs. We believe that Regional Conferences can easily be shortened as can the Committee on World Food Security.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Y-a-t'il d'autres remarques? Si tel n'est pas le cas, Monsieur Mekouar, des réactions sur quelques sujets?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Two proposals were made, one by the United States and the other by Brazil on behalf of GRULAC. Their proposal is to make reference to IPA Action 2.74 regarding the evaluation of Governance Reform. The point is well taken. This question was discussed within the CoC-IEE and found its way in the draft report.

It was recognized that when there are issues of a cost-cutting nature that could be referenced both in the CoC-IEE and the Open-ended Working Group Reports, it would be useful to do that so I think we could indeed mention that evaluation which is pretty much linked to the efficiency in governance.

The proposal made by GRULAC to clearly set out the draft decisions of Council, is well appreciated and, in fact, the delegation of Canada gave the answer to your comment by referring to the summary box of this very item which mentions two things. The Council gave positive replies to both questions asked. One noted progress that was made overall through the Open-ended Working Group and the other is to endorse the duration and format of COAG and CCP sessions.

This is an example where the Secretariat tried to do that. However, we are just starting this new practice and sometimes the conclusions are not straightforward. There might be further discussion among the membership and the ability of the Secretariat to foresee the possible outcome of the discussion might be a way of engaging in a territory which is members' competence and authority. It is true that sometimes you can have clear conclusions and in other occasions it is up to the Members to carry out their deliberations to come up with appropriate conclusions.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Je voudrais souligner quelques compléments concernant des réactions. La première chose, vous vous rappelez que ce Groupe a été mis en place par la dernière Conférence et donc pour produire un rapport à la future Conférence. Il ne fonctionne qu'entre les deux Conférences avec une définition bien claire de son mandat qui concerne l'efficacité, l'efficacité des Organes de gouvernance et du Conseil, y compris sa composition. Dans ces différentes réunions, nous avons fait des progrès et les membres, d'ailleurs, ont contribué fortement à la préparation des documents sur la communication externe et les moyens modernes. Le Secrétariat, d'ores et déjà a tenu compte des premières réflexions que nous avons faites sur la préparation des documents concernant les boxes et l'orientation, même s'il y a encore des améliorations à faire. Nous n'avons pas pu aboutir à une conclusion sur la composition du Conseil.

Au mois d'octobre dernier, je me suis permis de faire une proposition qui a été intégrée dans la discussion au mois de février et, malgré cela, nous n'avons pas pu aboutir à un accord sur la composition du Conseil ainsi que celle du bureau, quoique sur ce sujet, entre la proposition que j'avais faite au départ d'un bureau, et celle après discussion. Nous en étions à confronter le groupe des Présidents régionaux. Nous avons transmis dans ce compte rendu la situation telle qu'elle était à la dernière réunion. Quand le Rapport sera fait, nous resterons sur la position du Groupe, qui n'exclut pas de continuer à travailler et réfléchir, si nous le pouvons, d'ici la Conférence, parce que sur ce sujet il y a un point sur lequel nous sommes tous d'accord. Je l'ai entendu maintes fois et le Représentant de la Norvège l'a redit, il ne faut pas aller au vote, il faut se mettre d'accord.

Je suis obligé de vous dire que compte tenu des positions qui sont exprimées, pour obtenir un consensus, il faudra que tout le monde accepte de bouger un peu. Si chacun attend que l'autre bouge pour avoir le consensus, nous aurons des difficultés. Cela c'est pour le Rapport.

Maintenant en dehors du Rapport, nous avons un dépôt d'amendements qui introduit une discussion réglementaire et un amendement à soumettre à la Conférence. Jusqu'à preuve du contraire, si l'amendement est maintenu en son état, il n'est plus de notre responsabilité savoir si nous votons ou pas à moins que nous nous mettons d'accord avant le vote proposé. Nous avons encore deux mois et demi pour trouver, éventuellement, un consensus et éviter un vote. Voilà donc la situation. Le compte rendu que nous avons formulé est fidèle à la discussion que nous avons avant de la publication du document. Le Canada, le Brésil et l'Australie. Le Canada.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Monsieur le Président, heureusement il n'y aura pas seulement deux possibilités. Nous n'acceptons aucunement le choix entre le consensus et un vote en juin. Comme nous avons dit, par ailleurs, au sein du Groupe de travail, le consensus prend du temps. Juin n'est pas une échéance nécessairement, et s'il n'y a pas de consensus l'acte responsable est de retirer ce point et de continuer les discussions en 2012 jusqu'à obtenir un consensus. Donc, c'est une fausse échéance et une fausse pression et cela n'aide aucunement à améliorer l'atmosphère entre les Membres du Conseil ou les Membres de cette Organisation.

Continues in English

Consensus is not something that necessarily has to be reached by a certain day. It is more important than any timeline. We are talking about a governance matter here and a vote is not democracy in these circumstances. A vote would be tyranny of the majority. Tyranny of the majority begs the question as to what attachment the minority should have to the Organization after the conclusion of a vote. We are not talking about minor matters here. If governance can be changed through tyranny of the majority, what kind of organization are we going to have going forward. So kindly stop talking about June as a deadline – it is not, it does not need to be and it should not be.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I think that the example of this very agenda item shows how positive it is to have some pre-drafted conclusions and a decision box at the beginning of the document. It allows members to focus on the decisions expected and some that are beyond what was pre-drafted. I recognize that it is not easy to always do this, but this does not mean that the Secretariat would be providing the decisions on behalf of the membership. They are just guiding them in the document. Always, not in some cases, but always, the decision belongs to the Member Nations in this Council. What would happen in the discussion if we have pre-drafted decisions as a basis for our discussions here? Those could be deleted or modified on the spur of the moment, as we used to do, but we would nevertheless have a starting point for our negotiations.

So it is not a proposal from Brazil, it is something that has been already agreed on and, as Australia has said, greatly facilitates the work of the Drafting Committee afterwards. It shouldn't be so difficult to have it on all agenda items, such as, for example, the previous item we discussed on the vision for Decentralization.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Firstly, I wish to echo the comments made by Brazil about the usefulness of draft decisions or draft guidance. I think this is more relevant in Council than anywhere else, as the Council of course has the verbatim records so the idea of the report of the Council is to catch those decisions. What we can do is very much simply facilitate the drafting process by perhaps pre-preparing some of those decisions that provide full flexibility. It is, of course, for countries to agree or not with those suggestions and to add or subtract from those suggestions as they so fit. It does help guide the discussion and I will simply give the example of the CFS last year of how this procedure has already been implemented in this Organization.

We also wish to comment on the importance of consensus. I think Canada made the exact right point here that this is not something that must be sorted out. It is not something that is hanging over everybody's heads, it is entirely within the discretion of those countries who have put forward the resolution to proceed or not with that resolution and we recognize that. But it is entirely within the responsibility of those countries to understand the implications of pushing forward such a change. This is an issue that has divided the membership. I think it is an issue which justly deserves further consideration and further reflection.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ (México)

Seré muy breve. Sólo para subrayar una sugerencia que fue hecha hace un momento, de que el proyecto de informe que se debate en el Comité de Redacción sea presentado bajo su responsabilidad. Finalmente es usted quien hace el sumario de nuestras discusiones y es totalmente lógico que simple y sencillamente se avance sobre el siguiente paso. Yo creo que esto a usted le dará un margen de consideración y de presencia amplio, conforme las nuevas nociones que tiene el Consejo.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

I have asked the floor to express the support of the European Union and its Members States to the declaration and the opinion expressed by Canada.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me permettez de répondre à la première question concernant le consensus, je suis d'accord avec le Canada. Le problème c'est que le consensus doit se faire sur la composition du Conseil. Il concerne aussi l'accord de l'ensemble des Membres sur un chiffre pour reporter la question. Il n'y a pas eu de consensus au Groupe de travail sur la composition, et par exemple, nous sommes restés bloqués. Une partie des Membres a déposé un Amendement pour la Conférence. Si une autre proposition doit être faite, sur le nombre pour arriver à un consensus et pour se mettre d'accord, c'est une chose, mais décréter que parce qu'une partie a déposé un Amendement le consensus se décrète et l'on reporte le dossier, ce n'est pas cela un consensus. Je n'en ai pas le pouvoir de le dire ou le faire. Aujourd'hui, dans la situation où nous sommes, trouver un consensus c'est trouver tous ensemble une position concernant la composition, ou arriver à préparer le report. Mais demander le report est de même nature consensuelle que de trouver un chiffre, je vous le rappelle.

C'est pourquoi je dis que le travail du Comité et du Président s'arrête dans un premier lieu au compte rendu qui est fait. J'ai déjà dit que le temps qui nous est imparti pour résoudre la question devrait avoir des résultats. Je mettrai mon énergie jusqu'à la Conférence pour faire en sorte que nous ayons l'unité sur ce dossier là. Je ne préjuge pas du résultat aujourd'hui, c'est nous tous qui le ferons. Quand j'ai fait la proposition au mois d'octobre, ce sera après avoir entendu les uns et les autres, en tenant compte d'ailleurs de ce que mon prédécesseur avait déjà établi dans la discussion précédente qui pouvait aller vers le consensus qui n'a pas été trouvé. C'est regrettable sur ce point, là, mais aujourd'hui pour reporter la décision il faut que ce soit une décision consensuelle. Donc nous sommes condamnés, tous ensemble, d'ici le mois de juin à continuer à travailler ensemble pour obtenir un consensus. Il ne peut pas y avoir qu'une partie qui avance et l'autre qui ne bouge pas. Je le dis aux uns et aux autres. Vous m'excuserez, peut-être n'ai-je pas compris ce qu'était le consensus, mais le consensus fait que chacune des parties discute et qu'on trouve quelque chose qui n'est pas accepté par la moitié ou par le quart, mais par tout le monde. Nous avons encore un peu de travail à faire et je vais vous demander d'arrêter les débats sur cet aspect là du compte-rendu, puisqu'il est clair et nous allons continuer à travailler sur ce sujet.

Pour la deuxième question concernant le Brésil et les conclusions, je voudrais dire que les conclusions que j'évoque à chaque fois ne sont pas préparées de façon définitives avant la réunion. Je prépare le cadre et au fur et à mesure on rajoute ou on soustrait. Ce midi, on avait préparé quelque chose, mais on a retiré un élément pour le mettre dans la décentralisation. Je ne sais pas s'il faut aller beaucoup plus loin que cela dans le cadre des conclusions. Par contre, je retire ce que vous dites.

Sur les boxes, j'aimerais l'explication du texte et les thèmes essentiels de la conclusion à prendre. Je pense que nous devons faire un effort pour aller dans ce sens et ce serait aller trop vite, à mon avis,

avoir des conclusions pré-écrites et amendables puisque nous n'aurions plus complètement des échanges qui seraient focalisés uniquement sur les discussions. Ceci peut évoluer en donnant les deux ou trois points essentiels de conclusion que nous devons tirer, en y mettant l'explication, et on en ajoute ou retire selon des situations.

Pas d'autres remarques sur ce compte-rendu? Les problèmes évoqués ne sont pas réglés, mais cela est inscrit de façon très claire dans le Rapport. Si vous êtes d'accord, je peux vous dire les projets de conclusion ou les orientations concernant ce point: le Conseil s'est félicité des progrès accomplis par le Groupe de travail au cours des trois réunions qu'il a tenues en 2010-11, en notant les recommandations formulées en vue d'accroître l'efficacité des organes directeurs qui seront soumises à la Conférence pour approbation en juin-juillet. Seuls les points qui ont donné un accord seront soumis à la Conférence. Dans ce contexte, le Conseil soutient les propositions faites par le Groupe de travail en ce qui concerne la durée et le format des Sessions du Comité de l'agriculture et du Comité des produits. Pour le reste, on valide les progrès engagés en mettant à la non décision, suite au Rapport, ces éléments.

Si d'ici la Conférence, il y a une évolution, le Rapport sera présenté comme tel mais si le consensus n'est pas obtenu, la décision ne m'appartient pas.

Ce sont les Membres qui déposent l'Amendement ou qui ne le déposent pas, qui le reporte ou ne le reporte pas.

Nous sommes donc condamnés tous ensemble à essayer de faire fonctionner le travail en commun, et je vous promets que je le faciliterai au mieux.

Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

9. Report of the 92nd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters
(7-9 March 2011) (CL 141/7)

9. Rapport de la quatre vingt-douzième session du Comité des questions
constitutionnelles et juridiques (7-9 mars 2011) (CL 141/7)

9. Informe del 92.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y
Jurídicos (7-9 de marzo de 2011) (CL 141/7)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons maintenant au point 9 sur le Rapport de la 92ème Session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles.

En l'absence du Président du CQCG, je remercie le Vice-Président, Monsieur Gérard Limburg d'être présent et de nous présenter le Rapport en lien bien sûr avec Monsieur Tavarès et avec Madame Williams que je remercie aussi d'être avec nous

Monsieur Limburg, vous avez la parole pour présenter le Rapport.

Mr Gerard LIMBURG (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

The report of the CCLM is in document CL 141/7. Mr Punoma Chandra, Chairperson of the Committee, regrettably cannot be with us to present this report.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, a number of matters considered by the CCLM are being addressed by the Council under other items of the agenda of this session and therefore I will not mention them in this presentation. This is in particular the case with the Revised Note on the Working Methods of the Council and the Conditions for the Appointment of the Director-General; these items are on the agenda later today.

The CCLM examined a document entitled "Amendment to the Financial Regulations for the Implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards", the IPSAS. This matter was also examined by the Finance Committee at its session of October last year. The CCLM endorsed a draft Conference resolution containing a number of amendments to the Financial Regulations. The

CCLM noted that the effective date of the proposed amendments should be 1 January of the year for which IPSAS compliant statements would be issued. It is expected that this would be 1 January 2013. The Council is invited to endorse this draft Conference resolution, Appendix I to the Report, and send it on to the Conference for approval.

The CCLM also examined a document on “Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports”. The CCLM, as I understand was also the case with the Finance Committee, endorsed the proposed policy which would be reflected in an amendment to the Charter of the Office of the Inspector-General. The revised Charter, which is part of the Administrative Manual of FAO, is shown in Appendix II to the CCLM Report.

The CCLM took note of an Administrative Circular, issued in February this year, on “Whistleblower Protection Policy”. The CCLM noted that, as recommended by the Audit Committee, it was proposed to revisit the policy at the end of this year following review of the experience of the first year of implementation of the policy.

The CCLM examined a document on the “Terms of Reference and Composition of the Ethics Committee”, the establishment of which had been foreseen in the IPA, as you know. This matter has been under review, by the CCLM and by the Finance Committee, for quite some time. I am pleased to report that the CCLM endorsed the Terms of Reference and Composition of the Ethics Committee set out in Appendix III of its Report, which was slightly amended by the Finance Committee. The Ethics Committee is being established for an initial period of four years beginning in January 2012. Throughout this period, the governing bodies will monitor closely the work of the Committee in order to determine, at the end of the period, whether the Committee should be extended for a further period of four years or established on a permanent basis, or to define such adjustments to its *modus operandi* as required. It is expected that external members will be appointed subject to the approval by the Council, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and the CCLM at their sessions this autumn.

The CCLM also examined, at the request of the Council, a document on possible amendments to Rule XXXV, paragraph 4, of the General Rules of the Organization concerning the preparation of the provisional agenda of the regional conferences. The CCLM acknowledged that in the absence of guidance from the membership the Secretariat could not, on its own, propose amendments to this Rule. The CCLM agreed that the question of the preparation of the provisional agendas was one among other inter-related matters regarding the status of the Regional Conferences that were still under discussion. Therefore, the CCLM recommended that consultations with the regional groups be held during the second part of this year and early next year with a view to agreeing on proposals regarding the functioning of the Regional Conferences to be referred to them in 2012, including possible amendments to Rule XXXV, paragraph 4 of the General Rules of the Organization.

The CCLM noted that at the last session of the Council, a proposal was made that the official name of FAO in Spanish be changed so that the word “food” should precede “agriculture”, for the sake of consistency among the designations of the Organization in other language versions. The proposed change would be referred to the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference, through the Council, for approval.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁTA (European Union)

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

The European Union agrees with the amendments to the financial regulations in the framework of IPSAS to be forwarded to the Conference.

The European Union supports the addition of a policy on internal audit reports disclosure to the charter for the office of the Inspector General. The Hundred and Thirty-eighth session of the Finance Committee also discussed the matter.

The European Union noted that the Whistleblower Protection Policy was approved and issued by the Director-General. The CCLM and the Finance Committee should review the text after the first year of implementation.

The European Union endorses the terms of reference of the Ethics Committee as revised by the CCLM and the Finance Committee.

The European Union notes that the CCLM recommends adoption of the revised note on the working methods of the Council as reviewed by the Open Ended Working Group.

Finally, the European Union notes that the CCLM was only invited to take note of information regarding the conditions for the appointment of the Director-General. The Finance Committee has reviewed it.

Mr Emmanuel M. ACHAYO (United Republic of Tanzania)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Africa Group. The Africa group welcomes the amendment to the financial regulations for the implementation of the IPSAS believed to bring improvement to the Organization's accounts. The adoption of IPSAS will introduce the following changes. The biennial accounts entry would be annual financial attachments and the biennial to annual audit would be made but the biennial budget cycle would remain the same. We endorse the recommendations of the CCLM that the timing of the submission of the report of the external auditor be kept under review. As the disclosure of the internal audit report with support of the recommendation of the CCLM that this issue be looked at by the Finance Committee and whistleblower protection policy could be adjusted as necessary.

The Africa Group acknowledges that the Conference had requested the establishment of the Ethics Committee as part of the IPA but the Africa Group are not fully convinced as to its merits before we support the recommendations as contained in paragraph 24, that the Committee be established for a trial period of 4 years and its members to be 3 external and 2 internal staff, the DDG and the Legal Counsel.

We support the CCLM recommendation that consultations with the Regional Groups be held during the second part of 2011 and early 2012 with a view to agreeing on proposals to be referred to the Regional Conferences in 2012, including possible amendments to Rule XXXV, paragraph 4 of the GRO.

We welcome the proposed changes of the official name of FAO in Spanish to be referred to the Conference for approval.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ (México)

Primero quisiéramos agradecer la presentación del Informe de este Comité que nosotros consideramos de particular relevancia para el fortalecimiento de la Organización. En particular la delegación de México quisiera referirse al Tema VIII que en español dice "Preparación del Programa Provisional de las Conferencias Regionales, Artículo 25.4 del Reglamento General de la Organización". En este Informe encontramos el párrafo 30, se recogen las opiniones que dio la Secretaría al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Legales en el tratamiento de este tema.

Las opiniones de la Secretaría que se recogen en el Informe, fueron en el sentido de que el párrafo 4 del Artículo 35 del Reglamento General de la Organización relativo a la agenda de las Conferencias Regionales, cito "parecía salvaguardar los intereses de todas las partes interesadas con particular referencia a los Miembros de las propias Conferencias Regionales".

El párrafo 31 indica que a falta de orientación por parte de los miembros, la Secretaría no podía proponer enmiendas a este artículo por iniciativa propia. Con base en esto, tenemos un artículo 33 en el que se llama la celebración de consultas con los grupos regionales.

Nosotros estamos totalmente de acuerdo con la celebración de consultas con los Grupos Regionales pues consideramos que eso es un tema muy importante, pero sí queríamos hacer una reflexión sobre estos señalamientos que me he permitido recordarle.

Nosotros entendemos que todas las partes interesadas en el caso de las Conferencias Regionales son los miembros de las propias conferencias, no entendemos cuáles serían las otras partes interesadas. Yo creo que es evidente que los miembros, diversos miembros hemos mencionado aquí la importancia de modificar este artículo es en el sentido que no nos conviene la manera como se encuentra actualmente.

Respecto a la falta de orientación por parte de los miembros, la delegación de México quisiera recordar que fue una decisión de la Conferencia de 2008, una Conferencia extraordinaria, particular, porque puso en marcha la reforma, la de adoptar el Plan Inmediato de Acción. Y me permitiré referirme a algunas acciones en particular que se encuentran en este Plan, que adoptaron los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

La acción 2.52 dice que en el caso de las Conferencias Regionales habrá cambios en las líneas de responsabilidad, las funciones y los métodos de trabajo. En la Acción 2.54, específicamente referida a los métodos de trabajo de las Conferencias Regionales, dice “serán convocadas una vez por bienio, por decisión de los Estados Miembros de la FAO de la región que mantendrá consultas detalladas sobre el programa, la estructura, las fechas y la duración de la Conferencia en cuestión y la necesidad de celebrarse, se mantendrán consultas detalladas sobre el programa”. Estoy citando el Plan Inmediato de Acción adoptado por la Conferencia. Y sobre este mismo punto dice el PIA en su Acción 2.55: “al efecto” se refiere “introducir cambios en los textos fundamentales en relación con las funciones, las fines de responsabilidad de los métodos de trabajo” etcétera.

Nosotros creemos, en vista de este repaso muy breve, que sí teníamos orientación, que sí hay orientación, y que es importante, en el tema del fortalecimiento de la gobernanza de los Órganos Rectores, en particular de las Conferencias Regionales y que se concrete de una manera una modificación al artículo 35 que atienda a los intereses de la membrecía en su totalidad.

Finalmente, nosotros apoyaremos las actividades que se lleven a cabo. Y queremos decir que el tema de la gobernanza, como ya mencionamos en la última reunión del Comité de la Conferencia, deberemos volverla a evaluar, porque existen algunos temas que hay que afinar de manera que se cierre este proceso de una forma positiva y completa. Por ejemplo, la modificación del reglamento general de la Organización por lo que se refiere a la determinación de la agenda por partes del Consejo, es un tercer ejemplo con relación a los Comités Técnicos donde el lenguaje está claramente establecido que deberán serlo en los comités que les determine la agenda. En este caso los miembros de los comités son los Estados Miembros de la Organización. Sería todo por el momento.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

The main purpose of my intervention is to support in its entirety the one that just preceded from Mexico.

Rule 35 needs to reflect the IPA. We need to rebalance the roles and responsibilities as between governance, the Member Nations, and the Director-General. Regions should take careful note of CCLM's call on them to propose changes. These changes are in fact overdue.

I have had the honour to observe two Regional Conferences in different regions and to speak here for members of all regional groups who for many years have expressed frustration at regional conference agendas being imposed upon them. North America may well in the coming years decide to opt for its own formal instead of informal regional conference at which point we will happily consult management as we set our agenda. So in sort, regions of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

Here I speak on behalf of the Near East Group. I just wanted to request clarification. First of all I would like to thank the members of the Secretariat for the preparation of this report.

In the paragraph pertaining to the adoption of the provisional agenda of the regional conferences, paragraph 31, it says “the regional groups consider the provisional agenda...” Now can the regional groups actually do this since the Regional Conference is the Governing Body of this Organization, that is the first question.

Secondly, in paragraph 6 and in paragraph 23 there is much emphasis on confidentiality. No representative accredited by the Organization can read the reports or take copies of these reports. Inspector General, External Auditor, is it possible to publish such information? Is there not a contradiction between these two paragraphs?

I then have a third question with respect to the terms of reference of the Ethics Committee. Let us suppose that this Committee can meet in the presence of four members, that it is a quorum of four members. Does that not run the risk of posing problems in the future? How can a problem be resolved just in the presence of four members? How can we settle an issue if there is an equality or problem of an equal vote? This sort of situation could emerge in any circumstances.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Syrie. Y-a-t'il d'autres demandes d'interventions?

Je n'en vois pas. Monsieur Limburg et le Secrétariat vous avez la parole.

Mr Gerard LIMBURG (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

There have been a number of specific remarks and questions, in particular on the agendas of the Regional Conferences. In my opinion, this is a complex question which does not only refer to the agendas, but to the question of the Regional Conferences as a whole. Since the main question concerns the opinion of the Secretariat expressed here in the Report, I will ask Mr Tavares to say something about this matter.

The same goes of course for the question made by Syria on the Ethics Committee in particular, because here also again it is the Legal Office who will be able to answer you.

In any event, I am sure that these matters will not disappear from the agenda of the CCLM, but they will be back there.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

I think we are essentially in agreement. I know that some observations were made and we would be happy to answer them or at least try to answer them.

Regarding the question of the preparation of the provisional agendas of the regional conferences, the Council may wish to know that this was perhaps one of the most delicate matters that the CCLM had to address in 2009 when it proposed amendments to the Basic Texts for the implementation of the IPA. The action regarding the preparation of the agendas was much discussed. We thought, and the membership, you, also thought at that time that the amendments to the General Regulations were deemed to reflect faithfully the action of the IPA. Apparently there is some dissatisfaction at these provisions. We are prepared to discuss them with you. We did not feel that we were in a position to make proposals regarding the rules on the preparation of provisional agendas, but we will be glad to work with you and to consult with the regional groups (and in fact this refers also to the question by the representative of Syria).. In fact this was already a request made by the Council at the last session in October/November, and we will be making a number of proposals regarding the functioning of regional conferences, including the preparation of the agendas and then we will be submitting these proposals to the forthcoming sessions of the regional conferences. We did not consider that we could - in the absence of specific guidance from the membership - propose an amendment to Rule XXXV but we will be happy to work with all of you.

I know that the second part of this year might be a rather heavy one because we have a lot of activities but we will find out the required time, in consultation with our colleagues from the division in charge of Conference services, to develop proposals with you.

Regarding to the procedure for access to the audit reports of the Office of the Inspector General, the proposal that we have made to you and which was endorsed by the Finance Committee and which was based on the practice also followed by other agencies is that we would have a "read-only" approach to the matter. The Permanent Representatives and staff designated by Permanent Representatives would

be able to read an audit report. This is the procedure that is followed in a number of programmes and funds and this is the proposal that was endorsed by the CCLM and the Finance Committee.

As regards, more specifically, the question of the functioning of the Ethics Committee, this proposal has been under discussion for the past two years and in the course of this period we were able to see it from many, many perspectives including the perspective of the quorum. We have a committee which will consist of three external members and two internal members.

Our experience with committees of such limited membership is that in general, the members are expected to attend and our experience is that they attend meetings. If there are specific needs to revise this position, to reconsider this position, we will do that. If you look at the English version of the report on page 17, you have a footnote which refers to the possible need in the future to make adjustments. In fact we have established the Ethics Committee on an interim basis and everything will be reassessed not only during this period but also at the end of this period. These are observations that I wanted to make. I think I have answered all the questions which were specifically asked.

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, nous devons adopter et approuver le Rapport du Conseil. En l'approuvant, je donne les cinq points de décision qui nous concernent:

Le Conseil donne son accord pour transmettre à la Conférence le Projet de résolution sur les amendements à apporter au Règlement financier.

Le Conseil prend note de la chartre révisée du Bureau de l'Inspecteur général contenant une procédure pour la diffusion de rapport de vérification interne et sur la politique pour la protection des fonctionnaires qui dénoncent ses manquements.

Le Conseil prend note de l'accord réalisé sur le mandat et la composition du Comité de l'éthique.

Le Conseil prend note que des consultations régionales auront lieu pour définir les procédures de fonctionnement des Conférences régionales, y compris d'éventuels amendements à l'Article 35, Paragraphe 4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation sur l'Ordre du jour provisoire des Conférences régionales.

Le Conseil prend note du changement de nom de la FAO dans la version espagnole pour l'aligner sur les autres versions.

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

22. Working Methods of the Council

22. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

22. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo:

22.1 Revised Note on the Methods of Work of the Council (CL 141/17; CL 141/LIM/4)

22.1 Note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil (CL 141/17; CL 141/LIM/4)

22.1 Nota revisada sobre los métodos de trabajo del Consejo (CL 141/17; CL 141/LIM/4)

LE PRÉSIDENT

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, il en est ainsi décidé. Merci Monsieur Limburg, merci Madame Williams et Monsieur Tavares. Nous allons passer au point 22 «Méthodes de travail du Conseil». Les documents sont les CL 141/17 et CL 141/LIM/4. La note révisée sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil a été examinée une dernière fois lors de sa réunion en février 2011 par le Groupe de travail à composition non limitée sur les mesures à prendre pour accroître l'efficacité des organes directeurs y compris leur représentation. La version révisée de la note qui vous est soumise aujourd'hui comprend les éléments proposés par le Groupe de travail ainsi que les amendements convenus par le CQCJ en mars dernier. Il est donc demandé au Conseil d'examiner la note révisée et de l'approuver en formulant les observations qu'il jugerait utiles à ce sujet. Vous avez la note qui a été discutée mais j'ouvre la discussion sur ce point 22. La Guinée Équatoriale a la parole.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Guinea Ecuatorial tiene el placer de tomar la palabra en nombre del Grupo Africano. Comienzo agradeciendo a la Secretaría por la presentación de esta nota revisada sobre los métodos de trabajo del Consejo.

El Grupo Africano manifiesta reconocimiento de los esfuerzos realizados en la revisión de la metodología de trabajo del Consejo. Este Grupo, por tanto, no tiene comentarios específicos sobre esta nota porque los miembros de este Grupo participaron tanto en el Grupo de Trabajo de composición abierta sobre las medidas destinadas a aumentar la eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores, en curar la presentación y en los trabajos del Comité de Asuntos Jurídicos.

El Grupo Africano tiene pequeños comentarios generales. El Grupo estaría interesado en ofrecer un papel mucho más activo a las conferencias regionales en el proceso del PIA, trabajando activamente con el Consejo sobre todo en los aspectos relativos a la situación mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

El Grupo Regional Africano se conforma con la medida de que los documentos están disponibles cuatro semanas antes de cada Consejo.

África decía que en la aplicación de tecnologías modernas se tengan en cuenta los diferentes niveles de capacitación o adiestramiento que existen entre regiones con respecto a la inclusión de las nuevas metodologías de trabajo.

Finalmente, el Grupo Africano refrenda la nota revisada dado que tiene en cuenta la reformas de gobernanza prescritas por el PIA.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Pas d'autres demandes d'interventions? Je considère donc que le Conseil adopte la note révisée sur les méthodes de travail dont le texte sera reproduit en annexe dans le texte au rapport de la présente Session. Pas d'objections? Il en est ainsi décidé.

Je vous demande aussi un peu d'attention. Je voudrais à présent vous proposer, au titre de nos méthodes de travail, que la liste des délégués et observateurs aux Sessions du Conseil ne soit plus annexée au Rapport du Conseil et soit publiée séparément sur Internet seulement. Cela permettra d'économiser du papier et de finaliser le rapport plus rapidement. En effet, cette liste est souvent plus longue que le Rapport lui-même et comme elle est établie dans les six langues de l'Organisation, son montage et sa traduction requièrent un certain temps. Cette évolution serait conforme aux bonnes pratiques suivies par nombre d'organisations internationales ainsi que par divers organes directeurs de la FAO comme le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des forêts, le Comité des produits et le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Je donne la parole pour savoir si vous approuvez ou si vous désapprouvez cette économie pour les arbres de la planète.

Y a-t-il une demande d'intervention? Votre silence est un silence approbateur, je considère donc que vous acceptez cette proposition et je vous en remercie.

Governance Matters (continued)**Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)****16. Arrangements for the 37th Session of the Conference (Recommendations to the Conference) (CL 141/12; C 2011/12)****16. Organisation de la trente-septième session de la Conférence (Recommandations à la Conférence) (CL 141/12; C 2011/12)****16. Disposiciones relativas al 37.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia (recomendaciones a la Conferencia) (CL 141/12; C 2011/12)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

On passe au point 16: organisation de la trente-septième-Session de la Conférence, Recommandation à la Conférence. Ce sont donc les deux documents CL 141/12 et C 2011/12. Vous vous souviendrez que le Conseil, à sa dernière Session, avait convenu ce qui suit »... »le thème du débat général de la Conférence portera sur ; je cite « le rôle vital des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural ». Vous vous souvenez, on a eu un grand débat là dessus, fort intéressant, de façon conclusive aussi pour la participation. Le deuxième point était la nomination, comme Président de la Conférence de son Excellence Monsieur Tefera Deribew, Ministre de l'agriculture et du développement rural de l'Ethiopie. Le troisième Point: recommandations que la Présidence de la Commission I soit assurée par un Représentant d'un pays non-membre du G77 et celle de la Commission II par un pays membre du G77. Ces trois éléments ont donc été décidés. Le Conseil, à présent, est appelé à prendre les décisions suivantes qui sont au nombre de quatre. La première: adopter le calendrier provisoire de la trente-septième Session de la Conférence qui se trouve en Appendice A du document CL141/12; la deuxième: proposer des candidats pour les postes suivants du bureau de la Conférence: le Président de la Commission I, le Président de la Commission II, trois Vice- Présidents pour la Conférence et sept membres élus du Bureau. Le troisième point: nommer neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs et sept membres du Comité des Résolutions. D'abord, y a-t-il des commentaires sur le calendrier provisoire de la Conférence? Vous l'avez tous eu. L'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you for the opportunity to come on this paper and thank you to the Secretariat for putting together the draft timetable.

I wanted to make one suggestion, or perhaps make one query about the timetable. That is particularly relating to the events on the Saturday morning 25 June and the events on the Monday morning 27 June. In particular, I am concerned that we seem to have two openings for the Conference, one occurring on the Saturday morning when we have the McDougall Memorial Lecture and the election of the Chairperson, and then on the Monday morning, we have the Director-General's statement and, Mr Chair, your own statement.

This seems to send confusing messages about when the Conference is actually starting, does it start on Saturday, or does it start on Monday? I can understand why, potentially why, we are splitting it this way. One would be, of course, the Director-General's statement can occur after the new candidate has been elected, and I think that is certainly something worth considering.

But I do question the fact that the Saturday morning will actually comprise of about one hour's worth of discussion, so the theories will bring Ministers in for one hour of discussion on a Saturday morning, which is going to be hard enough as it is, and then send them out, certainly until the afternoon when we have the range of other items happening later that afternoon.

And I guess I question the logic of doing this. Why wouldn't we be better off having the key sessions, having the McDougall Memorial Lecture, the Director-General's speech and, perhaps, your own speech, Chair, all occurring on the Saturday morning to give us substantive openings for the Conference. That would allow, on the Monday morning, the review of the State of Food and Agriculture to commence earlier, allowing more Ministers to speak on the first day which, of course, is generally an appealing thing for most regions to have.

So, I am asking the Secretariat for a clarification on that issue and then considerations by the Members on how it would be best to arrange those parts of the session.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

On behalf of the Africa Group on this issue, we have no problem with the calendar itself. We take into consideration that since Ministers and Senior Officials will be attending the Conference, we presume that the official up and running of the Conference will be on Monday 27 June. Anyway with what has been said earlier by the previous speaker, we are ready to go along with the majority on that issue. So that is all with regard to the calendar.

Mauritius is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group. We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the two documents.

First, we would like to confirm that the Chairperson of the Conference will be His Excellency Mr Teferra Derebrew, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia as expressed by consensus by the Council at its Hundred and Fortieth Session (November – December 2010).

We would like to underscore the theme for the General Debate of the Conference under Item 10 “Review of the State of Food and Agriculture”, that is the vital role of women in agriculture and rural development. In this respect our group requests that this theme on the gender issue be also reflected in the deliberations of the commissions especially in Commission I on Substantive and Policy matters, and also in the side events which will be developed to provide a forum for informal interchange on development issues.

Furthermore, we are pleased to read in the introduction that the IPA had also underlined “...the need to make sessions of the Conference more action oriented, focused and attractive to participation by Ministers and Senior officials...”

I now refer to document C 2011/12, paragraph 19 which mentions the membership of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee to the Conference while paragraph 21 mentions when the Credential Committee will begin its work.

We would request that the functions of both the General Committee and Credentials Committee be spelled out in two separate paragraphs (like the Resolutions Committee) giving clear indications as to the procedure to be followed by the members attending the Conference.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The reason why the session on the Saturday morning is traditionally a short session is because it is merely dedicated to the keynote speaker on the McDougall Lecture and to honour that guest normally it is primarily reserved to listen to that speaker and normally it is a high-ranking government official or scientist etc. So that is the main reason why the main attention is focussed on the keynote speaker. Now, by the rules of this Organization, the adoption of the agenda cannot happen until such time as the General Committee meets and makes a recommendation on the agenda of the Conference and, as you can see, right after the McDougall Lecture, the General Committee will meet, discuss, primarily the provisional agenda of the Conference, make recommendations on that one and consider also other things. So the Committee needs to meet, immediately adopt its report, have the report translated in all languages, for then the Conference to reconvene in the afternoon. So that is why we have been following this procedure for the last few decades. Perhaps this is something to be considered in the future – it is work for the CCLM and the Membership to visit this question of having or not the General Committee meet, recommend the agenda then the Conference starts by adopting its agenda.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you Mr Mekouar for that clarification. Of course the Director-General’s statement and the Independent Chair’s statement are not formal agenda items of the Conference, so they of course would not be subject to deliberations of the General Committee, so I do not see that as being an impediment to having those sessions being on the Saturday morning. I of course agree that some of the other sessions could not precede the General Committee and I certainly endorse your suggestion having the CCLM perhaps look at the appropriateness of having a two or three or more hour break after the very

first Session of the Conference, it seems a very bizarre way of doing business in the modern age. Again, I put forward the proposal that we perhaps could try and collocate those issues to have a more substantive session.

I take the point of course that you want to give focus to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. I think that is an admirable aim but I guess there is the risk of course that if the perception is if the opening session is on a Monday morning it could be 4 or 5 people sitting in the Conference Centre on the Saturday morning by themselves and it could actually be an embarrassment to the Organization if an illustrious speaker comes for the Memorial Lecture and the room is only half full or does not have senior level officials and ministers present. I think the idea is to really showcase the FAO and I think splitting the events here actually undermines our own organizational credibility.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Traditionally the McDougall Lecture has always been a key moment of the Conference with the highest levels of attendance so I do not think that there is a risk that we will have low attendance during the McDougall Lecture. Additionally, if you see the provisional agenda for the afternoon, this is the first time in the history of the Conference that we will have the candidates for the Director General position addressing Conference. We have six of them. This will take some time, so an early start of the Conference with three key note addresses – the McDougall Lecture, the Director General and the Independent Chair of Council – to be followed by the General Committee, the time required to process and translate the report, the Conference will probably not reconvene before late in the afternoon. Do we want to go until midnight on that day? That is a question we may ask.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Le délégué de l'Australie n'est pas complètement convaincu et je lui passe donc la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you Mr Mekouar for that clarification. I agree that is a legitimate point that we do not want to be there all night hearing these candidates and I am sure the candidates do not want to be here all night before the actual election day, so I can certainly appreciate that view.

I am perhaps less convinced by the idea that we are going to get many Ministers turning up at 9.30 a.m. on a Saturday morning for an hour long session before going away for four hours or more. I actually think that is a risk for this Organization. I think it will be something that could backfire on us if we have a session which actually looks like we just could not organize to have the Director-General and others all speaking on the same day. I think the perception of this actually, from my perspective, does not look good and I think we should be really focused on efficiency here. The benefits of having more people speak on the Monday I think speak for themselves. I think getting into the actual substantive business of the Conference itself is a meritorious thing we should be pursuing.

On this issue, we are, of course, happy to go with the consensus view and I cannot hold it up any longer, but we do think this will be a strange arrangement to have such a short session on a Saturday morning.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Monsieur Mékouar a répondu par rapport à l'habitude et aux règles, il y a quelque chose qui a été dit dans l'échange, c'est que cela nécessiterait peut-être, après cette Conférence, de regarder comment peut se juxtaposer le début de Conférence et la réunion du Bureau. Je tire au moins cette conclusion, et pour l'instant, pour la Conférence on reste en status quo, à moins que vous vouliez faire d'autres propositions. Je vous en prie Monsieur Mékouar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Just a last practical consideration. Normally the Director-General is quite busy on Saturday morning early receiving high-level guests. So I think logistically it is a bit difficult to arrange. I should also add that traditionally during the Saturday morning we also have the awards. This time around, as you can see on the provisional agenda, those are foreseen on Monday morning and not on Saturday morning

for the same reason I had just mentioned. Bear in mind the very long day we will have on that Saturday. So these are the considerations, we really took time to reflect through this and we are trying to make the best use of time available and this is our considered view that probably this is the best arrangement.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci et pour l'audition des candidats au poste de Directeur général, nous aurons nos six heures puisque les termes des auditions définis par le CCLM sont identiques ou quasiment identiques entre le Conseil et la Conférence donc six heures plus les différents autres éléments l'après-midi, l'adoption de l'Ordre du jour, l'admission des observateurs, la demande d'admission du Comité membre, nous sommes donc partis pour une grande séance de l'après-midi. Malgré les questions qui ont été convenues, je vous propose que, dans les discussions, on fasse état de ce qui a été dit pour l'avenir pour se pencher sur cette question. Monsieur Tavares, vous êtes présent et vous vous en souviendrez.

Pour la Conférence, on peut donc adopter l'Ordre du jour provisoire.

Le calendrier est adopté.

Pour le Président de la Commission:

Nous avons une proposition pour les pays non membres du G77 en la personne de Madame Hedwig Wögerbauer, d'Autriche et pour la Commission II, un représentant du Nigéria dont le nom n'est pas donné pour l'instant.

Pas d'objections?

Pour les trois Vice-Présidents, nous avons donc son Excellence Monsieur Pietro Sebastiani de l'Italie, un pays du Proche-Orient et un pays du GRULAC. Nous n'avons pas de position claire sur les noms mais les Groupes du G77 et Régionaux se sont mis d'accord pour cette affectation.

Pour les sept membres élus du Bureau, les propositions qui font part d'une répartition entre G77 et non G77, nous avons le Brésil, le Canada, la Hongrie, la Jordanie, la Nouvelle Zélande, le Pakistan et la Tunisie. Pas d'objection. C'est un travail commun que nous avons fait avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux et pour les neuf membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs: l'Autriche, le Bangladesh, les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la Guinée équatoriale, le Nicaragua, l'Oman, la République tchèque, Saint-Marino et la Thaïlande. Là non plus, pas d'objection.

Ensuite, les sept membres du Comité des résolutions: l'Australie, la Chine, les États-Unis d'Amérique, la Grèce, le Guatemala, la Mauritanie et la République arabe syrienne.

Pas d'objection. Donc je considère que ces propositions de nominations sont acceptées par le Conseil et seront transmises à la Conférence qui valide. Ce sont des propositions qui sont faites à la Conférence.

Après ces discussions ou ces engagements, le calendrier provisoire et la liste convenue sont adoptés mais pour les pays qui n'ont pas défini leurs membres, il faudrait quand même que le nom soit donné pour l'adoption pour la Conférence.

Je vous remercie donc pour ces sujets là. Il n'y a pas d'autres points.

15. Conditions for the Appointment of the Director-General (CL 141/INF/9)

15. Conditions pour la nomination du Directeur général (CL 141/INF/9)

15. Condiciones para el nombramiento del Director General (CL 141/INF/9)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous abordons le point 15: les conditions pour la nomination du Directeur général.

Ce document reflète essentiellement les conclusions du CQCG étant donné que le Comité financier, qui a aussi examiné cette question, s'est réuni après le CQCG.

A la demande de la 140ème Session du Conseil, le Secrétariat a préparé ce document d'information sur les modalités de nomination du Directeur général de la FAO de manière assez exhaustive. Il a été

examiné par le CQCG et le Comité financier en mars dernier qui ont accueillis favorablement les informations fournies. Les Comités ont pris note du paragraphe 4 de l'Article 37 du Règlement général de l'Organisation définissant les pouvoirs du Bureau de la Conférence concernant les conditions générales d'emploi du Directeur général.

Dans leurs conclusions, les Comités ont pris note que des renseignements, notamment sur les pratiques en vigueur au sein des organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome, seraient fournies au Bureau de la Conférence pour qu'il puisse déterminer les conditions de service du Directeur général qui sera élu par la Conférence en juin 2011. Les Comités ont également demandé de veiller à la clarté de toutes les dispositions notamment celles relatives à la location par l'Organisation d'un logement approprié mis à disposition du Directeur général pour sa résidence officielle. Enfin, les Comités ont estimé que le Rapport du corps commun d'inspection intitulé «sélections et conditions d'emploi» des Chefs de secrétariat au sein des Organismes des Nations Unies, dont les recommandations avaient été acceptées par les Conseils des chefs de secrétariat et le Directeur général, fournissent des indications utiles pour déterminer les conditions de nomination du Directeur général, devant être élu par la Conférence.

Je vous invite donc à faire d'éventuelles observations sur ce document en tenant compte qu'il s'agit d'une question dont s'occupera le Bureau de la Conférence et la Conférence, et à cet effet, le Secrétariat préparera la documentation nécessaire. Les commentaires sont les bienvenus, s'il y a lieu.

Avez-vous des commentaires et qui demande la parole sur ce sujet?

Pas de commentaire? Le travail était bien préparé dans les deux Comités.

Les États-Unis d'Amérique.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

This item came up as you recall in last November's Council session and came up again in the CCLM and the Finance Committee. We wish to thank the Secretariat for the Report on the Conditions for the Appointment of the Director-General and recognize that the Secretariat will be piecing together a information note for use by Members and members of the General Committee for the coming Conference. We simply wish to recall that the United States believes that all aspects of UN budgets, including the budget of the FAO and including the emoluments of the head of agency, should be completely transparent to the Members. We believe that the Joint Inspection Unit Report, as cited in the CCLM Ninety-second Session Report, offers helpful guidance on related issues for which we believe the General Committee should be both familiar with its contents and draw upon it as a reference as it deliberates on the issue, including on the full package of emoluments, housing, as you say, and other aspects of that topic.

Also in the same spirit of clarity and transparency, we are all about to enter a somewhat unique situation where we have an overlap of six months which is quite a long term for any elected official to be overlapping with the incumbent. It would certainly be helpful to my delegation, and I would imagine to all other Members of the Organization, to have at least clarity on what provisions have been or perhaps need to be made with respect to that six-months transition period between early July and December 31, 2011. Question such as: Will the Director-General elect have a budget from the Organization's funding for travel or staff? For the transition period, what types of arrangements are being made for the Director-General elect and is this something that the General Committee should address or do the General Rules of the Organization spell this out to the satisfaction of Members and Management? What can we expect in this rather unusual situation? I look forward to some clarifications.

M. Kent VACHON (Canada)

J'aimerais seulement ajouter à la déclaration des États-Unis qu'en plus de la transparence, il est important aussi que les émoluments, la maison, etc., soient publiquement défendables. Pour la fonction publique, nous avons un test qui s'appelle le Global and Mail test. Le Global and Mail est notre journal quotidien le plus répandu. Par exemple si cela apparaissait à la une de ce journal, est-ce que le Gouvernement pourrait se défendre quand on parle de thèmes très généraux comme une résidence

appropriée? Evidemment il y a des différences et je voudrai que l'on comprenne que vu l'état actuel des finances publiques et d'austérité, le mot «approprié» puisse aussi dire défendable.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

I will address briefly the question that was asked by the United States of America. My understanding is that the Council has no questions on this matter, aside from the specific question that was raised by the representative of the United States of America.

Regarding this period after the election, our rules are extremely clear that the Director-General will take office from the beginning of next year. This was widely publicized in the various issuances which were released on this matter. So, we have a Director-General exercising his functions and with a contract running until the end of this year. As I explained one year and a half ago this contract is running its course. The Director-General is exercising fully his functions. The new Director-General will take office from January of next year. Our understanding is that organizations confronted to this situation have set up informal teams which have worked for a limited period of time.

The Report of the Joint Inspection Unit that was released to the Finance and Programme Committees also envisages a transition period which should not be less than three months so after all this period is not all that long if we look at this period foreseen in the report of the JIU. The experience that exists is one of informal transition teams, that is as far as I can go but the new Director-General for us will take office from 1 January 2012 and that is the point that we have already made on past occasions.

This is as far as I can go on this matter.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

I am sorry Mr Tavares, you have basically not provided us with any answers of utility. Can I suggest you to go back and answer the question. I will leave it at that. We basically need clarity as a Council. You have mentioned the transition teams. Does that mean there is a financial obligation of the Organization to cover the costs of them. Is it a three month transition team for addition? Let me wait to hear your response.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

I am not in a position to go beyond this point because our rules do not go beyond what I have mentioned. We have a situation where the Director-General is, under the terms of a contract approved by the Conference, fulfilling his functions until the end of the year. We will have a Director-General who will take office from the 1 January 2012. So we have no rules in our General Rules of the Organization. One may have, in practice, to come up with some informal arrangements, but clearly we do not have any rules, financial or other, on the matter. I do not think that the Legal Office is in a position to go beyond this general observation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur ce point, les États-Unis.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

This item came up as you recall in last November's Council session and it came up again in the CCLM and the Finance Committee. We wish to thank the Secretariat for the reports on the conditions for the appoint of the Director General and recognize that the secretariat will be piecing together an Information Note for use by members and members of the general committee for the coming conference.

We simply wish to recall that the United States believes that all aspects of UN budgets including the budget of the FAO and including the emoluments of the head of agency should be completely transparent to the members.

We believe that the Joint Inspection Unit report, as sighted in the CCLM Ninety-second Session Report offers helpful guidance on related issues for which we believe that the general committee

should be both familiar with its content and draw upon as a reference as it deliberates on the issue including on the full package of emoluments, housing and in other aspects of that topic.

In the same spirit of clarity and transparency, we are all about to enter a somewhat unique situation where we have an overlap of six months which is quite a long term for any elected official to be overlapping with the incumbent. It would certainly be helpful to my delegation, as I imagine it would be to all other Members, to at least have clarity on what provisions have been or perhaps need to be made with respect to that six month transition period, between early July and 31 December 2011.

Questions such as will the Director-General elect have a budget from the Organization's funding for travel or staff. During the transition period, what types of arrangements are being made for the Director-General elect? Is this something that the general committee should address or do the general rules of the organization spell out to the satisfaction of members and management, what we can expect during this rather unusual situation.

I look forward to some clarifications.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Il n'y a pas d'autres questions ni d'autres remarques. Monsieur Tavares, pouvez-vous nous éclairer sur ces deux questions?

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

We can provide assurances that the documentation that will be given to the General Committee will be complete, will be transparent, will address all issues.

In fact, the document that was prepared for the CCLM for the Finance Committee, and for you now, provides already a very substantial amount of information. We will certainly provide full information so that the General Committee can make an informed recommendation to the Conference on all issues.

We will be providing full information on these matters.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I am requesting that you give the floor to Cameroon.

M. Moungui MÉDI (Observateur du Cameroun)

Nous avons écouté la question que venait de soulever les États-Unis d'Amérique à l'instant. Monsieur le Président, nous sommes sur un terrain très glissant. Je ne crois pas que mes mots soient exagérés, il faudrait peut-être mieux tourner la page immédiatement, et éviter d'ouvrir le vase de Pandore que nous ne pourrions pas maîtriser. Si nous ouvrons cette discussion nous risquerions d'avoir une Conférence, à mon point de vue, interminable. Sur cette question nous avons donné un mandat au Directeur général qui va jusqu'au 31 décembre 2011, il faut que celui-ci soit respecté sans ouvrir un autre débat. Une autre chose que nous voudrions faire remarquer c'est que le paragraphe 10 de ce Rapport parle d'une indemnité qui n'a pas été révisée depuis bientôt 18 ans. Si on ne la révisé pas cette fois-ci ou si au moins on ne la discute pas elle sera encore là pendant encore cinq ans. Peut-être faudrait-il, Monsieur le Président, trouver une solution dès que possible à ce sujet sans attendre 23 ou 24 ans pour la mettre à jour. Je vous remercie.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arabic Republic) (Original language Arabic)

In point of fact, I wanted to say exactly what the distinguished delegate of Cameroun has said just before me. However, if some people are determined to press their questioning then we need to follow an established practice in the nomination or appointment of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and Executive Heads of other organizations in order to see what their best practices are. I am not sure that there is much point in pursuing this debate in other words.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je crois que la question a été posée, c'est clair. Le contrat actuel du Directeur général n'est pas remis en cause jusqu'au 31 décembre et, suivant les règles de l'engagement du futur Directeur général, son

contrat commence au 1er janvier 2012. Nous n'avons pas à revenir dessus. La question posée est celle de la période transitoire, comment elle pouvait être soutenue. Elle appartient, s'il doit y avoir des mesures budgétaires de soutien au Bureau de la Conférence pour le faire, nous n'avons pas d'autres possibilités. En ce qui concerne les autres questions posées, la transparence est absolue, à la restriction près, comme l'a dit le délégué du Canada, de l'appréciation du terme «approprié» concernant le logement et là nous faisons confiance au Bureau de la Conférence. Voilà ce que je peux dire sur ce sujet qui doit pouvoir nous éclairer sur le débat et sa transparence.

Le Document tel qu'il était, était engagé, nous n'avons pas eu de commentaires sur le Document mais uniquement sur ces problèmes là. Ce document est donc adopté.

Programme and Finance Committees (continued)

Comité du Programme et Comité financier (suite)

Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

3. Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (Recommendation to Conference on budget level) (C 2011/3) (continued)

3. Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 (révisé) et Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 (Recommandation à la Conférence concernant le montant du budget (C 2011/3) (suite)

3. Plan a plazo medio (PPM) para 2010-13 (revisado) y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (recomendación a la Conferencia sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) (C 2011/3) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous arrivons à la fin de notre Ordre du jour tel qu'il en a été convenu. Je vous rappelle que ce matin, lors du débat sur le PTB, nous avons dit que nous reprendrions éventuellement la discussion pour parfaire, en particulier, le point 8 que j'avais évoqué: la recommandation d'un niveau de budget, qui est, compte tenu des positions de chacun, difficile à être unique puisqu'il y a des différences mais qu'un certain nombre avait souhaité que l'on puisse aller plus avant dans la discussion et j'avais dit que nous pourrions, si ce n'était de trouver des chiffres, donner les lignes ou les aspects sur lesquels nous pouvions discuter plus avant.

Il nous reste un quart d'heure et je vous propose que nous discussions uniquement de la procédure qui doit suivre ce quart d'heure. Plusieurs possibilités: j'ai entendu la demande d'avoir un Groupe des amis pour en discuter. S'il doit y avoir encore des discussions sur ce sujet, un certain nombre d'entre nous souhaite que nous puissions le faire pendant le Conseil en séance plénière pour chacun soit au même niveau de discussion, réservant le travail d'un Groupe de présidents à l'issue de ce travail. Comme nous n'avons pas prévu de séance ce soir, nous n'allons pas le faire. Il y a aussi un certain nombre de Groupes régionaux qui ont pris des positions communes et qui souhaitent, bien sur, pouvoir en rediscuter pour aller éventuellement plus loin sur ces questions. Il nous reste la possibilité, d'un accord commun, de prendre une Session de trois heures demain soir après les auditions des candidats au poste de Directeur général en partant sur la base évoquée. Nous ne reviendrons pas sur les points acquis mais nous continuerons de discuter du niveau du budget et d'échanger, entre nous, les points qui peuvent rassembler pour avoir une position, si possible et si tel n'est pas le cas, pour préparer le travail de la Conférence, ajouté à d'autres réunions entre le Conseil et la Conférence. Première possibilité, nous ne faisons pas de réunions et nous faisons des réunions des Amis du Président après le Conseil. Seconde possibilité, nous faisons une réunion demain soir et nous continuerons la discussion après si nécessaire. Je le laisse à votre choix, pour ma part je suis disponible mais j'en réfère, comme je l'ai dit, à ce que j'ai entendu, savoir si l'on devait aller plus loin pendant le Conseil, on y allait tous ensemble.

Le Canada, vous avez la parole.

M Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Vous savez notre préférence donc je ne vais pas le répéter. Mais juste pour dire que je pense que jamais dans l'histoire de la FAO avons-nous pu nous mettre d'accord sur un niveau de budget dans ce

format. Mais si vous insistez de continuer en plénière sur ce sujet, je vous demande de ne pas le faire demain soir. Demain est un jour dédié aux entrevues avec les Candidats pour le Directeur général, ce qui n'est pas important précédent comme nous établissons ici et beaucoup d'événements d'entrevue et de réunion avec les Candidats sont prévus pour demain après les heures prévues ici ou dans la salle plénière. Donc je pense que l'idée d'une autre réunion ici demain soir n'est pas très bonne. S'il faut vraiment se réunir ici dans la salle rouge encore une fois sur ce terme je vois qu'il y a une possibilité l'après-midi de jeudi, si on le fait en parallèle avec le Comité de rédaction. Et ensuite on devrait se préparer quand nous avons fini à 17h30, nous devrions nous préparer pour une autre séance ce soir là. Même sans interprétations allant jusqu'à 3h du matin. Cela nous l'avons fait la dernière fois, et je suis prêt à le refaire. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, d'ailleurs je ne comprends pas pourquoi vous dites trois heures, pourquoi pas quatre ou cinq heures? C'était simplement une référence. On est bien d'accord. L'Australie.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

My views on this that we as a group have committed to trying to achieve something out of this Council and to agree to the limit to the budget. I think we need to give ourselves the best possible opportunity to achieve that. In my view, our plenary staff format is not suited to that kind of discussion and free flowing dialogue so I prefer the option of going to the Friends of the Chair. I don't however agree with my good friend from Canada about running in parallel with the Drafting Committee given I would be participating in both the Drafting Committee and the budget discussion which would certainly be challenging for my perspective sitting in both meetings.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

De igual manera México apoya la propuesta de ir directamente al Grupo de Amigos del Presidente.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

When the agenda item of PWB was discussed, all the regions made important interventions and that is the way that it should be treated in order to have the level of the budget we all agree to.

I feel that meeting either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow will not make any difference as the issues are still on.

Suggestions which have been given by the different Regional Groups, for example Africa, issues that we have raised and discussions cannot be had tomorrow or the day after tomorrow as we have other engagements.

Maybe we should meet informally in order to reach consensus prior to returning for final decision.

Mr Amman AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to support the proposal made by Australia and seconded by Mexico and by others to have a meeting of the Friends of the Chair in order to hash out this issue, perhaps to meet later on in the month of May.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I listened carefully to the distinguished Ambassador of Tanzania and appreciate his point that regions need to digest what was said thus far in the Council and talk to each other and that is something that could presumably happen in parallel with the Drafting Committee on Thursday afternoon and in time for Friends of the Chair Thursday evening. I must push on this point of doing our duty. In the IPA the Conference instructed us as Council to fulfil our executive duties as a Council and to make a firm, clear recommendation on the budget level and I am very loath to drag this out and not do our duty and have this issue carry on to Conference. That would be a failure on the part of this Council to fulfill its responsibilities and I think it would be sad enough if this Council ends in failure, it would be even sadder if it ends in failure without our even having really tried.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

We would like express our support to the proposal expressed by the distinguished delegate of Tanzania.

We think that we do not have urgency in arriving at a final decision during Council so we think the friends of the chair is a good opportunity to have fruitful discussions and starting its activities just after the conclusion of this Council session and working until the Conference.

We are convinced that it would contribute to having good results.

Sr. Agustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

Nosotros también queríamos unirnos a las intervenciones de Tanzania en nombre de África, la de Siria y de la Unión Europea. Estimamos que sería conveniente crear un mecanismo de Amigos del Presidente y que este mecanismo inicie a trabajar con posteridad a este Consejo.

Vemos que ya se han hecho las declaraciones iniciales y necesitamos un poco de tiempo para discutir y que nuestras discusiones sean productivas en este sentido.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

Let me quickly endorse what my colleague from Canada has already said in respect to what we feel is a sense of urgency. In part, and not just because we have brought several of our colleagues in from Washington for this discussion, but we think there is certainly an opportunity before us to further explore positions of the various members of council here, regional groups, and better understand the Information Notes that were provided just before this session.

We recognize that this is going to be a difficult process. This is the first attempt by Council in the new system called for by the IPA, and certainly we think it merits an attempt, even if we are unsuccessful ultimately in reaching a level. There is certainly merit in more intense scrutiny of the specific items, areas of additional savings in the functional objectives that we discussed earlier.

So, certainly the most productive venue or arrangement we certainly would see would be a Friends of the Chair informal session where the members can really engage one-on-one or in groups, regionally or otherwise, to begin the necessary dialogue and exploration of areas where we can look to achieve our goal.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I really do want to clarify my position and that of my delegation on this issue. When we spoke about a Friends of the Chair, we were speaking about the relative formality of the discussion, not about deferring this discussion until later in the biennium.

My view is very clear, that we have been charged with delivering an outcome by the IPA. This is the first opportunity that we have had to do that. We have one round of statements from regions. We have not had any kind of dialogue. We have not had any interaction with the Secretariat and then we're going to say now that we should leave it until after the Council. I think if the Secretariat came to us on IPA reform and said we had one go at it and decided not to progress with it, poor Mr Juneja would be up there fending off all our blows from down here. We would be taking him to task. Yet when it comes to us trying to pursue this, we are happy to give up very quickly.

The view of my delegation is clear, that this is something we should try our utmost to advance. Even if we cannot reach an agreement here, we should at least make the effort of taking advantage of the interpretation time and the delegates who have travelled from capitals and the fact that countries and regions have come here on the basis that we are going to negotiate at the level of the budget and we should do that. I think if we give up now it is a very disappointing outcome.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je redis ce que j'avais dit au départ, puisque c'est assez conforme avec ce que j'entends. Puisque j'avais proposé de faire une réunion demain soir et de poursuivre ensuite avec les Amis du Président mais la réunion de demain soir, nous la faisons tous ensemble avec pour objectif un échange plus

profond. Que ce soit les Amis du Président qui se réunissent demain soir ou le Conseil, il semble qu'il y ait une réticence pour les uns et pour les autres et, je le dis sans acrimonie, pour les Etats Unis et le Canada, il vous est plus facile de vous mettre d'accord dans le Groupe d'Amérique du Nord que les autres groupes qui ont besoin de se consulter. Je pense que vous le reconnaissez. Il faut aussi donner un peu de temps aux groupes car si on ne leur donne pas la possibilité de discuter entre eux, on va recommencer exactement les mêmes déclarations que ce matin. Mon idée au départ était que l'on fasse cette réunion avec l'aide du Secrétariat au moins sur les lignes sur lesquelles il va falloir jouer avant de définir les niveaux et progressivement avancer pour éclairer aussi les réunions des Amis du Président par la suite après le Conseil. Les rencontres avec les candidats éventuels auront lieu demain soir, mais tout le monde n'est pas concerné au même moment. Si on se réunit jeudi soir ce seront les membres du Comité du Rapport, sauf si le Comité du Rapport finit ses travaux en deux heures. Ce n'est pas garanti non plus dans ce cas et le Conseil sera ensuite terminé. Mais il est vrai que si la réunion a lieu demain soir, il faut que chacun arrive à apporter un peu plus qu'uniquement la déclaration qui a été faite ce matin avec un peu d'ouverture. Si tel ne doit pas être le cas, il est inutile de faire la réunion. Si chacun s'engage à faire un effort supplémentaire pour rentrer dans la discussion, on a des chances d'avancer. Autrement, je ne suis pas sûr. Le Canada.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

You are right that it is easier for smaller groups to get together than bigger groups but in my thinking it was the responsibility of each and every group, big or small to come prepared to this council meeting and that includes with some flexibility and the ability to reach a compromise during the course of this meeting. Now you are saying that regions need to reconvene and discuss. If we were to meet tomorrow evening when is that to happen? If regions really need to get together and I guess identify negotiators and give them some flexibility so that we can move forward. Then I guess those regional meetings would have to happen tomorrow and then the Friends process would have to happen on the Thursday. It is a bit of a contradiction to say we need regional consultations and yet we are going to get together in the big room forum again tomorrow immediately after the interviews with the candidates. I am not sure how you can reconcile that but we are happy to meet in any way. I think the friends would be more productive but Canada stands ready in whatever format you say is to try and reach the agreement on the budget level as we are required to do as a Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'entends bien Monsieur Vachon, mais même si on forme un Groupe des amis du Président dès demain, les personnes qui participeront à ce Groupe, il faut quand même une représentation assez harmonieuse de tous, et quand j'ai entendu ce matin des personnes, et je les en remercie d'avoir travaillé en commun dans le cadre des groupes, prendre des positions de groupe, et s'il n'y a pas une re-discussion dans ce cadre-là, on aura quand même des difficultés. Soit on incite à ce que tout le monde, à partir de ce qui a été dit ce matin, donc chacun des groupes, reprenne une heure pour essayer de voir ce qui peut se faire ou donner quelques mandats aux Membres qui négocieront, mais que ce soit en séance plénière ou en amis du Président, s'il n'y a pas un minimum d'échange à l'intérieur des groupes, je ne vois pas comment nous pouvons avancer.

La Tanzanie.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Tanzania)

I want to support what you said but I really appreciate what has been said by Canada and Australia that is important to move towards the consensus.

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Group. Several options and suggestions have been made from the different Regional Groups, we want to go through all those suggestions so that we are prepared for a productive participation in this informal Friends of the Chair meeting. This cannot happen tomorrow since we are having such a long day, maybe on the second day but I don't know how long it will take us. We will meet as Africa, we may go beyond and meet as G77 so, in our case, we will participate in several meetings.

The focus of the discussion should target the possibility to be in agreement on certain issues. Perhaps we can take advantage of management and ask them to give us advice, we can call management to participate to our regional groups to get a better understanding of the issue.

M. Kent VACHON (Canada)

Merci Monsieur le Président, je pense que vous avez mal compris ma dernière intervention, parce qu'à la fin de la vôtre vous étiez d'accord avec moi. Je disais qu'il était inutile de se réunir soit en tant que Conseil ou Groupe d'Amis demain soir, pour précisément la raison qu'a indiquée l'ambassadeur de la Tanzanie. Donc laissons demain soir pour les groupes régionaux, même jeudi après midi aussi pour les groupes régionaux et le G77 pour réfléchir et se préparer pour une séance jeudi soir. Mais l'idée de continuer après le Conseil est à notre avis problématique car cela prendra beaucoup de ressource et ce sera difficile de trouver des jours qui conviennent à tous les groupes. Il y aura la question de l'interprétation et il n'y aura pas les représentants de nos quartiers généraux. On ne peut pas régler cette histoire durant la réunion actuelle, la prochaine opportunité sera la Conférence. Donc, il faut faire autant que possible pendant que nous sommes tous ici avec l'interprétation, avec les salles, avec les représentants de la gestion. Je pense que poursuivre une réunion de Groupe d'Amis durant mai et juin (après le Conseil) serait très coûteux et peu productif.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I fully understand the position voiced by Canada, the United States, Australia and others that the duty of this Council is to recommend a budget level to the Conference.

I want to support the positions expressed by Tanzania, Argentina and the European Union on practical grounds and perhaps extract a lesson from that because the several arguments that have been made, they made clear that in practical terms it is impossible to go on during this Council with this sort of consultation. Tomorrow will be really absorbed into the matter of the statements of candidates to the Council, as Canada has said. So on Thursday we have the Drafting Committee and many of us have small delegations and we do not have delegates from capital to discuss the budget and we would have to be on both fora and this would not really be practical, as Australia also has said. On Friday it would be impossible also to do a group of friends so any conclusion would have to have time after those conclusions of this group for broader consultations and endorsement by the Council. So it is really impractical, it is not a welcomed development and I think the lesson we have to extract is if the Council should recommend a budget level to the Conference then a mechanism such as a Friends of the Chair consultation should be sought and done before the Council Session, so treating the Council as FAO has been treating the Conference with respect to the budget. For future biennia we have to learn this lesson and also we have to have the Programme of Work and Budget cleared by the Finance Committee and Programme Committee with more time before the Council, so this kind of consultation and agreement can be made before. While I fully understand the need to summarize the consensus, I think there is really unfortunately no practical way to go on with this during this Council Session.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

I would like to say that we are not necessarily in favour of postponing the discussion on this important issue, but we are afraid that we do not have enough information right now to continue discussions in Plenary sessions. I think during the Council session tomorrow and the day after, we will have the opportunity to have informal consultations within the various regional groups and also between the various regional groups in order to better understand each other's positions and to indicate that we are for the consensus and that we are working in order to go ahead and have some tangible results. I think the acceptance of the Finance Committee would be, and is, already a big step ahead in the discussion of the PWB 2012-13.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

There is not a lot of enthusiasm from many regions to try to reach a conclusion of this discussion and that disappoints me somewhat, but I think that we should take the opportunity to have a technical discussion. I have about six pages of questions that I would quite like to put to the Secretariat on many different details and I raised a few of them in my intervention this morning, about strategic objectives,

about the budget savings and a whole range of things, and that is not something that needs regional positions, that is a matter of clarifications from the Secretariat so we can all understand better where the flexibilities may or may not lie. So whatever time and in whatever format we may decide to proceed, to try at least to take the opportunity for all the things we have paid for already and make sure we get the best value for our time here.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I too will make this very brief. When I sit next to my very distinguished neighbour and he takes a difference of opinion from me, it is very unusual for me to find myself in this position because I do have a great deal of respect for his position as head of the Africa Group and I recognize the legitimate concerns that he raises about the need for the Africa Group and others to have an opportunity to continue to dialogue because our regional group is admittedly a smaller one, recognizing that it is just the United States and Canada.

Having said that, however, I would hope that we might be able to reach a compromise here that I would like to suggest and that is that tomorrow evening we meet informally, as we have opportunities during the day to continue to talk within our regional groups but tomorrow evening we have an opportunity potentially to meet with Management, to raise some of the questions about potential opportunities for budget amendments or technical questions related to the budget and that after those consultations it will give us an opportunity to begin to continue the dialogue between regional groups over the next day, Thursday, where we could come together as Friends of the Chair on late Thursday evening after the Drafting Committee.

Recognising that many of us, as we said, do have delegations here, but we also recognise that we also have all of the parties in the same place and this is an opportunity that we should not forego when we all agreed in the IPA that we would at least try.

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

Perhaps I could provide some reflections. To my knowledge, it has been unprecedented to try to hold any parallel meetings with the Council and, therefore, in order to move forward on this item, it would be important to find a time slot when the discussion can be dedicated on the PWB.

The second reflection that I would have is that in the past the philosophy that has been followed on PWB negotiations is essentially that nothing is decided until everything is agreed, but based on the Finance Committee report I think the situation is slightly different this time around and the Council may be able to make some progress in some areas.

The third reflection I would have is that it might be useful to break up this complicated budget into parts. So, one possible way of moving forward is, for example, for the Council to consider, during the rest of this week, either through a Friends of the Chair mechanism or otherwise, the liquidity and financial health proposals of the PWB where there had been some clear deliberation in the Finance Committee. I am referring here specifically to the following: after service medical coverage, proposals on the terminal payments fund, proposals on the special reserve account and on the working capital fund.

Beyond this there are aspects which may require clarifications where we may be able to make some progress, not in terms of decision making, but clarifications. These are issues that may result in increases in the budget which are in the Immediate Plan of Action, such as an increase in the evaluation budget, and other issues with regard to the strategic objective on gender, as well as questions raised on the Shared Services Centre and, of course, on Functional Objective X.

Other areas which may require further clarification or discussion are the interventions made on one-time fortuitous savings of USD 10.4 million, further technical clarifications on cost increases and finally, flexibility around, or at least a discussion on efficiency savings.

So it might be possible to break down the discussion between some areas where you may be able to reach a decision this week and other areas, as I have outlined, where it might be possible to at least receive some technical clarifications, subject of course to finding the time this week.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Après vous avoir tous entendu et essayé de faire la synthèse, je vous propose de faire une réunion d'échange d'informations avec le Secrétariat, comme l'a dit Monsieur Juneja, questions-réponses, après la journée des auditions, c'est-à-dire, 5h30 ou 6h00, on va voir comment cela se fait, pour trois heures d'échange. Le lendemain, les groupes régionaux se réuniront s'ils le peuvent et on voit si on peut envisager, mais là c'est complètement interrogatif, d'avoir soit un groupe des amis du Président, soit une réunion le jeudi soir après le Comité du rapport, parce que cela ne peut pas se faire pendant. Pour ce soir, nous devons clore, donc je vous propose de nous retrouver demain soir sur ces sujets. On répond aux questions «Echanges», vous posez toutes les questions que vous pouvez, et comme le dit Monsieur Juneja, on essaye de cerner les différents problèmes. Il faut conclure. Je vous remercie. J'ai deux petites informations à vous redonner : le groupe Afrique se réunira demain matin, 13 avril à 9h00 dans la salle Ethiopie et la deuxième information que vous me fournissiez pour demain matin, au moins à l'entrée, le nom des intervenants pour les questions. Je vous promets de ne pas le diffuser. Je vous remercie, bonsoir, à demain matin, grande salle.

The meeting rose at 20.50 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.50

Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
13 April 2011

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.43 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième réunion plénière est ouverte à 09 h 43
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta reunión plenaria a las 09.43
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Governance Matters (continued)**Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)****11. Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General (CL 141/11; C 2011/14)****11. Communications des candidats au poste de Directeur général (CL 141/11; C 2011/14)****11. Declaraciones de los candidatos al puesto de Director General (CL 141/11; C 2011/14)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour, je déclare ouverte la cinquième séance de la Cent-quarante et unième session du Conseil. Nous abordons le Point 11 relatif aux communications des candidats au poste de Directeur-général et les documents pertinents portent les symboles C 2011/14 et CL 141/11. C'est une situation nouvelle et inédite pour le Conseil car, par la Réforme, il a été envisagé que le Conseil soit chargé d'auditionner les candidats à ce poste. Compte tenu à la fois de la solennité et de l'importance de la participation et de cette séance, je suis heureux de vous accueillir dans cette salle pleine d'histoire et de vie de la FAO, tout un symbole.

Six candidats ont été présentés par les Etats Membres, conformément au paragraphe B de l'Article XXXVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Selon le paragraphe C du même Article et suivant la procédure adoptée par le Conseil à sa Cent-trente neuvième session, chaque candidat sera invité à faire une déclaration. Conformément à la procédure concernant les communications adoptées par le Conseil, l'ordre dans lequel les candidats interviennent est fixé par tirage au sort dans cette bourse. Trois candidats interviendront ce matin et trois candidats cet après-midi. Le temps alloué à chaque candidat pour faire sa déclaration est limitée à 15 minutes. Après chaque déclaration, les Membres du Conseil, par l'intermédiaire des Représentants des Groupes régionaux, disposent de 15 minutes pour poser des questions aux candidats ou bien deux minutes par Groupe régional. Le candidat a ensuite un quart d'heure pour répondre aux questions, les déclarations, questions et réponses ne donnent pas lieu à débat et ne font pas l'objet de conclusion.

Le temps de parole alloué devra être strictement observé et je veillerai particulièrement à une répartition égale du temps entre les candidats à l'aide du chronomètre à l'affiche lumineuse. Après 13 minutes, la lumière verte passe à l'orange, elle reste à l'orange pendant une minute puis devient rouge pendant une minute. Lorsque les 15 minutes sont écoulées, la lumière clignote, marquant la fin du temps de parole. Et si c'est nécessaire, dès que le temps imparti sera écoulé, je mettrai fin à l'intervention en faisant couper le microphone. Cette procédure sera suivie de façon identique pour tous les candidats qui, après le tirage au sort, seront appelés en salle l'un après l'autre et qui interviendront ici à partir du podium auprès de moi.

Je souhaite donc la bienvenue aux six candidats qui sont tous installés au premier rang, je vous rappelle leurs noms dans l'ordre alphabétique du nom de leur pays en anglais: Monsieur Franz Fischler d'Autriche, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva du Brésil, Monsieur Indroyono Soesilo d'Indonésie, Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini d'Iran, Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid de l'Iraq et Monsieur Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé d'Espagne. Bienvenue à vous tous.

Je vais donc procéder au tirage au sort du premier candidat, après quoi j'inviterai les autres candidats à bien vouloir quitter la salle et se rendre dans les bureaux qui leur ont été assignés. Ils seront, bien sûr, accompagnés à l'aller et au retour.

Le premier candidat à intervenir est Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid de l'Iraq que je convie bien volontiers à venir me rejoindre ici. Je demande, donc, aux cinq autres candidats de bien vouloir retrouver leurs postes.

Mr Abdul Latif RASHID (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Iraq)

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am very pleased to be with you today to introduce myself as a candidate to the post of FAO Director-General.

The FAO is the largest Specialized United Nations Agency. Therefore, the FAO's success or failure is the main indicator of the entire UN System and its global commitments in improving standards of living across the world.

The principles and activities of the FAO are valid today as they were when the FAO was established in 1945. These activities can be implemented through the various committees and offices, taking into account the strategy of the Organization and the core functions and activities of the Organization, which I am sure most of you are familiar with. These are related to agriculture, consumer protection, economic and social development, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, natural resources, environment and the technical cooperation, which I think is a very important aspect of this Organization.

The FAO is now required, more than ever, to ensure a world free of hunger. The right to food is a human right. We are all aware that global hunger is too widespread. It is estimated that over a billion people are hungry as we speak here today. The world population is expected to increase and to reach over nine billion by 2050. This requires an increase of at least 70 percent in food production. Competition on limited resources of land and water in many countries is taking place. The effect of environmental and ecological degradation on food production is becoming a very serious problem. Climate change and its impact on agriculture, particularly on smallholders, is a reality that is damaging. Emphasis should be given to field work and project implementation through adequate consultation and engagement with all Member Nations. Reform in an Organization like FAO is important, and is actually required in every institution, including FAO.

FAO's ongoing reforms are pleasing. I have seen some of them, but there could be room for speeding up the programme of the reforms. I believe that Reform and improvements in the efficiency of any large organization, especially an Organization like FAO, should be a continuous process. I am also pleased with the reforms made in the CFS, which I am sure all of you are familiar with, and I believe the new CFS can carry out its mandate as the main global forum to debate and develop policies on world food security. Talking about the CFS, I would like to mention that the CFS cannot impose its policies on countries. It supports country-led programmes and policies to ensure food security, a forum for debate and recommendations and a forum for advising each country on how to deal with this serious problem in the world.

The UN has many Sister Agencies. The partnership with Sister Agencies in the field of coordination and cooperation, I think, is very important. In Rome, there are many organizations for example WFP and IFAD, as well as other global and regional partners and stakeholders, and it is necessary to cooperate and coordinate with them.

One aspect is the recommendation of CFS related to food prices and their volatility, which is a major issue. There is a real need for stability in the food market. FAO shall play its role and it will be helping Member Nations in having clear policies, in offering technical support for the food market, and in making all the data available to every state.

I would like to declare here that I will continue to make the FAO a Member-guided organization involving all Member Nations, and by providing more consultations and more engagements. I shall also enhance the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of FAO, and link it with the priorities of each country and each region. I shall increase the field presence and support for the decentralization process and encourage the South-South Cooperation and dialogue, as well as focus on developing and implementing projects aiming at improving both food and agricultural products.

Of course, efficiency is very important. I will try to improve the efficiency of FAO and the FAO's Governing Bodies by encouraging full participation and oversight by all Member Nations. I shall maintain the ability of FAO to react satisfactorily to any humanitarian crisis, while keeping its major function as a pro-active development agency in the area of food and agriculture. I shall also enhance FAO voluntary contributions and resource mobilization through prudent, and I emphasize prudent, execution of the budget with measurable deliveries and outcomes. Obviously, this is related to assessed budget contributions and voluntary or, as it is called here, extra-budgetary contributions.

I shall embark on continuous reform to achieve, first of all, a truly democratic and neutral UN Agency where all nations are engaged in sharing the responsibility of eradicating hunger. I shall promote

sound policies and assistance in modernizing and transforming world agriculture towards increased production and sustainability. I shall also ensure maximum efficiency of FAO Governing Bodies through transparency, better management and accountability, and I emphasize transparency, management and accountability. Moreover, I shall increase the FAO presence in the field and support the decentralization process to enhance the Regional Offices and regional activities. I believe a positive cultural change that motivates the FAO staff to deliver more has to be looked into and introduced. I shall promote gender equality and women's role in agricultural production and empower Regional Offices to work closely with every region, and engage civil society and reputable NGOs. Obviously, all these activities need assessments and monitoring activities for implementation at every stage.

Personally, I have been lucky to have qualifications and experience in private and public sectors, UN organizations and Government institutions, including Ministries. I would like to put my service at FAO's disposal to carry out the necessary activities for this important Organization which I have all the faith in, and to carry out the necessary activities which I think are still required by every country and every state in the world. I shall carry out these activities with the efficiencies and reforms that have been outlined to achieve our objectives and the strategy of the Organization when it was established.

I want to declare here, if I am elected, and I hope I will be, I will personally cut my salary by ten percent and put it back into the Organization's budget for the Technical Cooperation Programme, which I have a lot of faith in.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid. Je donne donc la parole maintenant aux délégués qui vont poser leurs questions au candidat. Comme nous l'avons convenu, ils disposent de deux minutes chacun, enfin, chaque Groupe régional a deux minutes. Le temps sera visible sur tous les écrans de la salle, et bien sûr, je vous demande de respecter les deux minutes. Si tel n'était pas le cas, je couperai le microphone. L'ordre des interventions a déjà été préparé avec les Présidents régionaux. Nous avons un ordre glissant après chaque candidat. Donc l'ordre pour le premier candidat c'est l'Afrique, l'Asie, l'Europe, l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes, le Proche-Orient, l'Amérique du Nord et le Pacifique sud-ouest. Sans plus attendre, je donne la parole au Représentant de l'Afrique pour maximum deux minutes pour poser les questions.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (Africa Regional Group) (United Republic of Tanzania)

I want to thank the candidate for this presentation, and I would like to ask him the following questions.

How do you see the FAO reforms being implemented, in particular the pace, and secondly, how are you going to mobilize the resources for this process and other programmes for FAO?

The IPA outlines the need for FAO to maintain a strong decentralized presence to more efficiently provide timely services to Member Nations. How do you apply this to the Africa context?

The challenges facing the agriculture-led economies of Africa are enormous, and they are largely attributed to inefficient and unsustainable utilization of natural resources, lack of investment, limited access to markets and limited technical and research support. In this context, how are you going to support the development initiatives in Africa, such as CAADP?

What will your strategy be to mobilize global political will to bring focus and attention to challenges that in the end increase agricultural production in developing countries, in particular Africa, including the trade barriers, subsidies and issues of climate change?

In light of the important role played by women in the smallholder farming sector in Africa, how are you going to ensure that FAO supports and empowers women to contribute meaningfully towards food security, better nutrition and raising income for their families?

In the context of FAO human resources development policies, how are you going to ensure that there is equitable representation, both in terms of gender and geographical representation, both in FAO's Senior Management positions and the Professional categories?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. La parole est à l'Asie. S'il est possible de lever votre pancarte ou la main pour qu'on vous identifie en ce qui concerne les techniciens. Merci. Le Sri Lanka pour l'Asie.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Asia Regional Group) (Sri Lanka)

Thank you for the enriching presentation.

Mr Chairman, given the time allocated to the Asia Group, I will be very brief and go straight to the questions.

It is the general impression of Members, as well as, the International Community that FAO has not been successful in delivering results relative to the importance of its mandate and the size of its budget. We would appreciate your views on how to transform FAO into an organization which delivers results and, as well as, on how FAO can regain its status as a core institution on the issue of food security.

Second question: what do you see as the main role of the FAO Director General? Advocacy to ensure that food and agriculture are the central part of the international development agenda and that FAO is playing key roles on this issue? Or stepping up the momentum of the organizational reform to enhance FAO's efficiency and responsiveness?

Third question: The Asian region expects to elect a good and efficient manager as the new Director-General. What do you think about your main task as the Director-General of FAO and sharing your work with the two Deputy Director-Generals? Do you intend to delegate to the possible extent your authorities to them in order to concentrate more on your main task?

Fourth Question: we see that the new Director-General will have to sharpen the Organization's focus on the main priorities, enhance its coherence and interest in them, and improve its delivery capacity. Please provide your views on areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in the FAO programmes.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je suis obligé de couper le temps de parole. Vous avez dépassé les deux minutes. Merci.

La parole est à l'Europe. Le Royaume-Uni.

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group, and we have four questions which I will read now:

As Director-General, how would you dialogue with the Governing Bodies?

What advantages and potential drawbacks do you see in partnerships with the private sector? How could the Organization benefit while avoiding potential risks?

FAO's recent SOFA Report, State of Food and Agriculture, finds that promoting gender equality in rural areas supports increased food production and reduces the number of hungry in developing countries. How would you promote gender equality both in FAO's policies and programmes in the field and in FAO's internal programming and administration?

How would you describe your management and leadership style and could you tell us about a previous experience about having created an effective Senior Management team, accountable for results?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Permettez-moi de rappeler, à cette occasion, que lorsqu'il y a un intervenant, veuillez ne pas utiliser de téléphone portable à proximité, cela gêne les interprètes. Merci d'y prêter attention. L'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes.

Sr. Gustavo ÁLVAREZ (Grupo Regional de América Latina y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

América Latina y el Caribe agradece al señor Abdul Latif Rashid por su presentación y tiene tres preguntas a realizar.

La experiencia de muchos de nuestros países demuestra que en la lucha contra el hambre la producción es vital pero así también lo son el acceso y las políticas para el acceso. Esto ha sido reconocido muchas veces por los Estados Miembros de la FAO en la Conferencia, en la Cumbre Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria y en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Pese a todo ese reconocimiento e impulso político, las políticas de acceso siguen siendo una parte menor y poco considerada en los estudios, programas y actividades de campo concretos de la FAO. ¿Cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?

La segunda pregunta es un desarrollo sobre otras preguntas que han sido formuladas por los anteriores representantes de los Grupos Regionales, y es la siguiente: ¿cómo asumirá el tema de género en su gestión y qué hará de distinto para que la FAO aborde este tema como un tema transversal para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional?

La tercera pregunta es ¿cuál es su propuesta para profundizar la descentralización operativa y presupuestaria de la Organización para que la red de Oficinas Regionales, Sub-regionales y Nacionales cuente con los recursos que les permitan cumplir su rol?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique latine et Caraïbes. La parole est au Proche-Orient. Vous levez votre panneau, s'il vous plaît? Qui intervient pour le Proche-Orient? Syrie?

Mr Ammar AWAD (Near East Regional Group) (Syrian Arab Republic)

On behalf of the Near East Group, I would appreciate your response on the following three questions.

Water scarcity is worldwide, but it is very acute in some regions. Within the framework of the FAO water platform, what will be your measure initiative assisting countries and communities with fresh water for agriculture which is debilitating at an alarming rate?

Is your managerial experience compatible with the skills required to lead an international organization that is expected to be transparent, respecting to new ideas, open to partnership and ready to share as a catalyst for action?

What is your review about the extent of delegation of authority to Decentralized Offices? Where will you draw the red line?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Les États-Unis.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (North America Regional Group) (United States of America)

On behalf of North America we have three questions. If time allows, I'll ask a fourth.

What would you do to increase the developing countries access to new agricultural technologies, including biotechnology to enhance agricultural productivity and adapt agricultural sectors to climate change?

The current world financial situation is impacting governments and international organizations alike. The UN Secretary-General recently called for the UN Agencies to do more with less. How would you apply this to FAO? What would your top priorities for FAO be, and what would you de-emphasize? In that context, how would you rationalize the Decentralization process while protecting the value of the normative work of the Organization?

What role do you perceive for agricultural trade in addressing food security of food-deficit countries? Would you support increased emphasis on providing trade-related policy advice and capacity-building to food-deficit countries?

If elected, recognizing that you will not take office for six months, how would you spend your time in preparation for beginning your term of office on 1 January 2012?

LE PRÉSIDENT

La parole est à la dernière intervention de région, Pacifique sud-ouest. L'Ambassadeur d'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Southwest and Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest and Pacific Regional Group, I would also like to thank Mr Abdul Latif Rashid for his introductory comments. It strikes me that you have a lot of questions to answer in a very short time. I will ask a very simple question:

Is it the role of the Director-General to take direction from Member Nations or to lead Member Nations? How would you guide the Organization and the global community through difficult issues, or on issues where there is no agreement?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d'entre vous, et merci d'avoir respecté le temps de parole. En deux minutes on peut poser beaucoup de questions, même si on multiplie par sept, cela en fait encore beaucoup plus. Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid, je vous donne la parole pour 15 minutes, vous le gérez comme vous le souhaitez pour répondre aux questions.

Mr Abdul Latif RASHID (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Iraq)

Thank you very much for the questions. I will try to answer the questions as short as possible.

I thank the African colleague for his questions. I am familiar with the CAADP rules, recommendations and suggestions.

As for the comprehensive strategy, I fully agree with it. Regarding what we can do to improve the situation, first of all I think what African countries and many other countries want is a political commitment for food security. I think this is quite important. This has been outlined by the Millennium Development groups. They have committed themselves, and we have to work along those lines.

I think that for African countries there are several issues of paramount importance, such as capacity-building, technical cooperations, technical programmes and, at the same time, offering more for the projects' implementation in Africa.

There are other issues which are related to their questions, such as market access, gender equality promotion and the role of women in Africa to get access to land and water. These are all important issues and I will try, in consultation with the Member Nations and with the groups which have outlined their policy, to establish a program of action and to implement it according to the requirements and according to the funds available.

One important issue which everybody is raising is that there aren't enough funds for all the activities. I believe that money is becoming very expensive, not only in this Organization but everywhere, and everybody wants to see products for their money. They want to see the results for each penny, cent or dollar. I fully agree with that. I think we have to be extremely prudent but if we show results, and I think that increase in food production is well worth it, we may induce Governments to provide more funds for food production.

We should no longer accept in this world any hunger, any starvation, and I think our aim to eradicate hunger is well worth it. Spending money on food, on food products and on improving agriculture is much better than spending money over distractions which we see in many places.

Food security in the world is not just food security, it is becoming national security in many countries and it's very important. I think we have to see it from that angle. As elected Director-General, I will do all my best to increase funds for increasing production, and that's the case which I will be dealing with.

I want to ask the African colleague if I have replied to all the questions raised, or does he need more details?

I think the second group was Asia, and thank you for your questions. FAO has not been successful. I do keep hearing this term. But it is not only FAO, since other organizations are also labelled as not being successful. Sometimes I don't see the margin of failure or success. If FAO hasn't been successful in eradicating hunger, I think that we all should take that blame. It is not only FAO, it is all the UN Agencies and the Governments worldwide, as it is not a one-man band to eradicate hunger.

Yes, I think there have been some weaknesses in FAO, but I think this is inevitable. This Organization has been established for so many years, and while there have been some traditions that have been changed, and there has been some culture that has been changed, I think that if we go back to concentrating on food production and on eradicating hunger and helping countries on technical matters as far as capacity-building is concerned, I think that misperceptions can be altered, and I think people will recognize this success.

With regard to food security, before nominating myself as a candidate for Director-General, I have committed myself to and attended all the food security conferences that have taken place. I appreciate all that was recommended. I think that now the time has come to lobby for action, to act for it and to start a new chapter in eradicating hunger and shortage of food in the world.

I honestly believe this goal can be achieved because I don't think we have a total shortage of food in the world as there are other aspects to the problem. We have bad distributions systems. Somebody mentioned that transportation is becoming a problem for food production, yes, transportation, energy and a number of technical factors which are related to the shortage of production affect food shortages. I think we have to look into these problems, and I am proud of an Organization like FAO which has a wealth of knowledge in tackling these problems as far as technical advice and technical knowledge are concerned.

I think setting priorities is not in the Director-General's hands only. Priorities should be decided upon with all the Committees and people concerned and certainly with the Member Nations, with the Regional Offices and with the Committees which are involved or engaged in those priorities to be implemented. That's how I see my role, since I don't think that priorities can be achieved by one person's decision only. Full coordination, full cooperation and full delegation of work to implement such priorities are required.

I do apologise if I have missed some important points.

The next group is the Near East. They have talked about water, managerial experience and Decentralization.

Water issues are very long and complex ones. I appreciate the question from the Near East because that area suffers from lack of sufficient water. The area has seen drought, shortage of rain, shortage of snow, the effect of pollution and the effect of salty soil. Also, another aspect in that area relates to trans-boundary water sharing. These are all issues, but I am sure that the FAO's knowledge is quite capable of tackling them. I think what we need in that area is to offer three or four things.

First of all, I think we have to convince the Governments that they have to invest more money in bringing better quality water. Secondly, saving water is a problem as it is related to both investments and culture. In many countries, there are still traditional methods of agricultural practices. In this regard, what we have to do is to first provide capacity-building and new technologies, and at the same time provide them with enough advice regarding how to deal with trans-boundary and sharing water issues.

The water pollution in that area comes from different sources: one is agriculture since most agriculture in that area requires draining systems, and in some countries they run the draining system back to the fresh water system which is very serious. The drainage water has an effect on ground water, not only the surface water. So this issue is quite serious, and I think that an Organization like FAO can provide good advice and recommendations thanks to its technical ability.

Regarding my experience. I have worked with the FAO for a number of years, I have worked with the World Bank for some time, I have been engaged both in consultancies and in the public sector, I had a ministerial job for seven years and at present I am Senior Adviser for the President of Iraq.

I have worked in the field as a Manager for many large projects, and I have always believed in cooperation and coordination, in giving the staff enough self-confidence to express their willingness to implement projects, and that's very important. I have always believed that you have to have full trust in the people you work with. You should not have any private agenda. On the contrary, decisions must be transparent, managerial and well-thought out and one must delegate work in order for it to be implemented. That's how I hope to work. I wish to work and I think that in an organization like FAO, transparency, strong management, coordination, cooperation and consultations are very important.

I think Decentralization is becoming a way of life these days, not only in a big organization like FAO but also in many other organizations. I think people in their regions know the problems of the countries better than anybody else, and therefore I think Decentralization should be encouraged and supported. There should be coordination between the centre and Decentralized Offices but there are issues we should be aware of. An organization like FAO, with its history, technical ability and wealth of knowledge should be available in every region for every country.

My red line regarding this issue would be that as long as Regional Offices, regional countries or the Decentralized Offices do not have the morality and thus paralyze the functions of the Organization, there should be no red line. On the contrary, there should be supervision, consultation and coordination regarding finance, administration and management of the Decentralized Offices.

I think that the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union mentioned this aspect. I am not sure if I have fully answered on how the dialogue between the Director-General, the Governing Bodies and Committees and the rest of Management should be. I believe in a transparent way, in a managerial way, in an organized way and I think that the duty of the Director-General of an organization as big as the FAO should try to be present in most of the meetings and Committees, and should be engaged in taking decisions and digesting the decisions which are taken by the various committees. At the same time, he must have enough faith to give authority to those who run the Committees and to delegate his work. I believe these are all important aspects of successful management nowadays. We are not short of technology to help us, and we are not short of transportation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid. Je vous demande de conclure. Merci Monsieur Abdul Latif Rashid pour votre intervention et votre présentation. Comme convenu, nous allons vous raccompagner et je vais tirer au sort le candidat suivant.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Abdul Latif RASHID (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Iraq)

I do apologize for the rest. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Le second candidat à intervenir est Monsieur Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé d'Espagne que nous allons convier à venir faire son intervention.

Bienvenu à Monsieur Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé d'Espagne, à qui je donne la parole pour quinze minutes avant les questions des représentants du Conseil.

Miguel Ángel MORATINOS CUYAUBÉ (Candidato de España a Director General) (España)

Comparezco ante todos ustedes para presentarles mi visión y mi programa para esta gran organización que es la FAO del Siglo XXI. Todos ustedes estarán de acuerdo conmigo que si ya cuando se creó esta organización en el año 1945 las cuestiones de la alimentación y agricultura eran cuestiones estratégicas para la gobernanza internacional, hoy más que nunca se ha vuelto una nueva realidad.

Iniciamos, por lo tanto, un nuevo siglo, un nuevo momento. La FAO tiene que responder a estos retos y desafíos del Siglo XXI con nuevos instrumentos y nuevas maneras de actuación, nuevos programas y nuevos enfoques. Por esto mi candidatura es una candidatura inclusiva que quiere romper con modelos del pasado, que quiere romper con estos esquemas Norte-Sur, Este-Oeste. Es una candidatura que quiere integrar y hacer una FAO unida en donde las aspiraciones, los intereses de todos los Países Miembros y de todas las regiones se vean reflejadas. Mi candidatura no es una candidatura del norte, es una candidatura que defiende valores y principios universales pero que quiere abordarlos a través del diálogo y el compromiso.

Esta ha sido toda mi trayectoria política y personal durante muchos años y, sobre todo, durante mi época de Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación. Durante ese período de Gobierno del Presidente Rodríguez Zapatero España ha demostrado que se ha involucrado cada vez más en las cuestiones de seguridad alimentaria y de alimentación y lo ha demostrado incrementando el valor y el porcentaje de su contribución a la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo pasando del 6 al 10 por ciento, que es lo que los organismos internacionales requieren de los estados donantes.

Son dos palabras: compromiso y diálogo que están inspirando a lo largo y ancho en mi visión y mi programa para la FAO.

Compromiso con todos los objetivos de esta Organización.

Se trata de compromiso con la actividad normativa que nos ha hecho a todos sentirnos orgullosos del espíritu inicial y esencial de esta Organización. Esta actividad normativa que nos ha hecho felices al recordar la importancia que fue aprobar el Codex Alimentarius, que nos hace al mismo tiempo estar satisfechos con el desarrollo del Tratado de Recursos Fitogenéticos y que nos anima a ampliar la agenda en materia de actividad normativa incluyendo la pronta suscripción de un Tratado de Recursos Zoogenéticos.

Compromiso para seguir avanzando en el objetivo fundamental que todos compartimos que es erradicar el hambre del mundo. Algunos creen que es una utopía, pero yo les digo que puede ser una realidad. Puede ser una realidad si tenemos un nuevo plan de trabajo, un nuevo método de trabajo, nuevos instrumentos institucionales y nuevos recursos financieros para abordarlo -- un nuevo plan de trabajo integrado por país que integre las áreas en donde el hambre sigue siendo el flagelo de esas sociedades, y conozco exactamente las dificultades. Un método de trabajo como en otras organizaciones que envían cada año una misión de la FAO para asistir, orientar y exigir, en algunos casos, el comportamiento de los Países Miembros.

Una nueva institución, el Consejo de Seguridad Alimentaria, ese gran Consejo que esta Organización ha reforzado y revitalizado. Para mí, el Consejo de Seguridad Alimentaria sería como el Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas pero para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, en este caso sin derecho a veto y con la participación de los Países Miembros además de la participación de la sociedad civil.

Nuevos instrumentos financieros. Hace falta comprometer y ser comprometido con este 0,7 por ciento de la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo de los Estados. Los Estados se tienen que seguir comprometiendo en luchar y alcanzar los objetivos cada año. Pero tenemos que volcar nuevos mecanismos innovadores de financiación y, si soy elegido y gozo de su confianza, propondré la creación de una institución similar

a UNITAID, que se ha propuesto para la lucha contra la malaria y el SIDA, una UNITAID 2 para luchar contra el hambre.

Señores delegados: tenemos que seguir combatiendo y estar comprometidos con la seguridad alimentaria. Una seguridad alimentaria para todos, a corto, medio y largo plazo. Una seguridad Alimentaria que decline sus cuatro dimensiones: la disponibilidad de los alimentos, el acceso a los alimentos, la utilización nutricional de los alimentos y la garantía del suministro de los alimentos. Para ello tendremos que aumentar, precisamente, la inversión. Tendremos que aumentar los fondos para la inversión y la investigación y lograr que la producción en materia agrícola, pesquera, ganadera y silvícola, puedan tener la productividad, las infraestructuras y la ayuda a los pequeños agricultores y a las mujeres rurales que les permita defender y aumentar la producción agrícola. Para ello, propongo la creación de un Fondo de Garantía para la concesión de micro-créditos a los pequeños agricultores, a las mujeres rurales, a los grupos de poblaciones vulnerables, y es imprescindible mantener un 10 por ciento de la Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo dedicado a la inversión en el sector agrario.

Mi compromiso es también con la lucha por el cambio climático, por la adaptación y la mitigación del cambio climático. La agricultura no es el problema, puede ser la solución si precisamente hacemos respetar a la agricultura y el sector agrícola, el medio ambiente y el desafío del cambio climático. De ser elegido, trabajaré para que la agricultura sea un sector esencial y propio dentro del Panel del Cambio Climático.

Compromiso con la prevención y con la respuesta rápida y eficaz a los desastres naturales. He visitado las islas de CARICOM, las del Pacífico, y quiero visitar las islas del Océano Índico. Es todavía inaceptable que, sabiendo que hay desastres naturales y vulnerabilidad en todas estas islas, no hagamos todavía más. Por esto, propondré un mecanismo preventivo de alerta temprana y de respuesta temprana e inmediata ante los desastres naturales. Propondré trabajar de la mano en sinergia con el FIDA y el PAM, creando una cédula de planificación y de reacción rápida para atender a todos estos desafíos.

Compromiso en trabajar para evitar la permanente incertidumbre debida a la volatilidad de los precios sobre la base de las propuestas, que me parecen acertadas, de la Presidencia francesa del G-20 y mediante políticas dirigidas hacia asegurar la transparencia de los mercados, mejorar los sistemas de información y la transparencia, incrementando las reservas de los alimentos y creando de redes de seguridad.

Compromiso con la Reforma para una FAO renovada y capaz de responder a los desafíos. Todos estamos de acuerdo y a favor de la Reforma. Al compartir los objetivos y felicitar a todos ustedes como embajadores por el trabajo realizado para establecer el Plan Inmediato de Acción, quiero compartir y suscribir los grandes objetivos del mismo, pero quiero decirles con la misma sinceridad que el marco temporal lo debemos acelerar. Tenemos que hacer la Reforma de inmediato, en un año o máximo dos años, porque eso es lo que dará credibilidad a la Organización.

Por lo tanto, respetando los once objetivos prioritarios del Plan Inmediato de Acción, fijaré tres grandes prioridades de la Organización: la primera, reforzar la actividad normativa; la segunda, imponer la asistencia de las políticas a los países y a los gobiernos nacionales en el diseño y ejecución de políticas agrícolas y de seguridad alimentaria y la tercera: reformar la FAO. Para ello, pediré un mandato al Consejo para acelerar la puesta en práctica de este proceso y lograr, por lo tanto, una nueva política que me permita adaptar estas prioridades a la política de recursos humanos y recursos financieros.

Reequilibraré el presupuesto para dar más recursos a los proyectos y programas y reduciré los gastos administrativos y de personal. No voy a aumentar las contribuciones ordinarias nacionales pero sí voy a lograr mayores recursos extra-presupuestarios voluntarios y aumentaré la credibilidad de la Organización a ese efecto. Además, incorporaré fuentes innovadoras de financiación y procuraré tener y lograré una alianza financiera con el sector privado.

El continente africano es una prioridad. Este gran continente necesita un plan específico. Ya como Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores lancé dos planes "África". Quiero lanzar un gran Plan África para esta Organización apoyando las iniciativas en curso como es la del NEPAD, del CEDEAO o del CAADP

y, si gozo de la confianza de todos ustedes y asumo el liderazgo de esta Organización, nombraré como Director General Adjunto a una africana o a un africano.

Compromiso también con los Pequeños Estados Insulares. Les decía que visité los países del CARICOM y las islas del Océano Pacífico, y quiero señalar que necesitan más interés por parte de la Organización. Necesitan un plan integral y una respuesta más rápida a los desastres naturales.

Compromiso para devolver a nuestra Organización la confianza de volver a ser el pilar de la nueva gobernanza en materia de alimentación y agricultura. Que no sean otras organizaciones las que nos indiquen el camino en materia agrícola o de alimentación, sino que sea la FAO la que marque la dirección. Para ello, como es mi segunda palabra, lo haré todo ello con el diálogo, el diálogo con los Países Miembros y con cada una de las naciones.

Al presentar mi programa, dije en un folleto que estaría en diálogo y en contacto con todos ustedes. Hoy les he distribuido un nuevo folleto en donde incorporo muchas de las sugerencias e iniciativas que he recabado a lo largo de estos dos meses de campaña -- diálogo interno, con los funcionarios, con los trabajadores, con los empleados que quieren esta Reforma, este nuevo liderazgo y sentirse orgullosos de esta Organización. El 97 por ciento de los funcionarios quiere la reforma, y por lo tanto, lo haremos juntos con todos ellos. Ya luego, entre la Casa Central y Roma, tenemos que buscar una Descentralización efectiva. Reevaluaré el mapa de las Representaciones de la FAO en el exterior, procuraré revisar, precisamente las Oficinas de Información y el alcance de los países desarrollados. Reforzaré, en cambio, las Oficinas y Representaciones en los continentes africano y asiático.

Diálogo con las agencias, con los fondos, con las instituciones internacionales y con todos aquellos actores que puedan ayudar y crear sinergias con la FAO. Ya he hablado con la sociedad civil, con el sector privado, con los empresarios, con los consumidores, con los agricultores, con la industria. Diálogo es la palabra clave para hacer mover esta Organización y para ello, establecer una sociedad público-privado que nos permita garantizar el futuro de esta Organización.

Para mí es un gran honor tener la oportunidad de abordar esta Sesión, y lo que quiero transmitir es muy sencillo: queremos construir juntos una FAO del Siglo XXI, una Organización fuerte, renovada, eficaz, solidaria, que recupere su credibilidad, que nos permita a todos sentirnos orgullosos de tener una Organización capaz de responder a los desafíos de los retos del Siglo XXI. Lo podemos hacer y erradicar y eliminar el hambre en el mundo será la gran tarea que les corresponderá a todos ustedes. Lo podemos hacer si tenemos un liderazgo claro y dispuesto a hacer compromisos como les he manifestado, y a través del diálogo que les ofrezco.

Esa FAO del Siglo XXI que todos hemos soñado puede ser una realidad.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Moratinos Cuyaubé et, sans plus attendre, je donne la parole aux Groupes régionaux dans un ordre décalé de tout à l'heure, en commençant par l'Asie. Vous levez votre pancarte pour deux minutes. L'Asie.

Ms Sujin PARK (Asia Regional Group) (Republic of Korea)

The Asia Group has four questions.

In the face of global food challenges and request for organizational reform, the Asia Group sees that the Director-General will not have an easy life. In this regard, how would you enhance FAO delivery, management of resources and value for money?

What, in your view, constitutes core competencies and the competitive strength of FAO and, if elected, what strategy will you put in action to capitalize on them and thus further strengthen FAO competitive advantages?

If elected, how will you delegate the authority of the Director-General within the Management of FAO?

Finally, in terms of resource mobilisation, how specifically will you enhance alliances with the private sector?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Asie. La parole est à l'Europe.

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

We have four, and if time permits, five questions.

What steps would you take to improve the Director-General's interaction with the Members Nations?

How would you advocate for FAO, and what steps would you take to develop and promote its international profile?

FAO is on its way in its Reform Process. How do you judge the progress made so far, and which are the major aspects you will focus on within the first year?

Can you give us examples from previous multilateral work on how you have been able to bring together different positions and develop consensus?

How would you improve FAO's visibility?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Europe. La parole est à l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes.

Sr. Gustavo ÁLVAREZ (Grupo Regional de América Latina y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

Quisiera pedir su indulgencia. Nosotros tenemos una pregunta que es común para todos los candidatos y en parte es porque el candidato anterior no contestó a la pregunta de América Latina y el Caribe. Quisiéramos tener su indulgencia, y que nos permita hacer estas preguntas.

La primera de las preguntas que vamos a realizar habla de que la experiencia de muchos de nuestros países demuestra que en la lucha contra el hambre la producción es vital, pero así también lo son el acceso y las políticas para el acceso. Eso ha sido reconocido muchas veces por los Países Miembros de la FAO en la Conferencia, en la Cumbre Mundial sobre Seguridad Alimentaria y en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Pese a todo ese reconocimiento e impulso político, las políticas de acceso siguen siendo una parte menor y poco considerada en su estudio, programas y actividades de campo concretos de la FAO: ¿cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?

Segunda pregunta. Usted dice que uno de sus compromisos es convertir a la FAO en un pilar de la gobernanza mundial. Además, en su plataforma señala que la FAO debe ser el foro central de las orientaciones y decisiones sobre los grandes desafíos del Siglo XXI en el ámbito de la seguridad alimentaria, la agricultura y la nutrición. Si es así, ¿porqué en la Reunión de Alto Nivel sobre Seguridad Alimentaria para Todos, que fuera convocada en Madrid, España en enero de 2009 cuando usted era Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, usted propuso crear una gobernanza paralela a la FAO y al sistema multilateral de Naciones Unidas? En otras palabras, considerando su intención y su compromiso con la gobernanza multilateral, ¿cómo nos asegura que en la dirección general de la FAO usted no preferiría métodos paralelos a esa gobernanza?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. La parole est au Proche-Orient. Vous voulez bien lever votre pancarte qui vous identifie puisque ce ne sont pas toujours les mêmes personnes qui interviennent. Le Proche-Orient.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Near East Regional Group) (Afghanistan)

Honourable candidate, thank you for your statement. The Near East Group would appreciate your response to the following three questions.

FAO's core technical competencies have been under severe stress over the last decade and in some cases the critical mass is at breaking point. This situation is incompatible with the mandate of FAO as a knowledge-based organization. What human resource policy will you put in place to reverse the process?

Do you share the view that increased bio-fuel production has been one of the principal factors contributing to higher food prices in the global market and increased food insecurity for the world poor?

TCP has been used for a variety of reasons, including emergencies. Will you be willing to maintain the current practice, or do you wish to use TCP funds for more strategic purposes, for example, support to small-scale entrepreneurs in poor rural areas and promoting South-South cooperation?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Proche-Orient. La parole est à l'Amérique du Nord, je crois que c'est le Canada.

Mr James FOX (North America Regional Group) (Canada)

In the interest of time I am only going to put two questions.

What role do you perceive for agricultural trade in addressing the food insecurity of food-deficit countries? Would you support increased emphasis on providing trade-related policy advice and capacity-building to food-deficit countries?

What would you do to increase developing country access to new agricultural technologies including biotechnology to enhance agricultural productivity and to adapt agricultural sectors to climate change?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique du Nord. La parole est au Pacifique sud-ouest, l'Australie.

Mr David RITCHIE (Southwest and Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

I have 2 questions.

Firstly, is it the role of the Director-General to take direction from Member Nations or to lead Member Nations? How will you guide the Organization and the global community through difficult issues or on issues on which there is no agreement?

Secondly, allowing farmers to respond to market signals is crucial to increasing agricultural productivity and reducing food products volatility. How will you create an environment to allow farmers to respond quickly and effectively, and what role should the FAO play in reducing long-term distortions to global agricultural markets and creating an even playing field particularly, for developing countries?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Pacifique sud-ouest. La parole est au dernier intervenant, l'Afrique. L'Ouganda, vous avez la parole.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Africa Regional Group) (Uganda)

I would like to welcome the candidate for offering himself to serve this Organization as Director-General. I am asking these questions on behalf of the Africa Group, cognizant that the Director-General position is for the entire world and not Africa alone.

Africa is one region with very high agricultural potential and yet has continued to progressively suffer from food and nutrition insecurity. What strategy would you devise to enhance service delivery to assist the African continent to overcome these big challenges? What mechanism and institutional arrangement would you use to deliver these services? What would be the core areas of focus of your strategy?

In conformity with the ongoing FAO Reform, the Africa Group in 2010 made it categorical that Decentralization should be accorded the highest level of priority possible, given its highest potential to serve the continent in particular and the European countries in general. What are your views on this thesis? If you agree with this thesis, how will you enhance further Decentralization and avail associated adequate funding for it to operate and efficiently and effectively?

The Organization has progressively faced serious financial decline since 1994, which has seriously crippled FAO's work. What strategy would you employ as the Director-General to mobilize resources to enable the Organization to perform its mandated role, especially given the current financial crisis being faced by numerous countries globally?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Afrique. Cette Région a donc posé ses questions.

Je vous redonne donc la parole Monsieur Miguel Àngel Moratinos Cuyaube pour quinze minutes maximum.

Mr Miguel Àngel MORATINOS CUYAUBE (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Spain)

Thank you very much for all your questions, I will try to be short and to combine some of your questions together.

Asia, of course, it is important to have a strategy for increasing the production in the whole region and that is going to be one of the main objectives and priorities of my work. In this regard, I think that we need to increase investments, increase funds for research and development programmes, increase investments in infrastructures giving support to stakeholders and areas which have to be more direct between local and regional market. So that will be our aim.

As for the second question on how I am going to piece together this antagonistic view, I think it is a wrong view regarding the normative activity and the operational work on the ground of FAO. I think we have to overcome this dialectic, and there is enough room to increase and reinforce the normative activity and enough room for national governments and for the Member Nations to have the sense that FAO is essential and produces results on the ground. So, it depends on how we will manage with the budget and with the priorities that I mentioned to you, the three priorities, we will succeed.

Then the last question is similar to the last question asked by the African Group. How will we be able in this economic and financial crisis to mobilize more financial resources? I told you, not by increasing the regular budget. But if I give credibility to the Organization, I can assure you that the money will come in the form of increased extra-budgetary voluntary contributions.

Apart from that, I have two new elements, the new innovative mechanism of financing. UNITED, for instance, which fights AIDS and malaria, collected last year more or less 5-6 billion Euro. I can assure you that I will create a new innovative mechanism for UNITED in fighting hunger that will be able to collect around 10-20 billion Euro. Apart from that, we will have a global financial alliance with the private sector. I will come back to this issue later one.

To reply to the European Union, to be the advocate of the international profile as a result of my profile and my capacities, of course, I will be able to really give FAO a better interaction with the main actors in the international community. I will be able to be in close contact with the main international organizations such as IMF, WB, WTO and, of course, I will praise and work in order to get an enhanced role for FAO in the international arena.

As for my evaluation of the Reform, as I told you in my introductory speech, it is good, it is advancing but I think we have to speed up. I cannot be Director-General and wait for four years and then come back to you to try to be re-elected and say "What happened with the Reform?" I need the Reform now, not tomorrow or in 2016, so evolution and implementation of the IPA is good, but has to be accelerated and I will work towards that happening.

With regard to the FAO's institutional work and how we work with the Deputy Directors-General and the rest, I think I will try to get everybody on board. I think Deputy Directors-General have much more responsibility, much more authority and they will be able not to respond to the general trends and the new priorities as agreed by everybody. They will be able to understand they have to be behind them in order to achieve this goal.

And finally, visibility. Visibility is not the real problem. The problem is to get credibility. If you get credibility, you get visibility. Of course, visibility enhances credibility but that has to be done by a better communication system, by a better engagement and by the trust and confidence of all the different organizations and institutions that will apply to FAO to get advice.

Continúa en Español

Tenemos que mejorar la política de acceso, así lo he dicho en mi introducción, así lo demostré durante período de Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación ayudando precisamente a la Dirección General de América Latina y el Caribe, financiando muchos programas y proyectos como Ministro de Cooperación para mejorar el acceso a la producción en América Latina. Y la mejoraremos como he dicho: mejorando las infraestructuras, creando un fondo de micro-créditos, mejoraremos la capacidad de los pequeños agricultores, de la mujer rural, crearé, por lo tanto, las condiciones para incrementar, precisamente, el acceso a la producción. Lo hemos hecho ayudando a los programas que dirigía el Sr. Graziano en la época de Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores de Cooperación y como no, lo seguiré haciendo como Director General de la FAO.

Mecanismos paralelos y referencias a otras organizaciones. Creo que la FAO no tiene que sentirse celosa de las actuaciones y de las intervenciones de otras instituciones y otras organizaciones. Lo que tenemos que crear es la confianza en nosotros mismos, y las reuniones de alto nivel, y las reuniones de Naciones Unidas, y las reuniones del Banco Mundial, todas son favorables siempre y cuando cuenten con la orientación y la dirección que la FAO tenga que dar. Todo suma, nada resta, todo avanza, todo puede añadir un elemento positivo, por lo tanto, no va a haber mecanismos paralelos, va a haber reforzamiento de la FAO, que significa reforzar su esencia, su actividad normativa, su trabajo sobre el terreno y eso es lo que trataré de hacer como Director General de la FAO.

Continues in English

To reply to the Near East colleague, you have mentioned the Technical Cooperation and its critical mass. Also, you mentioned that the tradition and the experience of FAO as regards knowledge, and that is true. We have, of course, to change and recuperate the prestige and the pride of so many Professionals that are working in FAO, and give this knowledge-based direction of FAO the real support.

With regard to food production and risk of price volatility, we are all concerned about this uncertainty on the markets. We are not going to intervene in the market, but we are going to know why this price volatility takes place. But at the same time, we need to guarantee transparency of information with better increases in production and, I would say, a better early warning system that can prevent some natural disasters and a better coordination policy in terms of exportation, export process and transactions. With these in place, we could really give more certainty and more stability to the market.

And I fully agree with you about emergencies and that the Technical Cooperation Fund should go more directly to concrete projects and programmes and not to emergency funds. But it is true that there is a lack of enough funds for the emergency cases because, if I am correct, there hasn't formally been in the budget a percentage allocated to the emergency department and it has to be financed by extra-budgetary contributions and not by the Regular Budget. For that reason, I will try to introduce in the new budget a special amount for emergencies that can reduce these diminishing resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

As to reply to North America regarding the role of agriculture and trade, as I said to you in my new booklet, I intend to enhance the importance of trade. Without trade and without the success of the Doha Round, we will have tremendous difficulties. It will force the market in general, and I think trade is going to be one of the elements to speed up, better regulate and guarantee the future of the markets. So we have to improve and support the trade policy, and work together with WTO in order to get some added value in our work.

I will now address the question on how we can facilitate climate change issues in developing countries and the use of biotechnologies. I think that in regional representations in Africa, small islands and other areas, we should try to create a special centre for research and development, wherer we can

transfer and work together in order to enhance biotechnologies and new innovation programmes. Also, renewable energy is an area that we should try to include and I have some ideas and some projects for Africa as to how we will protect the production, how we will create the restoration process, and the creation of silos that can protect production. These are some ideas that I will develop if I am Director-General.

To reply to the Southwest Pacific which is asking what I will do, whether I will take direction from the Member Nations or lead the Member Nations. I should like to say that we are an intergovernmental organization, so Member Nations are the ones who have to dictate, but the Director-General has to lead what the Member Nations decide. You cannot dictate but you also need somebody who has leadership and capacity to make it possible, to make ideas a reality. So I will work closely with you, you will have ownership of the Organization but then you have to respond, to have trust and confidence in the Director-General.

You also mentioned the situation of the markets and how the market is going to be distorted. This is quite alarming, that is, the lack of productivity. It is true we have to improve the productivity. We know that there won't be too much extension on the surface that will be exploited in advance. But I think we have to work from now to guarantee the increase of seventy percent to reach this objective of 2015. We have to have forward-planning. For that, we don't need distortion of the market. We need to have concrete measures in place.

To the Africa Group, of course, I have a clear strategy.

Suite en français

Je veux parler français parce que il y a beaucoup de pays francophones, et je peux aussi m'adresser aux pays francophones africains.

J'aimerais adopter une stratégie de travail concernant les Programmes du NEPAD, les programmes des différents Groupes régionaux, avec la CDAO, la SADIC et la Corne d'Afrique. Pour cela, il faut de nouveaux mécanismes. Quels mécanismes? Je crois que je vais reprendre tout ce que vous avez dit. Il faut renforcer la Décentralisation pour l'Afrique, il faut vous donner plus de moyens, plus de responsabilités et plus d'autorité. Vous devez avoir le sentiment que sur mon mandat on pourra être en mesure de reprendre tout ce que vous avez souhaité. Pour cela, il faut que vous vous associez.

C'est vous qui reprendrez la responsabilité, mais avec l'aide et le soutien, évidemment, de l'agrégation générale. C'est dans ce sens, je crois, que notre stratégie d'appuyer la lutte contre la faim, et la situation de l'agriculture en Afrique aura du succès. L'Afrique reste un élément essentiel. Vous avez un potentiel énorme, comme vous venez de dire. Vous avez les meilleurs rivières et les meilleurs fleuves du monde. Vous avez de l'eau. Vous avez des ressources humaines. Vous avez tout. La seule chose qui vous manque c'est l'assistance, l'aide, l'organisation et l'engagement de la FAO. Vous-même pouvez le faire, mais avec l'aide et l'assistance de cette Organisation. Merci.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaube pour votre intervention. Je vous libère maintenant pour passer au candidat suivant.

Le candidat suivant est Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva du Brésil. Nous allons donc continuer nos entretiens et, sans plus attendre, je donne la parole au troisième candidat. Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva du Brésil, vous avez la parole pour 15 minutes, je vous le rappelle.

Mr José Graziano DA SILVA (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Brazil)

Excellencies, Members of the Council, Members of FAO, fellow staff of this Organization, I stand before you today as a candidate for one of the most significant and challenging jobs in the UN System.

FAO was born in 1945 at the end of the Second World War. In an historic document entitled The Work of FAO, its founders summed up their vision for the Organization, claiming that “Progress toward freedom from want is essential to lasting peace ...”. We are frequently being reminded how relevant these words still are for FAO nowadays.

FAO has achieved much during its sixty-six years of life. Above all, it can claim credit for successfully overseeing an unprecedented growth in food production. Enough food is now being produced to meet the needs of almost seven billion people. The problem, however, is that almost one billion people are unnourished and many more are malnourished. At the same time, the technologies that have made the fast expansion of production possible are damaging natural resources.

I subscribe to the view of FAO’s founders, that ending hunger is entirely possible. This is not a view based on wishful thinking. It is based on my own experience in leading both the design of Brazil’s Zero Hunger Programme, and its implementation in 2003 when I was appointed by President Lula as the country’s first Minister of Food Security.

Today, Zero Hunger benefits one quarter of Brazil’s population of almost 200 million. All of this has cost less than half a percent of our GDP. The big lesson from this experience is that combatting hunger and malnutrition opens the door to fast, inclusive economic growth. It enables people who have been prevented from playing an active role in society to benefit from national prosperity. Ending hunger is not charity, but an investment in our poorest people and a key to sustainable development.

In all continents there are examples of countries that have had comparable successes in boosting their agriculture by strengthening small-scale farming and broadening food access.

Hence, the first of the five pillars on which I propose to build my programme is hunger eradication. I have no hesitation in commending to all Member Nations that they commit themselves to this goal as fast as possible. FAO will need to strengthen its capacity to help countries to design and implement plans for hunger eradication. For this, it must deepen its joint work with WFP, WHO and UNICEF in particular, as well as with regional agencies and civil society.

My second pillar relates to the Organization’s role in catalyzing a shift towards truly sustainable food production systems. Agriculture and deforestation currently account for one quarter of our annual greenhouse gas emissions. FAO needs to become much more engaged in greening the Green Revolution, thus enabling farmers, fishermen and other players in the food system to learn how to intensify production while conserving natural resources.

My third pillar concerns the vital role that FAO must continue to play in addressing global challenges in an integrated, coherent and fair manner. I selected what I believe are the high-priority issues that FAO will have to address with a sense of urgency over the next four years. Of paramount importance, as has been acknowledged in the reform of the CFS, is the need to achieve an effective global food and nutrition security governance system.

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change must be addressed more actively by the Organization. FAO must help Member Nations to find ways to promote sustainable use of natural resources, particularly water, land, forestry and oceanic resources, the so-called “Blue Economy” that Small Island Developing States consider as a matter of their survival.

FAO must also pay more attention to issues related to food safety, transboundary pests and diseases, rural employment and gender. For this, FAO must reinforce its alliance with WHO in relation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and especially with the ILO, the regional UN Commissions and the recently-created UN Women.

In approaching these issues, FAO must improve its internal capacity for cross-cutting work, as well as its ability to partner with other institutions, both inside and outside the UN System, including civil society. There must be much closer cooperation between FAO, WFP and IFAD, as well as with all members of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis.

My fourth pillar is to bring the ongoing Reform Process to a satisfactory conclusion. Having worked in a senior position in the Organization, I am very much aware of the long time that the reforms have taken and of substantial resources, both human and financial, that have been dedicated to this process.

I share the strong commitment of Member Nations to enhancing FAO's performance. It must operate with greater transparency and accountability and adopt results-based management systems, putting in place objective monitoring and post-evaluation systems. It must also free staff from time-consuming bureaucratic procedures.

Any Reform creates uncertainties, and I wish to pay tribute to the responsible manner in which FAO's staff have continued to dedicate themselves to their substantive duties during this process.

I am also conscious of the need for genuine but balanced Decentralization, with delegation of authority to the Regional and Sub-regional levels. These Offices can also play a bigger role in resource mobilization. Country Offices need to enjoy greater autonomy in initiating and implementing projects.

If elected, I will seek to lead by example in introducing a more collegiate style of management, as I have always done throughout my career.

My fifth pillar is to promote South-South Cooperation. We need to bring on board middle-income countries from Latin America, Africa and Asia to share their technical expertise. This could supplement FAO's ongoing technical cooperation activities and alleviate some of the financing difficulties that may affect the Organization in the near future.

I would like now to draw to your attention some of the reasons why I consider that I am qualified to serve as FAO's next Director-General.

First, Brazil has always been an active Member of FAO, sharing its experience in agriculture and food security and offering technical cooperation programmes in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean countries. Our representatives have been always working to build consensus among Members of the Organization, as in the recent debate of the Reform of the CFS.

My great hope is to see an FAO whose Members put aside the distinctions that have sadly grown up between developing and developed countries. As an adviser to President Lula for 25 years, from the time when he was a labour union leader until I was recruited by FAO, I have learned the importance of building consensus in moving forward quickly.

Second, while there is no written rule on this, it is customary for the heads of UN Agencies to be rotated between regions. Since FAO was founded it has had seven Directors-General. Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region that has not yet had the honour to provide a Director-General for FAO, nor does any Brazilian at present occupy a top-level post in the UN System.

Third, I have devoted my entire working life to the technical, social and economic dimensions of agriculture, rural development and fighting hunger that are so central to FAO's mandate. In 2003, I found myself moving from the role of Professor to that of Minister by establishing an entirely new Ministry and managing a budget that was, at that time, twice the size of FAO's.

In 2006, I became FAO's Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean where I learned the importance of building partnerships with international and regional agencies, as well as civil society.

Mr Chairman, Members of the Council, I feel that I should point out that I am the only candidate who has concrete management experience within this Organization, where I have been working during the last five years. This is particularly important, given that the next Director-General will hold office for a shortened period and that all of us want to bring the Reform Process to a successful conclusion.

Before closing, I would like to mention that the paper that will be circulated after my speech presents a draft version of my platform. I intend to develop it further in response to the discussions with Member Nations that I shall have between now and when I would take up office, if elected.

Let me close recalling the words that the then elected Brazilian President, Tancredo Neves, had intended to say at his inauguration in 1985, had he not died a few days earlier, “I will not be able to do anything except what we can do together”.

Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva. Je donne la parole aux délégués du Conseil dans l'ordre suivant en donnant la parole à l'Europe.

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

I have four questions on behalf of the European Regional Group.

What measures would you envisage to strengthen merit-based, transparent and gender-based recruitment and promotion within the Organization?

In times of fiscal restraint for Member Nations, how will you ensure that FAO delivers maximum value for money for its programmes and its normative work?

What are the most important functions of FAO's Country Offices, and what would you do about underperforming Country Offices?

How would you describe your management and leadership style, and could you tell us about a previous experience of having created an effective senior management team accountable for results?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Europe, l'Amérique latine et Caraïbes.

Sr. Gustavo ÁLVAREZ (Grupo Regional América Latina y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

Nosotros tenemos tres preguntas.

La primera es: ¿Cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?

La segunda: el concepto de desarrollo rural es parte del Marco Estratégico de la FAO. Sin embargo, la percepción del GRULAC es que la FAO no ha dado suficiente importancia a un abordaje integrado de sus actividades. La división responsable por el desarrollo rural ha sido cerrada en 2008, y desde entonces la FAO está perdiendo expertos y conocimiento. ¿Qué programa tiene usted para que la FAO pueda estar en condiciones de ayudar efectivamente a los países que desean implementar políticas y programas integrados de desarrollo rural?

La tercera pregunta: ¿Cuáles son las principales razones por las cuales ha presentado su candidatura para el cargo de Director General y cómo piensa usted que su elección contribuirá a hacer de la FAO una organización eficiente y de gran utilidad para los Países Miembros, principalmente en lo que se refiere a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de las poblaciones más necesitadas?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique latine et Caraïbes. La parole est au Proche-Orient.

Mr Mohamed ABUBAKR (Near East Regional Group) (Egypt)

First of all, I would like to thank Mr José Da Silva for his address and I wish him full success. There are a few questions I would like to ask:

I would like to have more details about the shortcomings and the weak points that you currently see in FAO compared to the Organization you are inspired to head?

Considering the importance of bio-fuels which is a factor in price volatility and worsening of food security, how could this Organization play an important role in the area of food security? How do you think you can tackle and reckon with the importance of FAO's role? Considering the importance of other multilateral organizations, how do you plan to work together with the regions in order to tackle political and economic crises at one and the same time?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Proche-Orient. La parole est à l'Amérique du nord, et je crois que ce sont les États-Unis.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (North America Regional Group) (United States of America)

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. And thank you, Mr Graziano, for presenting your platform to us here today.

First, let me begin by asking if you can describe the approach you would take to manage FAO's Secretariat, including, but not limited to, how you would implement the Immediate Plan of Action. Please describe what you believe is the optimal planning and decision-making process for this Organization.

My next question, please describe in general how you would make FAO a more effective partner. Please elaborate where the Committee on Food Security would fit within this context, specifically in relation to the role of the other Rome-based Agencies.

We would also be interested to know what you would do to increase developing country access to new agricultural technologies, including biotechnology, to enhance agricultural productivity and to adapt agricultural sectors to climate change.

Since I have a moment, you spoke about what you would do to work with Member Nations during the period of time after you are elected and before you take office. We would be interested in hearing a little bit more about if you were elected. Recognizing that you will not take office for six months, how would you spend your time in preparation for the beginning of your term of office on 1 January 2012?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique du nord. La parole est au Pacifique sud-ouest, l'Australie.

Mr David RITCHIE (Southwest and Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

I have two questions.

Firstly, is it the role of the Director-General to take direction from Member Nations or to lead Member Nations? How will you guide the Organization and the global community through difficult issues or on issues on which there is no agreement?

Secondly, allowing farmers to respond to market signals is crucial to increasing agricultural productivity and reducing food price volatility. How will you create an environment to allow farmers to respond quickly and effectively, and what role should the FAO play in reducing long-term distortions to global agricultural markets and in creating an even playing field particularly for developing countries?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Pacifique sud-ouest. La parole est à l'Afrique, pour le Gabon.

M Aristide ONGONE OBAME (Groupe régional Afrique) (Gabon)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Monsieur Da Silva, j'ai trois questions au nom du Groupe Afrique à vous poser.

Première question: en regard du rôle primordial des femmes rurales dans l'agriculture familiale en Afrique, de quelle manière comptez-vous les soutenir pour améliorer leurs contributions à la sécurité alimentaire? Quelle sera votre action en faveur d'une représentation équitable à la FAO sur les plans du genre et géographique?

Deuxième question: l'Afrique est confrontée à une utilisation pas très efficace de ses ressources naturelles, au nom d'investissement et à l'accès limité au marché. Comment comptez-vous soutenir les initiatives du PDDAA du NEPAD? Quelle sera votre stratégie pour mobiliser la volonté politique globale en faveur de la production agricole des pays en développement ?

Troisième question: quelle est votre appréciation du processus des réformes de la FAO en cours? Dans un contexte de crise économique et financière mondiale, comment allez-vous procéder pour mobiliser les ressources nécessaires aux activités et à la Réforme? Quelle est votre vision pour soutenir la Décentralisation, en particulier dans l'élaboration des politiques et des stratégies pour une assistance technique de l'Afrique? Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Afrique. Le dernier intervenant, l'Asie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Kozumasa SHIOYA (Asia Regional Group) (Japan)

I have four questions.

More than half of the FAO budget is derived from Voluntary Contributions. What do you think about this fact? How do you address this problem?

With reference to the Decentralized office structure, what do you think about the adequate function of the three layers: the Regional office, Sub-regional Office and Country Offices to realize the best performance as a whole? For example, the Asia Region does not have any Sub-regional Office, but it works well. Would you respect the flexibility in the decentralized structure of each region?

What do you think about your main task as the Director-General of FAO and sharing your work with the two Deputy Directors-General? Do you intend to delegate, to the extent possible, your authority to them in order to concentrate more on your main task?

You are an Assistant Director-General of a Regional Office, so what do you think about Mr. Diouf? What is his heritage, and what will be the most serious problem he leaves after his term of office for 18 years?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Asie, donc les sept régions sont intervenues. Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva du Brésil, vous avez la parole pour 15 minutes maximum pour répondre à ces questions. Merci.

Mr José Graziano DA SILVA (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Brazil)

I see that I have more than 20 questions, some of them are not easy – that's the last one! I will try to keep the order so that I can avoid the last one perhaps! I will try.

I will change to Spanish because it is easier for me to respond on some of them.

Continúa en Español

Con respecto a la pregunta de Europa, yo creo que el tema de la transparencia en la selección y el criterio de reclutamiento del personal es sumamente importante para la Organización. Lo estamos haciendo bien. Creo que los paneles, las entrevistas, y la manera de proceder se hace bien. Yo no veo, en base a mi propia experiencia, grandes problemas en eso. Aprovecho, para abordar el tema, mencionar que muchas veces tenemos poca flexibilidad respecto al tema de la representación geográfica y de género. En mi región, por ejemplo, ha sido difícil reclutar hombres y mujeres en igualdad de condiciones. Debido a la historia mismo, esto no ha permitido llegar a un equilibrio. Pienso que la Organización debería tener algunas reglas más claras con respecto al género para el reclutamiento en las Oficinas Regionales y Sub-regionales.

¿Qué es más importante a nivel de las Oficinas de países? Basado en la experiencia que tengo, toda la Reforma apuntaba a tener "*a better delivery at country level*", a un trabajo mejor a nivel local, y esto no se ha conseguido. Nosotros creemos que las Oficinas de los países muchas veces son mucho más burocráticas en manejar proyectos en vez de permitir asistencia técnica. Yo creo que, especialmente en

los países más pobres y en los países menores, se necesita reforzar el nivel de asistencia técnica, y que en las Sub-regionales porque son las que tienen el rol de dar la primera atención a los países.

Sobre mi estilo de “*management*”, yo vengo de una vida académica de más de treinta años, durante los cuales aprendí mucho sobre el trabajo colegiado. Entonces, mi pretensión es la de mantener la idea de más trabajo colegiado en la FAO.

Sobre el GRULAC. Creo que hoy día en la mayoría de la regiones el problema más grave del hambre es el tema de acceso. Excepto en algunas áreas, sobre todo en África, donde tenemos un problema de producción y sobre todo de pérdida de la producción por falta de riego, falta de capacidad de almacenaje y otros, la mayoría de los países que tienen significativos números de hambrientos los tienen por problemas de acceso. Este era el caso de mi país: Brasil tenía hambre aunque fuera un gran exportador de productos agrícolas. ¿Cómo logramos superarlo? En primer lugar, impulsando la agricultura familiar que tiene la capacidad de crear ingresos y empleo a nivel local y de desarrollar el mercado local. El desarrollo local es fundamental para esto. Segundo, empoderando a la mujer. La mujer es la gran administradora doméstica, sobre todo con respecto a los alimentos. Nosotros creamos una tarjeta para dar a la mujer. Aclaro que tuvimos problemas legales para conseguir pasar la ley, porque se argumentó que no era constitucional establecer una diferencia entre hombres y mujeres. Yo fui al Senado personalmente a explicar que todos los estudios llevados a cabo indicaban que la mujer manejaba mucho mejor el presupuesto doméstico que el hombre y que despilfarraba menos los recursos. Por tanto, entregamos la tarjeta a la mujer; si no estaba la madre, la entregábamos a la abuela; si no está la abuela, la entregábamos aún hasta a la vecina. Pero no la entregábamos al hombre. Sí, he enfrentado un duro problema en esas capas. En Brasil, el alcoholismo y tabaquismo son por lo menos dos de las maneras de despilfarro de esa transferencia de ingresos neto que se daba.

Sobre Desarrollo Rural. Sí, es verdad, creo que compartimos la idea de que hemos dado poca atención al tema de desarrollo rural, que es clave. Yo creo que, desde la Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que se realizó en Brasil, poco se ha hecho sobre el tema de manera integrada y coherente. Vemos que eso está en los Objetivos Estratégicos de la Organización, que está todo puesto allí. Yo creo que habría que integrarlo más. ¿Cómo? En nuestra región, y en África también, estamos trabajando sobre el tema de desarrollo local y desarrollo territorial integrado. Creo que estos dos temas permiten un marco comprensivo del tema del desarrollo rural más moderno y más operativo. ¿Qué estamos haciendo? En nuestra región, estamos llevando a cabo una capacitación sobre liderazgos campesinos para permitir que ellos puedan tener, por ejemplo, marcas, agregación de valor con marcas regionales, productos locales, circulación forzada de productos en una misma zona, etc. Estos todos son problemas que se pueden impulsar.

¿Por qué presenté mi candidatura? Creo que ya lo expliqué en mi discurso. Yo creo que puedo contribuir a la Organización algunos años más, y creo que esa contribución va, sobre todo, a rescatar los orígenes de esta institución. La FAO fue creada bajo el presupuesto de que logrando la paz se erradicaría el hambre. Y no hemos logrado hacerlo, esta es la verdad y hay que reconocerlo. Entonces, volver a discutir sobre eso en profundidad y encontrar maneras de cómo nos acercamos a erradicar el hambre es mi “*core*”, la función principal de esta Organización. Además de eso, creo que la FAO se ha convertido en un punto de referencia. Hoy, con más de 191 Miembros, la FAO es una de las mayores organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas y, como tal, es un punto para la formulación de consensos. De esta manera, preservar tratados, implementar “*Guidelines*”, Directrices Voluntarias, proveer estadísticas actualizadas, es un conjunto de acciones que sólo la FAO puede hacer. Si no lo hace la FAO, no hay otro organismo que pueda hacerlo, e incluso lo hace con neutralidad pues este es un foro neutral. Cada uno tiene un voto, cada uno su palabra. Esto es lo que hay que realzar de esta Organización. Yo creo que mi experiencia académica, mezclada con la política, me permite poder decir que tengo algo para contribuir a la Organización.

Sobre los puntos débiles de la FAO. Para simplificar, resumiría diciendo que veo a la FAO hoy día mirando mucho hacia adentro, cuando debería mirar mucho más hacia afuera. Por eso, mi énfasis es terminar la Reforma para poder liderar este tiempo y esta gente a poder dedicarse a los problemas reales del mundo, no los problemas que creamos nosotros. Es decir, esto es lo que me parece importante, “*shift*” para que nos involucremos en los problemas reales del mundo. Uno de esos fue

apuntado: el tema de bio-combustible y la volatilidad de los precios. Aquí quiero hacer una importante distinción. Ustedes saben que el tema del bio-combustible es muy genérico, muy amplio. Hay que separar lo que estamos hablando cuando decimos bio-combustible. En esta misma Sala, hace tres años, el Presidente Lula hizo una distinción profunda entre el bio-combustible que produce Brasil de caña de azúcar, que no afecta a los precios y que no ha tenido impactos sobre el precio del azúcar, y otros bio-combustibles, especialmente el bio-diesel derivados de productos alimenticios. Entonces hay que hacer esta distinción muy clara sino muchas veces mezclamos las cosas. Creo que la FAO tiene que seguir muy de cerca el desarrollo del tema del bio-combustible porque nos acercamos a una nueva generación de bio-combustible que va a utilizar celulosa, lignina, paja, es decir que no va a competir con los alimentos. Yo diría que en este momento de crisis alimentaria no se debería estimular el uso de productos alimenticios para la producción de bio-combustible, excepto en circunstancias muy especiales como es el caso de sobras de productos como resultado del exceso de producción.

Pasando a las preguntas de Estados Unidos: ¿cómo administrar mejor la Secretaría de la FAO y cuál es el mejor proceso de decisión final? Nosotros, la FAO, hemos mejorado en los últimos años desde cuando introducimos el tema de los *results-based management*. Creo que ahora sobre todo deberíamos dedicar más atención a la elaboración del Plan de Trabajo. Creo que es algo que no ha progresado como es debido, y que es básico tener un Plan de Trabajo acordado con los Países Miembros. El Plan de Trabajo de la FAO desafortunadamente continúa reflejando mucho más su oferta que las demandas. No se ha consultado a los países, no ha habido la necesaria interacción para definir las prioridades de trabajo y eso desvirtúa todo el trabajo de la FAO, a mi juicio.

Yo pretendo utilizar los seis meses que voy a tener disponibles para reunirme, reunirme y reunirme con todos los Países Miembros y Grupos Regionales para construir una plataforma de trabajo. Tengo muy clara la necesidad de crear consensos para poder seguir adelante, especialmente en una Organización muy dividida en grupos. Creo que es importante que cada grupo se exprese porque el mundo es muy distinto.

Yo acabo de visitar África, el Pacífico Sur, Australia y otras regiones. Estuvimos allí de visita, y veo que no se puede tener una sola fórmula, un “*formula-like*” que se pueda aplicar indistintamente a todos. Eso no se puede y hay que ser flexibles. Por ejemplo, yo no veo ningún problema en que Asia, que no quiso crear Oficinas Sub-regionales, siga sin Sub-regionales. Pero hay otros países en África donde las Oficinas Sub-regionales pueden funcionar mucho mejor, y en América Latina también. Si se empodera a las Sub-regionales con verdaderos equipos multidisciplinares (que ahora no lo son, pues tener a tres o cuatro personas, no se puede llamar a eso equipos multidisciplinares) tendrán éxito. También veo que no es bueno tener más de una Oficina en la misma ciudad o en el mismo país, como tenemos hoy día en varios casos. Esto debería corregirse, pues yo veo que las Oficinas Sub-regionales son un buen camino si así lo quieren los Países Miembros de la región. Nosotros tenemos un ejemplo claro en Centroamérica que ha puesto una subregional por parte de los Países Miembros.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à chacun d’entre vous puisque nous avons été tous été respectueux, au mieux, de l’horaire imparti, ainsi notre séance de ce matin est terminée, nous avons entendu trois candidats. Je lève donc la séance et nous reprenons à 14 h 30.

The meeting rose at 12.01 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 01

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.01 horas

Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
13 April 2011

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième réunion plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta reunión plenaria a las 14.35
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Governance Matters (continued)**Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)****11. Address by Candidates for the Post of Director-General (CL 141/11; C 2011/14) (continued)****11. Communications des candidats au poste de Directeur général (CL 141/11; C 2011/14) (suite)****11. Declaraciones de los candidatos al puesto de Director General (CL 141/11; C 2011/14) (continuación)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare ré-ouverte la sixième séance de la cent-quarante et unième Session du Conseil. Nous poursuivons le Point 11 relatif aux communications des candidats au poste de Directeur général et je rappelle, comme ce matin, que les documents de référence portent les symboles C 2011/14 et CL 141/11. Nous avons donc auditionné trois candidats ce matin, nous allons donc auditionner les trois autres candidats cet après-midi. Je vous rappelle que l'ordre d'intervention est tiré au sort successivement, que le temps alloué à chaque candidat est de 15 minutes. Ensuite nous avons 15 minutes de questions posées par les représentants des Groupes régionaux et ensuite le candidat a de nouveau 15 minutes. Les déclarations et les réponses ne donnent pas lieu à débat, et ne font pas l'objet de conclusions. Le temps sera strictement observé comme cela a été le cas ce matin et je vous en remercie les uns et les autres grâce aussi à un chronomètre à affiche lumineuse. Donc, au bout de 13 minutes, le vert passe à l'orange, à la 14ème minute, il passe au rouge et à la 15ème minute, il clignote. Si le temps n'est pas écoulé, je laisse le temps de finir la phrase mais si ce n'est pas le cas je peux interrompre par coupure du microphone. Voilà donc pour cet après-midi. Je vous propose donc de reprendre la poche qui n'a pas été échangée. Donc, je vais tirer au sort le quatrième intervenant.

Le premier intervenant de cet après-midi est Monsieur Franz Fischler de l'Autriche. Quelques instants le temps pour qu'on aille le chercher.

Mr Franz FISCHLER (Candidate for the Post of Director-General) (Austria)

Your Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much indeed for organizing this hearing. In my presentation I would like to deal with four issues.

First, FAO's role in policy-making. Second, FAO's role as a service organization. Third, the Reform. Fourth, the most obvious question, why I am seeking your support.

I fully share FAO's vision and wholeheartedly support the three global goals you have identified. Yes, we must eradicate hunger and achieve food security. Yes, we need to eliminate poverty by advancing economic and social progress and enhancing rural development and yes, we are responsible for the sustainable management of our natural resources. But these goals can only be achieved if they are put at the top of the political agenda, nationally and internationally.

At a time when one billion people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition and when food prices are becoming more and more volatile, FAO's leadership is called for. FAO must and can contribute significantly to policy development and must and can be a crucial player in the political decision-making process.

This Organization has the greatest experience and knowledge on how to achieve food security. Therefore it is my ambition to put FAO back at the heart of the international agenda, combating food insecurity. I think that FAO is also best suited to develop policies on how to deal with water scarcity. It has the necessary expertise to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. It must also develop a policy to reduce food price volatility.

FAO possesses the best know-how to strengthen land policies, and needs to come forward with concepts for small farmers and rural development, as it can contribute to better forestry and fishery policies and to setting international standards. This is not to forget FAO's tremendous experience

regarding the challenges of those people most in need. It is the competent provider of programmes to help to overcome the enormous difficulties faced by the hundreds of millions of subsistence farmers in the world.

It is more and more obvious that fighting for food security, combating climate change or succeeding in getting a more sustainable and fairer usage of natural resources will increasingly determine our global security.

The key issue of the Twenty-first Century is no longer how much more money should be invested in weapons of destruction, but in tools of development. Recent events in different parts of the world have confirmed in a dramatic way that a radical re-think of our security policy is unavoidable.

The more FAO can become part of the international governance structures, the higher its prestige will be. I have the clear ambition to be a fair partner, first and foremost for you, the Members. I would also seek to establish the closest possible relations with the other organizations of the United Nations family. I am myself the chairman of various civil society organizations and know how to cooperate with them. I have long-standing close links to the WTO, the OECD and the World Bank and can use this experience to strengthen the relationships with them. I am also keen to cooperate as intensively as possible with the other Rome-based Agencies.

Furthermore, I am convinced that it should be possible to make a change in financing agricultural development. We cannot accept that the share of agricultural development spending is less than five percent of the total development cooperation funding.

I see the personal role of the future Director-General as being a kind of ambassador for food security and the representative of the people in need.

My second point is FAO's role as a service organization. We all know about FAO's expertise and the know-how. We also know that in the future Research and Development (R&D) will be even more important to enhance knowledge-based agriculture. FAO's experts are not only appreciated all over the world, but they are our prized possession. The difference to other treasured items is that the value of FAO grows the more they are used and spread all over the world. Therefore, I think we should put more emphasis on knowledge transfer and on research cooperation.

FAO must act as a link between the scientists and the users, between the experts and the people in need, between those working in the field and those working at Headquarters.

On the basis of national programmes, stakeholders, developers and extension services must pull in the same direction. There must be a highly efficient chain of cooperation where the countries in need occupy centre stage. The information must flow between the experts and the people in need, in both directions. This would then make a difference.

This, in my view, is the way how we can deliver more value for money, and this is the way in which we can get involved with the most vulnerable – peasants, women farmers, landless people, fishermen and elderly countrymen and women.

This brings me to my third point, the FAO Reform. The key issue here in the coming two years is the full implementation of the Reform, and I would commit myself to do my best to achieve this goal. In my view, Reform is not a purpose in itself, but it makes FAO more visible, more transparent, more accountable and also more responsible.

I am used to being a team player and I am sure that if the future Management works as a team, this approach can become a role model for other parts of the Organization. Such a concept also means that we have to share the responsibility with the Directors, with the desk officers and with all the people working for FAO. We have to implement modern and simple reporting systems. We must base recruitment and promotion on transparency and merit, while improving gender and geographical balance. This is not to forget the need for sound financial management, using the most modern internal control systems and also financial engineering.

One other point will be very decisive in the future functioning of FAO. On the one hand, there is the necessity to bring our know-how to the field and to be as close as possible to where the problems are.

This calls for Decentralization and deconcentration. On the other hand, it is no less important that FAO functions as one. Both can be achieved if we invest in a closely-integrated network structure and at the same time make sure that our personnel working in the Regional Offices and in the field become change managers and bring different interests together.

Overall, FAO is expected to deliver results. The speedy implementation of the Reform has to go hand in hand with the delivery of measurable impacts. This is an absolute must for me, because the results we can show to the world are the basis for our future prestige. This is important.

I am fully committed and dedicated to work as closely as possible with you, the Members, because I believe that together we are able to tackle the challenges ahead of us. This is my understanding of leadership in partnership.

Achieving tangible results would be at the heart of my work and coming from a small country, Austria, with a strong tradition of fairness and social balance. I know how to work as an honest broker between the different interests and countries, large and small, rich and poor.

My last point is my answer to your obvious question: why should you vote for me? From the many contacts I have had so far, I know that you are looking for somebody who combines political experience with competence, and proven managerial and communication skills. You seek a humble but forward-looking person who is able to drive this Organization towards a promising future.

I would like to tell you that I was a policy maker for six years at the federal level and then for ten years in the international arena. I worked for another ten years in the extension service and I had the opportunity to prove my managerial and communications skills when I took a leading part in the administrative reform of the institution I belonged to.

I am an agronomist by profession and in my chest beats a farmer's heart. With this personal and professional experience, my whole life has been dedicated to improving the living conditions and the wealth of all those living in rural areas, in both developing countries and OECD countries. It was on my initiative that farmers in Europe got back their freedom to farm. I removed a lot of agricultural trade barriers and abolished trade-distorting subsidies. Together with the implementation of the "everything but arms" concept and various trade agreements, we made a real change. In the meantime, Europe has become the biggest importer of agricultural products from developing countries.

I also had the opportunity to prove my capability to successfully take part in international negotiations. My record demonstrates that I am equipped with the necessary tools for leading and managing FAO. But at the end you will, of course, decide whether you believe that my background, my competence, my political experience, my management skills and, last but not least, my motivation, are good enough to make the necessary difference.

I can assure you that with a common, consensual and results-oriented approach we can provide, not only for the present generation, but also for our children, a life in dignity, free from hunger and poverty and a sustainable world. This is the goal I would like to give my best.

Thank you for your attention, and please feel free to put forward any questions you like.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Franz Fischler, maintenant je donne la parole aux intervenants représentant les Groupes régionaux pour deux minutes maximum chacun pour poser les questions. Dans un ordre, là aussi glissant, puisque nous allons commencer par l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes. Je vous demande de vous signaler, parce que pour la technique c'est plus facile, pour vous repérer. Voilà l'Amérique Latine, et c'est l'Uruguay.

Sr. Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Grupo Latino Americano y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

Agradecemos también al señor Fischler por la presentación que nos ha hecho y tenemos las siguientes preguntas para formularle:

¿Cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?

Una segunda pregunta es sobre el texto que resume su biografía que dice claramente que en calidad de Comisario Agrícola de la Unión Europea usted, y cito textualmente, conformó con éxito la Política Común Agrícola Europea por casi una década sin licitación. Esa es una política que ha resultado perjudicial para los agricultores de los países en desarrollo y ha contribuido a aumentar las penurias y el hambre a largo plazo. También quita del comercio justo unos 42.000 millones de dólares a nuestros países, le pregunto ¿cómo conciliará su rol como Director General de la FAO que tiene que defender los intereses de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y particularmente de los medios de subsistencia de millones de productores rurales pobres alrededor del mundo, con los intereses domésticos y regionales de un poderoso lobby agrícola que usted pudo en este caso representar por toda una década?

La tercera pregunta es ¿cuál es su enfoque para promover la escala regional y mundial la agricultura familiar y como puede la FAO coadyuvar a estos micro productores sobre todo los países en desarrollo?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vais vous arrêter. Merci. La parole est au Proche-Orient. La Jordanie vous avez la parole.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Near East Regional Group) (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

I thank Mr Fischler for this presentation.

Much is said about speaking as a single organization as One United Nations and we have three organizations in Rome, WFP, IFAD and FAO. In your opinion, do you think we can adopt the common strategy for these three Rome-based organizations in order to clarify roles and avoid duplications among them?

Most international conferences including Food Summits have always referred to the importance of concluding the Doha Round, particularly in order to liberalize markets and to abolish subsidies in the developed countries. What is your opinion of this? Can we actually achieve this?

What do you think of the Decentralization adopted by FAO and if you don't agree to the measures put in place, how can we improve Decentralization and how can we delegate authority to the Deputy Directors-General as well as to the Regional and Sub-regional Offices.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Proche-Orient, la parole est à l'Amérique du nord. Le Canada.

Mr James FOX (North America Regional Group) (Canada)

Would you increase the FAO's resources and support for standard studying and technical advice and, if yes, from what programmes would you shift resources?

What would you do to increase developing countries' access to new agricultural technologies including biotechnology to enhance agricultural productivity and adopt agricultural sectors to climate change?

How would you promote gender equality within the FAO itself and its programmatic work?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique du nord. La parole est au Pacifique sud-ouest. Australie.

Mr David RITCHIE (Southwest and Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

Thank you very much, Dr Fischler, for your exposition.

My two questions are as follows:

Is it the role of the Director-General to take direction from Member Nations or to lead Member Nations? How would you guard the Organization and the global community through difficult issues or on issues where there is no agreement?

The second question relates to prioritization, do you think the Organization is sufficiently and appropriately prioritized? Which areas do you think should be given more priority and, equally importantly, which areas should be given less priority? How would you lead the Organization to make these hard decisions? Do you see the normative work such as standard-setting, global policy and trade facilitation as becoming a higher or a lower priority over the next few years?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Pacifique sud-ouest. La parole est à l'Afrique. La Tunisie.

Ms Afef BEN REJAB (Africa Regional Group) (Tunisia)

Thank you very much for your presentation.

If elected, how are you going to support development initiatives in Africa taking into account the complexity, diversity and weight on the African development? What do you think of the key lessons learned from the past interventions?

What are your views and plans for FAO's Decentralized Offices to better support Member Nations in adapting policies, strategies and providing technical assistance?

In the context of FAO human resources development policies, how are you going to ensure that there is equitable representation in terms of gender and geographic representation, both in FAO's Senior Management positions and Professional categories?

What will your strategy be to mobilize global political will to bring focus and attention to challenges that in the end increase agriculture production in developing countries, such as trade barriers, subsidies and climate change?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Afrique. La parole est à l'Asie. Le Pakistan.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Asia Regional Group) (Pakistan)

I have three questions from Asia.

What in your view constitutes the distinctive and core competencies of FAO and if elected, what would be the strategy that you would put in action to capitalize on these core capabilities and competencies to further strengthen FAO's comparative advantage?

The perennial discussion and strategic approaches at FAO has swayed between the reinforcement of its normative and operational activities. These two facets are closely interlinked and both would need to be strengthened to enhance FAO's delivery of its mandate. If you deem that both activities need reinforcing, how do you intend to mobilise resources in an environment of declining resources?

The Reform initiative that has been pursued by the Organization has been described, as being quite ambitious yet some people argue for Reform processes with separate frameworks, not integrated within the Regular Programme, and with extended timeframes are not conducive to yielding the results. How would you foresee instituting Reform that would pave the path for sustainable change within the Organization, bearing in mind the timeframe of the Director-General's mandate?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Asie. Et le dernier intervenant c'est l'Europe. Le Royaume-Uni.

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

We have four questions.

How would you develop and strengthen effective, collaborative relationships with FAO Members, the United Nations and with other multilateral organizations?

What improvements would be the most important ones to make in FAO human resource management?

The fight against hunger in the world is of utmost importance for FAO. How would you make agriculture and food security more prominent on the global agenda?

How would you describe your management and leadership style, and could you tell us about a previous experience of having created an effective senior management team, accountable for results?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci pour vos questions. Donc, les sept régions sont intervenues. Monsieur Fischler, je vous donne la parole pour 15 minutes maximum.

Mr Franz FISCHLER (Candidate for the Post of Director-General) (Austria)

Let us be clear. You raised partly very complex questions, and therefore it is not so easy to answer in the same short time which is available. But I will offer to you if, after my answers, you have additional interest in specific questions, I am also prepared to answer all the questions you raised in writing for you.

Let me start with the Latin America and Caribbean Group. I was asked whether I see it necessary and how I would do this to increase the access to food. I think here we have to differentiate when we speak about access to food between there are those who are buying the food, those who are producing the food, and those who are selling or exporting the food. I think the most important thing is increase food access to the hundreds of millions of subsistence farmers because they are in a twofold difficulty. On the one hand, they are producers but don't produce enough, not even for their own families and, therefore, they are at the same time food buyers. For them, I think the most important thing to do is really to have programmes available. This is, in my view, one of the centre strategies for the future, to provide programmes within national programmes, where the countries concerned are in the centre stage but together with the stakeholders, together with representatives of the farmers, together with NGOs, together with the civil society and in that way, I think we can make a change. I think that acting within programmes has much more effect than only to single out certain small projects here and there. I think this is really very, very important. And a totally different question is the issue of the net importing countries and the necessity to import, under fair conditions, enough food. But at the same time, if we would like to achieve a real development, for the very small farmers, we must ensure that they get the opportunity to get access at least to the local marketplace. I think these are the central issues here.

About the EU policy. I am very grateful that you spoke in the form of the past. Yes, I don't hide the fact that in the past the European Common Agricultural Policy was trade-distorting. But please accept also that we changed it, and that nowadays the situation is totally different. I mentioned that the European Union is now the biggest importer of agricultural goods from developing countries. I could go even a step further. If you compare the level of imports of Europe from developing countries, it is bigger than the import level of the other five big OECD countries together. So there is a change and if you then look at the import structures, you will also see that we receive more than 70 percent of our total imports meanwhile from developing countries. So there is clear evidence that something has changed.

But I also agree with you that because of the mistakes of the past, we have to provide funds. We, the Europeans, have to provide funds to the people in need, to the developing countries so that they also have a chance for their own production. In addition to that, the holding has also a trade aspect and a trade aspect is, first of all, that the most vulnerable countries need also in the future a clear border protection *vis-à-vis* the very productive exporters. This is almost agreed in the Doha Round for the least developed countries and is also what is called the different and differential treatment. This is almost agreed but there are other points where there is for the time being no agreement. For example, when we speak about tariff escalation. I think there is no reason why raw commodity products should have different conditions for import to the developed countries compared with semi-processed or

processed products. I don't see why the processed products need a higher border protection. This has to go. This has to be abolished, and I can tell you that the first letter in history which was written where we said that export subsidies should be abolished has my and Pascale Lamy's signature. We signed it in the year 2004, already to all members of the WTO.

So the next question is how to promote family farming. Family farming as a term is a rather vague one. There is no clear definition of what is family farming is. And I think we should concentrate as much as we can on the very small farmers, on the subsistence farmers, on the peasants, and on the women farmers. And here I already described how I see that FAO should work. Here we must have a clear focus and here we must improve the transmission of knowledge, the transmission of technical equipment, the transmission of education to those who need it.

About the questions raised by the Representative of Jordan, the functioning is one as I said, I think we need both. We need a clear Decentralization and deconcentration, but also at the same time the functioning as one. How to do that? It seems to me clear. You can only do that if you work within a great structure, within an intensive network, with a clear sharing of responsibilities but at the same time also with a clear system of reporting and with a clear view of what is the common target, what is our aim, and what we would like to achieve. And this is what I said, that all must pull in the same direction. Therefore it is so important that before programmes are started, there are agreements, that these things are discussed and there are agreements and that there is also the support of the Members.

The conclusion of the Doha Round, I can only repeat what I already said about the importance of trade. Trade as Lamy recently stated is part of the solution and not part of the problem. And therefore we need a new push of the Round, but I am very realistic here. I think on the one hand, FAO can contribute a lot, especially with the standard-setting because standards are really part of trade facilitation. But on the other hand, if there is not enough political will and leadership among the world leaders, then we can continue for years our discussion here. This is the decisive moment. The push, the impetus can only come from the world leaders and I expect that we will see hopefully, this year, such a push.

Next question. Decentralization for me is very important and I think we should be clear what we mean when we speak about Decentralization because it is not only that we have Regional Offices, that we have National Offices. The structure is more complex but the structure must be designed in a way that we don't end up with four or five different FAOs. I think it is achievable, and I would go for such a concept and I think if we have also in the Headquarters clear responsibility with sharing and more teamwork, this would also ease the way for further Decentralization.

Biotechnology. This is an important point, but biotechnology is nowadays a bit more than GMOs. We speak in the meantime about red, green, blue and violet biotechnology and I think that all of these parts can contribute a lot to the future development of agriculture. And I am really convinced that, especially, for example, in the discussion on food versus fuel, and I am very clear here, I don't think that the first generation of biofuels is a real future solution. It is in the best case a mid-term concept but not a permanent solution. For example, what is now under discussion is the form of white biotechnology to produce these things from wastes and from agricultural by-products. This would make a lot of sense. So I think biotechnology can help a lot to make the necessary progress.

But when we speak about the small farmers somewhere in Africa. For them, we need adequate solutions. We cannot bring them from a yield level of a thousand kilos per hectare up to ten tonnes per hectare in one step. I think here a doubling or even tripling of the yields is makeable, and for this we need specific techniques which help the farmers and which can be immediately applied by the farmers.

About gender inequality. Gender inequality is a problem everywhere, not only here at Headquarters. It is also a problem in the countryside, it has to do with land ownership and with many other problems. Here at Headquarters, I could tell you that I would really go for gender equality and I would start with that myself. I can give you here the absolute guarantee that if I were Director-General, I would start with my own Cabinet. I assure you there will be 50 percent women, and I assure that there will be geographical balance between developed and developing countries. Running out of time, the core

competencies of FAO seem to me clear because you defined the core competencies, and I have no reason whatsoever to change them. We should go for that.

And the European Regional Group question, regarding management and leadership style. I think accountability and transparency, especially when it comes to promotion and to recruitment of personnel is decisive. I was clear in my presentation that I would go for more cooperation, for more teamwork and for responsibility sharing, not only within the top Management but also with the directors, with the units and also with the desk officers.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Franz Fischler. Nous allons donc passer au candidat suivant, merci d'être parmi nous. En réalité, je tire au sort le cinquième et le sixième à la fois. Le cinquième candidat est Monsieur Indroyono Soesilo pour l'Indonésie, et donc Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini de l'Iran clôturera nos auditions. Le candidat de l'Indonésie va maintenant prendre la parole. J'ai le plaisir d'accueillir Monsieur Indroyono Soesilo de l'Indonésie qui est notre cinquième candidat et qui a 15 minutes pour sa présentation. Monsieur Indroyono Soesilo, je vous donne la parole.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to thank and appreciate FAO and its Council Members for giving me the opportunity to embark into leadership challenges for the coming year.

Let me begin to present to you two main issues which are of our interest and of our concern for the coming years. First, we are talking about food security and how to make food available for all the global populations. Second, how can we answer this challenge through a reformed FAO in the coming years also?

First, we know the world still has so many people living in hunger and malnutrition. The numbers, more than 900 million people in the world. In the meantime, the global resources of food, energy and water are getting fewer and scarcer. We are also now living the conditions of climate change, global warming, melting ice, and climate variability which impacts also on global food production.

We now have a six billion population, and there will be a nine billion population by the year 2050. We have to find a way together to make food available, accessible, at affordable prices and, of course, safe to be consumed.

We are talking about food availability, we are talking about strengthening the food security and trying to increase food production, through land allocations, provision of primary seeds which can adapt to climate change conditions, provision of fertilizers as well as appropriate technologies and also technical know-how and local wisdom owned by all of us, the FAO Member Nations.

I would like to also bring the fisheries issues into the food security issues. We have to bring the fishery sector into the mainstream of food production and food security in the years to come. This means controlling capture fisheries, developing both fresh water and marine aquaculture and, last but not least, also conducting fishery food product processing and the cold chain system.

To increase food production, to make food available to all of us, please also consider our capabilities to manage the global forest resources. Good forest resource management with good and better water resources management will result, later on, in the good food production for the world.

Once we have the capability of providing food and making it available for all of us, we have to go into second issues related to accessibility. In the past, when we talked about food accessibilities, we were talking about domestic issues. Some areas have surpluses, some have shortages and we have to increase cohesion on the domestic food accessibilities. In the meantime, there is also global food accessibility and in some regions they have a surplus, other regions have shortages.

In the arena of global food accessibilities, we are talking about international food trade. And in general, when we talk about international food trade please let us follow free, fair and balanced trade policies in order for each government to have the mandate to set the policies that will be actively implemented by the private sector.

In the meantime, I am really looking forward for all investment policies to follow the domestic investment policies. In all domestic investment policies on food accessibilities, you also have to put human resources development, capacity-building and technology transfer.

Once food is already accessible to all of us, we go into affordability. Food access should be affordable for all the global population. When we talk about food affordability, we are talking about poverty eradication. Less poverty means more food affordability. This is also following the mandate of MDG 1, to reduce poverty of the global population. We have to introduce the Poverty Eradication Program with three pillars.

Pillar Number 1: direct assistance, providing food for the poor, providing health care for the poor, providing education for the poor and, as a realistic situation, give them fish so that they can survive.

Once they are able to survive we go to the Pillar Number two: empowerment and development. Let them work together, empower themselves so that they can move above the poverty line. When they are already above the poverty line, they go into Pillar Number three, introduce to them small and macro-entrepreneurship towards small and micro-credits and to small and micro-food enterprises.

By doing all of this, we should be able to reduce the number of people under the poverty line, that would mean less poverty and more food affordability.

When we have accessible and affordable food, it should also be safe to consume. I am very happy to learn that the FAO and the WHO already set up the Codex Alimentarius Commission which is setting codification and standardization for the global food resources. I am also looking forward in the coming years for many of our Member Nations will start to present and to initiate food codes and standards so all global food products can be consumed by all the people of the world.

I am also looking forward to the initial draft of the Codex on Food Standards and Codes being initiated by the developing world with assistance from the technology coming from the developed countries. There should be a partnership going on hand in hand in this arena.

Once we are able to provide food for all of the global populations, we can do it through the Reform of FAO. I am very happy to acknowledge the current administration of conducting the Reform in this Organization, including the "Reform with Growth", the IPA, the implementation of the Independent Plan of Action, currently underway. I am looking forward to having good results of this.

We are looking forward to having FAO become an agile, transparent, decentralized, effective and efficient organization in the future.

Decentralizing all the projects and the programmes means implementation in the field, in the Member Nations and in the regions. Here, in Rome, we are primarily engaged in global policy-setting, resource allocation, technology assessment, knowledge assessment and also evaluation and monitoring.

I would like to propose that all of the projects in the field in the Member Nations should have a knowledge component, coming from the knowledge group here at Headquarters. At the same time, I am also looking forward to all of the projects and programmes in the field to work together with a knowledge Organization as a centre of excellence in the countries in order to make the projects there sustainable.

For those other countries with no knowledge organizations, we have to ensure a capacity-building component and also a training component into the projects. This is also to ensure that the project later on will be sustainable.

In implementing the Reform, I think there would be human resources allocation and resource repositioning because some of those will go to the field. We should be ready to have this constituting as a knowledge organization and it has to be moved up.

Here, in Rome, FAO is the only organization for food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management and we have to strengthen our database. We should continue the data inventories because, as a knowledge Organization, we should be able to answer any challenges occurring in the world related to food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management.

Linked to that, I would also like to touch the good management between Headquarters down to the region, down to the country and down to the field. For these activities, FAO should be backed with strong information technology, monitoring and evaluation, assessment and information coming from the top here in Rome down to the field to be able to implement projects quickly and effectively.

Of course, in doing this, there should be culture change. As a knowledge-based organization, and I should like to note that I was working in this kind of arena for twenty years, FAO should be ready to adapt and ready to go for change. So I think we can do it harmoniously in the coming years, and by then we are all going to see an Organization which is very modern in this Twenty-first Century.

Let me talk about the three Rome-based organizations, FAO, WFP and IFAD. We know that each of those organizations have a distinct mandate. We should continue to work together on partnership. We should work together, working within each mandate, to bring successes about together, reduce the number of hungry people in the world, and to strengthen the global food security.

The CFS, the Committee on Food Security comprises these three organizations in Rome. In the future the programme of these three Rome-based organizations, should be enhanced and strengthened in the coming year.

Those are some of the issues and missions that I have just presented to you.

For the conclusions, I would like to invite all of you, together with me, to embark on a noble journey of eradicating hunger and malnutrition of our global population in the shortest time possible.

In the meantime, let us, hand in hand, work together to strengthen the global food security, to provide food available to all of us, to make it accessible and affordable and safe to consume.

FAO is the knowledge Organization on food, agricultures, fisheries, forestry and natural resources management. Yes, it can answer this challenge for the years to come.

With the Reformed FAO as an efficient and effective organization, with a new and fresh leadership, yes, we can answer these challenges to reduce the hungry people in the world, and it certainly is possible with all of us working together.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Indroyono Soesilo. Je donne la parole maintenant aux intervenants des délégations des Groupes régionaux en commençant par le Proche-Orient. Le Proche-Orient prend la parole. La Syrie.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Near East Regional Group) (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Regional Group. I would like to thank you for this brief and very clear outstanding presentation. I have four questions.

What are your ideas with regard to the Reform of the FAO in the context of this international crisis?

More than half of FAO's budget comes from Voluntary Contributions which is an obstacle to our work. How do you envisage resolving this problem of dependence on Voluntary Contributions and how can countries benefit from such a solution?

What is your opinion on Decentralization? What are your ideas about the mechanisms for implementing Decentralization and what timetable do you envisage for comprehensive Decentralization?

What are the priorities you wish to put forward in order to proceed?

Are they the same the priorities which we currently have in the Organization?

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (North America Regional Group) (United States of America)

Thank you very much for that presentation.

The current world financial situation is impacting governments and international organizations alike.

The UN Secretary-General recently called for UN Agencies to do more with less. How would you apply this to FAO? What would your priorities for FAO be, and what would you de-emphasize? How would you rationalize the Decentralization process to protect the value of the normative work of the Organization?

My next question, describe in general if you would, how you would make the FAO a more effective partner and please elaborate where the Committee and Food Security would fit in within this context, specifically the role of the other Rome-based organizations?

Finally, could you describe the approach you would take to manage the FAO Secretariat, including but not limited to, how you would implement the Immediate Plan of Action. Please describe what you believe is the optimal planning and decision-making process for this Organization, FAO.

Mr David RITCHIE (Southwest And Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

I have two questions.

Firstly, is it the role of the Director-General to take direction from Member Nations or to lead Member Nations? How will you guide the Organization and the global community through difficult issues or on issues on which there is no agreement?

Secondly, allowing farmers to respond to market signals is crucial to increasing agricultural productivity and reducing food price volatility. How will you create an environment to allow farmers to respond quickly and effectively? What role should the FAO play in reducing long-term distortions to global agricultural markets and in creating an even playing field, particularly for developing countries?

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Africa Regional Group) (Zimbabwe)

On behalf of the Africa Region, I would like to thank the candidate for presenting himself. I have four questions.

Some would say that we have, in the past, paid lip-service to the issue of gender mainstreaming. As evaluation after evaluation reports continue to show that women farmers have little or no access to extension, financial services, technical assistance, what would you do if elected, as the Director-General, to change this scenario?

In the context of FAO's human resource development policies, how are you going to ensure that there is equitable representation, both in terms of gender and geographical representation, in FAO's Senior Management positions and Professional categories?

How will you structure and strengthen Decentralized Offices to more flexibly support regional and Member Nations' priority programmes?

What will your strategy be, if elected, to mobilize global, political will and resources, to bring focused attention to challenges that hinder increased agricultural production in developing countries? And some of these challenges include trade barriers, subsidies, climate change, access to technology. What experiences do you bring to bear on these questions?

Ms Tritaporn KHOMAPAT (Asia Regional Group) (Thailand)

First of all, I would like to thank Dr Soesilo for his address. In the interest of time, I am going to ask only two questions on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

As you are yourself from Asia, how do you see Asia different from other regions in the world in terms of challenges and opportunities? How can FAO address those challenges and make use of those opportunities in its fight against hunger and poverty?

We usually hear criticism about FAO as a very political organization where decisions are often made with a hidden agenda, either the Management or of Member Nations. What is your view on this? If you are elected as the new Director-General, how will you manage to enhance transparency in the decision-making procedure so that all the decisions will be made for the best interest of FAO's operation.

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

Four questions from the Europe Regional Group

What do you see as the main characteristics of an organizational culture that focuses on results, and how can Management create this in a multilateral context?

How do you see the future of the Decentralized Offices, taking into account the balance of results delivery between Headquarters, and the regional and country level?

What do you see as the most effective policy instruments for tackling price volatility?

The Programme of Work and Budget reports that FAO has a financial deficit of over half a billion USD (USD 521 million). What are your thoughts on how this might be tackled and cleared?

Sr. Carlos BENTACOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Grupo Latino Americano y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

Nuestro Grupo Regional tiene las siguientes preguntas:

1) ¿Cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?

2) La FAO ha venido desarrollando desde hace tiempo un importante conjunto de estándares mundiales en diferentes áreas relacionados a la alimentación y la agricultura. En el entretanto, ha habido recientemente un aumento de las iniciativas privadas en la misma área. ¿Qué estrategia aplicaría usted para asegurar la importancia y la relevancia de la FAO en estas actividades?

3) Hemos visto recientemente un aumento significativo en la incidencia de las Contribuciones Voluntarias al presupuesto de la FAO con una multiplicación de proyectos fuera del Programa Regular? ¿Cuál sería su estrategia para mantener la fortaleza de las apropiaciones presupuestarias netas del Presupuesto Regular, y al mismo tiempo conseguir fomentar el aporte de fondos extra-presupuestarios para las actividades de la FAO?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Amérique latine et Caraïbes. Après cette série de sept questions, je vous donne la parole pour répondre à ces questions. Vous avez 15 minutes au maximum. Merci.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Indonesia)

Pending the contributions, Voluntary or Assessed Contributions from all the Members of the FAO, let me put it this way. We realize that FAO from the beginning is a knowledge organization. There are two groups of people here in FAO, one group is the knowledge group, composed of 1600 experts. To mobilize Voluntary Contributions and resources from other organizations, we could do so by making it more attractive, making the programmes and the projects adapted to the current conditions of the world.

So, on these issues I would like to propose that in mobilizing more of what we call the Voluntary Contributions, it is the time also to invite all of the Members of the FAO in order to also mobilize

more, to optimize the capabilities of our know-how people here in the Organization to attract and gain more Voluntary Contributions.

In relation to Decentralization, I mentioned to you that we have to go with Decentralization. We have to put more activities, more programmes and projects in the field, in the Member Nations and in the regions. These activities must be backed by the knowledge group available here in Rome.

Decentralization, it can still be done by putting a strong back-up of information technology. The monitoring control will be much more efficient, and we can make this Organization become more effective and efficient in the coming year.

The question in relation to standardization, and in relation to access to food, yes, FAO and WHO have programmes to set food standards and food codes. In setting food standardization and codification we have to work together. Some of those need science and technical support. Those members coming from the developed world, please assist the developing countries so that we can have codes and standards which can be adaptable and can be used by all of us.

There was a colleague from the Africa Group asking about gender issues. I think we are in the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs put gender as one of the main issues and we have to comply with that, and it will all be monitored before 2015. While here in the FAO itself, how can we make the policy in relation to gender issues? Let us come back again to the mandate of this Organization as a knowledge organization. So we have to first prioritize to select the capabilities, of course. Second, we also focus on gender balance. Also important is to bring the capabilities of the Members of FAO working here in Rome and working in the organization.

Asia is asking what FAO can do for Asia. In the last ten years, Asia has been the fastest growing economy of the world. However, the largest number of people living in hunger are also in Asia. So we have now these organizations in which part is the availability, accessibility, and affordability, all related to food safety. We are going to do some assessments. Why does one of the regions with the fastest economic growth also have the largest number of people living in hunger? It is FAO's job to do that, knowing this a knowledge Organization.

About the culture itself, is it a political organization, or other? We have to tackle the challenges which is to reduce the number of people living in hunger in the shortest possible time. Let us mobilize all our resources to do that, some political. But most of them are seen as doing technical work, and technical know-how, and implementing the latest science and technology in this area. This also considering that we have an excellent pool of people, experts in this arena to work together to provide more food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and management. We can do that.

I mentioned to you that an organization like FAO should be able to adapt to culture change, to use IT to do that, we should be able to use the budget to do that. We have to take all opportunities to make the issues of food, fisheries and forestry important. We have to make this attractive to other organizations, to have them ready to work with us. We have to put forward some proposal which is attractive because everybody is willing and ready to go to work to try to reduce the number of hungry people in the world. However, they are waiting for what FAO can do and offer.

I think that the Director-General must follow the mandate of the Conference and the Council. As an executive, the Director-General has to transform the policies set by the Conference and Council into policies that can be adapted to the field and can be monitored and controlled. The idea actually is to have common objectives to reduce the number of hungry people of the world as fast as possible.

As I mentioned to you, we can work together and each has to work within its distinct mandate. FAO is doing empowerment and development. If I am not mistaken, WFP is conducting emergency food supply, and connecting this to emergency and disaster relief and so on. IFAD, actually in my scenario, is doing what we are doing in terms of entrepreneurship, grants, micro-credits to develop food enterprises. But all of these Organizations work together with our common goal, again, to reduce the number of people who live in hunger in the world as quickly as possible.

There is also a question on how FAO can assist farmers, on how we should be able to improve the production of small farmers all over the world. I mentioned to you earlier, that one of the main

mandates of the FAO is to strengthen the database. Continuous and conductive data entries are necessary because with a strong and accurate database we should be able to answer the need of the farmers, the need of the fishermen on how to handle and increase production, how to commit on the issue of climate change and others into a more accurate and precise condition. This is the idea in regarding what we will do in guiding farmers by providing good and better, advanced and technical information for our stakeholder, farmers, and also the fishermen.

Africa, you have to adapt comprehensively to the Africa Development Programme established in 2003. It's a good programme.

I am happy to learn that Africa planned to put at the minimum 10 percent of their public investments for food security and food production. Let us use this to achieve the global challenge of reducing the number of hungry people in the world, in Africa, in Asia, and all over the world. Through those, the commitments have been made by all those countries to set the policies to produce good food security programmes in each of the countries. I acknowledge my African colleague on conducting the CAADP, as we have seen good progress in the last five years in relation to issues on food and agriculture production in their continent.

There is an additional question related on how to handle price volatility and budget deficit right now. Again, this is related to when we talk about an effective and efficient organization. We are talking that we can do more with less, I am looking forward actually to mobilize, to bring all the resources we have, the very strong resources that we have now and the capabilities. In my mind, we need to improve the use of the capabilities that this Organization has, and we should be able to do it more efficiently and more effectively. We can do it more with less, we should be able to attract resources from all other organizations, multilateral as well as international organizations to work with us, provided we are all current and we should be able to answer all the current conditions of the world.

Some of our Member Nations are very advanced in conducting climate predictions. With the funds available to them, they are able to predict the conditions like *El Niño* 24 months in advance. Let us share the know-how among all the FAO Member Nations. By knowing what the climatic conditions are going to be 24 months in advance, we can ask the farmers when they are going to start to plan and when the harvest will be. We can inform the fishermen where the locations of the school of fish are. Information on the climatic conditions and assessment collected by all Member Nations.

Please remember that by giving information on climate change directly to farmers, we are able to triple rice harvests.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bienvenu, Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini. Vous êtes le sixième candidat tiré au sort, et donc, le dernier candidat. Sans plus attendre, je vous donne la parole pendant 15 minutes maximum pour votre première intervention. Vous avez la parole.

**Mr Mohammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI (Candidate for the Post of Director-General)
(Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

When it comes to drawing lots I have never been lucky, and today has not been an exception. I have learned to do things the hard way.

Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure for me to be here in this hall where we have been together so many times before talking about and seeing what we can do to reduce poverty and hunger for our planet. During the last few years we have been living with crises, the energy crisis, food crisis, financial crisis and economic crisis. We also have been living with global threats; climate change, natural disasters, the consequences of dictatorship rule and mismanagement of eco-systems. Against this background I do have only 14 minutes to tell you who I

am why I am a candidate for Director General of FAO and what I am going to do if elected. Let's start with who am I and why I am a candidate for this post.

I was born and went to a school in Naeini, a small city at the edge of a central desert of Iran, virtually a desert itself. Early in my life, I have seen poverty and have experienced hunger so these concepts are real facts of life to me and not just only a slogan. After finishing high school, in spite of other opportunities that I had to further my studies, I chose agriculture because agriculture was providing both the livelihood and dignity of my people. I earned my Master's Degree, with distinction from Tehran University and it won me a scholarship to continue my studies at Cornell University in the United States of America. I wrote my, Ph.D. thesis on Economical Analyses of Resource Allocation Issues in Traditional Agriculture. It was a research on the lives of small agricultural producers and how we can lift them from the low equilibrium for them to enter into a decent life.

My professional career progressed as a researcher, a professor and a senior manager because I strongly believe that human capacity-building is the strongest instrument to fight against hunger and poverty. Before coming to FAO as Permanent Representative of my country, I had the opportunity to work in Africa for a while working on food security issues and I did gain valuable experience there.

During my 11 years of service to the three Rome-based organizations FAO, IFAD and WFP, I have learned a lot from you, my colleagues, and especially from the staff of these three organizations. At the same time I tried to be as useful as possible. I have chaired many Committees, Commissions and Working Groups etc. including the Presidency of the Executive Board of WFP, and the Chairman of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). But dearest to my heart was the Chairmanship of the Inter-Governmental Working Group to prepare the Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food. We all together prepared these Guidelines two years ago, and it was unanimously approved. It is dear to me because the spirit of these Guidelines says that matters of food security and hunger are not issues of benevolence and charity. Food is a basic human right for every human being on the planet.

In 2006, I had the honour to be elected as the Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO. We undertook the Independent External Evaluation during that period. Then I was elected the Chairman of the Committee of the Conference for preparing the Immediate Plan of Action, so-called the renewal of FAO. In this capacity, I had the privilege of bringing the negotiations on Immediate Plan of Action to a successful and unanimous approval by an Extraordinary Session of the Conference in 2008.

So, if some of you are calling me the father of the FAO Reform, it is not only because of my white hair. It has to do something with being with this Immediate Plan of Action from its very inception to its approval. Now I am here to announce that I am ready to deliver change, the change that we all together studied, designed, planned and approved. In other words, the post of Director-General of FAO for me is not another job. It is the culmination of a life committed to the fight against poverty and hunger. It is the continuation of a determination which started some 50 years ago in a small town at the edge of the desert.

What I am going to do?

We are not going to start FAO renewal from scratch. As I said this would be a continuation from a strong base we developed as Member Nations together with committed FAO staff, and it should be continued. FAO as a provider of global public goods must emerge less as a relatively small single actor and much more as a partner in the United Nations, in particular by strengthening our links with and mobilizing NGOs, civil society, the private sector, academia and farmers organizations at national and international levels. The long-desired closer collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies, IFAD and WFP, is a pure priority and so is the High Level Task Force on Global Food Security Crisis.

During the past five years Member Nations, all of us, and the Management have had many opportunities to express their ideas, their views and visions in Summits and in High-Level Conferences. Much has been said. Now we have to deliver, and together we can deliver.

Particularly high on the immediate agenda now will be how to work towards global consensus on issues of food supplies and prices, including the questions of safety nets for the poorest and the destabilizing effects of major price fluctuations and price volatility. We have to better enable countries

to access the support they need in technical cooperation for capacity-building and policy development, whether from FAO or other providers.

Should you elect me, I pledge to move forward the agreed Reform agenda with renewed vigour and to continuously search together with the Membership, staff and global, regional and national partners, for ways to go forward more efficiently, more quickly, but above all, more effectively. As a Director-General pledged to serve only one single term, I will be able to work with you for longer-term benefits, without attention to short-term personal advantage, to lead but also facilitate, to listen as well as to give my views.

I will be present in Rome and in the Decentralized Offices of FAO in order to actively consult and manage.

I commit to listening to Member Nations collectively, as well as individually, be present in major meetings, and to directly engage in dialogue with Members.

I will further strengthen accountability, transparency and budget allocation within the agreed results-based programme.

I will lead, as well as facilitate, the breaking down of the silos of power, and ensure technical and administrative discipline within units in the FAO Secretariat.

I will push forward genuine Decentralization and delegation with adequate oversight and concentration of effort for real results.

I will lead development of the capacity of the FAO Secretariat, reinforcing professionalism, technical competence, motivation and geographical and gender balance at all levels of the FAO Secretariat within a fair and equitable, but results-based, human resource management system.

We will look for more efficiency savings wherever possible, starting directly with my own expenses as Director-General and that of my office. Units will be consolidated throughout FAO, and delegation of authority will reduce layers.

In short, as Director-General for all Member Nations acting in consensus with you, I will strive with the Membership and staff to ensure FAO becomes more responsive and flexible.

FAO should be in a stronger position to make its critical contributions to the changing world needs, never forgetting the poorest among us, but not forgetting either the needs of this and future generations for sustainability and economic growth.

I know this will sound like a difficult pledge but as I said earlier, since I pledged to serve only a single term I will be able to make hard and tough decisions.

I pledge to sit down with decision-makers at global, regional and country levels to prepare programmes and plans which are location-specific and match their needs, but more importantly, to consider the opportunities that exist. We usually tend to forget that there are many opportunities, even in the least-developed and poorest countries of the world. We have to search for those.

I want to remind you of one thing. Staff of FAO are under the state of Reform fatigue. Not only do we have the Reform of FAO but we are having the Reform of CFS. We have had two Reforms introduced by the Director-General before that, so this is the time to put an end to more reforms. We do have an Immediate Plan of Action approved by all of us. I know that the world does not stand still. It changes and, accordingly, we have to make changes to our Immediate Plan of Action. But we do have an Immediate Plan of Action, and we have to implement that.

The four next years would provide an opportunity for me to continue my work and to finalise implementation to the Reform which we started about six years ago together. I think it would bring lots of efficiency to the Organization.

I will strive with the Membership and staff to ensure FAO becomes more responsive and flexible and in a stronger position to make its critical contribution to the changing world needs.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini.

Sans plus attendre, je vais donner la parole aussi de façon tournante aux Groupes régionaux et nous commençons par l'Amérique du Nord, le Canada.

Mr James FOX (North America Regional Group) (Canada)

I have three questions:

The UN Secretary-General recently called for UN Agencies to do more with less. How would you apply this to FAO, and which of the current priorities and activities would you de-emphasize?

What would you do to increase developing country access to new agricultural technologies, including biotechnology, to enhance activity and adapt agricultural sectors to climate change?

Would you increase the FAO's resources and support for standard-setting and technical advice. If yes, from which programmes would you shift resources?

Mr David RITCHIE (Southwest and Pacific Regional Group) (Australia)

I have two questions; the first is to ask whether you think the Organization is sufficiently and appropriately prioritized. Which areas do you think should be given more priority and, more importantly, which area is given less. How would you lead the Organization to make these decisions? Do you see the normative work, such as standard-setting, global policy and trade facilitation, as becoming a higher or lower priority over the next four years?

Secondly, allowing farmers to respond to market signals is crucial to increasing agricultural productivity and reducing food price volatility. How would you create an environment to allow farmers to respond quickly and effectively? What role should FAO play in reducing long-term distortions to global agricultural markets and creating an even playing field, particularly for developing countries?

Mr. José Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA BARBOSA (Africa Regional Group) (Cape Verde)

On behalf of Africa, I would put three questions to you.

Taking into consideration the great difficulties emerging from the world's economic and financial situation, which are the strategies you intend to implement to mobilise resources for the programmes and Reform action?

What will you do to ensure a strong decentralized presence of FAO as established in the IPA with the aim of better supporting Member Nations to put together adequate policies and strategies and provide them with the necessary technical assistance?

What will you do in order to mobilise resources needed to increase agriculture production and surpass challenges such as those in trade and climate change and especially to supporting the power of women in the fulfilment of the important task and role of improving household food security and nutrition, as well as of raising family income?

Mr GUO Handi (Asia Regional Group) (China) (Original language Chinese)

China, on behalf of the Asia Group, would like to put three questions to Professor Noori.

In the past few years, and especially during this session of the Council, Member Nations have engaged in in-depth discussions on Decentralization, and there are very diverging opinions on the matter. Some countries are in favour of Decentralization and others are against it. What are your thoughts on the matter, and if you are elected, what will you do in this area?

Concerning the priorities of FAO and the priority areas, for a long time FAO and its Member Nations have expressed divergent points of view on FAO's priorities. Certain Members feel that the regulatory and normative work of FAO should be a priority, while other Members believe that FAO should instead place emphasis on work on the field, away from Headquarters. What do you think about that and if you are elected, what do you think the priorities of FAO should be?

This question concerns representation and Asia in particular. In Asia, we have certain Members that are under-represented within the Organization. If you were to be elected, what measures would you contemplate taking to guarantee the qualification of Members that would lead to a greater representation of Asia?

Mr Jim HARVEY (Europe Regional Group) (United Kingdom)

Thank you, Professor Noori, for your presentation. As usual, you are getting used to this now I think, we have four questions on behalf of the Europe Regional Group.

As Director-General, how would you dialogue with the Governing Bodies?

FAO is on its way with the Reform process. How do you judge the progress made so far, and which are the major aspects you will focus on in the first year?

In times of fiscal restraint for Member Nations, how will you ensure FAO delivers maximum value for money for its programmes and normative work?

This is for people with long memories of the Organization. In 17 years the gender balance in FAO has gone from 16 percent women to 34 percent, i.e. an increase of less than one percent per year. How long should it take to get a real balance?

Thank you very much.

Sr. Carlos BETANCOUR FERNÁNDEZ (Grupo Latino Americano y el Caribe) (Uruguay)

Tenemos las siguientes preguntas:

- 1) ¿Cuál es su programa para aumentar la importancia de las políticas de acceso a los alimentos en las actividades regulares de la FAO?
- 2) En este año 2011 estamos celebrando el año internacional de los bosques. ¿Cuál es el papel de la FAO para enfrentar los desafíos y oportunidades para la actividad forestal sustentable?
- 3) Hemos visto recientemente un aumento significativo en la incidencia de las Contribuciones Voluntarias al presupuesto de la FAO con una multiplicación de proyectos fuera del Presupuesto Regular. ¿Cuál sería su estrategia para mantener la fortaleza de las apropiaciones netas del Presupuesto Regular y al mismo tiempo fomentar el aporte de fondos extra-presupuestarios para las actividades de la FAO en una forma más estructurada?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Near East Regional Group) (Afghanistan)

The Near East wishes to raise three questions for your kind response. In your opinion, which would be the three central policy imperatives that will make FAO a more assertive global leader in the fight against hunger and rural poverty?

You chaired the CoC-IEE. In retrospect, do you think that some segments of FAO work escaped scrutiny or were not fully addressed? If yes, which are these segments calling for a fresh look by Member Nations? If elected, will you be willing to do something about them?

In the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, out of the USD 610 million allocated to the 11 Strategic Objectives, one-third is expected to come from core Voluntary Contributions. Some Member Nations think that this ratio is high and could potentially put in jeopardy the continuity of FAO's core work. What are your thoughts on this matter, and do you have any strategic proposal in mind?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci au Proche-Orient. Merci aux sept intervenants sur les questions. Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini, je vous donne la parole pour répondre à ces questions. Vous avez 15 minutes maximum.

**Mr Mohammed Saeid NOORI NAEINI (Candidate for the Post of Director-General)
(Iran, Islamic Republic of)**

Ok, I will do my best. Let's start with North America. How we are going to do more with less? That's the main question that has been facing FAO for years. It is the question of doing things more efficiently, and more effectively. The problem of efficiency has been here for a long time, and I think there are still lots of grounds for efficiency savings in many aspects regarding the work we are doing. So, I don't think that we have reached the point that we cannot do more with the existing resources. We do have lots of opportunities, and we can definitely do it. I cannot go into a very detailed answer on how it could be done, but in general, I promise that it can be done and, as I mentioned in my presentation, it will be done.

With regard to access to biotechnology and the effects of climate change, I think it is vital for all the countries to have access to biotechnology. Biotechnology is one of the most significant successes achieved by humanity during the past few years, and it is very important. I don't agree with those people who think that biotechnology is only for big and rich countries. Biotechnology can be used even to strengthen and to facilitate the use of conventional technologies. It is complementary to conventional technology; it is not a substitute for it. Let's immediately say that the genetically-modified organisms are only a small part of biotechnology. As biotechnology is a vast area, we have made good progress on it, and now it is high time for FAO to provide opportunities for small-farm producers, for the poor to use this biotechnology efficiently and to transfer it in an appropriate way.

I think the same applies to climate change, but climate change has also another dimension. I think agriculture itself, especially small producers are an answer to the climate change itself. If we could adapt with the help, as I said, of biotechnology and of the opportunities that we have, more environmentally-friendly ways of producing, could be implemented by going to small farmers with what they can do and the many opportunities that they still have to utilize. They have lots of underutilized capacity and if they undertake that, that will be a great help to climate change and to the negative effects of some kinds of agriculture development to climate change.

As for standard-setting, this issue was raised in several questions. Let me answer to that. I do not believe that we do have two issues against each other, as China also mentioned, normative work versus operations. I think this is a continuum, both related to each other. If we do normative things, it should be translated to be used at farm levels, and we have to look at farm levels to see what kind of normative work we need to follow-up on. Still FAO is not doing enough normative work, we have concentrated only on a few areas, while there are many other opportunities in that area that should be utilized and they are not utilized, they are still underutilized. FAO's normative work could go to the production itself. If we could tell the small farmers what is the best input combination for the use, it could be a normative question, but it can be very easily transferred to farmers. So, they are not against each other, they are two ends of a chain, many links, although I know there are many defects in the links and we have to repair that. We don't have to worry about this.

With regard to the questions raised by the Africa Group about the financial situation and resources, we are having hard times in the financial situation. I don't think that during the forthcoming years we can rely on the traditional donors to do more. They cannot, but we do have new economies which are blossoming, and we can go to them. This is another opportunity, they can help FAO more. Aside from that, I think there are lots of opportunities and resource mobilization at country level. Each country has lots of opportunities in that, and this has been forgotten by FAO. If we do an appropriate policy on that, I think that even in the poorest countries we could mobilize resources, not necessarily in terms of dollars and euros, but many countries have resources which can be utilized.

Strengthening Decentralization, how we can do it? Again, Decentralization and Centralization -- we cannot put these two against each other, that is Headquarters or Decentralized Offices, they are again

links in a chain. For an organization like FAO which is a knowledge-based organization, we do need a critical mass to produce knowledge at Headquarters, but it doesn't mean that this knowledge, the people who are working here at Headquarters are not helping the Decentralized Offices. This knowledge should be transferred. They should gather the knowledge from wherever is possible, and the answer to that is partnership. As I said, FAO should go out and should partner with all United Nations Agencies and beyond that, with the private sector, with NGOs, CSOs, and Universities to get the knowledge, synthesize it, analyze it and put it in the hands of the farmers to use it. So that's not really a matter of this or that; these can go together and they are complementary to each other.

About climate change, I have already mentioned this. About improvement of women, that is a must worldwide. We have to improve the women especially in Africa. They are doing lots of work in agriculture without being compensated. So we have to bring up their social position and economic position. I don't think that I can write a prescription for everywhere. It is location-specific, and we have to look at the situation and find the appropriate ways to improve the status of the women. Of course, I think that education and providing equal opportunities are two basic elements which should be present everywhere.

Asia has asked about Decentralization, whether I am in favour or against it. I have already answered that. I am in favour of Decentralization, and I am in favour of the development of the whole of FAO's human resources together for doing one single job, which is food security for all.

Priorities of Asia, is it normative work or field operations? I have already answered that. I don't put these two against each other. These go together, hand in hand, they are complementary and if we do proper planning we can achieve both. Unfortunately, for years, specifically at the time of the budget, we have been engaged in this fight. I have always said this is a fight for nothing. Now that we have the results-based management and results-based programming, I think it is easier to deal with than in the past.

As far as the under-representation of the countries is concerned, it is a matter related to human resources development and management in FAO. Unfortunately, we do not have a good human resources development and management. This needs lots of attention, we have to go there. It starts from recruitment, it needs refreshing courses, it needs updating of knowledge, it needs partnering with others, bringing knowledge wherever it is. There is not only one single part to which we have to pay attention. So, that is a system and we have to improve that system as a whole. It is a must for FAO.

And for the countries, I think that the way we are recruiting, we put an announcement on some Websites and we are ready for people to come to us and, of course, lots of people. But if we want the best, we have to go to them, we have to go and find them. You might notice for example in Iran, if you want a good person for FAO, you might not find it in Iran, but you might find it in one of the good universities all over the world. So, we really have to look for appropriate people for FAO, starting from the whole chain up to management and the whole of human resources.

Europe asked questions regarding the dialogue with the Governing Bodies. I mentioned in my statement that I would be present in all major meetings of FAO and I encourage dialogue. I think that even the shape of these rooms in FAO are not appropriate for dialogue. They are designed for monologue. People are sitting up there, on the podium and talking to others. We have to start from that as symbol of dialogue, and I am ready to do that. I am ready to spend much time on dialogue with the Governing Bodies.

Progress in the IPA so far, it is hard to answer, I cannot make a judgement really, but I think we could have done better, especially in some areas I am sure that we could have done better. I am not going to point the finger at somebody or some segments, but yes, we can do better in the implementation of the IPA. Fortunately, we do have indicators, and we have to stick to that and we have to evaluate very frequently.

In terms of fiscal restraints and maximum value for money, yes, we do have less money. It means that we have to manage better. I think that if the existing resources of FAO are better managed, they can deliver much more. So the value for money is in human resources management. It is in the structure of

FAO, in decreasing FAO's bureaucracy, in decreasing the very heavy top management of FAO. There are many things that we can do, and that are directly related to value for money.

Gender balance. The statistics that you mentioned are very good. If you could go from 16 to 43 percent, we are very close to our target, we are not that far, it is very good to hear that, but definitely we have to do more for this, especially at the managerial level.

Latin America asked questions regarding the importance of food access. Nobody could deny that one of the pillars of food security is access and what we can do to improve access to food? I would refer to one of our African delegates that on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of FAO said that instead of giving us food assistance, give us assistance to produce our own food. This is one important thing that can improve access to food. This is one sentence which would be one of my main thoughts in FAO.

Forest and climate change, you cannot find two issues so closely related. If you cannot do anything to protect our forests and renew our forests, then of course climate change would be worse. I think these are two very closely-related issues.

As for the questions from Near East, I have already covered the issues. They asked about three important policy issues which are important for us. I think the first one is providing a forum and an enabling environment. For the implementation of the FAO Reform, one is a structural adjustment which is breaking down our silos in FAO, and, as I said, the top-heavy management. The other one is Decentralization and we have to deal with that. The ratio of assessment to extra-budgetary resources. If you want to be very certain, it would be better to have all in Assessed Contributions but unfortunately it is not so. Let us look at the extra-budgetary resources as a blessing. If they come, we have to welcome them, but we have to decrease their uncertainty. They should be planned, they should not be project-based. If they are project-based unfortunately, you are right, but if they are planned extra-budgetary resources, I think they could be managed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini de votre intervention et de la réponse aux questions. Merci à chacun d'entre vous, le Point 11 de l'ordre du jour est ainsi clos.

Vous me permettez de prendre une minute pour vous remercier, les candidats mais aussi vous tous pour votre contribution ainsi que le Secrétariat et tous les aspects techniques, pour le travail facilité de cette séance. Je crois que nous avons montré que l'efficacité et l'efficience n'étaient pas une utopie, quand on organise bien les choses et que chacun fait l'effort de respecter les règles de sorte que chacun puisse s'exprimer dans l'équité. Merci d'y avoir contribué et merci de vous en souvenir tous les jours lorsque nous avons les réunions du Conseil ou dans d'autres organismes.

Sans plus attendre, je vous annonce que nous reprendrons notre session à 17 h 30 pour continuer avec l'Ordre du jour. La séance est levée mais il y a une annonce supplémentaire, Madame Barbara Ekwall.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

There are two announcements, first of all the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Land Tenure and other Natural Resources will be launched on Friday 15 April 2011 at 10.30 hours in the Green Room. All delegations are welcome.

The second announcement, there will be a Briefing on Nuclear Emergency in Japan also on Friday 15 April at 9.30 hours in the Green Room. This will be before the briefing on the Guidelines on the Governance of Land Tenure.

You are all welcome.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de ces annonces et de les avoir faites quand tout le monde était ici car tout le monde doit se sentir concerné. A tout de suite pour les membres du Conseil.

The meeting was suspended from 16.51 to 17.33 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 51 à 17 h 33

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.51 a las 17.33 horas

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

19. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2011-2012

(CL 141/LIM/2)

19. Calendrier des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales 2011-2012 (CL 141/LIM/2)

19. Calendario para 2011-12 de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y de otras reuniones importantes (CL 141/LIM/2)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous voilà revenus en séance pour une réunion complémentaire avec deux points à l'Ordre du jour, le premier concernant l'Adoption du calendrier des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales, qui est le document CL 141/LIM/2.

Vous êtes priés et invités à prendre note des changements apportés depuis la dernière Session à ce calendrier, à savoir, pour 2011 l'ajout de deux sessions extraordinaires des Comités du programme et financier, les 16, 30 et 31 mai. Pour 2012, compte tenu des réflexions de la dernière fois, la vingt-et-unième session du COFO a été déplacée au 24-28 septembre au lieu du 1er-5 octobre, donc avancée d'une semaine, et les sessions des Comités du programme et financier ont été anticipées au 8-12 octobre au lieu du 29 octobre-2 novembre.

Pour 2013, les dates habituelles de la session du CSA du 14 au 19 octobre 2013, devraient être modifiées et ramenées au 7-11 octobre, car le 15 octobre correspond à Eid el Adha, fête durant laquelle nous avons convenu de ne pas tenir de sessions des Organes directeurs, lors de notre dernière session.

À la session de novembre 2011, le Conseil approuvera le Calendrier pour 2012 et prendra note du Calendrier proposé pour 2013.

Avez-vous des commentaires sur cette présentation? La République de Maurice.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of this Calendar, and we would like to thank the Secretariats of FAO, IFAD and WFP for their effort in organizing the sessions of the respective Governing Bodies. We thank also the Secretariat for taking into consideration, quite rightly, the religious festival days, and as a matter of fact, the meetings have not been scheduled on the agenda. The only one was in 2013 but you have just corrected this date already. So we thank the Secretariat, and we are ready to adopt this Calendar.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Permettez-moi de rajouter un merci pour le COFO puisque la discussion avait déjà été difficile auparavant pour leur faire avancer de plus de deux mois et, après les discussions, nous les avons encore fait avancer de huit jours et ils l'ont accepté. Donc c'est un merci collectif.

Y-a-t'il d'autres remarques? Pas d'objections? Je considère donc que le Conseil a passé en revue le Calendrier des sessions des Organes directeurs et pris note des modifications apportées au Calendrier en 2011, puisque les autres sont prévues mais seront adoptées en fin d'année.

Voilà pour le premier point.

Le deuxième point.

Programme and Finance Committees (continued)

Comité du Programme et Comité financier (suite)

Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

3. Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (Recommendation to Conference on budget level) (C 2011/3) (continued)

3. Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 (révisé) et Programme de travail et budget 2012-2013 (Recommandation à la Conférence concernant le montant du budget (C 2011/3) (suite)

3. Plan a plazo medio (PPM) para 2010-13 (revisado) y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (recomendación a la Conferencia sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) (C 2011/3) (continuación)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme nous en avons convenu hier soir, lors de notre fin de réunion, nous avons prévu cette Session supplémentaire pour informer, les Membres, concernant le PTB. Un certain nombre d'entre vous a demandé plus d'explications sur tous les derniers éléments qui vous ont été apportés, ce que le Secrétariat va faire. Et je souhaite en même temps que nous puissions, à partir de ces informations là, prendre une position définitive ce serait l'idéal, mais il faut être pragmatique, y compris quand on est Président, de tout mettre en œuvre pour établir à partir du budget qui nous est proposé les lignes de budget sur lequel nous devons travailler et réfléchir pour avancer vers une position commune. Ceci pour permettre à l'ensemble des Groupes régionaux, après le Conseil, ou pendant le Conseil s'ils le souhaitent, d'avancer sur les possibilités d'évolution du budget.

Nous allons donc voir cela en sachant qu'hier matin nous avons agréé huit points concernant ceux qui étaient évoqués dans le Comité du programme, le Comité Conjoint et le Comité Financier, ce qui occasionnait, en ce qui concerne l'évaluation, une augmentation du budget de un million de dollars E.-U., qui définissait aussi que pour l'Objectif K il devait y avoir des évolutions à budget constant, ce qui veut dire qu'il faudra bien trouver ailleurs où prendre ces moyens budgétaires. Et nous avons aussi abordé, l'évolution de l'objectif K. Reste un point sur lequel nous sommes restés sans position définitive, c'est celle du CSC, puisqu'il n'y a pas de positifs, pas de position. Si la Conférence décidait de maintenir le CSC, il faudrait à ce moment-là rajouter deux autres millions de dollars E.-U. au budget.

Nous avons un budget proposé, une augmentation ferme de un million qui a été, pour ainsi dire, proposée et décidée, une évolution potentielle ou éventuelle de deux millions supplémentaires et, bien sûr, dans le cadre de l'Objectif stratégique K, une redistribution des moyens ainsi que si nous devons décider des réductions du budget. C'est ce que nous allons voir maintenant, à savoir quelles sont, éventuellement, sans forcément prendre de décision aujourd'hui, les lignes sur lesquelles nous pouvons travailler.

Nous avons aussi recommandé un financement partiel d'un montant de 14 millions de dollars E.-U. pour l'assurance maladie, après cessation de service, reportant aux prochains exercices biennaux les propositions de financement destiné à améliorer les situations financières de l'Organisation.

On ne revient pas sur ce qu'on a décidé hier, mais je voulais faire le commentaire. Je propose que le Secrétariat nous fasse, à partir de ces différentes questions, plus de commentaires sur les notes qui avaient été fournies hier pour plus d'éclaircissement, et puis ensuite nous espérons de voir ce qu'il en est.

Mais je vous le dit tout de suite, puisque nous avons eu un débat hier soir sur la procédure de travail, nous avons cette session ce soir qui se terminera impérativement à 20 h 30 et nous n'envisageons pas, sous quelque forme que ce soit, de faire d'autres réunions sur ce sujet pendant le Conseil.

Après le Conseil, entre le Conseil et la Conférence, nous organiserons un Groupe de travail après que chaque Groupe régional aura pu, à la lumière de ce qu'ont dit les uns et les autres, discuter dans ces propres Groupes régionaux. Ce sera fin avril-mai, mais j'aurai l'occasion, à ce moment-là, de vous le redire.

Monsieur Haight, est-ce que vous pouvez refaire un peu les commentaires sur les trois notes, pour bien donner l'information à chacun. Merci.

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

Indeed I would be happy to go through the three notes again. To recall for the Council, there are three Information Notes that were issued last week. I will go through them in sequential order.

Information Note 1 is an explanation of the Resource Shifts between and within Strategic and Functional Objectives, as was requested by the Programme and Finance Committees. There are two main elements to this Note.

The first is that we have provided, in the table after paragraph 12, an elaboration of the areas where the USD 10.4 million in one-time fortuitous savings have been reinstated and allocated in the budget. These relate to further support to the Committee on World Food Security, as was committed at the meeting of the Committee last year, some USD 850 000, and further support to the Programme of Work of the International Plant Protection Convention of USD 600 000. This was also shown in the Programme of Work of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, which is the Governing Body for the IPPC, earlier this year. USD 450 000 is to provide for one post to help coordinate the FAO Water Platform, which was endorsed by the Programme Committee and the Council arising from an evaluation of FAO's work on water. USD 1 million is to support the priority work on nutrition. Of this, USD 400 000 is to support the International Conference on Nutrition. As explained yesterday, there are several preparatory sessions and the actual meeting itself in the list of scheduled sessions in Annex 13. USD 930 000 is for communication and advocacy to increase awareness of food security and related agricultural and rural development issues, being outreach work to countries and food security. USD 460 000 is for one post to strengthen the work of the Legal Office to provide legal services, particularly to support international instruments. USD 390 000 is to provide one post to support the staff of the FAO Appeals Committee which previously has been supported on an *ad hoc* basis, essentially at the expense of the regular work of the Organization. Then we have a USD 4 million allocation to increase the information and communication technology connectivity, that is the bandwidth, to Decentralized Offices. This was an area that was identified as a major risk in the risk assessment of the IPA last year. There are equivalent resources allocated under the IPA for this area of work, and the Organization is allocating this additional amount to ensure that the connectivity is in place for the Decentralized Offices. Then there is USD 1.25 million for expanding the Russian Language Services to bring them up to par with other languages. You will recall that in the 2008-09 and 2010-11 biennia, the Conference agreed to progressive implementation of Russian Language coverage after Russian was adopted as a language of the Organization. These resources would bring the Russian Language Services to the remaining Committees of the Council, that is the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional Legal Matters, as well as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures. Finally there are USD 500 000 allocated to facilitate the Follow-up to the Regional Conferences in their new role, in addition to resources that are in the IPA.

So that covers one of the elements provided in Information Note 1. The rest of the Note, which is both the summary pages and then the tables, provides a breakdown of the net change in resources by Strategic and Functional Objective and Organizational Results, essentially broken into four sources of change, plus the allocation of the FAOR resources. For example, if we look at Table 1, before paragraph 5, this provides a breakdown of the net appropriation change in four areas. The first is the effect of the IPA, the efficiency savings that are generated by the IPA and have been removed from the various Strategic Objectives and also the changes in IPA resource allocations to Functional Objectives X and Y resulting from the Immediate Plan of Action implementation in 2012-13. Column C is the reallocation of the one-time savings that I just mentioned at the level of Strategic Objectives. Column D is the programmatic change that demonstrates the effect of areas of emphasis or de-emphasis, true programmatic change being work where either more is being done or is new work, or less is being done within Strategic Objectives, and again the breakdown of this is in the Organizational Results tables. Column E is the change due to transfer of areas of work between Strategic Objectives, not resulting in a substantial change in work but rather better placing the

activities under Strategic Objectives or Organizational Results where they more effectively contribute to the work of the Organization.

As I mentioned in my original introduction, it is sometimes difficult to assign resource changes between programmatic change category and transferred areas of work category. Some transfers of areas of work may result in partial changes in programmes and *vice versa* and this is our best estimate of the resources that have been moved.

If you turn then to the detailed tables which start after paragraph 13 and which are in landscape format, these show for each Strategic Objective and within them each Organizational Result, a description of the change and the shift in resources and in parentheses in Column 2 a reference for the decision that has been made, whether it has been done because of Governing Body guidance, a lesson learned, a result of the Mid-term Review, a Management decision, discussions in the Strategy Teams, or a combination of those. I will not go through these in detail. They are quite detailed. There are some common elements in this, for example, the IPA efficiency savings, which is part of the Programme of Work and Budget. That is the content of Information Note 1, responding to the requests of the Committees.

Information Note 2 provides additional information on Functional Objective X. Functional Objective X covers the non-administrative services of the Organization that provide for effective collaboration with Member Nations and stakeholders in a results-based framework. You will recall that the functional objectives provide the enabling environment to deliver the Strategic Objectives. Functional Objective Y, which we are not discussing here, is the administrative budget of the Organization, as called for by the Immediate Plan of Action, whereas Functional Objective X is providing some of the key services relating to direction, the core functions, the key Management services and so forth. They are laid out here. Paragraph 5 summarizes the four Organizational Results. Organizational Result X01 relates to the identification of priorities and the results-based management, resource mobilization and the interdisciplinary work. For example, my office in the Organization is contributing to this Organizational Result. If you turn then to the Table before paragraph 8 in the document, you will see for Organizational Result X01 the various offices of the Organization that are contributing to this result. For example, you will see that the office that I am heading, the Office of Strategy Planning and Resources Management, has a budget of USD 7.7 million to help define effective programmes for priorities, and also implement the results-based management system.

Under Organizational Result X01, in paragraph 8 you have the actual list of what we call the primary tools, the work that is being undertaken under this Organizational Result. It covers not only results-based management, but also the work to define the country programming frameworks coming out of the evaluations of country programming that the Programme Committee saw earlier this year, the resource mobilization strategy as I mentioned, implementation of enterprise risk management, etc. Under this result is also the innovation fund for efficiencies and effectiveness, as managed by the Deputy Director-General and included in the resources that are under the DDO at the top of the Table above paragraph 8.

Organizational Result X02, which is the largest in terms of resources in Functional Objective X, covers most of the core functions of the Organization. Of X02, you will see that the lion's share of the resources are under the Chief Information Officer Division. Almost all of the resources for information and technology are located here under X02. As is laid out in the PWB itself, we are putting in place an information technology strategy which is designed to help us streamline and make the best use of the resources and information technologies that we have for delivering not only in Headquarters but across all of the offices of the Organization.

You also find here under the Deputy Director-General (Knowledge) the resources for promoting the use of interdisciplinary approaches, the multidisciplinary fund, which is one of the core functions of the Organization. You also find the work of the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension, relating to the Capacity-Development Strategy, its development and core work, not the implementation of it, but the core work to make sure that it is put into practice by units across the House, as well as the Knowledge and Information Management Strategy which is also managed by OEK. There are also relatively small contributions coming from some other units across the House.

This document also provides, as requested, and I will not go through the Tables, the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis in the same format as used by the Strategic Objectives, again as was requested by the Programme and Finance Committees.

Organizational Result X03 relates to effective communications and partnerships. There has been a shift of the resources on communications out of advocacy and communication, out of X02 and into X03 for this biennium to better leverage the links with partnerships. There is essentially no significant change in the resources, but rather placement here represents essentially all of the work of the Office of Corporate Communications and External Relations, which is responsible for these two areas of work. There is also some of the partnerships work that is taking place in the Agricultural Development Economics Division. Also placed here are the Liaison Offices because of the important role they play in outreach.

Finally, under Organizational Result X04 is the direction of the Organization, including governance and oversight. This is above paragraph 14 in the document, here you will find the resources for the Office of the Director-General and the two Deputy Directors-General, essentially the executive leadership team. Also the oversight offices of the Inspector-General, the Office of Evaluation, in addition the Legal and Ethics Office. Those are the main areas of work and, of course, the largest amount that is under this Organizational Result is the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division, that is the division that is headed by Mr Ali Mekouar who is sitting here, and ensures that there are resources and services provided for the meetings of the Governing and Statutory Bodies of the Organization, that they are done in an effective and efficient manner, including the core services for interpretation and translation. That is the substance of Information Note 2 on Functional Objective X.

If I could turn then to Information Note 3, which provides additional information on the inflation factors and breakdowns of goods and services. It is important to recall that there is a more substantial treatment of cost increases in the PWB document itself and, in fact, the Finance Committee had received a paper at its February session with even more information that it considered prior to seeing the Programme of Work and Budget itself.

Besides recalling what is presented in the PWB on inflationary cost increases, which is extracted here in paragraph 5, Table 1 provides a breakdown of the Professional staff and General Service staff inflation factors. In the case of the Professionals, it is by Headquarters and the Regions. This is additional information, a breakdown that is not in the PWB itself, as well for the General Service staff between Headquarters and non-Headquarters' duty stations. You will see the range of inflation estimates that are used, coming from the Economist Intelligence Unit and other published and established sources of information.

What is not in this document for staff cost increases is any effect of the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission which, as was mentioned yesterday by Mr Juneja, has just completed its session considering the methodology and timing for the staff cost surveys. We have committed to providing updates on any changes in either inflation factors or in the assumptions that we are making on cost increases in the run-up to the Conference to facilitate your discussions and decisions.

Part 2 of Information Note 3, paragraphs 7-9 provide, as requested, a further breakdown of the goods and services elements of the cost increases. This element amounts to USD 11.8 million, and it has been broken down into four categories that you see in Table 3. In preparing the budget, we do not estimate the goods and services. Rather we base the cost increases on a breakdown of the expenditures that have taken place in the current biennium, which is shown in Table 2. Table 3 shows the breakdown of both the net appropriation costs as well as the inflation factors for the various categories of travel, general operating expenses, contracts, consultants and other areas which include non-expendable equipment, such as furniture, computers and so forth.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Haight de ces commentaires concernant les trois notes qui, je vous le rappelle, ont été mises en place après les discussions des Comités conjoints. Elles vous ont été envoyées tardivement puisqu'elles ont été faites la semaine dernière pour vous informer de façon anticipée sur ces différents

points. Certaines appréciations peuvent peut-être nous servir pour aller progressivement vers un consensus du budget.

Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, je vous donne la parole pour demander des éclaircissements ou faire des remarques sur ce qui a été présenté et, après quoi, nous essaierons de voir comment nous pouvons organiser, et sur quels sujets, nos travaux futurs.

Quels sont ceux qui souhaitent prendre la parole?

L'Australie. On vous donne la parole tout de suite et puis la Tanzanie.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I was trying to keep up with your presentations but there is a huge amount of detail here and so I did not manage to follow everything. I might for the moment just keep my comments on Information Note 1 and perhaps come back at a later point on some of the others. On Information Document 1 I am interested in some clarifications around the role of the Programme Committee in terms of prioritization versus what happens here. Just looking through the list, I can see maybe a couple of things that would have come out of what the Programme Committee has done, but the vast bulk seem to have come from Management. I am interested perhaps in reflections on the Programme Committee's role. If that is there to set priorities, then we don't seem to be doing that and yet the Secretariat or the Management seems to be doing it. So that is my first question.

My second question relates to the work on nutrition. Obviously Australia very much supports work on nutrition and we are interested to hear a bit more what kind of work is priority work on nutrition and then I guess when you talk about the joint work with the WHO, I presume that relates to the USD 400 000 for this International Conference on Nutrition or the Summit to be held next year, I understand. So I guess I am interested to hear about that Summit to work out at what point Member Nations are likely to be getting involved in that Summit. It seems strange that Member Nations would get involved in the Summit after we have approved the budget for the Summit. So I guess I am interested in some clarifications on that point. USD 400 000, I know it is more than 12 months out, but it seems an arbitrary number. I am interested to know why it is USD 400 000 and not 300 or 500 or 200 or zero, and what the outcomes of the Summit might be and those kind of questions.

Looking further down the same column, I note the USD 390 000 for the staff support to the Appeals Committee and as I was writing my notes of your comments, Mr Haight, I think you noted that it is to offset work that has already been done in the House or it's to offset work currently being done by other people. So I guess I'm unclear who is doing that work right now. Why we decide this biennium's the right one to decide to offset that into the appropriate budget, and what those resources that were currently doing this work are going into, I guess I am far from convinced that this is the right time to be trying to offset that cost. If we have done it for I don't know how many years, why would we change it now? It does not seem to be a major priority, especially compared to some of the other things that are included in this list. The biggest chunk by far of course, more than almost 40 percent let's say, is for increased bandwidth for the Decentralized Offices. I am a technophile as much as the next person and like bandwidth, but I guess USD 4 million is a lot of money. I am interested in working out what the outcomes of that will be, why this is a deemed a priority now rather than later on. I am in favour of using new technology, of course, but we need to be pragmatic about this approach. I was having a discussion with one of the members of the panel just recently, and I noted for interest that my Department which has 4 000 people in 16 countries, including spread around much of the perimeter of Australia which of course is far from highly-developed, has one video-conferencing facility. I presume that the bandwidth is to cater for video-conferencing. I am interested to hear a little bit more about that, and why that's deemed a priority at this stage. I might leave my questions there for a moment, but perhaps come back with a few more, once others have had the chance to contribute.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

I want to thank Mr Haight for his explanation, which he has given on reinstating the USD 10.4 million into the Programme of Work and Budget and the assessed net contribution and also on the Information Note. As I stated yesterday on behalf of the Africa Group, we will take these Notes, and we will have

time to study them. That is when we will be raising our questions and maybe we may also raise questions which are not out of these Information Notes but some other questions we may have going through the larger document.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Le Canada.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

We really appreciate the feedback and commentary provided by Mr Haight in providing us with a bit of perspective on Information Note No 1. We certainly want to support comments made by my colleague from Australia, a fellow Programme Committee member as well. We are extremely disappointed that we were not able to have this discussion in the Programme Committee, and as we mentioned in an earlier intervention, I believe on Monday, this type of information needs to be a prerequisite for future PWBs.

With regards to the Table on page 4 of Information Note 1, we have similar questions as Australia, one that is really disturbing to us and maybe we would like to get some feedback from Mr Haight. Well, first off, we were not really consulted on these priorities, be it as a Governing Body or as Programme Committee. What was stated in the Programme Committee document was that there would be a reallocation in a certain number of areas – did not list them all – and certainly did not highlight any specific dollars attached to those descriptions. At that point, we did not have this document and so we were never able to really have a good discussion on the financial resources committed to these items and its programmatic impacts. Specifically, for example, on IPPC we note that USD 600 000 out of the USD 10.4 million is being allocated to IPPC, but then if you go onto the specific Tables on page 6, at the very top, it talks about IPPC receiving USD 600 000 in a one-time reinstated savings and only USD 13 000 in programmatic change.

Now, if you think about it, I think many of the Regional Conferences, certainly the Technical Committee on COAG and, I believe, and of course, our informal Regional Conference put a priority on IPPC as being a core mandate of this Organization's normative work and one that must be funded. In light of some of the information we have been receiving from the Secretariat, including a letter stipulating that they were basically in dire need of additional resources, and I guess my comment is this – in light of our discussions on prioritization, areas of emphasis, areas of de-emphasis, without the one-time savings and all our hype about IPPC being a priority, it would have only got USD 13 000 of additional funding, which I think is certainly not efficient and not enough. We believe that even within Strategic Objective A needed to see some reallocation to IPPC because many Member Nations and various Regional Conferences and the Programme Committee deemed it a priority.

So I am just concerned that we are using these one-time savings – and we can have another discussion as to whether we should or we should not – but the fact that this is where we stipulate that we do not necessarily see, at this time, the effective use of prioritization processes in this Organization when we see only USD 13 000 going to IPPC. So, for now, I think that is just an example but there are certainly additional examples that we can find on other pages where really all we see is a transfer of resources from one Organizational Result to another, and not necessarily a programmatic change which is of concern to us.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

I am talking about Information Note 1. This is the document that the Programme Committee has requested and I thank you for the effort made by Mr Haight to prepare this additional information. However, referring to Table 1, second page, I am very disappointed. We have discussed a lot about the emphasis and de-emphasis, but the majority of the changes between the Strategic Objectives come from the transfer of areas of work. This means no change. From a practical point of view, it means no change. Just putting one programme from Strategic Objective A to B does not mean any difference in the activities. The only meaningful change is a programmatic change, but this a reality, we have to accept these figures.

In the future, please make sure that the emphasis and de-emphasis should be realized on only programmatic change, and the transfer of area of what we saw is a dangerous thing. We have decided in the Programme Committee that we will consider the structure of the Strategic Objectives in the future. But actually, if you move a lot of programme transfers from Strategic Objectives A to B, it means actually that the nature of the Strategic Objective has changed already, and this should not be done in principle. So in the future, the figure should be made clear. The change in the figure should come from only the programmatic change, and the Strategic Objective should be discussed again. The demarcation of Strategic Objectives should be discussed and, in that part, we should consider the transfer of areas.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

We highly appreciate the question and answer session that you have kindly convened to clarify any outstanding issues at this time. We understand that this will be followed-up by a Friends of the Chair process after the Council, which will also allow time to consider the additional information recently provided by Management.

We believe that by accepting the Finance Committee Report with its recommendations on the PWB, the Council has already taken a significant step forward in providing advice to Conference. This includes, among others, the acceptance of ASMC and the deferral of discussion and decision on the question of the financial health of the Organization. This will allow us to concentrate on the remaining outstanding issue of the overall level of net appropriations in our discussions in the Friends of the Chair format.

We look forward to building on this progress in constructive dialogue across Regional Groups over the coming weeks.

Mr Arne HONNINGSTAD (Norway)

We, like others, appreciate this new information and explanation and this is truly an important exercise. Like I said in the statement yesterday, Functional Objective X is about 20 percent of the net appropriation and together with Functional Objective Y is where we have to find efficiency gains and reductions in the budget. It is part of FAO's core functions.

Concerning Information Note 2 and Functional Objective X, when you compile the numbers for the different Objectives, XO1, XO2, XO4, you will find the appropriations for the Deputy Director Operations and the Deputy Director Knowledge make up USD 11.073 million. In XO4 you will see that the appropriation of the office of the Director-General is USD 8.3 million and I ask how is that number broken down. What is behind it?

I also want to remind everybody of the review by Ernst & Young of the Director-General's Office. They recommended a reduction in that office of Strategic Objectives X and Y by 50 percent to reduce to half the involvement, the engagement and the responsibility of the Director-General's Office. I wonder is this reflected in the USD 8.26 million?

We would highly appreciate if the Finance Committee had such a breakdown before their meeting as preparation for the Finance Committee review of the PWB. We also would like to see the numbers which we don't have here from the present PWB so we could make a comparison and see what is happening. Is this a decrease, an increase and what is behind those numbers?

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Gracias por la información proporcionada. Quiero hablar como miembro del Comité del Programa, y me voy a referir básicamente a la Nota Informativa 1, la que agradezco. Tal como dijo Tanzania la vamos a poner en conocimiento del GRULAC porque entendemos que son temas que deben ser analizados por el Grupo Regional.

No obstante, quiero decir que nosotros miramos esta información brindada con muy buenos ojos, especialmente en lo que se refiere al párrafo 12. Ayer cuando hicimos nuestra exposición dijimos que apoyábamos el párrafo 71 del documento C 2011/13, es decir PTP 2012-2013 en donde claramente se

dice en que se iban a poner los 10,4 millones de dólares del llamado resignación de ahorros no recurrentes.

Además quiero decir que tenemos que recordar que cosas decimos cuando trabajamos en los Comités. Por ejemplo, al menos en todas las reuniones del Comité en las que he participado hemos dado un apoyo profundo e importante al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Incluso hemos hecho una apelación a la Secretaría para que presenten su presupuesto.

Con respecto al Programa de Trabajo para la Convención Internacional de Plantas, o sea la Comisión Fitosanitaria, y todos sabemos la importancia que ésta reviste, en estas salas se han reunido y ha dicho de las necesidades presupuestarias que tienen.

La Plataforma del Agua fue el resultado de una evaluación en la cual todo el Comité del Programa apoyó esos resultados y nos parecía que era urgente la aplicación de los resultados de esa evaluación. También hicimos referencia y hemos trabajado en el Comité del Programa sobre la importancia de la nutrición. Quizás lo que podría ser mas aclaratorio y me refiero a algunos de los puntos a los cuales han sido asignados esos 10,4 millones de dólares, la pregunta sería: ¿los asignamos con estos ahorros no recurrentes?, ¿qué va a pasar en el futuro?, ¿qué es lo que sucederá en el futuro cuando no estén más esos ahorros no recurrentes?.

La otra pregunta es: ¿se podría hacer este trabajo si no estuviesen esos ahorros no recurrentes? Entiendo que no, pero quizás ustedes nos podrían decir si no los sacamos de acá lo tenemos que sacar de otro lado. De algún lado los recursos tienen que aparecer, en esta oportunidad aparecen ahorros no recurrentes. Entonces creo que tenemos que hacer memoria que este un trabajo en progreso, es un trabajo que se va realizando a medida que la implementación de la Reforma se va haciendo. Entonces quizás hay cosas que hay que seguir ajustando, algunas cosas que quizás se pueden ajustar pidiendo aclaraciones, de cómo se van a instrumentar estos ahorros no recurrentes en cada una de estas partidas que se han mencionado.

Pero entendemos que a las distintas capítulos que se han acordado esos 10,4 millones de dólares. Nos parecen que son realmente muy importantes y que hacen a pedidos hechos por el propio Comité del Programa. Esto se ha visto reflejado en el PTP.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We appreciate these three Notes, and in particular Information Note 1. Frankly speaking, it requires time to even study it. I find it extremely difficult to make a conceptive suggestion or criticism of this document. We need time, and this was also raised by Tanzania and by my colleague next to me, Argentina. We need time to study it and then consult with our Regional Groups. The Programme Committee, each region has two members and also has two members in the Finance Committee. The four of them have to study it together, and then go back to their Regional Groups. That way we can have a conceptive suggestion.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

It was a timely answer to the request for the Programme and Finance Committee because, as Canada has said, perhaps some of this information could be part of the next PWB. We look forward to the next biennium for that.

I do not have so much as a question for now, but I would like to provide a different point of view concerning a point that was raised by some countries here with respect to the one-time savings from the 2010-2011 biennium. As we can see here in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Note, we can see clearly that there was a one-time savings in the budget and the Programme of Work and Budget equivalent to USD 10.4 million that the Organization was able to save. The Conference of 2009 decided that it would deduct these savings from the budget of the Organization. Now, we are preparing for the next biennium and those savings, as we can see from the name, they are one-time savings, they are not recurrent savings. In this case, it is completely natural and expected that if we are not making these savings again they should be re-programmed into the budget and not the opposite that seems to be implied. We could even think about deducting from the budget some efficiency savings in general, although Brazil has already said that this would be a very bad incentive for the Organization if the

efficiency savings that we obtained were to be deducted from the budget. Instead they have to be re-programmed into more efficient activities. This is especially true for one-time savings, because they were one-time circumstance.

So we have to look at this Table under paragraph 12 as Regular Programme. This is how we should look at this Table. I think this asks the questions of both Canada about IPPC –these are all, as others have pointed out, clear priorities stated by Member Nations. IPPC is one of them, as is the CFS. The amount that is here corresponds to the priority, and so we should not look at the increase in resources to the IPPC as just the USD 13 000 from the shift. This should be viewed as Regular Programme prioritization for this activity. I think this answers the questions of both Argentina and Canada if you take this point of view.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Just one additional point in Information Note 1, Strategic Objective H one goes down to HO2, in English that is the bottom on 21 there is a problematic reference. We are talking here in reinstated one-time savings of Regular Budget funds, and yet when one reads there it says that governance and policy convergence at global level through further support to the reform the Committee on Food Security. That is fine up to the comma, but then it follows including the High-Level Panel of Experts. Now when the High-Level Panel of Experts was established, it was on a provisional basis and conditional on it being funded exclusively through a Trust Fund. That understanding, that it would be funded exclusively through extra-budgetary contributions was reaffirmed at last October's CFS. And so that this reference that HLPE in Information Note 1 is a clear example of Management inserting priorities that are very different from the extremely clear and unequivocal guidance provided by the Member Nations through the CFS.

So clearly not all of this money has been re-profiled in ways that respect the messages and decisions of the Member Nations and the Committees of this Organization. So that we will not prejudice later decisions on the USD 10.4 million or various other types of savings, we should simply note that this Information N 1 is problematic in its substance.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Sur cette première série, est-ce que le Secrétariat peut donner quelques informations complémentaires ou des réponses à des questions qui ont été précises pour certaines?

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

These are indeed Notes with a lot of information so I can understand the need to provide further clarifications. First, I would like to make three general points, and then respond to several comments that have been made.

First on the overall priority-setting process, working with the Governing Bodies. You will remember yesterday I mentioned that we have had five meetings of the Regional Conferences and five meetings of the Technical Committees, that is, ten Governing Body instances providing inputs on priorities to the Programme Committee. The Programme Committee has, indeed, provided some additional endorsement of, for example, cross-cutting priorities on small farmers and climate change. We have not reflected in this document specific references to Programme Committee. We have, for example, under Organization Result A01 indicated cases where priority is given to small farmers, so it is not that we are not listening to the Programme Committee but, in fact, we are having to listen to a very large number of Governing Body instances in trying to identify how to bring priorities together. As we all know, we are in a learning process. We are trying to both find a means to reflect these priorities in our allocations, and also to demonstrate that in both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, as well as in the Council.

Secondly, concerning the USD 10.4 million in reinstated one-time fortuitous savings in the reallocation, I would like to thank Brazil for his clear explanation of how these have been treated. They were taken out of our Programme of Work by the Conference in 2009, and we were asked to deliver that Programme of Work while finding savings. As we reported to the Finance Committee, we took this USD 10.4 million out across the board. In putting back the savings in 2012-2013 we have, in

fact, prioritized those resources as you can see in Table 1, that includes the USD 600 000 for the IPPC and other areas and, as Brazil pointed out, these are Regular Programme resources. If we had not had the USD 10.4 million taken out in the first instance, we still would have been reallocating USD 600 000 to IPPC in this budget as was committed in the meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures earlier this year.

I would like to reply to Canada on the specific case of resources for the Committee on World Food Security. The reference you have in H02, this is an error to include the High-Level Panel of Experts in the description on page 21 and, in fact, you will see in Table 1 it does not appear. When the CFS met last year, the Director-General committed to providing a share of the increase in its Programme of Work along with the WFP and IFAD. This is intended for the work of the CFS itself, and not the High-Level Panel of Experts. We can certainly correct this in the Note. It is purely an oversight on our part.

One other matter which is important and relates to what Japan mentioned concerning the resource shifts, indeed we have shown the resources shifts in Table 1 of Information Note 1 at the level of Strategic Objectives. Please remember that there are also programmatic shifts happening within the Strategic Objectives and, in fact, the majority of them are happening here, as many of the Strategy Team Leaders explained in the Programme Committee. Yet there are some significant shifts between Objectives. For example, Strategic Objective A is going up by 2.8 percent purely on programmatic grounds, and Strategic Objective K is going up by over 10 percent, but most of the shifts are within the Objectives.

The transfer of areas of work, I believe this is an exceptional biennium as we did the work planning process at the beginning of the biennium. We found through that process, and through the work of the peer review panels, that there were areas of work that were better placed under the other Strategic Objectives. This was, in fact, reported to the Finance Committee and also to the Programme Committee, particularly in the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report 2010. I would hope then, as we move forward in this round, and as these changes are now reflected in the PWB 2012-2013, that we would see far fewer transfers in the future. It could be that there always would be transfers because officers are making contributions cutting across objectives. We are being diligent in reporting these to you, as is required. The Director-General needs to report shifts between chapters of the budget, which correspond now to the Strategic and Functional Objectives.

If I can turn now to some of the more specific questions, in particular on the allocation of the USD 10.4 million in one-time fortuitous savings. On the work on nutrition, the USD 400 000 figure that I quoted is for the estimated cost of holding the International Conference on Nutrition preparatory meetings, and main session itself, as outlined in the list of sessions which is Annex 13 of the document where there are costs associated. The purpose of the International Conference on Nutrition is set out in paragraph 95 of the PWB, under the leadership of the Assistant Director-General for the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. With the WHO, the purpose and the expected outcomes of the Conference will be elaborated with the Members. There is an expectation of mobilizing extra-budgetary resources also to cover much of the cost of this exercise which would take place later in 2012, so there are relatively little resources in the current biennium, more for the next biennium.

On the Appeals Committee, Mr Juneja can perhaps provide more information. The Appeals Committee is a standing committee within the Organization and has been supported in the past by a staff member assigned as Secretary, not with any resources. In other words, that person is a staff member with a regular job, and then takes on this work as additional workload. The work has increased over the years, and we have decided that it is more appropriate now to fund this separately and have it as a dedicated position rather than having somebody doing one piece of work, and also doing something else.

I will ask Mr. Benfield to respond to questions on increase of bandwidth in Decentralized Offices in a moment.

Argentina you also asked what happens to the reinstated one-time savings in the future. These were one-time fortuitous savings only in the 2010-2011 biennium, coming back into the budget on a

permanent basis in 2012-2013, as proposed. So, for the work that is funded by reinstating the one-time fortuitous savings, the intention is that it would be ongoing unless there is a change in priorities in future biennia.

I think I have answered most of the specific questions. I turn to Mr. Juneja and Mr. Benfield to address several others.

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

Perhaps I could take up two points that were raised by the Representative of Norway. The first one related to the Review of the Office of the Director-General which you will recall was undertaken from the end of 2009. The Report was produced on the 19 March 2010, and was discussed at the CoC-IEE last year. First of all, let me explain the staffing recommendations in the Review of the Office of the Director-General. That review, in its Executive Summary, indicated that in the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009, the office of the Director-General had 35 staff positions. In fact, out of those 35 staff positions there were two segments of the structure that were no longer comparable with the new organizational structure that had been endorsed by the Governing Bodies from 2010. That was the office of the Deputy Director-General, which was included within the Office of the Director-General and a strategic planning unit. So out of those 35 posts, in fact there were 12 posts that basically moved into a different structure. That left 27 posts in the office of the Director-General.

The Office of the Director-General Review, which can still be accessed on the Reform Website, recommended that out of those 27 posts, three should be eliminated and that the Office of the Director-General should remain with 24 posts. That action was immediately implemented and, in fact, the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, that is the current Programme of Work and Budget, shows in Annex X that indeed the Office of the Director-General, as recommended by Ernst & Young, has 24 positions.

Then, in the PWB 2012-2013, the proposal for the next biennium, you may be able to see in Annex XI, that the staffing of the Office of the Director-General is proposed to reduce to 23 staff positions instead of 24. I am explaining this really to underline that the recommendations of the Ernst & Young Report on the Office of the Director-General were, in fact, implemented in as far as the staffing proposals were concerned.

The Ambassador from Norway is quite right in indicating that there was a reference to a 50 percent reduction. For your information, that reduction indication is provided in paragraph 6 of the Executive Summary. But what that paragraph refers to is the reduction in the extent of administrative tasks that need to be undertaken by the Organization and, in particular, the reduction in tasks to be undertaken by the Cabinet. Specifically, paragraph 6 of that Executive Summary - and I quote - says "the Cabinet involvement in the administrative activities has been reduced in approximately 46 percent of the cases". Now, we have not fully implemented that recommendation yet. We have been doing it gradually. I cannot tell you what percentage of administrative tasks we have already reduced. I confess that we had some slippage in the implementation also in light of the vacancy and then the appointment of the Deputy Director-General Knowledge, where some of the administrative tasks were also meant to be shifted.

Perhaps I could also pick up on a second point raised by Norway which is the appropriation or the allocation foreseen for the Offices of the Deputy Director-General Knowledge and the Deputy Director-General Operations. You might be able to see first the staffing tables that are provided in the Annex of Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013 and I am looking at Annex XI here and, that is on page 237 of the English text. Each of those offices has a staffing of 5, i.e. two General Service positions, two Professional and then the respective Deputy Directors-General. So the staffing of each of these offices is 5 staff positions. Yet, one sees a relatively significant budget for these two offices and, in fact, it is possible to very clearly see the proposed 2012-2013 budget for these offices in Annex VIII of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013, which comprises several elements. The most significant elements outside the normative and administrative duties outside these two offices is firstly resources, as Mr Haight had mentioned, for innovation funds, which are provided to the Deputy

Director-General Operations, so that they can be managed for specific, well-quantified and well-articulated innovation activities that can reap efficiency savings and other benefits in the future, that is USD 1.4 million within the budget of the Deputy Director-General Operations.

And in the budget of Deputy Director-General Knowledge, there is USD 3.2 million for the biennium for a multi-disciplinary fund which is used to encourage cross-fertilization and provide seed money in particular for multi-disciplinary activities through the office of the Deputy Director-General Knowledge through these free resources available. In fact, you might recall that in the Independent External Evaluation, there was at one point a request for very substantial resources being available in the Offices of the Deputy Directors-General in order to be able to push for greater inter-disciplinary and greater innovation within the Organization.

The other factor which contributes to the high cost under the Deputy Director-General Operations is that the IPA Programme Unit is now mainstreamed within the net appropriation for an amount of USD 2.3 million, and is included within the budget of the Deputy Director-General Operations.

The point I wanted to emphasize is that there are substantial and substantive resources for earmarked activities which are budgeted under these two Deputy Directors-General Offices.

With regard to the point raised on the Appeals Committee, indeed the situation we were facing during the current biennium is that the Secretariat work for the Appeals Committee was being done by the Legal Office. Essentially, what it was doing was diverting work of the Legal Office from the substantive and administrative legal services that are provided by the office of the Legal Counsel. It was just an untenable situation, as there is great deal of demand for legal services at present and in the future, and that demand was simply not being fulfilled because the person was providing services to the Appeals Committee. This is why what we feel we have done is actually to propose a regularization of a situation that already exists.

Certainly it would be useful for David Benfield to provide clarifications on the importance of bandwidth because, in fact, it is not just the USD 4 million that you see under the Regular Programme, but also mainstreamed within the Regular Programme is an additional USD 5 million for recurring costs for increased bandwidth in the FAO worldwide Offices coming from the IPA, which is so fundamental to our work, which no doubt David will explain.

The final point I would like to pick up on is the intervention made by the European Union which referred to the Finance Committee Report and, indeed, the significant progress summarized in the Finance Committee Report. I refer here in particular to paragraph 39 of the Report which the Council reviewed, which essentially asked for a continuation of the partial funding of After-Service Medical Coverage, and defers any decision on incremental funding to address the financial health of the situation of the Organization. What this essentially means is a recommendation to defer any incremental funding for the Terminal Payments Fund, for the Special Reserve Account which is a one-time request, and the Working Capital Fund which is also a one-time request. These requests are contained in paragraphs 241 through 266 of the Programme of Work and Budget, and you may find it useful for Nick Nelson to provide further clarifications on the various areas where the requests were made so that the Council may arrive at a clear decision on this aspect of the Programme of Work and Budget proposals, and thereby perhaps concentrate on the specific proposals on the net appropriation and the funding for the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, Immediate Plan of Action Programme Management Unit)

If I can perhaps respond to the point raised by Australia relating to the USD 4 million, of this USD 10.4 million one-time savings that is to fund the running cost of increased bandwidth to Decentralized Offices. I think the question was if this was related to video-conferencing. Really this investment relates to our objectives in terms of Decentralization, where we are looking at, as agreed, an improved level of Decentralization -- Functioning as One as an Organization. We cannot decentralize and Function as One unless we give the Decentralized Offices, including the Country Offices, a way of communicating effectively with Headquarters and using the corporate systems that we developed at Headquarters to support their financial operation in the Country Offices. It is an area that we have under-invested in, in the past, until we have IPA Action 390 which looked at considerable increases in

the bandwidth to the Decentralized Offices. They were very poorly served in this area, and this is really an investment for more effective operation of those Decentralized Offices.

It's about having an access to corporate systems and what do I mean by that? Members of the Finance Committee recently discussed the IPSAS project. A major part of that IPSAS project is a new field accounting system which will operate only on an improved network. The current field accounting system is not fit for that purpose, and we have to make significant investments, especially due to the very considerable increase in disbursements to our Country Offices. We have to make investments and improve systems and an improved field accounting system. This will only operate across an improved network with the Country Offices. Indeed this action to increase the network to the Country Offices, to improve the network, was seen as a key risk area in a whole range of IPA actions that relate to improve delegations and other measures towards Decentralization from Headquarters to Decentralized Offices.

Other areas in addition to the field accounting system, would be improved access to the project information, improved access to management information, improved collaboration and knowledge-sharing systems, and having established that increased bandwidth and funded that increased bandwidth, then yes, wherever possible, we will put video-conferencing facilities to utilize that. But I have to stress that this is really a very minor part of this overall investment which is really an investment in a more effective Decentralization for the Organization. As Mr Manoj Juneja said, this is USD 4 million of total running costs of USD 9 million. This is very expensive, but absolutely essential, if we are going to be realistic and effective in improving our Decentralization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Monsieur, le Directeur de la Division des finances, vous avez quelque chose à dire. C'est comme vous voulez.

Mr Nicholas NELSON (Director, Corporate Services, Finance Division)

I am at your disposal. We can go through the financial health section of the PWB, if you prefer, but that's quite a wide range of issues or addressing anything specific that Members wish to pose for instance, on After-Service Medical Coverage or others. As you wish.

LE PRÉSIDENT

En l'état actuel, je pense que nous allons arrêter là les discussions. Les États-Unis d'Amérique ont demandé la parole. Les États-Unis ainsi que l'Ouganda.

Ms Mary Blanca RIOS (United States of America)

My questions do not relate to the USD 10.4 million one-time savings. They actually relate to the efficiency savings of USD 26.5 million. Since these did not seem to be used to offset any of the increases, I can only come to the conclusion that they were in fact re-programmed. Can we get a note similar to Information Note 1 on how that money was re-programmed, and where the savings exactly came from?

We were very disappointed to see the creation of 48 new positions. In times of austerity, we always encourage the re-programming of current vacancies and a better mix of positions. We would encourage re-programming and not just the flat-out creation of positions.

Can we get additional information on exactly which Departments benefitted from the 48 positions?

In Information Note 3, in paragraphs 7 and 8, it indicates that the expenditure pattern for 2012-2013 will be similar to that of 2010-2011, but when you look at Table 3, the volumes used to be significantly smaller than the volume for 2010-2011. So do we expect the rate of expenditure to be actually lower?

Table 16, on page 82, indicates the request of USD 1.7 million for a lapse factor. In most budgets that we see, the lapse factor is a cost-saving, not an actual cost, because where positions are empty no salary costs are incurred. Can we get more information on why the increase in this area?

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I have just one question and it relates to the Table on page 26 of the English version of Medium-term Plan of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013. Specifically, I was looking at the part on the TCP and I saw that the budget level 2012-2013 is exactly the same of that 2010-2011. So I was wondering whether it is possible to have some of the sum of the savings allocated to that aspect since, if it is left the way it is, there will be some difficulty during implementation.

Ms Fatma FABER (Egypt)

My comment is actually quite similar to what was mentioned by my brother from Uganda before me, and this is the allocation to the TCP programme which has not changed from 2010-2011. I think that maybe you can provide us with perhaps a bit more clarification, that is, if there is going to be an impact on the Organization's activities by cause of inflation and increase of costs. What will be the impact on the TCP if the allocation has not increased? Will it also be affected by inflation or will this be an area that will be protected from any external factors? This is my first clarification.

My second clarification is in regards to the division of the TCP among the Regions. This is something we had mentioned earlier, that the Near East Region only receives the smallest allocation from within the other Regions. So further clarification would be needed at some point, possibly also in a separate paper about how these allocations are made and the criteria that you use to divide the TCP among the Regions.

Mr Søren SKAFTE (Observer from Denmark)

Thank you, Chairman, for allowing a humble observer to also pose a question. It is regarding the efficiency gains and saving.

It is very assuring to see in the Programme of Work and Budget again that since 1994, this Organization has been able to achieve almost USD 112 million annually in efficiency gains and savings. Against that background it proposes, or it has already budgeted, efficiency gains and savings of USD 26.5 million for the next biennium which is really not very much.

It is especially not very much because of these USD 26.5, USD 10.6 are efficiency gains already identified within this biennium, recurring efficiency savings and gains. So the rest is USD 15.9, of which I understand USD 4 million is really increased overheads, cost recovery of extra-budgetary-funded activities, leaving the in-budgeted efficiency gains to less than USD 12 million for the next biennium compared to the USD 112 million per annum on average since 1994.

So, it is more an observation and I have all the confidence needed to believe that this Organization will be able to deliver also in the next biennium substantial further efficiency gains and increases.

My question is really regarding the FAORs. It is very positive that there is now an attempt to include also the FAORs in the results-based framework. I understand that the distribution on the Strategic Objective might be corrected during the biennium because it is based on the regional resources, but the figures, I would like to ask how you have updated the USD 20.88 million which was the figure in the last biennium for the FAOR Programme and now it is USD 96 million which has been re-allocated, USD 96.634 million which has been distributed.

How has that update been done? Maybe I have overlooked something in the document.

My second question is regarding the forecasted extra-budgetary income. I just remind Mr Juneja that two years ago some of us were of the opinion that the target of USD 1.3 billion in this biennium was very modest and humble, and I understand that we are now expecting to receive USD 1.6 billion in this biennium. However, the forecast for the next biennium is only USD 1.4 billion. Could I have some more detailed explanation on the basis for that forecast?

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

My comment relates partly to the programming of the USD 10.4 million and partly to all the programmatic changes. Perhaps I am wrong, given everyone's interest in increasing programmatic activities and the importance of programmatic activities, but I calculated 63 percent of the USD 10.4

million is going to Functional Objective X and 80 percent of all the programmatic changes are going to Functional Objective X. We are talking about increasing programmatic activities yet the area that seems to be getting the biggest or fastest, is already the biggest – to Functional Objective X, so I am not sure what to do about with that. It is something of concern us.

I want to come back to Mr Benfield on the bandwidth issue. Don't get me wrong. I am not opposed to increasing communication and things like that. I am just trying to understand this issue because it is twice as big as what I thought it was, and it is a very substantial cost. I do want to understand this.

What is your view about the congruency of the standards we are providing these offices *vis-à-vis*, local conditions inside the national government, because I think that is a consideration we should take into account.

What are other UN organizations in the areas doing? What is the comparison? Perhaps this is not a question you can answer easily on the spot, but I am interested in hearing that. I guess I do not really understand what we are doing here. Are we laying cable, are we renting bandwidth of ISPs? I guess I am really interested in this because it is a very important issue. Do you expect these costs to continue to increase biennia after biennia? Are we going to see another increase of USD 5 or 9 million in the next biennia as well? In which case, do we need to start considering these? What kind of savings are we making in terms of less travel, for example? Are we seeing comparable savings in terms of decreased travel? I know that you won't see exactly the same savings - you are getting better quality of service but you would have to be seeing some savings. Yet, if you go to the cost increases, I know we are forecasting an increase in travel budgets by USD 4 million or something, so there is an increase, even in the CPI travel budget as well. We seem to be paying at both ends of the same chain.

Manoj, you said in the previous session when we discussed this that there would be some updates and perhaps I missed it in the first round. When are we expecting that updated information? Perhaps I will ask this question, but am afraid that you will say no. Can you forecast what the changes are likely to be in numeric sense?

In terms of Information Note 3, we talk about goods and services inflation, and I guess I will make that point. There is a bit more information here in this note than in the PWB, but not a whole lot. You are asking us to make a USD 12 million increase of costs on the basis of one page of detail. I do not want to micro-manage any of these processes. These are the kind of things that are being absorbed within my Government, that is, managing to retain the same levels. So for us to go and ask for an increase in a travel budget, even for a CPI, is just completely off the table, not even worth asking the question. We are cutting back on travel budgets, and cutting back on our general operating expenses. The use of consultants has fallen through the floor. I am interested in hearing more about these. For me, this is one of the areas the Organization should be looking for savings, and should be looking to absorb some of these costs or defer to future years. What is the rotation period for furniture and computers? Can the write-off period be extended from two to three years or whatever the period is. These are the things that are a very real possibility and that can help offset some of the costs, because to me this is an area that would be very hard for us to agree to.

In terms of the savings and efficiency gains, I noted in my comments yesterday, that we certainly appreciated the efforts the Secretariat went to in order to find USD 26.5 million. I note on Table 14 in the PWB on page 74 or 75, this is quite a strange savings. One that struck me was the external Visitors' Centre which seemed to only save USD 100 000 per biennia. I guess I would be interested to compare that with the actual cost of construction of that Centre. If we are only saving USD 100 000, again what is the return investment for such a Centre? I know there are security arguments and things like that. There is always an argument for why we should do things and we can only do so much. I certainly second the request from the United States for a detailed note similar to Information Note 1 for these cost savings.

I also note, for example, the lowering of honorarium for United Nations retirees. That is supposed to save USD 4 million in the 2012-2013 biennia. This is in paragraph 202. As I understand it from the PWB, this was implemented in 2010. Are we recounting those numbers? I presume that I do not understand, but it seems that we are counting things from our previous biennia. I would be interested

in clarifications, and similarly, for the Joint Procurement Team. This has been in operation during these biennia, yet we are forecasting new savings from that. I am keen to understand more of these details.

As we go through the dot points under paragraph 202, I can't get to USD 26.5 million. Functional Objective X is one of my personal favourites, and I would like to ask for some detailed information, in particular about the Liaison Offices. The documents in Appendix 11 show that 4 staff Liaison Offices are costing around USD 41 million yearly. To be honest, I do not know what they do. This is 15 people in Washington, D.C. This is probably more than the United States actually have working on FAO issues. It seems like a large number of people in Washington, D.C. There are nine more in New York for a total of 24 people in the United States. I would like to have an explanation of what those Offices do, and whether there is room for efficiency or improvements there.

I got a bit of an answer from Mr Haight about the Office of Knowledge Exchange, Research and Extension which has 96 staff. Just note that the number of staff there is more than the in the Near East Regional Office. I would like to hear a detailed explanation of what it is the different parts of that Office do to make sure that we have a firm understanding about all those issues.

The performance of the FAO. I read through that section and I think it was one of the Finance Committee Reports and also some of the documentation in here. As I understand it, the Organization is aiming to come into this current biennium exactly on budget with the exception of the USD 600 000 contingency fund. I think that is excellent, bringing in a budget of more than USD 2 billion exactly on line. I am interested in hearing more about that. Are we forecasting any under expenditure or have we over-expenditure in this current biennium. I presume that is not the case.

What happened in the last biennium? Did we have any under-expenditure? I know some parts of it got re-profiled into security in TC and a few others get re-profiled into future biennia. I would be interested in seeing whether there would be savings that can be found there. That is certainly something of interest to us.

I second the mention from the United States on the lapse factor. Certainly the lapse factor in Australia is always a negative number and I presume that the reason it is a positive number here is that every vacancy gets immediately backed-filled. I am interested in further exploration of this issue.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'objectif c'est justement de nous éclairer et je pense qu'avec toutes les questions. Si vous avez toutes les réponses, cela donne des éclairages.

Le Mozambique, vous souhaitez la parole.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

Our position was very well-articulated by Tanzania's detail of Africa on the way we see this exercise. When I see on page 24, the issue of gender equity and access to resources, I realize that in 2011 the amount is less than the one that was allocated in 2010.

I know that we are looking for savings, but what is also important for us is that we should not save in those areas that we consider very important, and gender is one of them. So I really wanted to understand better the amount that was gained. Why are we reducing the amount for gender equity? This is the question that I really wanted to ask to get some clarification, as I want to make sure that we will work towards improving gender balance not only at Headquarters but also in the regions.

Ms Mary Blanca RIOS (United States of America)

I know that you have not answered my first set of questions, but I have two more.

It relates to the Innovation Fund, Paragraph 198 notes that the Innovation Fund was budgeted at USD 1.4 million per biennium, but it does mention that in the Deputy Director-General's Office there is a budget of USD 6 million for the biennium and related to the bandwidth you keep mentioning that it is an investment. Is it a one-time investment for the USD 4 million, or is it a recurring cost?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à tous pour toutes ces questions. Le Secrétariat va répondre à vos questions. Puis je crois qu'ensuite nous essaierons d'en tirer les conclusions de notre soirée pour le travail futur à venir.

Monsieur Haight.

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

The question on the efficiency savings, that is both United States of America and Australia asking and, of course, we can certainly provide more information and we did in the previous biennium and we can do it again this time. Of the USD 26.5 million, USD 10.6 million of this is re-programmed for very specific IPA actions and part of the USD 2 million for the SSC savings are re-programmed within the Regional Offices – that is explained in paragraph 173 of the document. The balance of these savings – because many of them have to do with operating costs – would be re-programmed by the Offices themselves. In other words, they would be doing essentially more with less because they would spend less on things like consultants and travel, and therefore be able to do more technical work. We can certainly provide more specific information, as has also been requested by Australia.

The net increase in the 48 positions, which is in the document, is for a variety of purposes. Some of the positions are in connection to the changes related to the Shared Services Centre. Again, we can provide a better breakdown. Also related to the Office to coordinate the Water Platform, for the Appeals Committee, posts within the Language Services, which is explained also in the document to implement the Council decision on improved language services, as well as Russian Translation Group, we can provide additional information. This also affects the additional security personnel, in line with the Security Plan of Action that was called for by an Internal Audit.

The question on the non-staff resources – this is a note, tables 2 and 3 – the 2010 figure of USD 153.9 million is, what we say, gross expenditure. It includes expenditure of income not just of appropriation, whereas the figures in Table 3 are purely for the net appropriation. So they are not strictly comparable in their volume, but they are in their proportions. That is why if you were to double the figure in Table 2, it would be higher than Table 3.

Uganda and Egypt asked about the TCP. The TCP budget was protected from the one-time savings by the Director-General in 2010-2011. It was not reduced, therefore it does not benefit from a re-institution of the one-time savings. The figures you are looking at earlier in the document are before cost increases. If you look at page 241 on the document, you will see the calculations of the cost-increases that would be applied to the TCP. Annex 12 shows the appropriation with cost-increases, and you would see under TCP that there would be cost-increases of USD 5.2 million applied.

Denmark made a comment about the level of the efficiency savings, and certainly we tried to apply those, since 1994. I am referring to the level of savings which you see in the Table in this section of the document. When we compare ourselves with other organizations in the United Nations, for example some of the discussions that are going on now in the General Assembly and the High-Level Committee on Management on Travel Savings and some of these we have already implemented here in the Organization, we are always seeking efficiency savings. Perhaps the level that we have already achieved is an indicator of the difficulty we have moving forward and continuing to find these savings.

Concerning the level of the FAORs, it is not changed. It is a matter of presentation in the document. The FAOR budgets for 2010-2011 and 2012-2013, that is the FAORs as an Organizational unit are in Annex 8 of the document. This shows the Organizational view and in 2010-2011. Before cost-increases they were USD 96.7 million and in 2012-2013 they are USD 96.6 million, or essentially no change. The difference between the two biennia is that in 2010 we had a special chapter which was entitled "FAOR Programme" and it is this chapter which we have now removed, eliminated it from the budget and distributed the USD 96.7 million across the Strategic Objectives. That is what you are seeing in Table 3 of the document – the distribution.

The FAOR chapter in the budget of 2010-2011 included an offset for corporate income earned which is a credit against the chapter, which is the reason that in the budget if you are looking at Table 2 you

will see that the FAOR Programme net appropriation in 2010-2011 was USD 88.2 million because it was offset by USD 8.4 million in income. Moving to 2012-2013, we have, more appropriately, credited that and put that income against Functional Objectives X and Y. Therefore, it does not show up in the distribution of FAORs as an Organizational unit, and that level of resources is USD 96.6 million as shown in Table 3. So there is no change in the cost of the FAORs. It is a matter of the fact that they are now not benefitting from the corporate income.

In terms of the forecast for extra-budgetary resources, we have consistently been conservative in our estimates. We do not know almost one year ahead with much certainty how much we are going to receive. In fact, the level of assurance is measured by the proportion of operational and pipeline projects as compared with what we call prospects. What we are aiming to receive is much lower than in the 2012-2013 biennium, around 23.5 percent. Also, given the economic and financial climate, the current rate of approvals of projects and resources as they come in with budgets that go into the future, we felt that this was the more reasonable estimate to put into the document at this time. But as I said yesterday in another fora, this is, of course, subject to review as we move forward over the next few months to refine these estimates – both regarding their allocation and the level.

Australia, you pointed out the allocation of the USD 10.4 million is high on Functional Objective X. In fact, in part this is because of the allocation for the bandwidth which is there. On one hand, there is the IPA that is coming in but there has been a reallocation and you can see that in the Tables and Information Note 1 in these Regional and Sub-regional Offices, which is primarily reallocation of services that were originally budgeted under Strategic Objective Y which were really not administrative services and have been moved to Strategic Objective X. So that is more of a transfer and you can see that. It is both a programmatic and a transfer and you can see that in the Table in Information Note 1.

You asked some specific questions on cost increases which I think I will leave, especially the ICSC, to Mr Juneja to inform on the question on the lapse factor. Indeed the lapse factor is a deduction, but the increase that is shown in the cost-increases for the lapse factor is due to the net change, which is explained in paragraphs 234-240. We recalculate the lapse factor every year based on the staff turnover rates and recruitment times, and there is a change in the factor which has resulted in an additional cost. It is not that the factor itself has caused it; it is simply an adjustment to the lapse factor. It could have also gone in the other direction if the recruitment times had gone in the other direction. So that is why it turns out as a cost-increase for this biennium. Mr Juneja might be better than I am at explaining a certain case.

The Liaison Offices are providing both liaison and representation services and there are – counting in my head – five. There is Washington, Brussels, Japan and there is also an Office budgeted in Moscow, which has been in the budget now for two biennia, and then the UN Offices in New York and Geneva and they are providing liaison services with the governments in those countries. Particularly in the United Nations following the various activities of the United Nations Agencies, of course, in New York and Geneva there are a large number of meetings and other fora that have to be attended to where FAO needs to be represented in discussions. There are technical officers and you will see that, I believe, in Geneva. There at least one if not two Forestry Officers, and I believe but I cannot speak specifically for Washington, but I believe there is some work that is going on there – Manoj might know better than I do – there is a committee there that is dealing with food allocations, but again this is something that we could provide additional information on if necessary.

The question of Mozambique on gender, of course this has been the subject of some discussion, but looking at Table 1 of the document that you were referring to is showing the initial adjustment of the 2010-2011 appropriation, purely for the efficiency gains and one-time savings. So, indeed, there was a reduction there, but if you go to Table 2 in the document you will see that there is, in fact, in the proposal a slight increase between 2010-2011 and 2012-2013. Gender in Table 1, like all other objectives, as I mentioned, had a reduction for both efficiency and one-time savings.

Australia, you also asked about the financial performance in 2010-2011. We have for the past several biennia been very close to full expenditure, less than 0.5 percent. Very difficult to land at that level, these are reported in the budgetary reports to the Finance Committee and, of course, the Audited

Accounts. In 2010-2011 there was an under-expenditure of USD 2.5 million that was allowed to be carried over, and that was in the Appropriations Resolution and was then credited against the Assessments of Members for the current biennium. We are currently forecasting full expenditure for 2012-2013, but keeping, of course, the Finance Committee informed on a regular basis – we will report again in October on the situation – but our best forecasts are for full expenditure. The Director-General cannot, of course, overspend, so there is always a slight under-expenditure. At the moment we are not forecasting, for example the expenditure of the Contingency Fund, which is USD 600 000, but it depends on circumstances.

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

I will try to be as brief as possible and certainly not to repeat any of the answers that Mr Boyd Haight has already given.

Let me make one observation on the reflection made by Denmark, that we have reported USD 112 million dollars per annum of saving since 1994. Now, of course, the period between 1994 and 2011 to which that Table relates is a period of 18 years and therefore arithmetically, and to put this simplistically, what this is indicating is that on average we have achieved USD 6.2 million of savings every year. These are recurring savings every year which therefore become cumulative to reach. After 18 years then, we have a figure of USD 112 million of recurring savings.

So again, simplistically speaking, USD 6.2 million of recurring savings per year now translates to USD 13.3 million savings per year projected for 2012-2013. I am just taking the USD 26.5 million efficiency savings for 2012-2013 and dividing by two. Indeed, you are correct in pointing out that out of those efficiency savings, USD 10.55 million of those efficiency savings are reinvested into the Immediate Plan of Action and in Table 4 of the PWB document on page 60 of the English version, you see how that is sub-divided between the efficiency savings arising from actions that have already been initiated or are to be completed during the current biennium and those actions that will be initiated and will yield savings in 2012-2013. You see from that the new actions that will yield savings in 2012-2013 amount to USD 3.6 million.

I would also appeal to Australia to be a little more understanding on the resources that are applied for Functional Objective X. I think Mr Benfield gave a good sales pitch on the importance of bandwidth and really that the USD 4 million to be earmarked for improving bandwidth must be seen as an essential service for the Organization. David may actually have some information on the readiness of some of the other United Nations Agencies in terms of their bandwidth and their ICT infrastructures which certainly from my limited experience are far better than FAO's. I would clarify there to the United States that the USD 4 million and, indeed, the additional USD 5 million for ICT bandwidth are indeed recurring costs.

Turning to the observation made by Denmark on the extra-budgetary forecast, I did want to just clarify the latest figures for your information. The resources mobilised in 2010-2011 as of yesterday, 12 April, amount to USD 892 million and we are projecting that in 2010-2011, we will mobilise USD 1.3 billion of resources. I think I heard you say USD 1.6 million for resource mobilization, but I would like to confirm that our best estimate for 2010-2011 is USD 1.3 billion. Also, for your information, the delivery - that is the expenditure to date, again as of yesterday, is USD 1.057 billion dollars. We would appear to be on track for a substantial increase in our delivery in 2010-2011 versus the amount that was estimated in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Turning to a comment made by Australia about not being able to add up the USD 26.5 million of efficiency savings, I had explained to the Finance Committee last month that this is partly deliberate. The Director-General committed to achieving to USD 26.5 million efficiency savings and, of course, he has some reasonably clear idea of the initiatives that would make up the USD 26.5 million efficiency savings. But there are a number of measures there that impact on the conditions of service of employees of FAO. Under our internal regulations, those initiatives have to be discussed and negotiated with the Staff Representative Bodies. A consultative process, in fact, has already been initiated, but it would be inappropriate at this juncture to put the cart before the horse, so to speak, and

to literally quantify each and every measure. What I can say to you and reiterate is that there is a commitment to push through the efficiency measures and that the Director-General has already reviewed these proposals. But in any case, if those proposals do not crystallize due to whatever factor, then the Director-General is committed to finding other ways and means in order to achieve the target of USD 25.6 million.

There is also a reason for not being too explicit on the Joint Procurement Team savings. Some of those have to do with procurement contracts where there are some legal issues and issues of confidentiality which dissuade us from being explicit about which contracts with the suppliers we would be jointly re-negotiating using the economies of scale of the Rome-based Agencies. But of course, during implementation we will provide more details, and again I would re-emphasize that we do have an internal management plan in this regard to achieve the figures that we have indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget document.

You mentioned the External Security Pavillon, and I have to say that that pavillon was not constructed at all on return-on-investment grounds. We had an Internal Audit Report, an Inspector General's Report on Security that was based also on an extensive visit by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, and we were obliged to take immediate action in that regard. In fact, I can confess to you that we had an extra-budgetary donor who was prepared to fund that facility, but we had to move so fast to implement it that we actually used Regular Programme resources under the Security Expenditure Facility in order to implement that measure.

Having said that, I am actually very pleased that we are able to derive some efficiency savings through the system of perimeter security that is now being implemented in FAO. I have checked with other United Nations organizations that have gone through a similar process who have simply not had any efficiency savings but on the contrary, incurred additional costs from such measures. Now, of course, we are incurring additional costs in some other areas of security, but this particular one, at least, had some return-on-investment considering it costs about Euro 750,000 to implement.

I also wanted to address the question that was posed on the updates on cost increases. We are still awaiting the report of the International Civil Service Commission. They, in fact, completed their meeting some 13 days ago but we have not yet received the Final Report. We do expect in that Final Report that the ICSC will endorse a new methodology for General Service salaries at Headquarters. That methodology would foresee that in determining General Services salary pay in a city such as Rome, 10 percent of the overall weighting in the determination of General Service salaries should be given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based in Rome. We expect that that will have a dampening effect on General Service salaries in Rome.

The ICSC has also recommended that the next salary survey should take place in the spring of 2012. What that would imply, and this is subject to negotiation with the Staff Representative Bodies here, is that an interim salary increase that is budgeted in the PWB for November 2011 - an interim salary increase of 2.5 percent that is budgeted - would not take effect until the results of the Salary Survey that would commence in the spring of 2012 are known. So, if there is a dampening effect from the implementation of this new General Service Salary Survey methodology. If the Salary Survey is undertaken in the spring of 2012, then the implication would be that the budgeted increase would not take effect, though it has been budgeted in the Programme of Work and Budget. We would, in fact, also need to see whether the dampening effect would be such that the subsequent increase which is also budgeted in the PWB at 2.5 percent to take effect from November 2012, would actually materialize or not under the new methodology.

We have to do things sequentially. We have to wait for the Report of the International Civil Service Commission. We then have to undertake some consultation with the Staff Bodies. But certainly, well before the Conference, we will submit to you a quantified update of the cost-increase calculations. I am not at this stage able to provide you the exact figure.

I would also make an observation on goods and services and, of course, we can provide more information. The world is experiencing inflation under goods and services. We can see the information from the Financial Times of today, which says that the consumer price inflation in the United

Kingdom has fallen to 4 percent. It has fallen. It is twice the Bank of England's target. We can also look at the CPI estimates in The Economist Intelligence Unit or other sources. Inflation is rising, and the cost of goods and services is rising. That is why the European Central Bank increased its interest rates last week.

The question that then arises is how, in FAO, do we follow the methodology?

We follow the methodology by being as objective as possible in providing the inflation estimates. It is then up to the Membership, as Australia has quite rightly pointed out, to decide on the merits of the case whether such inflationary increases should be absorbed, and to come up with some determination and some guidance on how those inflationary increases might be absorbed. I submit to you that, of course, it is part of your negotiation process and it is a determination for you to make. But on the part of the Secretariat, what we are trying to do is to present to you as objective information as possible.

I would finally turn to the question raised by the United States on the Innovation Fund. It may have been me that confused matters by providing too many figures in my previous intervention, but the Innovation Fund is set USD 1.4 million for the biennium, that is USD 1.4 million out of DDG Operations Budget of USD 5.9 million which is contained in Annex 11 of the PWB. Again, just to repeat, out of that USD 5.9 million budget for Deputy Director-General, Operations there is also USD 2.3 million for the cost of the IPA Programme Management Unit.

Mr David BENFIELD (Director, Immediate Plan of Action Programme Management Unit)

Just in terms of clarification of the breakdown of this total USD 9 million: USD 3.7 million of this is for increased bandwidth from internet service providers and USD 3.3 million of this is for contracts with our main, dedicated bandwidth provider. Also within that USD 3.3 million are included some satellite connections. There are relatively few dedicated providers of the service, bearing in mind some of the countries in which we operate. We actually use one provider that has extensive experience there because they are the provider for the main airlines, and therefore they have good access into the countries.

The actual breakdown is, as I say, USD 3.7 million plus USD 3.3 million which totals USD 7 million, and then there is USD 1 million investment in terms of contractors and consultants to support and manage that contract and USD 1 million for the support that we provide. We are giving the Country Offices much better access now to the corporate services of the Organization, in terms of information technology. Of course, as we do that, we have to support them.

USD 1 million is for what we call "follow the sun", and these are Help Desks in the various Regional Offices so that, both in terms of language cover and also in terms of the time zones, we can respond to people's queries regarding the use of the network rather than trying to provide a support service from Rome on a 24-hour basis. So, we have USD 7 million in terms of the actual bandwidth increases, USD 1 million in terms of consultants and contractors, and USD 1 million for "follow the sun" support.

You asked the question "is this likely to continue to increase"? The answer is no. There are some very high costs and, in particular when we look at some of the developing countries that still have national telecommunications companies, although the telecommunications costs in Europe and North America have really reduced very significantly over the last few years, in some of the developing countries that is not the case, but slowly they are reducing, so we do not actually expect these costs to increase.

We are also participating with the High-Level Committee of Management. An IT group there is looking at connectivity across all of the UN organizations and looking to see if we can find some economies by working together with a number of other United Nations Agencies to share our overall demands, and therefore derive reduced costs for each Agency.

I think that Manoj has already answered the question about recurrent costs. This is rather like your telephone bill or your electricity bill, these are recurrent costs. As long as you have this bandwidth, you need to pay these costs.

The other question I think was "are we anticipating savings in reduced travel?" That is obviously linked to the video-conferencing facilities which are not a major cost element of this, but we are using

the bandwidth to provide video-conferencing facilities. Our experience so far, where we have provided improved video-conferencing facilities for the Regional Offices and the Sub-regional Offices, and as we are moving now down to the Country Offices, is that we are actually noting that this is providing facilities which previously were not available. It is not a cost substitution. Let me give you one or two examples. The Regional Office ADGs are now a major part of every one of the Senior Management Meetings which are perhaps once every two weeks. If we did not have this bandwidth improvement and they were not able to contribute properly, then they would not contribute. They would not travel here every two weeks and they just would not be part of that process. Equally, the Regional Office ADGs in particular, and Sub-regional Office leaders, are participating in a number of corporate strategies and exercises that we are undertaking here in Headquarters, and this is part of our overall move towards Decentralization and involving the Decentralized Offices more in the corporate decision-making of the Organization.

We are therefore able to do things with this video-conferencing that previously would not have happened. As we roll this out to the Country Offices, obviously there are areas in which they will be able to participate. Whether it actually reduces the travel of Country Offices, one thing it will do I think is reduce the isolation of staff in Country Offices. It is not seen as a direct cost substitution issue, but rather an enabling technology that really helps us to put into practice some of the things we are saying about Functioning as One by having improved Decentralization and grateful involvement of the Decentralized Offices in the corporate decision-making of the Organization.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'Argentine et le Canada me demandent la parole. Merci d'être très brefs. Nous ne repartons pas dans un cycle de questions/réponses. C'est vraiment juste pour des informations supplémentaires pour que j'essaie de tirer les conclusions de la soirée. Nous aurons d'autres occasions pour travailler plus. Vous avez la parole.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Primero un comentario y luego una pregunta. Voy a tratar de ser concreta. Aprovechando que está el Director, me gusta mucho lo que expresó, especialmente porque estos gastos que van a hacer que son muy altos, van a favorecer la comunicación con las Oficinas Regionales, incluso, pueden llegar a ser con las Oficinas Nacionales, ¿no?, lo cual parece muy alentador. Lamentablemente, dentro del PTP, no tenemos una línea que se llame Cambio Cultural y digo el comentario, porque el año pasado quisimos hacer una video-conferencia antes de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, y el trámite fue muy largo para autorizarlo. Luego hubo una última Conferencia Regional, una última en otra región, que no me competiría hablar porque no pertenezco a ella, que costó muchísimo tratar de conseguir la video-conferencia.

Para América Latina y el Caribe la video-conferencia fue de suma utilidad, fue preparatoria y creo, entonces, que como Cambio Cultural acá no tiene un ítem con dólares que van, vienen y vuelan y, suben y bajan. Lo que sí creo que allí tiene que haber es un Cambio Cultural de la administración para que estas tecnologías de suma utilidad sean usadas en forma abierta y transparente, y es lo que realmente un Siglo XXI amerita.

Este es el comentario y disculpe la extensión.

Una cosa muy concreta y quizás que me voy más allá de lo que usted planteó para la reunión. Pero creo que nos puede servir para trabajar con los Grupos Regionales. De lo que se ha dicho ayer y hoy, mi delegación está viendo que habría como tres escenarios de presupuestos. Un escenario que plantearon algunas delegaciones ayer, que es el hacer más con menos, que lleva al 3 por ciento a la baja. Otro escenario que plantearon otras delegaciones que es de Aumento Nominal Cero. Y otro escenario, que quiero sea éste el que me confirmen, que sería la propuesta de la Administración, que sería casi un aumento real cero. ¿Si esos 48 millones de dólares que se están pidiendo de aumento llevan al 5,7 por ciento del Presupuesto Ordinario? Quisiera saber si esos son los tres escenarios, porque nos vendría muy bien tenerlo esto claro para trabajar en los Grupos Regionales.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

This is my eighth year now in a Decentralized Office myself, and I think I have been part of several video-conferences and yet I am in fairly regular contact with my headquarters, through a device called a telephone. We are often on conference calls, so we consider video-conferences quite a luxury. Just something to think about as you go forward.

As for inflation rates, we all read I guess The Economist or the Financial Times or others, and make an important distinction between headline inflation and core inflation. I can't imagine that FAO Headquarters is a very large consumer of petrol or food and, therefore, the more relevant inflation rate to be using is the core inflation rate which is still very close to historic lows and which is why inflation rates in all countries including the United Kingdom, which is not a particularly relevant comparator for FAO, are very low. I think the core inflation rate here in Italy is somewhere below one percent.

It might actually help us move forward whenever we get to real budget negotiations if we could have new costings based on core inflation rates. I suggest that there is really no need to pass on cost-increases to consultants. Unemployment through much of the developed world and here is very high. It is a buyer's market, so we don't need to automatically pass along cost-increases to those who are not in a position to demand them. So if we could have lower inflation rates used between now and whenever we really start negotiating a budget, it would make those eventual decisions considerably less difficult.

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

We would be happy to do what the Representative from Canada said. In fact, when we go to the more specific inflation rates, for example for travel, we actually see that there is an unfavourable deviation between headline rates and the input-specific rates. Some inflation rates are high, like travel. That may be because of fuel costs and other levies that are added, and others would be lower. These are factors that we look at. Therefore, we would be able to come back with further details when we resume next time.

LE PRÉSIDENT

À mon tour, sans rentrer dans le détail du Budget, je ne suis pas un spécialiste des négociations budgétaires mais j'ai la charge d'accompagner la réflexion pour arriver le plus près possible d'un avis commun du Conseil pour la Conférence.

Je vous rappelle malgré tout que c'est la Conférence qui définira le taux du Budget et que nous aurons encore cinq mois avant le Conseil pour mettre en œuvre les aménagements qui auront été faits par la Conférence sur le Budget, puisque c'est au Conseil de novembre, si je me souviens bien, que des réajustements devront se faire si nécessaire.

D'ici à la Conférence, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure en commençant nos travaux, je pense d'abord que cette réunion était très utile, même si pour ceux qui ne sont pas trop habitués cela fait des chiffres et des chiffres qui arrivent. On peut regretter qu'on n'ait pas pu le faire plus tôt, mais il y a la préparation, le Comité, les notes qui sont arrivées entre le Comité et puis le Conseil, puis les explications.

Et je pense qu'il était indispensable, comme l'on demandé beaucoup de délégations et en particulier des présidents de Groupes régionaux, d'avoir ces explications avant d'aller ou de retourner devant les Groupes régionaux pour voir les marges de manœuvre que les uns ou les autres allaient avoir. Je pense que ceci a été très utile.

Je vous propose à partir de ce que nous avons dit hier d'acter les conclusions provisoires que j'avais évoquées hier matin et d'y rajouter quelques conclusions supplémentaires suite à nos derniers travaux pour définir l'axe de travail que nous avons à faire le plus rapidement possible.

Je rappelle ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure, pour ceux qui n'étaient pas arrivés à l'heure, que nous avions cette réunion qui s'est terminée ce soir, que compte tenu de la demande d'un certain nombre de Membres et de Groupes régionaux il n'y aurait pas sous quelque forme que ce soit d'autres réunions

pendant le Conseil. Mais que nous organiserions des réunions des Amis du Président structurées en lien avec les Réunions régionales d'ici la Conférence, l'objectif étant de laisser un peu de temps aux Groupes régionaux pour se réunir à partir des éclaircissements que nous avons eus et des positions des uns ou des autres de faire une réunion des Amis du Président à partir de tout cela, de laisser un peu de temps pour retourner avec les Bureaux régionaux et de refaire une deuxième réunion des Amis du Président avant la Conférence. Tout ceci pour faire avancer les choses. Les propositions de conclusion qui seraient tirées après cette réunion, je vous lis les trois points:

Le Conseil a apprécié les trois Notes d'information additionnelles fournies à la veille de la session et leur présentation par le Secrétariat indiquant que, dans le futur, ces informations détaillées devraient être soumises à temps pour examen de façon adéquate.

Le Conseil a estimé que des consultations au sein des Groupes régionaux et entre les Membres étaient requises pour mieux définir leurs positions à la lumière des informations fournies.

Soucieux de poursuivre un dialogue constructif sur les questions restant à traiter dans le cadre du PTB, le Conseil a convenu de tenir des réunions informelles dans un Groupe des Amis du Président dans la période précédant la Trente-septième Session de la Conférence selon un calendrier qui sera proposé par le Président. J'essaierai de vous proposer le calendrier avant la fin de ce Conseil.

Voilà donc les conclusions organisationnelles que l'on pourrait définir ce soir après cette réunion.

L'Australie, vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I agree almost entirely with your summary. Just to two points, you said that we should get this documentation in time for sufficient examination. I wonder if we should say this kind of information should really come to the Programme and Finance Committees as part of the deliberations on these issues. I think it would have been really helpful to have the breakdown of this USD 10.4 million in the Programme and Finance Committees. Perhaps we could be a bit more explicit there, and I wonder whether we should add an extra point here which, is as I understand from the discussion, we have agreed to request three more papers. One was on the USD 26.5 million, where it is from and really where it is being re-programmed to. The second one on Liaison Offices and the third one and revised more information on the General Services cost-increases. So perhaps we could reflect this in the document.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I think Argentina had asked before, and I would like to pass the floor to her if possible.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'Amérique du sud, on reste galant, c'est bien. L'Argentine.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Lamento tener que informarle que la pregunta que yo planteé sobre las tres posibilidades de presupuesto no fue contestada. ¿Quisiera saber si alguno de los funcionarios me podría contestar?

Yo sé que hay una forma nueva de presupuestar y hemos trabajado esto en el Comité del Programa, pero la pregunta concreta que yo hice probablemente sea un problema de interpretación. Básicamente vamos a estar trabajando con tres formas o tres propuestas: una la de hacer más con menos, el 3 por ciento a la baja; otra el Crecimiento Nominal Cero y otra que es la que quiero que me clarifique -- si el Aumento Real Cero, que podría ser una tercera propuesta, los 48 millones de dólares tienen que ver o se relacionan con el 5.7 por ciento que está pidiendo la administración de aumento para el Presupuesto Ordinario.

Eso es lo que quisiéramos saber porque es una manera de mirar al presupuesto. Cada uno sabe dónde se ajusta el zapato, y en qué medidas se puede mover.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

I do not think we have quite an agreement about further documents to be requested from the Secretariat. We have to avoid a tendency to excessive micro-managing and micro-management and the request for many documents which will surely increase the cost for this Organization, not a very efficient use of time and in the end, we do less with more. So the need for documents needs to be justified. As we said, regarding these documents, for example, the point should be that information should be part of the next Programme of Work and Budget, in future cases and not as separate documents. I would question the usefulness of having another document on the Liaison Offices. It is very good to have the Secretariat to provide the information here for Council Members orally, but as for another document, we have to have a better justification.

As to the information on better costing, this is already settled. So perhaps it is also already part of the points from our last session. I do not know if they will be repeated under the same item.

Another question is that if the proposed meeting of Friends of the Chair will have interpretation or not?

Ms Mary Blanca RIOS (United States of America)

I just wanted to make the point that the information that we are requesting goes towards transparency. If there is a document for the USD 10.4 million, we must insist on a document for the USD 26.5 million.

I also requested a breakdown, by office, of the 48 new positions.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

I would like to say that we agree with the summary that you have just made with one exception. We would like to kindly ask if it would be possible to include in your summary also the fact of the adoption of the Finance Committee Report, as it was reflected by Mr Juneja earlier.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We do much appreciate the information which was provided. I think it will help us when we are discussing this issue in our Regional Group and we so much agree with the summary you have made. I do appreciate my colleagues for the information they are requesting, but I do not think it should be part and parcel of your summary. I think that the information can be provided by Management because otherwise we shall put a lot of requests within your summary.

Another issue, I think it was my colleague from Argentina who asked the question on which basis we are going to base our discussions. Should it be based on doing more with less money, or based on a Zero Nominal Growth budget or a Real Nominal Growth one? I think that at this moment we should not go to that extent. This will be determined within each Regional Group. Maybe my Regional Group will come out after discussing and seeing the situation that really what we need is a Real Nominal Growth budget. The other groups may come up with a Zero Nominal Growth budget. So, it will be the outcome of each Regional Group on what they say the level of the budget should be.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am taking the floor on behalf of the Near East Group in order to support what was stated by the Representative of the Africa Group and in appreciation of your summary without any addition because it summarizes a consensus with regard to including elements which are still under discussion and which are subject to caution. We agree with your summary without any additions.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I just wanted to respond to a few of these suggestions. The first suggestion was from my friend from Brazil who seems to object to further information and improving the transparency of our discussions here. I make the offer to him that I am quite happy to continue tonight and work through each of the Liaison Offices perhaps, position by position, over the next three or four hours to explore what they do. I think it is legitimate if you are asking countries to spend USD 14 million on a Liaison Office that

we are actually entitled to ask what those Offices do. I do not think that asking an Information Note on that is anything untoward. I think that it actually improves the transparency of this process. So I am afraid I need to insist on getting some of those Notes.

Similarly with the USD 26.5 million in savings, this is a core part of the budget negotiation that we are going to have. I do not see that there is any reason that we should not seek, and Management has agreed to provide, the information on those details. I will not go through others but the same provisions apply. This is all about transparency and all about fairness. We can, however, sit through and work through this in a Plenary format. But if we are talking about efficiency, then I think a Note from Management would be a suitable and appropriate way to move forward.

In terms of your summary, Chair, I struggle to see why we would not reflect these papers in the summary. I mean these are things that we have asked for here. No one apart from Brazil has objected to providing this information. So I think this is something that should go into the summary. If we have a commitment from Management to provide such information perhaps we can dispense with it in the Report. This is one of the things that we have agreed in the Council, so I don't see any objection or any reason why we should not pursue that. I think there was a clear view that these factors should be dealt with in the Finance and Programme Committees, in future, and this kind of information should be part and parcel of our future deliberations. I certainly see that that part should be reflected in the Chair's summary.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Simplement pour répondre à la question concernant la motion qui doit être préparée à temps et de façon adéquate pour examen par les Organes directeurs. Voilà comment je pourrais amender ce que vous avez demandé.

Le Brésil.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

Coming back to the subject of a request for additional documents, I would not like this to be perceived as an attempt to decrease transparency on anything. But this is part of governance and there are right and wrong ways to go about governance. Asking for documents about specific line items is a random procedure, so if we agree we could have revisions and have more information on the activities. Perhaps this has been done already as part of the Independent External Evaluation. Council getting together and requesting Information Notes to be translated into all languages using Secretariat time and on random items, is not the way to do governance. Again, we are always driving for results-based management. We should also look at this from the point of view of results, and not getting into this kind of thing. That said, I would support all transparency for the Organization in the right procedures for each issue. I would favour the Australian delegation getting together with someone at Headquarters responsible for the organization of all Liaison Offices and get a meeting and all the information requested without consuming Council and Secretariat resources in this way.

LE PRÉSIDENT

À partir de ce qui a été dit, je vais essayer de rajouter à mes conclusions. Comme je le disais quand la remarque a été faite, que les informations détaillées devraient être soumises à temps et de façon adéquate pour examen par les Organes directeurs, donc qui anticipent les Organes directeurs puisqu'il s'appelle le Comité de Programme mais aussi le Conseil.

En ce qui concerne les rapports supplémentaires, je suis aussi favorable à la transparence mais à l'échéance ou nous sommes rendus. Il ne faut pas refaire d'autres rapports supplémentaires comme l'a dit le Brésil. Par contre au deuxième paragraphe, je veux bien rajouter des informations déjà fournies et celles qui pourraient être ajoutées ultérieurement, sans faire de rapports supplémentaires, c'est-à-dire, qui pourront être données en bilatéral et là je ne le mets pas dans le Rapport.

Tout à l'heure, j'ai parlé avec Monsieur Juneja pour voir comment éviter de retourner sur la discussion générale lors de notre première réunion des Amis du Président et tracer un tableau-cadre qui permettrait d'envisager les discussions à prendre. On pourrait reprendre les discussions durant une

réunion des Amis du Président ou tout simplement reprendre du début. Il serait bon de procéder au fur et à mesure suivant le cadre.

Le service d'interprétation sera assuré durant les réunions des Amis du Président.

Voilà ce que l'on peut dire et concernant votre question par rapport aux différents scénarios. Comme l'a dit le délégué de la Tanzanie, il n'y a pas trois scénarios. Il y a un budget global qui est proposé et des discussions qui se font en fonction. Je ne peux pas prévoir, d'un côté, le maintien de la position de certains pays qui bloquent et de l'autre ceux qui sont prêts à avancer. Donc, il n'y a pas trois scénarios, et cela peut être aussi un ensemble de tous les trois.

Bien, l'Australie et l'Argentine.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

I am desperately trying not to prolong this, but I want to forecast the situation. So I am happy to take my friend from Brazil's suggestion and I will sit down with the Liaison Office staff and get a briefing on that, or perhaps I will even ask the Secretariat to provide some details in writing to me. On the basis of that information, I then come back to this Friends of the Chair and say, well according to this document here, according to my private discussions with the Secretariat, I found all these suggestions. People then instantly put up their flags and say, well we do not have that information. How are we supposed to make a decision on information we have not been provided? This is an outrage, we do not have the same information. So, I am trying to find a way, a transparent way, of doing this work. If the view of the Council is that I should do this bilaterally with the Secretariat, then I am very pleased to do that, and that will save me time because I can start next week and we can get into this very clearly. But the reality is, that it is not improving transparency. I am all in favour of efficiency so I am happy to go either way, that is, in terms of the Liaison Offices.

In terms of the others, other delegations in this room will have a view but I cannot imagine that you are all subjecting to the further details on the USD 26.5 million in savings, which is a very germane part of this discussion. The USD 26.5 million in savings, as another delegation has said here as well as myself, has been reprogrammed into programmatic activities. So the way I understand it, the increase in programmatic activities is USD 10.4 million plus USD 26.5 million, so USD 37 million or something like that, which seems to be much more than the 1 percent that we have talked about already. This is getting into very germane elements of the discussion we need to have in the Friends of the Chair. I suggest that would be, in the interests of transparency, a very useful Note to have. Whether they are captured in the Report, well Mr. Chair I am happy to leave that in your hands.

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'Argentine puis l'Union européenne. Je vous demande de faire très rapidement, parce que nous n'avons plus que cinq minutes d'interprétariat.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

En ningún momento mi delegación prejuzga la posición de nadie. La propuesta nuestra fue saber clarificar, y le pido que me entienda muy bien el colega de Tanzania. Fue clarificar tres escenarios posibles de trabajo porque vamos a trabajar en los Grupos Regionales. No todos son Miembros del Consejo. No todos están presente esta noche acá y es una pregunta muy simple la que planteamos. Si da lugar a algún tipo de picardía o de cosa risueña, lo lamento, pero no todos somos expertos en finanzas. Entonces Presidente, no prejuzgo, además cada país tiene derecho a pensar y a pretender un presupuesto determinado. Se lo que pido es una clarificación muy sencilla sobre tres puntos.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

I would just like to say that we consider the proposal made by Australia. The arguments are convincing and reasonable, so we kindly ask you to consider them and take them into account in your summary.

Mr Renato Domith GODINHO (Brazil)

With regards to the savings of USD 26 million, the objection is not so much linked to the request for the document in the sense that the information about where the savings come from is there in the Programme of Work and Budget already, from what I gather. So, we can all be informed about where the savings go in the PWB. So, if you look at from that logic, we are having efficiency savings that are been reprogrammed in more efficient activities in general. We just need to look at the PWB as a whole, and the increase in programme from one activity to the next, the several Strategic Objectives, and it is all there.

The existing budget is now more efficient. We have efficiency savings and cost-increases in some parts. There are programmatic increases in other parts and we just need to decide the level of the budget and which activities and which budget lines, without concerning ourselves exactly where the money comes from. Money is money, and we should be happy that the efficiency savings were made, and concentrate on the budget being proposed.

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

Let me say that from Management's perspective, we find this sort of dialogue extremely useful because it gives us some idea of your concerns, and how we need to support the process as we move along.

From Management's side, we have an unwavering commitment to support the budget negotiations and we certainly work very late hours to try and provide any additional information that may be needed and requested by a critical mass of the Membership.

If I reflect on the process, just a year and a half ago, there were six Notes that were prepared for Friends of the Chair of the Conference. They were short Information Notes, but they were the half dozen topics that really did attract a lot of interest and attention. We would certainly be happy, in the name of transparency while at the same time keeping the extent of additional review by the Governing Bodies as limited as possible, to provide additional information. The update on cost-increases, the information on the 48 additional posts could be illustrations of information that we would be happy to provide, irrespective of whether the request is reflected in the Council Report or otherwise.

Turning to the question of the European Union, the Finance Committee Report was, to my knowledge, adopted by the Council, but the wording of the Finance Committee Report is not explicit. It is not absolutely clear what the Council might be endorsing with regard to the proposals made in paragraphs 241 through 266 – specifically with regard to the Terminal Payments Fund, the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund. We believe we have an understanding of the conclusion, which is clearly to suggest that there should be no funding in 2012-2013 for the Terminal Payments Fund, the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund, while on the After-Service Medical Coverage there should be a continuation of funding at USD 14.1 million and, if that is the agreement of the Council, this is what we would propose to reflect in the Report. You mentioned the spirit of doing things step by step and, in fact, this would be a substantive step forward because in the last budget negotiations these were issues that were being negotiated and determined until the very last moment. But this time, the Finance Committee has made a clear recommendation in this regard.

The final comment I would make is with regard to the budget scenarios requested by Argentina. The Joint Meeting Report is quite clear on the recommendations it made on the budget scenarios, and this is contained in CL 141/10 paragraph 8a. The Joint Meeting recommended that there should be two budget scenarios for negotiation and, of course, there could be something in the middle of those two scenarios, but the two scenarios were basically the proposal as put by the Director-General and, secondly, the proposal in light of the appeal by the UN Secretary-General for doing more with less – which the Council has essentially turned into a Zero Nominal Growth scenario.

So if I were to turn to paragraph 278 of the Programme of Work and Budget, there is a Table 25 in the document there. Essentially what the Council would recommend would be a net budgetary

appropriation of USD 1.005 billion, or a net budgetary appropriation of USD 1.057 billion. Those are the two scenarios that we have understood as having been affirmed by the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, je rappelle l'Argentine mais nous devons conclure. Faites vite, s'il vous plaît.

Argentine, vous avez la parole.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Puede leer la declaración de Argentina que la entregamos ayer leímos exactamente el párrafo 8a. Hubo otra delegación que pertenece a mi grupo regional que habló del Aumento Nominal Cero, es decir, no es únicamente las dos planteadas hasta ahora por el Comité de Finanzas y las que están reflejadas en el párrafo 8a.

En las discusiones de ayer, hubo delegaciones que hablaron del presupuesto Nominal Cero. Esto se recoge de las discusiones de ayer. Nosotros teníamos muy claro el párrafo 8a, por eso lo incorporamos ayer en nuestra presentación que hicimos al final de los debates y que está registrada y que fue entregada. Lo que nos interesaba saber, si había alguna alternativa, una tercera alternativa que en otras épocas se ha manejado, que es la Nominal Cero, porque una cosa es trabajar con un Aumento Nominal Cero y otra cosa es hablar del 3 por ciento por debajo de un presupuesto que evidentemente sería bastante inviable.

No sé si soy clara en lo que estoy planteando.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Sur ce point là, je ne pense pas que l'on puisse s'engager dans cette discussion à l'heure qu'il est. Je vous rappelle qu'hier, nous avons accepté un certain nombre de choses dont d'ailleurs le blocage sur le financement partiel de l'assurance maladie et nous avons mis deux options pour le budget, donc le projet du PTB et la réduction du Budget proposé dans le cadre de l'appel du Secrétaire général des Nations unies diminueraient de trois pour cent.

C'est vrai que cela reste à la discussion et que en ce qui concerne les documents, j'ai bien entendu qu'il y a une différence pour moi entre faire des rapports et présenter des notes de synthèse pour la réunion des amis du Président.

De toute façon, les réunions d'Amis du Président ne peuvent se faire sans que nous ayons préparé auparavant un cadre qui prépare la discussion. Nous reprendrons ces Notes à cette occasion.

Est-ce que nous pouvons en conclure comme ça? Merci pour les travaux de cet après-midi qui étaient bien utiles, me semble t'il et qui ne sont pas terminés, bien entendu. A demain matin, 9 h 30.

The meeting rose at 20.36 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.36

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
14 April 2011

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La septième réunion plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la septima reunión plenaria a las 09.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Governance Matters (continued)**Questions relatives à la gouvernance (suite)****Cuestiones relativas a la gobernanza (continuación)****17. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 140th Session of the Council (CL 141/16)****17. État d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarantième session (CL 141/16)****17. Estado de la aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 140º período de Sesiones (CL 141/16)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, je déclare donc ouverte la septième séance de notre Cent quarante et unième session du Conseil.

Avant d'aller plus loin sur l'ordre du jour, étant donné que son Excellence Madame Hope Mwesigye de l'Ouganda, qui a été élue par le Conseil lors de notre première séance, n'a pu se déplacer à Rome, le Conseil est-il d'accord pour qu'elle soit remplacée par son Excellence Monsieur Deo K. Rwabita, Ambassadeur et Représentant Permanent de l'Ouganda auprès de la FAO?

Y-a-t'il des objections? Si tel n'est pas le cas, il est ainsi décidé. Merci donc Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de m'assister éventuellement même si on n'a pas demandé beaucoup de travail aux Vice-Présidents, mais ils doivent toujours se sentir prêts.

Nous passons donc, comme nous l'avions dit, lors l'Adoption de notre Ordre du jour au Point 17, état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa Cent-quarante-et-unième session, je le rappelle, le document de référence porte le symbole CL 141/16, et conformément à son programme de travail pluriannuel, le Conseil examine l'état de la mise en œuvre des décisions prises lors de la session précédente. Bien sûr, vous avez le document et je vous donne la parole sur ce point là, si quelqu'un veut bien la prendre.

Il n'y a pas de commentaires sur le Point 17? La note était suffisamment bien établie? Nous n'avons fait que retransmettre les décisions de ce qui a été fait.

L'Ouganda, je vous donne la parole.

Mr Deo K. RWABITA (Uganda)

This statement is made on behalf of the Africa Group.

We welcome the report under consideration. We find it well structured, clearly matching Council decision with actions taken, thus making it easy to review. We would like to make the following specific comments on the report:

Regarding the recommendation in paragraph 8b, to investigate the possibility of having access to innovative financing with new partners, we acknowledge that modalities for addressing food security concerns and use of remittances for investment in agricultural development have been discussed. What were the outcomes of the discussions? Considering that remittances are individuals' savings with highly diverse competing demands, we would consider this option quite uncertain and unreliable. We envisage that more discussions are still required among FAO Membership and other stakeholders in order to evolve more viable and sustainable financing mechanisms if the core priority programmes of the Organization are to be preserved.

For the eligibility criteria for access to TCP on a grant basis as recommended in paragraph 10d, we note that no preferred option emerged. We concur with the Secretariat's recommendation that the Programme Committee should continue to review the matter to a logical conclusion.

We consider that implementation of the recommendation in paragraph 10g requires well-designed guidelines to enable the Regional Conferences to initiate consultations towards gradually integrating the TCP within the overall country programming framework. We would request that the Secretariat

prepare these guidelines for review by the Hundred and Forty-third Council Session in November 2011 before they are used by the forthcoming Regional Conferences in 2012.

For the recommendation in paragraph 35, more consultations especially with Member Nations is critical to ensure that the principles for responsible agriculture investment to be developed are embedded with requisite flexibility that will enable them to fit within national legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

While the recommendation in paragraph 46 of the Council report mentions the need to set up a Voluntary Trust Fund to enhance country capacities in global forestry resources assessment, nothing is reported on the part of implementation. We would appreciate getting some clarification from the Secretariat in that regard.

Under the recommendation in paragraph 47, we request to be reminded when the comprehensive report on the State of the World Forest Genetic resources being supported at the country level will be released to membership.

Regarding the CFS, we welcome all the initiatives aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness. However, great caution should be exercised in order to ensure that the created alliances maximize synergy while concurrently minimizing likely friction among participating stakeholders.

With these comments Mr. Chairman, we endorse the report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à L'Ouganda. Y-t-a-il d'autres prises de parole sur ce rapport du Point 17?

L'Union européenne.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

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

The European Union appreciates the status of implementation of the Council decisions. Most of them are implemented or on track to implementation. We would like to thank the Management for this.

However, we would like to point out a few areas where efforts have to be increased and more information provided to the Members, such as the use of extra-budgetary resources for each of the Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results following the meeting of 1 March, and the request of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. This will give an overview of the integrated budget and of the risks of non-completion of some Strategic Objectives and Organizational Results because of lack of funding.

The European Union would like to again request full information on each Decentralized Office and especially each Country Office, regarding budget, staff, ongoing programmes and results, as was already requested in the CoC-IEE and at the last Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

The strategy for partnership with the private sector is also of major importance. As stated in the last Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, we would like to receive a refined strategy, including a more accurate definition of the private sector and its different components, as well as detailed principles and criteria for partnership in order to discuss the matter further.

The procedures for the recruitment of staff have been published on the Intranet. The Member Nations should also be informed, with these procedures placed on the Permanent Representatives' Website.

Finally, the European Union would like to know how the CFS PWB for 2012-13 would be integrated in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget after its approval in October 2011 by the CFS Plenary.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Union européenne. D'autres interventions? Si tel n'est pas le cas, Monsieur Mékouar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

You point out that actions are already taken or are on track. This report as you know doesn't cover the substance of the issue being reported on. It is primarily to inform Council of the actions taken or being taken in conformity with the decisions made by the Council during the previous session. This document was produced progressively while the actions were being taken, and some of those actions actually were dependent upon the outcomes of meetings which were held very recently in March, for instance the CCLM meeting, as well as meetings of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee.

We have taken note of all the requests made for additional information. I think that this will be communicated to all colleagues dealing with the substantive items so that they are taken into consideration while implementing the actions that were decided by the Council so we are grateful for the comments and those of course will be taken into consideration in further implementing the actions taken by the Council.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Mekouar. Je crois que la réponse est claire. Les questions étaient tout à fait opportunes mais le rapport fait état de ce qui a été décidé.

Donc s'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions sur ce sujet là, je propose les conclusions suivantes: Le Conseil a pris note de l'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions qu'il a adopté à sa cent quarantième et unième session, en tenant compte, bien sûr, comme on l'a dit du transfert des remarques qui ont été faites.

Pas d'objections? Nous passons donc au point suivant, le Point 21.

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

21. Provisional Agenda for the 142nd Session of the Council (July 2011) (CL 141/INF/4)

21. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante-deuxième session du Conseil (juillet 2011) (CL 141/INF/4)

21. Programa provisional del 142.º período de sesiones del Consejo (julio de 2011) (CL 141/INF/4)

LE PRÉSIDENT

L'Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante deuxième session du Conseil de juillet, comme vous le savez, comme prévu par son programme de travail pluriannuel, le Conseil examine à la fin de chaque session l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la session suivante. Je vous rappelle qu'à l'issue de la Conférence, le Conseil est convoqué à une session dès le lundi et nous devons donc adopter l'Ordre du jour provisoire, tel qu'il vous a été envoyé.

Avez-vous des remarques à faire à ce sujet? Pas de remarques à faire sur l'Ordre du jour, donc comme vous l'avez vu, l'Ordre du jour c'est à la fois l'élection des trois Vice-Présidents et l'élection du Président des 12 Membres du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier et du CCLM. Et dans les questions diverses qui sont des questions découlant de la session de la Conférence, la Conférence peut nous charger d'une mission immédiate. L'évolution des débats au sein d'instance intéressant la FAO comme nous allons le faire tout à l'heure pour ce Conseil mais cela peut être les débats qui ont eu lieu entre aujourd'hui et notre Conseil, et puis le Calendrier des sessions des Organes directeurs de la FAO ou autres réunions principales pour 2011-2012 pour décision. Et puis, bien sûr l'Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante troisième session du Conseil qui aura lieu en novembre, et les Méthodes de travail du Conseil que nous pourrions rediscuter.

Pas de commentaires? Pas d'objections? Je considère donc le Point 21 adopté avec, comme projet de conclusion: le Conseil a examiné le projet d'Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent quarante deuxième session, les 4 et 5 juillet 2011, qui figure dans le document CL 140/INF/4.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE PRÉSIDENT

Comme nous l'avons prévu à l'Ordre du jour, nous avons dans les autres questions le Point 24, mais je vais attendre que le Directeur général soit arrivé. Si vous permettez, nous allons suspendre quelques instants en attendant qu'il arrive.

The meeting was suspended from 10.00 to 10.15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 00 à 10 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.00 a las 10.15

24. Any Other Matters

24. Autres questions

24. Asuntos varios

PRÉSIDENT

Mesdames, Messieurs avec mes excuses d'avoir un peu différé le début de notre point suivant. Comme il a été convenu lundi matin au moment de l'Adoption de l'ordre du jour nous allons traiter sous le Point 24 la nomination du Directeur général adjoint pour les opérations. Le document de référence est donc le CL 141/LIM/5 et, sans plus attendre, je donne la parole au Directeur général que je remercie de nous avoir rejoint.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you, Mr Chairman, distinguished Members of the Council. As announced on Monday, I wish to address the Council to communicate to the Members my decision as to the appointment of the new Deputy Director-General for Operations. As you know, Mr Changchui He has reached retirement age after a very successful and highly dedicated period of service with the Organization.

During his tenure as Deputy Director-General for Operations since January 2010 and as member of the executive leadership team, Mr He has played a major role in providing strategic direction and oversight of the corporate operational response. Previously, Mr He served as Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific from 2002 to 2009, a period in which he was instrumental in introducing a regional strategic framework for that region.

Mr He was also the Chief of the Environment and Natural Resources Service in the Sustainable Development Department at Headquarters from 1998 to 2002.

I wish to place on record my deep appreciation and gratitude for the many valuable contributions that Mr He 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 Mr Manoj Juneja as the Deputy Director-General for Operations. This appointment is to be made pursuant to Article 41 of the General Rules of the Organization providing that the appointments to the posts of Deputy Director-General shall be made by the Director-General, subject to confirmation by the Council.

This point on your agenda is brought to your consideration in line with the practice established in particular during the confirmation of the nomination of the Deputy Director-General on 18 June 2007 and the Deputy Director-General for Operations on 25 November 2009.

As recalled in my address to Council on Monday morning, a selection procedure for the appointment of Deputy Directors-General, similar to that already instituted for the Assistant Directors-General positions was published in August 2010 on the FAO Intranet, as well as on the Permanent Representatives' Website.

I also mentioned that I had given clear instructions on 13 March and 29 April 2009 confirmed at the Senior Management Meetings 2009/07 of 12 May and 2009/16 of 24 November 2009, that Vacancy

Announcements for posts occupied by staff who are due to retire shall be advertised at least six months before the vacancy occurs. A note summarizing these instructions was posted on the Permanent Representatives' Website last Monday.

In conformity with these procedures, aiming at attracting as many qualified candidates as possible, through a transparent and competitive process, a Vacancy Announcement was posted on the FAO Employment Website on 14 January 2011 in all languages of the Organization, with 21 March 2011 as closing date for applications.

In addition, a Circular Note Verbal was sent to all Permanent Representatives on 20 January 2011 and press advertisements were also published in leading print media *El Pais* on 23 January 2011. The *Economist* on 29 January 2011 and *Le Monde* on 1 February 2011.

Further to these advertisements, a total of 338 applications were received, including 43 from female candidates and 289 from men. A pre-selection of 12 candidates meeting the requirements was made following the internal procedures of the Organization and was submitted to me. In accordance with the selection procedure, a panel of recognized international experts was constituted to assess the candidatures of the 12 qualified applicants. Five eminent personalities were solicited for this task; three came to Rome and recommended a shortlist of candidates for consideration. I personally interviewed these four candidates on the shortlist, of which three were internal candidates and one external.

Further to this process, I concluded that among these excellent candidates Mr Juneja was the most suitable candidate for the position of Deputy Director-General for Operations. As appears from Mr Juneja's Curriculum Vitae, which was published last Friday as Council document CL 141/LIM/5, he joined FAO in March 1987 in the former Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation. After assuming successfully increasing responsibilities and serving as Executive Director of Support Services at the International Labour Organization on secondment from FAO, Mr Juneja became Director of this Office in January 2005. In this position he worked tirelessly on the Reform agenda that I initiated in the summer of 2005, advocating for FAO strategies and articulating the linkages between FAO's programmes, processes and structure.

Mr Juneja chaired the Interdepartmental Reform Group during the Independent External Evaluation of FAO in 2006-07 and acted as the IEE team's focal point. After his promotion to the position of Assistant Director-General of the Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department in January 2008, Mr Juneja acted as my representative on the Conference Committee for follow-up to the IEE and spokesperson on FOA renewal.

His indefatigable work on FAO reform contributed to the adoption by the Conference of the Immediate Plan of Action on IEE Follow-up.

Mr Juneja also introduced major reform initiatives in his Department, including results-based management, offshore business processes and cost-effective collaboration among the Rome-based UN Agencies.

Distinguished Members of the Council, I am convinced that Mr Juneja has the requisite qualifications and experience to become the Deputy Director-General of FAO for Operations and I seek your confirmation for this nomination.

Thank you for your kind attention.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général. Je demande donc si les Membres du Conseil souhaitent intervenir. Si vous voulez bien donner vos noms pour que je puisse vous donner la parole. La Tanzanie, les USA, l'Ouganda et la Syrie. Je donne la parole à la Tanzanie.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We give the floor to Morocco to speak first before I speak.

The Chairman of the G77.

LE PRÉSIDENT

C'est accepté.

L'Ambassadeur du Maroc, au nom du G77, vous avez la parole.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

Lors de la séance d'ouverture de ce Conseil, au moment de l'adoption de l'Ordre du jour, vous vous rappellerez que le G77 avait demandé une interruption de séance pour mener des consultations avec l'ensemble des Groupes. Ces consultations ont permis de trouver un consensus fort qui allait dans le sens d'appuyer la proposition faite par Monsieur le Directeur général.

Nous voudrions saisir cette occasion pour rendre hommage au Directeur général adjoint (Opérations) ici présent pour le travail accompli et la manière avec laquelle il a conduit sa mission. Nous souhaitons que ce point puisse aller dans le sens du renforcement des institutions que sont la FAO et ses organes de gestion. C'est pour cette raison, je crois, qu'il est de notre devoir de rendre hommage à l'action des différents groupes pour préserver la solidité et l'harmonie de fonctionnement de nos diverses institutions.

Nous appuyons fermement la proposition du Directeur général.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Africa Group and on behalf of my delegation, I welcome and appreciate the appointment which has been made by the Director-General in accordance with the rules and regulations of FAO for Mr. Manoj Juneja to take up the post of the Deputy Director-General, Operations when it becomes vacant in July 2011.

Tanzania associates itself, as well as the Africa Region, with what has been said by the Chairperson of G77.

This post is currently occupied by Mr. Changchui He, who has diligently executed his duties to admiration and satisfaction. We thank you.

We also congratulate Mr. Manoj Juneja and reiterate the Director-General's nomination remarks that Mr. Manoj Juneja is the best choice and the most suitable candidate. For those who know him, and reading through his career path contained in his CV, no one can doubt this choice which is merit-based.

The Africa Region Group has no hesitation in confirming this appointment, and we propose to the Council to confirm this appointment by acclamation.

Ms Etharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The United States is delivering the statement on behalf of the North America Region.

Let me begin by joining my colleagues from the G77 and from the Africa Group in first of all applauding Mr He. Having the opportunity to work with him has been valuable, not just for us here, but in support of the stakeholders, the hungry people around the world that we all serve. It has been too short, but it has been good and we thank you for this opportunity, Mr Director-General, for giving us Mr He during this period.

With that, let me go on to say it is obvious, as stated by the Director-General, that the rules, the regulations and the processes as stated have been followed. We acknowledge that fact. We recognize the valuable selection that he has presented to us. So let me say that we believe the candidate in question, Mr Juneja, is an extremely competent and capable individual whose qualifications for this post are by no means in question.

We congratulate the Director-General for this nomination and Mr Juneja for his receipt of this nomination, and recognize the high standards that he has brought to his present ADG position and his clear and obvious dedication to FAO and to the mission of this Organization.

We as a body are in uncharted waters which we believe, for the record, this Council should recognize. We are in a period where within two months we will elect a new Director-General. So for six months we will have a Director-General who serves as the leader of this Organization and an elected Director-General whose role through that transition period is not defined. As the discussion the other day on the terms and conditions for the Director-General demonstrated, and as the joint Inspection Unit Report 2009 spells out, there are several items related to Senior Management that need to be addressed for this coming transition period. We believe this is well worth reviewing in the next biennium, along with the outstanding IPA action items related to the qualifications list for the post of Director-General. We would like to see these issues included in the report of the CoC-IEE as well, but we have a situation that requires coordination, cooperation and communication. We ask Management during this very challenging and interesting period, for the benefit of those we all serve, to ensure that in the decisions that we make we accept every opportunity and recognize every opportunity to operate fairly in what is in the best interests and best practice for the long-term health of FAO and for the benefit of the people that we serve.

In closing, we look forward to working closely with Mr Juneja and we congratulate him for the honour of this nomination.

Mr Deo K. RWABITA (Uganda)

On behalf of my delegation, I concur with what the Chairman of G77 has said and the Chairman of the Africa Group and also what America has just given us. The selection of the new Deputy Director-General for Operations is an important office and what is important is always done according to the Rules and Regulation of the Organization, and the Director-General has explained carefully about the procedures that were applied and I think everybody here appreciates that he did the right thing.

Secondly, I want to congratulate Mr He for the long service he has given this Organization and wish him a very good retirement age. Now there are some people who have been telling us that his work should be extended to December. This is very unfair. Let the man go and rest and enjoy his benefits. Why disturb him now when you have another competent candidate in the name of Mr Juneja?

According to his CV, it is a very rich CV, with economics, accountancy and management. He has been working for FAO for 24 years which means the Director-General will be very blessed to find somebody that can tell him what to do, but imagine if you get a Director-General who is new and you get another person who is new as an Operations Manager, that will be a mess.

Therefore, I concur with my colleagues that we approve what the Director-General has asked, that we approve Mr Juneja as the next Deputy Director-General.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur. Je vous rappelle que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur a été aussi nommé tout à l'heure Vice-président de ce Conseil. La parole est maintenant à la Syrie.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I should like on behalf of the Near East Group to associate myself with those who preceded me in welcoming the nomination of Mr Juneja for the post of Deputy Director-General Operations. We are fully confident that the Director-General has made his selection following the rules and regulations and the decisions of the Governing Bodies of this Organization, and we look forward to cooperating with him in the future.

I would like to thank Mr He for all the efforts he has made during his service to develop further the work of this Organization.

Ms Sujin PARK (Republic of Korea)

I am speaking on behalf of the Asia Group. Let me start by paying tribute to Mr Changchui He, the current Deputy Director-General for Operations. Mr He is one of the faces of the FAO Reform, since he was the first to be appointed to the position of the Deputy Director-General for Operations. During his time he has improved the Decentralization of FAO and has been instrumental in drawing up the

Regional Strategic Framework. Mr. He has also provided guidance for Member Nations in the region as they develop their National Agricultural Development Plans.

The Asia Group considers Mr He's retirement as a loss for FAO, and wishes him and his family all the best in his next endeavours.

The Asia Group is fortunate that he is being replaced by Mr Manoj Juneja. Somehow Mr Manoj brings with him a financial background which will hopefully improve the financial situation of the Organization. Since Mr Juneja has been involved with the Reform of FAO as the representative of the Director-General, the Asia Group is confident that with him as Deputy Director-General for Operations the momentum of the Reform will continue.

We congratulate and salute him on this appointment. We hope that this appointment of Mr Manoj Juneja will not prejudice the ongoing process of the election of the Director-General.

Thank you very much for your indulgence.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, we would like to align our comments with those of North America. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Changchui He for his service as Deputy Director-General. He was also the Assistant Director-General for the Asia and Pacific Region, and while he was based in Asia he certainly had his presence felt throughout my region as well.

So we certainly would like to appreciate that, I am sure we will have many more opportunities to work with Mr He before he retires.

Finally, we would also like to also put on record our appreciation and support for Mr Manoj Juneja. I have personally worked with Mr Juneja closely over the two years that I have been here, including last night for some hours talking about budget issues, so we fully support Mr Juneja's capacity in this role. This for us is an issue of principle and of process. We certainly agree with the fact that this process has been followed appropriately and there is no concern in that regard.

We look forward to working with Mr Juneja.

Sr. Olyntho VIEIRA (Brasil)

Brasil interviente en nombre del GRULAC para demostrar nuestra apreciación por el trabajo que ha desarrollado el Sr. He por todo este tiempo. Lo conocemos y sabemos que ha hecho un excelente trabajo como en todas sus posiciones que ha ocupado, y finalmente como DDG de Operaciones.

En la misma oportunidad aprovechamos para desear al Sr. Juneja, cuyas calificaciones hemos bien apreciado, felicidades en sus nuevas asunciones y que cuente con nuestro apoyo.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci bien au Brésil. Y-a-t'il d'autres demandes d'interventions? Pas d'autres demandes d'interventions?

Le point à l'Ordre du jour était la Nomination du Directeur général adjoint. Puis-je considérer que le Conseil confirme la nomination de Monsieur Manoj Juneja comme Directeur général adjoint pour les opérations de la FAO?

Bien, permettez-moi publiquement aussi en votre nom, mais vous le faites mieux que moi d'adresser toutes mes félicitations à Monsieur Juneja et de prendre mon poste de Président aussi pour dire deux autres choses.

La première chose c'est de m'associer aussi avec ce que vous avez dit sur les remerciements, les félicitations à l'actuel Directeur général adjoint. Je lui rappelle malgré tout qu'il a encore deux mois et demi de travail intense. Mais comme nous n'aurons pas l'occasion de pouvoir le remercier directement, je voulais quand même lui remercier. Le temps que j'ai travaillé avec lui, j'ai beaucoup apprécié son travail. Donc merci.

Et puis un autre point qui a été évoqué par la délégation des États-Unis, je tiens à redire qu'ici notre mission était la décision du Directeur général adjoint et que les commentaires en ce qui nous concerne, concernant la situation du Directeur général et la période transitoire est claire. Le Directeur général actuel a un mandat jusqu'au 31 décembre 2011. Le futur Directeur général aura un mandat à partir du 1er janvier 2012. Ce n'est pas de notre responsabilité au Conseil de faire quoi que ce soit d'autre. C'est la Conférence qui décide mais ces deux contrats sont très clairs en matière juridique.

Monsieur le Directeur général, si vous voulez faire quelques commentaires supplémentaires après cette confirmation de nomination, vous avez la parole.

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président de me donner l'occasion d'intervenir. Ce sera simplement pour remercier le Conseil pour avoir, à l'unanimité, approuvé la proposition que j'ai faite et exprimer ma gratitude parce que toutes les propositions que j'ai faites ici de nominations du Directeur général adjoint quand il y en avait seulement un, et maintenant de deux Directeurs généraux adjoints, toutes ces propositions ont été approuvées à l'unanimité. Je voudrais vous exprimer ma gratitude pour cette marque de confiance. Je vous remercie.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur le Directeur général. Nous allons continuer nos travaux, pour une partie sur l'état de l'évolution des débats. Comme il faut faire les choses réglementaires le Point 24 est clos puisqu'il n'y avait pas d'autres.

Merci Ali, je dois redemander s'il y avait d'autres questions au Point 24 que vous vouliez aborder. Excusez-moi, je suis allé un peu trop vite. Il y a-t-il d'autres questions? Le Brésil.

Sr. Olytho VIEIRA (Brésil)

Brasil toma la palabra en nombre del GRULAC, que tiene el grato placer de informar y presentar la Propuesta del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia acerca de la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua, con el propósito de contribuir a la erradicación de la pobreza y el hambre, y al cumplimiento de las Metas de Desarrollo del Milenio y a los objetivos de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación de 1996.

La Quinua es el pseudocereal de mayor y más completa composición nutricional conocido al día de hoy, de un alto valor nutritivo, contiene todos los aminoácidos esenciales, elevada lisina en sus semillas y hojas, buen contenido de vitaminas, alta concentración de calcio y hierro. Asimismo, en el campo de la salud, la Quinua ayuda a reducir el riesgo de enfermedades cardiovasculares, previene el cáncer de mama, la osteoporosis y contribuye a la regulación de la presión, evita los coágulos sanguíneos e inflamaciones, además de mantener en niveles bajos el colesterol y tiene la cualidad de ser un producto “cero gluten” y “sin lactosa”, significando una alternativa muy valiosa para combatir la enfermedad Celiaca.

Reconociendo su valor benéfico-nutricional, la Quinua fue considerada por la Organización para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO) como “el grano del futuro” y por la NASA como el alimento de alta calidad nutritiva, excepcionalmente completo y balanceado.

En Sud América existe producción de Quinua en Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, el norte de Chile y Argentina. En este sentido, el Año Internacional de la Quinua promoverá una mayor producción y consumo.

Para la realización del “2013: Año Internacional de la Quinua”, el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia propone la organización de cinco grandes festivales regionales de la Quinua, entre otras actividades a ser sugeridas por los Países Miembros y la FAO, en diferentes continentes, y de esta forma garantizar el financiamiento necesario a través de acuerdos de cooperación bilateral entre el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y el País Miembro anfitrión del festival.

Por último, el GRULAC solicita al Consejo que tome nota de la importancia de la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua en el sentido de que la demanda de alimentos cualitativos es creciente.

Se requiere con urgencia producir alimentos altamente nutritivos como la Quinoa y contribuir de esta manera a la erradicación del hambre y desnutrición en el planeta.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je propose que le Conseil prenne note de la proposition faite par la Bolivie par l'intermédiaire du GRULAC de déclarer une Année internationale de la quinoa en 2013. Pas d'objections?

On le mettra dans le cadre, y-a-t'il a d'autres questions sur le Point 24? Si tel n'est pas le cas, je considère donc le Point 24 clos avec mes excuses tout à l'heure pour ce petit contretemps.

20. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO (CL 141/INF/6)

20. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO (CL 141/INF/6)

20. Novedades en los foros con implicaciones importantes para el mandato de la FAO (CL 141/INF/6)

LE PRÉSIDENT

Nous passons au Point 20 sur l'évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances de la FAO et nous aurons six points qui nous seront présentés. Madame Agnès van Ardenne.

Ms Agnes VAN ARDENNE (Netherlands)

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address this Council meeting in highlighting the outcomes of the first Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change which was held the first week in November 2010 in the Hague, and where many of you have participated.

This Conference was organized by the Netherlands in close cooperation with Ethiopia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Viet Nam, the World Bank and FAO. It was a very inspiring event and the first of its kind to bring together the agendas of agriculture, food security and climate change.

The Conference focused on identifying concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies and measures aiming at a transition to climate-smart growth. Sixty Ministers and around 1 000 representatives from governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, philanthropic foundations, farmers and the scientific community showcased many best practices to make this transition happen.

Participants and ministers at the meeting recognized the enormous tasks we are facing today in fighting the multiple crises to ensure food and water security, as well as in ensuring sufficient energy supply without losing biodiversity while addressing, at the same time, the even bigger challenge to feed 9 billion people by 2050 with our scarce natural resources.

Climate change is clearly affecting agricultural productivity. It is, therefore, a direct threat to food security. On the other hand, agricultural activities including land use change and deforestation are also major agents of climate change, contributing to one third of global greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural production directly contributes to 14 percent of overall greenhouse gas emissions and it is the single most significant driver of deforestation, which causes another 18 percent.

The title of the Hague Conference clearly stated the urgent need for action on the ground: "It is down to earth". The Ministers at the conference recognized that a paradigm shift at all levels is needed, with agriculture and food security being at the heart of the sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts.

Investing in agriculture is urgently needed indeed. The focus should be on green growth, to be achieved through a shift in agricultural practices, taking into account environmental capacity of the different regions, greenhouse gas reductions and higher absorbing capacity, as well as energy efficiency and savings. This will be a true transition to climate-smart agriculture by: firstly, identifying what needs to happen with agriculture to increase productivity and to reduce emissions; secondly, scaling up the showcases shared by governments and the private sector in creating a climate-resilient agricultural sector; thirdly, promoting innovative approaches that bring together private and public sector finances to invest in climate-smart agriculture.

The Conference resulted in a roadmap for action on agriculture, food security and climate change reflecting the deliberations and best showcases presented during the week. You can find a copy here of the Conference Report outside this room. I am delighted to present this roadmap to you here today. It presents an understanding of the challenges and solutions as I outlined before. Furthermore, it highlights the instruments and policies and strategies for climate-smart agriculture, and the tools and technologies and the financing needed for transition. Last, but not least, it contains an extensive list of concrete, ongoing and new actions brought forth by participants at the Conference.

The roadmap is part of an ongoing process to identify, stimulate and broaden actions through sharing and learning from best practices, as well as through matching new activities with funders and investors under a clearing-house framework. The roadmap and the actions will, therefore, be developed further in the coming year towards a follow-up Conference that the Government of Viet Nam is hosting in 2012.

The Ministers present in The Hague highlighted that each, within its own responsibility and capabilities, should strive to address the issues in this living roadmap for action in the various international agendas and also at local level and determine how they may be relevant in their contexts. In this respect, it is also crucial that within FAO we work further on the concept of climate-smart agriculture. With member parties, FAO has taken already many initiatives to implement a climate strategy. One example is Netherland's support to the FAO establishment of a Global Agenda of Action in support of Responsible Livestock Development.

I conclude, therefore, that I am delighted to present to you the roadmap, and I would like to invite you all to join in its further development and its implementation. Working towards a climate-smart agriculture is crucial in realizing a healthy and wealthy world.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame l'Ambassadeur. Sans plus attendre, je vous donne la parole pour des commentaires ou des questions à Madame Agnès van Ardenne-van der Hoeven.

S'il n'y a pas d'interventions, je considérerai, Madame l'Ambassadeur, que vous avez été très exhaustive et très précise dans votre présentation et qu'il n'y a ni commentaire ni question sur le sujet. Je vous remercie pour votre rapport.

Nous allons passer les cinq autres points successivement et je demande à Monsieur Tom Heilandt de nous présenter la Coopération FAO avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé en matière de sécurité sanitaire des aliments.

Mr Tom HEILANDT (FAO Staff)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ²

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Monsieur Heilandt et, comme nous avons convenu, il y aura des questions à la fin, je vous propose de les mettre en réserve. Nous allons passé au deuxième sujet avec Madame Marcela Villarreal qui va nous parler de la Commission de la condition de la femme et des femmes en milieu rural et de la participation de la FAO à ce colloque en 2012.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Je parle d'ici, cela sera très bref. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Continues in English

Thank you very much for taking the subject today, I will be very, very brief. I would like to address the issue of the Commission on the Status of Women which was established in 1946 and is a functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC.

² CL 141/PV Appendix B.

It is a principal policy making body at a global level dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It has 45 Member States and they regularly meet once a year at the beginning of the year to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

Now, the issue that brings us here today is that next year, in 2012, the priority topic of this Commission is going to be The Empowerment of Rural Women and Their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges. Naturally, this is a topic that fits very much in line with the developments happening here in FAO. We had, as you know, the State of Food and Agriculture just published. This is also going to be the topic of our own Conference, and this will naturally feed into the deliberations at the level of the Commission on the Status of Women next March.

Since the First World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975, significant advancements have been made in the status of women worldwide. However, many of these advancements have favoured urban women more than rural women. We know that gender gaps in education, in health, in employment, and access to productive resources continue to be larger in rural areas than in urban areas, where, naturally, we know that poverty is concentrated. Poverty continues to be concentrated in the rural areas having 70 percent of the world's 1.4 billion extremely poor people.

As you know from the recently-published State of Food and Agriculture, the gender gap in access to productive resources has a huge cost for societies, and closing it, of course, can have a huge benefit for societies. We have calculated that only by giving rural women the same access that rural men have to productive resources that are necessary for agriculture, no less than 100 to 150 million people out of the 925 million could be lifted out of hunger. So, clearly, closing the gender gap in the rural areas could have a significant impact, not only on hunger, but, of course, many multiplier effects are included in nutrition, education of children and so on. Therefore, the topic of the Commission for this next year 2012 is extremely timely.

FAO is participating very actively, naturally, in this Commission and in the preparation of the topic, of course, very much in collaboration with the newly-established UN Women and very, very closely collaborating with the Rome-based Agencies. Now, the Rome-based Agencies will host a preparatory expert group meeting here in Rome next September. The three agencies are doing this together in collaboration, and we are also leading the new inter-agency Task Force where the entire UN will be contributing to this topic and also to the Secretary-General's report on this issue.

What do we expect out of this Commission? We expect that the Commission will contribute to raise the issue of rural women in governments' priority agendas and in policies, and we hope to put forward a number of recommendations. I will not go into detail regarding the recommendations, but we want that Commission to raise with governments the fact that it is necessary to increase investments in agriculture if we want to increase food security. However, only investments in agriculture that take into account gender issues will be effective in reducing hunger and rural poverty.

Agricultural policy needs to be gender-sensitive in order to be effective. Rural women's empowerment is the key, not only to agriculture and to food security, but to improved nutrition, education for children and other multiplier effects. It is also the basis of other forms of empowerment, and hence, it is necessary for good food security governance. As I said before, reducing the gender gap in access to productive resources in the rural areas can boost agricultural production up to 4 percent, and this in itself can lift 100-150 million people out of hunger. It can also contribute to reduce food price volatility, just by increasing agricultural production and promoting conditions that stabilize agricultural production.

Finally, rural institutions, such as agricultural, producer and rural workers' associations, rural credit unions, women's associations, water users' groups, self-help groups, etc. can play a crucial role in contributing to rural women's economic empowerment and public representation, and hence, also are quite crucial to food security.

These are some of the messages that we want governments to pick up through the Commission on the Status of Women and, of course, we will be keeping you informed of further developments.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Mme Villarreal. Je passe la parole à M. Müller.

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

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ³

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Müller.

Je passe la parole à Monsieur Peter Holmgren, Directeur de la Division du climat, de l'énergie et des régimes fonciers qui fera une présentation sur les incidences pour la FAO de la seizième session de la Conférence des parties à la Convention cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique, qui s'est tenue à Cancun, Mexique, en novembre et décembre 2010.

Vous avez la parole.

Mr Peter HOLMGREN (Director, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁴

Thank you for the opportunity. I have been asked to discuss the implications for FAO of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Cancun held last year.

From an FAO perspective we tried to define the issues around climate change in the following way. We wanted to express that there are two goals of our time. One is to achieve food security. We know that there are one billion hungry. We know that we need to increase food production and, this is where climate change comes in, since a very significant and important component of achieving food security will be to adapt to climate change. We see adaptation as part of this goal.

Secondly, the other goal is avoiding dangerous climate change, with a two degree goal expressed as a political and technical need. This requires major emissions cuts. As agriculture and land use in general are responsible for 30 percent of the overall emissions, this needs to be part of the solution.

The Cancun Agreement had many points of high relevance to FAO. First, there was a formal recognition that current emissions pledges needed to rise. This is important. Within the long-term corporative action process, there were a number of points, such as agreement on enhanced action on adaptation, again – very significant for achieving food security. There were decisions on enhanced action on mitigation, including action to improve the assessment of emissions and mitigation potentials, nationally and internationally. There was agreement on establishing a registry of NAMAS, that is, nationally appropriate mitigation actions. There was agreement about REDD+, very significant for FAO's work and that includes potential mitigation actions related to all types of forests, including the agriculture/forest interface.

There was agreement on finance, a Green Fund aiming at USD 100 billion of finance per year by 2020 for developing countries, to be used against climate impact and for low carbon development, for which the World Bank was nominated as an interim trustee.

As we also know, the extension of the Kyoto Protocol was postponed and the work on an agriculture work programme was postponed. We should not be too worried, however, that the agriculture work programme was postponed because we saw a lot of activity, a lot of interest in the area of agriculture and climate change. We have already today heard about The Hague Conference which very prominently raised the issues on the agenda. We continue to see interest in agriculture throughout this year with a number of important events being planned. However, from a negotiations point of view, agriculture is still being postponed, also after the recent Bangkok meetings last week.

³ CL 141/PV Appendix C.

⁴ CL 141/PV Appendix D.

The key considerations for FAO's continued work on climate change can be summarized as follows. The Green Fund raises expectations of FAO's contribution and involvement, particularly in climate change adaptation. We are and have been working over the past year to establish a cross-cutting climate change adaptation framework programme which will incorporate areas in all Strategic Objectives of FAO which contribute to climate change adaptation. This is a key starting point.

The agreement on REDD+ will take us towards an implementation phase. We are leaving a focus on negotiations. We are entering implementation phase. The UN-REDD programme, which is a collaboration between FAO, UNEP and UNDP, provides a good basis for moving forward.

It is likely that requests from Member Nations for support will increase. It is likely that FAO's role will be increasingly knowledge-based as opposed to operations in this area, but that is perhaps a topic of high relevance here.

Secondly, on continued key considerations, FAO has established a programme of mitigation of climate change in agriculture. This provides an important lead in the development of an agriculture work programme under the negotiations. It includes piloting in countries, capacity-building, a knowledge base for agriculture mitigation practices and, very importantly, a newly-created programme on assessments of emissions and mitigation potentials in the agriculture sectors.

FAO is also involved in a Climate Services Partnership that is improving observations, analysis and decision support, with a focus for FAO on food and agriculture issues. This is of strategic importance for farmers to be able to make the right decisions.

Finally, as regards energy issues, that is both energy produced in the agriculture sector, bio-energy, as well as energy consumed in the agriculture sectors, emissions reductions will also raise issues of reductions in the agriculture sectors. Energy therefore consumed in the agriculture sectors will increasingly come under scrutiny, and overall the energy and agriculture topic will need to be a priority work area.

Let me just end with two words that we have already heard about the issue of climate-smart agricultures. This is something that we from FAO worked on in the preparation for The Hague Conference last year. We see there is a lot of interest in this concept and the climate-smart agriculture concept is something that we want to continue to develop, together with the partners and with you all.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Monsieur Holmgren. Nous passons au sujet suivant, la présentation de Monsieur Pasquale Steduto sur le Forum mondial de l'eau et sur la Semaine mondiale de l'eau.

Mr Pasquale STEDUTO (Principal Officer, Land and Water Division)

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION ⁵

I am presenting the two major water-related events in which FAO is involved: the World Water Forum and the World Water Week. The Forum, which represents a platform for all the water-related community and stakeholders, from decision-makers to regional and governmental representatives up to the private sector, NGOs, etc. essentially is there to focus on major challenges and possible solutions in achieving water security.

The Forum is organized every three years and is generally the largest international event on water. Generally, the order of the magnitude of the participants is over 20 000. The participation of FAO at the Forum has been considered very relevant because it serves to raise the agriculture dimension in these debates. In fact, initially when the World Water Forum started in 1997 in Marrakech, participation was mostly from the private sector and focused on delivery to the urban sector. So the dimension of water supply and sanitation, which is still relevant, was the initial departure. You can still find nowadays at this Forum that people still wonder and are surprised when we say that agriculture is the sector that has the largest number of water users. It was in the last World Water

⁵ CL 141/PV Appendix E.

Forum in March 2009 in Istanbul where FAO participated, as the Chair of UN-Water by coordinating the theme “Advancing human development and MDGs,” and addressed poverty and hunger. On that occasion, in fact, food, water and agriculture reached the maximum recognition ever before by the Forum. The Director-General was of course there, as was the Assistant Director-General for Natural Resources. We participated in many events and the recognition of that is reflected in the fact that FAO has been invited also to the next World Water Forum that will be held in Marseille next year in March to coordinate the topic or thematic priority of “Water and Food Security”. The President of the World Water Council, which is the organization that follows the process and organizes the Forum, came personally here to talk with the Director-General and invite FAO because this issue of water and food security is becoming more and more relevant. We then accepted, although we tried to share, responsibility for political, technical and strategic measures with another partner, the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

During the process of development of the different topics, a few of these were identified as relevant and of priority, such as the sustainable increase of productivity of land and water, both of rainfed and irrigated agriculture found in the FAO programme on sustainable crop production intensification; better management of ground water currently at risk and subject to FAO's land and water assessment; reducing post-harvest losses which is very relevant for our AGS Division; and improved food supply chain efficiency to complete the whole spectrum from the supply side to the demand side, including the promotion of sustainable diets in cooperation with the Nutrition Division.

A second forum or event where we participate is the World Water Week. This is of a different nature. It is an annual event, not every three years. It does not have the same process of development but establishes topics year by year and then people provide or propose events, seminars and workshops to address specific topics. So it provides also in this case a unique forum for exchange, experience and practice, but there are also the scientific, business and, policy dimensions present. It has a different profile, with new thinking, positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world environment, health, climate, economic and poverty reduction agenda. Essentially, due to the number of diverse Side Events, back-to-back meetings and donor presence - there is a large presence of donors during the World Water Week - it represents an exclusive opportunity for networking. But for us it is not only networking because due to this technical and scientific profile, it represents also for the Professionals that participate in the event an opportunity to update a little. So it is a sort of indirect capacity-development for us.

We started to frequent Water Week because FAO is member of UN-Water even after it left the chairmanship, and there is an annual meeting to which we continue to go. As a next step also in the World Water Week, we have been invited to participate in several events. Among them, I would like to mention a full day event on the Rio plus 20 process, addressing the value of water in the green economy, a seminar on water and food security as an informal stakeholder consultation towards the World Water Forum. So there is also an opportunity to connect between the two events. The World Water Day that will be in 2012, which FAO will organize with the United Nations will be dedicated to the same theme “Water and Food Security.” While we are there, we shall also participate in different panel discussions and other events.

What are basically the challenges that we face as FAO? Well, we notice that participation in these events is relevant because we address two major core functions: policy and strategy options and advice. This is done in a non-conventional, informal manner which has a positive implication to the extent that it essentially looks at what FAO provides with its reputation, with its technical capacity and with its people rather than through formalism. At the same time, it provides an effective advocacy and communication opportunity, but to be very effective on that we also need to be present. We need to dedicate time and resources.

So these are the two major challenges that I would consider and, as a question for the FAO Members, ask that if we want to continue to participate, to which extent should we do so. Of course from time to time, from event to event, we consider the relevance and whether to invest more or less in the participation, but we would also like to hear from the Member Nations their view on the participation in these for a, and to which extent we should participate. And with this, I will stop.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de cette présentation et merci à vous tous pour les différentes présentations, les commentaires et les questions posées aux Membres du Conseil.

Je vous donne la parole pour des commentaires ou des questions et nous aurons une série de réponses et éventuellement d'autres questions.

La Norvège, l'Union européenne, le Zimbabwe, l'Ouganda, l'Argentine, le Canada, le Sri Lanka, la Guinée-équatoriale, la France, le Mozambique et les États-Unis.

La parole est à la Norvège.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

I will address myself to section 4 in the document before us, the IPBES.

Norway is a strong supporter of the fact the FAO should be a partner to the Inter-governmental Science Policy Platform on Bio-diversity and Eco-system Services (IPBES). Its subject, indeed, is a central part of FAO's technical and normative work. We also think that FAO should consider providing secretarial support for IPBES.

Norway proposes that the FAO's Secretariat prepare a resolution to the table for the Conference in June-July this year, in order for the Conference to agree on FAO's becoming a partner to IPBES.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (European Union)

It is my honour and my privilege on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States to take the floor.

On 20 December 2010, the Sixty-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 65/162 aimed at operationalizing IPBES, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bio-diversity and Eco-system Services.

The IPBES's role is to strengthen the science policy interface for bio-diversity, while supporting policy formulation with scientifically-credible, independent and peer-reviewed assessments.

In this regard, the mandate and long-standing role of FAO in relation to periodic assessments relevant to the state of the world's genetic resources, to bio-diversity and to eco-system services make it in an important player and future key partner for IPBES.

For this new platform to become operational, some further concrete steps are necessary and especially the involvement of international organizations and programmes such as UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP and FAO.

The European Union strongly supported the creation of IPBES and thus recalls the need for the next FAO Conference in June 2011 to formally adopt a resolution welcoming the above-mentioned United Nations General Assembly Resolution, which organizes the operationalization process of IPBES, thus confirming the interest FAO's association with this process. The IPBES will, indeed, benefit from FAO's expertise, which is fully in line with its objectives and future activities.

We look forward to receiving a fully-costed proposal, including any additional resource implications.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

We welcome the report of The Hague Conference on Agricultural Food Security and Climate Change, and we welcome the focus on climate-resilient agriculture.

We need assistance as developing countries to adapt to climate change. Climate change is with us. It has had a negative impact on production in all sectors. In Zimbabwe, we have used the TCP programmes as a way of introducing the new approaches. An example is the dryland agricultural projects introducing small grains to the very dry areas, and conservation agriculture with the involvement of 120 000 households. So we believe that FAO should continue to provide a knowledge base for adaptation and mitigation because these are realities for rural farmers.

The UN-REDD Programme – we are very excited about the Programme but we wonder to what extent countries can join as members.

We believe that cooperation in food safety, we believe, is an important issue but the legal frameworks need to be established, both at national and regional levels, so that FAO can assist in providing knowledge and advice on best practices. While we are doing many of these things in our countries, we need support in terms of the legal frameworks currently in place before the private sector and governments can look at the issue of food safety. What is the role of consumer councils? We know that in our region not every country has consumer councils although they are developing, but what is the role of consumer councils in this respect?

We welcome the UN Commission on Women's focus on empowerment of rural women. We believe that this is a theme that needs to be supported. In the process, we need more disaggregated data. We have been talking about it for a long time but in order to identify what governments are currently doing and where we are lacking, we need also to have more information about what is happening. We have talked about disaggregated data for a long time, but we really need to do something about it so that we know how much money is actually going to women farmers and supporting rural women.

With respect to FAO's participation in the Water Weeks, I have been privileged for a number of years to attend the Stockholm Water Week and I think it is a wonderful forum because the issue of water is closely tied to agriculture. I believe it is a forum where expertise from all sectors in developing countries and developed countries are coming together, and I think FAO should participate in that type of forum.

Mr Deo K RWABITA (Uganda)

I want to comment on empowerment of rural women. At these international women organizations' conferences, I am afraid, I am going to give a negative picture and pardon me because these are the facts on the ground.

Who attends these conferences? It is the educated women and urban women. When they go, they make resolutions and acclamations and they come back. They come back to their capitals and full stop. Nothing more.

I would like you to tell us what women do after these conferences when they go home, because take the case Africa, women are the major producers of food. About 80 percent of food and even cash crops like coffee, cotton, maize, groundnuts, whatever are produced by women. But they have no capacity to produce better quality products and how can we empower them, Madame?

The most important thing to empower women is education and, as you know, most of the African women, especially the old ones are illiterate. Uganda just started its universal primary education in 1997, but most other women are illiterate. So your women groups should look for funds. I think the donors are ready, World Bank, what have you, because this is an area where you could do a lot for rural women. If you could promote adult education for these women, they would not only learn how to read and count, but they would learn about health, hygiene, how to feed children, how to have nutritious food and, in that way, these women would open their eyes to assimilate new ideas about better farming and about better products. But you go to these conferences, most women go there to do shopping, they come back to their capitals and they stop there.

So what are you doing for these rural women? What empowerment are you planning for them?

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Antes de nada, quiero agradecer todas las presentaciones, realmente excelentes. En este sentido quería solicitar el envío de las presentaciones a la página de los Representantes Permanentes.

Tengo algunas preguntas:

Con relación a Codex Alimentarius, desearíamos que se brinde información sobre el estado actual del Fondo Fiduciario.

Con relación al tema de género nos interesan varias cosas: la primera, ¿cómo se va a interrelacionar la Comisión de la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer en la FAO y el Organismo para el Empoderamiento de la Mujer de Naciones Unidas? Esta interrelación nos parece muy importante.

Dado el éxito que tuvo la presentación del SOFA y la reunión del 8 de marzo en el Día de la Mujer, desearíamos proponer la realización de una reunión informativa con todas las novedades y progresos que se van dando. Creemos que es necesario hacer un nuevo encuentro, Sra. Villarreal, para ver mecanismos concretos de acción.

También nos gustaría conocer su opinión dado que lo hemos visto también en el Comité de Programa y ayer en el Consejo se trató mucho sobre el tema de la disminución presupuestaria, de la baja, del Objetivo K y ¿cómo piensa usted que se va a poder gestionar el tema género en el próximo bienio?

Con respecto al agua, obviamente apoyamos la participación de FAO en el Foro del Agua pues creemos que es fundamental. No obstante ello, acabamos de aprobar la creación de la Plataforma de agua en FAO y entonces también nos gustaría conocer cuál va a ser el trabajo integrado de esta Plataforma que se ha creado en FAO con estos otros organismos que están funcionando.

Mr Marco VALICENTI (Canada)

Canada really appreciates the documentation prepared by the Secretariat and we are very much impressed by the work undertaken by the FAO in these various fora. We also thank the presenters for their outcome statements regarding the various meetings we just heard about. As we and others have mentioned, it is important for the FAO in ensuring its credibility and visibility to enhance its engagement with its traditional partners but also to build new alliances in order to move the FAO's core work forward. Positive progress is certainly being observed, and Canada appreciates this.

Canada has two points it wishes to make. We are a strong proponent and advocate for effective science-based rules. The work undertaken by the FAO and the WHO through the Codex Alimentarius Commission is a key strategic area and core competency for the FAO. I believe it was mentioned by the presenter and highlighted in paragraph 3 of the document regarding the resolution requesting the Director-General of WHO to provide adequate and sustainable support for the expert bodies within Codex, surely a statement that Canada strongly supports. As a result, we would be grateful if the Secretariat could provide a quick update on how this is being addressed in its working with the WHO. Again in the context of Codex, we are also concerned, to some extent, with some of the discussions that have taken place in the past with commissions where the principle of science-based analysis is at times taking a back seat to political interest. We must avoid going down this track at all costs, as it compromises the integrity of the commissions' work in setting efficient and effective food safety standards.

Canada is certainly a strong supporter of the work being undertaken in FAO on bio-diversity, both within the International Treaty as well as in the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We are also very pleased that the Nagoya Protocol explicitly recognizes the importance of genetic resources to food security. We wish to receive a point of clarification regarding a timing issue highlighted in paragraph 9 on page 3 of the English text.

The updated Global Plan of Action (GPA) is close to being finalized and will be discussed in the Commission's next regular session in July after the FAO Conference. Our interest is to have the GPA adopted as quickly as possible, and not having to wait for the FAO Conference in 2013. At the fourth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty for Plant Genetics, Canada was among the countries that voiced a preference to fully adopt the updated GPA in 2011. We do not favour organizing a separate diplomatic conference for this sole purpose. Our preference is to use existing meetings and potentially FAO bodies to complete this. Therefore, we would be grateful to receive views and perspectives by the Secretariat as to options we could consider to move up the date of the GPA adoption prior to 2013. Some options that were discussed were potentially having the forthcoming FAO Conference delegate its responsibility to the Commission or designate one day of the Commission's meeting in July as a diplomatic conference, so to speak, for the sole purpose of the GPA adoption. Again, we look forward to your perspectives.

Finally, just two quick points. We are supportive, as mentioned by the European Union, IPBES but we would like this discussed further, possibly as an item to be brought forward to Programme Committee to assess its programmatic implications.

With regard to the water discussion, we are certainly very supportive of the comments made by my colleagues from Argentina. We would like to get further perspectives on the overall context, and how it is integrated. I think we talked a bit about this in the context of the Programme Committee, again in connection to the Water Platform, so we may need further views on this as well.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

My question is directed to the presenter who made a presentation on FAO-WHO cooperation on food safety. In his presentation, he alluded to the point on participation of developing countries in the Commission meetings. This is a very healthy development when one considers the situation which prevailed a few decades ago regarding the assertions that standards developed within the Codex Commission were mainly for the products of interest of developed countries, not the other way around.

How do you assess the participation of the developing countries? Is it in the context of their participation in the number of meetings and conferences, or in terms of the submissions that they have made in formulating standards on the products of interest to them?

I see there is a lack of adequate briefing on FAO involvement, particularly in the area of agricultural trade, which normally falls within the mandate of the World Trade Organization. It should be noted that food security, rural development and food deficiency, which are of great importance and relevance to FAO activities, do not figure prominently at the Commission level, although they are prominently reflected in the Doha Development Agenda.

Maybe it is because I am new to this institution and therefore did not have the benefit of listening to the previous briefing undertaken by the Secretariat on this main subject, but my delegation believes that on FAO's involvement in issues of agricultural trade which are important to FAO, a brief on such issues should have been made at this Council meeting. I would particularly like to flag this because there are many proposals which are on the table within the WTO where FAO has been involved and the most recent is how to address the issue of food deficiency countries, especially in light of the increase in world food prices.

In essence, then, I believe that in the future sessions, there has to be a regular briefing on issues which are actually covered under the WTO.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

También quiero sumarme en agradecer a los ponentes por la claridad de las presentaciones y concretamente tendría algún comentario sobre los Temas 6 y 7 en relación con la agricultura, la seguridad alimentaria y el cambio climático.

El comentario es señalar y puntualizar la importancia de los bosques con respecto a la agricultura, seguridad alimentaria y el cambio climático. Los bosques están en el centro de la atención cuando se habla de esta problemática ligada a la agricultura, seguridad alimentaria y el cambio climático.

Las explotaciones de los bosques tanto para desarrollar la actividad agrícola, que como sabemos también en las zonas tropicales, los bosques también tienen su repercusión en la explotación industrial en la madera. Como sabemos, estas actividades conllevan gran parte de las tasas de deforestación de los bosques tropicales.

África conlleva el segundo bosque más importante del mundo, el segundo pulmón del mundo como se reconoce. Los países africanos de esta zona tropical, en estos últimos años, están efectivamente emprendiendo una gran actividad para colaborar y participar en el proceso general de proteger el medio ambiente con la conservación de los bosques intentando llevar a cabo actividades ligadas a una agricultura mucho más sostenible. Pero en cambio, así los países africanos de esa zona tropical también deben hacer frente a la necesidad de aumentar superficies agrícolas para aumentar la

producción de alimentos y acudir igualmente también a la explotación industrial de la madera para los ingresos económicos de los Países Miembros.

Acogemos con satisfacción los procesos ligados a REDD y al Fondo Verde pero también reconocemos que estos procesos llevan ciertas dificultades para que todos los países puedan beneficiarse con las medidas integradas, por ejemplo, en el REDD+ y en el Fondo Verde. Por tanto, como han dicho los demás oradores, creemos que la FAO debe efectivamente implicarse en apoyar esa medida. Los problemas medio-ambientales ya son reales hoy en día y ya nos afectan. Seguimos haciendo muchas más reuniones, muchas más conferencias sin llevar medidas concretas sobre el terreno. Los países tropicales más afectados, sobretodo, son lo que más protegen nuestro medio-ambiente y están esperando acciones concretas sobre el terreno.

Mme Bérengère QUINCY (France)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier tous les orateurs de leur présentation claire et instructive sur des sujets qui sont tous importants pour la FAO. Je salue le travail réalisé par la FAO sur tous ces sujets, et je crois aussi qu'aujourd'hui est un moment de dialogue utile pour nos travaux.

Je voudrais juste évoquer deux points parmi tous ces sujets qui sont tous de même importance. Premièrement je soutiens l'intervention de l'Union européenne sur l'engagement de la FAO dans la création de l'IPBES, parce que c'est effectivement un sujet extrêmement utile, cette plateforme entre la science et la décision politique. J'espère que lors de la prochaine Conférence, nous serons en mesure d'accompagner cet effort.

Je souhaite aussi insister sur l'importance du terme de l'eau dans l'agriculture, comme d'autres orateurs l'ont dit avant moi, notamment ma collègue du Zimbabwe. L'eau agricole et les aspects liés à la sécurité alimentaire sont des enjeux fondamentaux pour notre objectif qui est de nourrir le monde en 2050. Nourrir neuf milliards de personnes suppose une augmentation de 70 pour cent de la production agricole. Il est heureux que ces aspects soient maintenant reconnus et pleinement intégrés dans les travaux du Forum mondial de l'eau. Ils seront débattus lors de la réunion de ce Forum mondial de l'eau à Marseille en mars 2012. Nous encourageons donc une participation active de la FAO dans ce type de rencontres. Nous la remercions de son engagement pour préparer la discussion sur l'eau et la sécurité alimentaire qui aura lieu à Marseille, comme d'ailleurs nous la remercions dans son engagement dans la semaine de l'eau.

Nous apprécions aussi la manière dont la FAO s'organise sur ce type de sujet en favorisant la transversalité de son travail, notamment à travers la création de la plateforme pour l'eau mise en place au sein de son Secrétariat.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Ms Carla Elisa MUCAVI (Mozambique)

We thank all the interveners for their comprehensive representation and we welcome the development in other fora of importance for FAO mandate. We consider of great importance the dialogue with the other Governing Bodies because it facilitates reinforcement of FAO capacity and action. We therefore support FAO participation in this fora and we welcome the positive outcome of the meetings.

Looking forward to the implementation of the recommendations made, particularly those of relevance to this Organization, I would also like to welcome the participation of FAO in the Commission on the Status of Women. We commend the active role that FAO is already playing in this regard, and we hope that the experience gained will contribute to improve the issue of gender equity in the Organization, the goal of which is to reach the 50 percent stated by the UN Resolution and also to close the gender gap that is still wide according to the recently-published SOFA.

I understand the frustration of my brother, the Ambassador of Uganda, because of the slow pace that the advancement of women is taking, particularly in rural Africa. It is true that more efforts are needed, not only by FAO but also by Member Nations. So let's work together in this endeavor and not be so critical. This is a really serious issue.

And to end my intervention, I wanted to welcome also the Conference that took place in The Hague and its successful conclusion. Those are challenging areas that need our global action and we are very delighted by the outcome of the conference and by the way the Government of The Netherlands organized the proceedings.

Ms Karen E. JOHNSON (United States of America)

Thanks to all of the speakers for your very informative presentations. The long-standing collaboration between the FAO and the WHO, and the FAO's participation in the various water-related events and in the Commission on the Status of Women are good examples of the knowledge-based focus of the FAO and its fruitful collaboration with partners. Such partnerships help ensure that organizations provide maximum value by avoiding duplicating efforts.

Document CL 141/INF/6 mentions that the roadmap for action on agriculture, food security and climate change has direct implications for the CFS. We would welcome more specificity on those implications.

This document also makes several proposals for the FAO's involvement in the follow-up to the UNFCCC/16. We would appreciate hearing from the Secretariat how existing resources will be shifted to focus on these new priorities, including the World Water Forum.

Finally, the United States believes that the FAO has a key-role to play in IPBES. It is important, therefore, for the FAO to follow through on the request of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly. We believe that this Council should recommend that the Conference this June adopt a resolution related to FAO's role in IPBES. And we also echo the European Union's request for a fully-costed proposal.

Mr Ade PETRANTO (Indonesia)

Indonesia joins others in thanking the Secretariat and presenters for this agenda item. We believe that food security entails production fulfilling the needs of the population and is then taken to a higher level when it is discussed within the context of livelihoods or even human rights.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Council and other members of the FAO that Indonesia has hosted a Ministerial Conference on Biodiversity, Food Security and Climate Change, on the occasion of the Fourth Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It was in Bali from the 11-18 March 2011 with the collaboration of FAO and the Secretariat of the Treaty.

The Ministerial Meeting was attended by Ministers of Agriculture and representatives from 48 countries who discussed and adopted the Bali Ministerial Declaration that stresses the importance of the contribution of the ITPGRFA in facing the challenges of agriculture, bio-diversity, erosion, food insecurity and climate change. It is Indonesia's hope that the outcome of the Ministerial Conference will contribute to the efforts in various international fora in meeting global challenges.

We are of the view that FAO should continue to have dialogues with other related fora to facilitate conditions that are conducive to the achievement of FAO mandates, especially dialogues in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-system. At the same time, FAO could mobilize support and achieve the objective of eliminating world hunger. These involvements should be as efficient and effective as possible as mandated by the FAO IPA, without reducing its services to the FAO Members who need them the most.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

Je voudrais féliciter tous les électeurs pour les informations importantes qu'ils nous ont transmis et surtout pour le renforcement du partenariat que nous voulons avec la FAO. Je voudrais également féliciter la FAO, en particulier, pour la préparation de la finalisation du Rapport sur l'état des ressources phylogénétiques et la reconnaissance internationale des autres agences des Nations Unies sur le rôle de leader des ressources phylogénétiques, également la participation active dans le Protocole de Nagoya, un nouvel instrument international important pour les Pays Membres, pour la participation dans l'organisation du *Governing Body* qui ont traité des ressources phylogénétiques et la

participation de la FAO a été reconnue et a permis au final d'approuver des résolutions très importantes pour les pays.

Je prends la parole surtout sur l'action de la *Platform* intergouvernementale, scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services éco-systémiques. Je crois que c'est la première que nous parlons de cette action. Je pense que c'est une bonne initiative, et je trouve qu'elle a sa place dans le mandat de la FAO mais nous n'avons pas beaucoup d'information. Peut-être le Secrétaire pourrait préparer un document indiquant les avantages de la participation de la FAO, son rôle de leader, de coordinatrice, son appui pour cet instrument ainsi que l'action des pays en développement qui voudraient participer activement à cette *Platform* et la possibilité de renforcer les capacités dans ce domaine.

Il me semble que le Conseil a la compétence d'approuver cette *Platform* ou bien cela doit-il aller à la Conférence? Et si cela doit aller à la Conférence, il faut que la Résolution soit associée à un document explicatif pour aider les Pays Membres à l'analyser et à l'approuver.

Sur l'action de l'eau «L'eau c'est la vie», je pense que la participation de la FAO est très importante et j'espère que le Conseil donnera son accord à la participation de la FAO aux Journées Mondiales et au Sixième Forum de l'Eau.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

Ethiopia joins others in thanking the presenters for their useful presentations. We also align ourselves with the views expressed by our African colleagues.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to express my country's satisfaction in its collaboration with The Netherlands in organizing The Hague Conference in Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change--first, the pre-conference workshop in Addis Ababa and then the Conference in The Hague and its successful outcome. That said, I have a couple of questions for the presenter of the Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico.

The first one relates to the postponement of the Kyoto Protocol and the work on agriculture – could he elaborate further on these two points, please?

The second relates to FAO continuing work on smart agriculture, what does this entail? Could he elaborate further?

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à l'Éthiopie. Nous allons répondre. Nous avons un bon quart d'heure maximum pour répondre à toutes ces questions, mais on peut le faire. Je donne tout de suite la parole à Monsieur Ali Mekouar pour des questions de gouvernance par rapport aux questions qui sont posées.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Two questions specifically were posed regarding IBPES. Is a Resolution to be adopted by Conference or does Council have the authority to do that?

Yes, as stated by a number of speakers this should go to the Conference and therefore a Draft Resolution should be tabled for the next Conference to consider this matter.

A question was raised by Canada regarding the way in which the Global Plan of Action could be approved without waiting for the Conference in 2013, given the fact that the Commission will meet after the Conference.

One option could be for the Conference to ask the Council when it meets in November to do that. This is foreseen under Rule XXIV, paragraph 1(c) of the General Rules of the Organization. As we know, under the IPA, the Council has mainly a function in terms of programme and budget matters. However, if so requested specifically by the Conference, the Council could also consider this matter which is more of a policy nature than a programmatic one.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Par rapport à la question posée par le Sri Lanka d'inscrire le commerce et aussi la discussion sur le G20, puisque la FAO participe dans un rapport, je vous propose que ce sujet soit inscrit au Conseil de juillet dans le même point de l'Ordre du jour qu'aujourd'hui, puisque nous aurons passé les étapes du rapport du G20 fait par la FAO et l'OCDE et aussi éléments supplémentaires de l'OMC.

Maintenant, je passe la parole à Madame Agnes Van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, puis successivement les uns et les autres. Vous m'excusez de vous contraindre, mais hier les Membres ont montré qu'ils étaient capables de poser jusqu'à six questions en une minute. Donc vous devez pouvoir faire six réponses en une minute.

Ms Agnes VAN ARDENNE (Netherlands)

There was the question from the African countries particularly our Zimbabwe colleagues, Mozambique and Ethiopia, how to benefit from the outcomes of The Hague Conference and the roadmap with ongoing and new actions for climate-smart agriculture. I would like to advise the colleagues to take with them the Report on this, and you can find the answers in the ongoing and new actions. You can also find the Timetable when these matters were discussed and who the participants were regarding these actions. There you can find Zimbabwe, who is participating in a group of actors to support the strengthening of the seed sector in Africa. You can also find, for instance, the CAADP process in which governments in Africa set up their own sustainable agriculture policy, like Rwanda and others, and there you can find your own partner.

So I would like to suggest, also with what was mentioned by Dr. Holmgren, that the climate-smart agriculture initiative has been taken up already by the FAO, that that should fit in with the TCP and other projects and programmes of FAO. I would also like to mention IFAD, which has a new Climate-Change Strategy which is being implemented in the countryside with smallholder farmers and family farmings, so they can also place emphasis, much more than they have done in the past, on climate-smart agriculture.

Mr Tom Heilandt (FAO Staff)

To the question from Zimbabwe on implementation of legal frameworks and government and the private sector related to food safety, yes there are capacity-building programmes available from FAO. Requests should be made to FAO to install relevant programmes.

For the involvement of consumers, consumers can be involved in the process in two ways. One is through the government delegation, as part of it, or providing input to it, or as observers as part of an international NGO.

On the question from Argentina on whether the Codex Trust Fund had taken into account gender issues, the answer from my colleagues was yes, they are keeping statistics on that and they have also written terms of reference for a study on gender in Codex, but this study has not yet been undertaken.

On the question from Canada concerning how we can assure proper scientific support to Codex, there will be budget discussions at the Commission and at the Executive Committee and I assume that the issue will be raised there and hopefully resolved.

Concerning the question whether in all instances Codex takes into account science, Codex does take science into account. There are some issues which are in the Commission where it takes longer to build a consensus and we are always striving to find a consensus. There is a particular issue which is of importance to many countries where it has taken a little bit longer, where the science is clear but the risk management process is taking more time.

On the question from Sri Lanka on how we assess the participation of delegations, clearly we have statistics regarding numbers. Anybody who is sponsored by the Codex Trust Fund has to provide a report about how the participation has changed something, how they have applied the knowledge in practice. In general, for other delegates we do not have a comprehensive system to assess the quality of their interventions.

Concerning standards, Codex has a very strict system to decide on new standards because the Codex standards are not cheap to implement. So only after a relevant project document has been finalized does the Commission decide on creating a new standard. There is, however, the possibility of creating standards for products of regional importance through the regional coordinating committees which then later, if the products increase in importance, can also be converted to international standards.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Indeed the topic of the Commission next year takes on the issue of the slow pace of rural women's advancement, as signaled by Mozambique. Therefore one of the very important issues that is going to be dealt with is the lack of enough gender-disaggregated data. This is a core issue as pointed out by Zimbabwe, and I would like to show that in FAO we have been working very closely with many countries, also in the African region, to look at agricultural censuses and make them fully genderised. We are also making sure that this data is utilized in better policy for the agricultural sector.

Now in response to the comments by Uganda who attends these conferences. Indeed, as you say, there is a large participation of urban and educated women and men, as probably is also the case in this forum here even as we speak. But I would like to reassure you that there is a very important participation from rural women and rural women's organizations, including indigenous women's organizations. I would like to say with pride that in FAO we have been contributing to the network called Demitra which joins together several thousand rural women's organizations and brings their voices to fora like this one here. Demitra has been participating at different kinds of fora bringing to us the voice of the people, the real stakeholders who are the rural women themselves. They will be providing inputs throughout the whole process that will culminate next year at the Commission.

Continúa en Español

En relación a los comentarios de la delegada de Argentina, en la ONU mujer, la Comisión lleva y organiza el Grupo de los Expertos, organiza también todas las contribuciones a los Informes del Secretario General Pero, en esta ocasión, dado que el tema compete a las agencias de Roma, somos nosotros, la FAO, en estrechísima colaboración con el PAM y con el FIDA, que damos la orientación técnica trayendo a la mesa toda nuestra experiencia y los conocimientos que hemos generado durante tantísimos años, de manera que nuestro rol es mucho más técnico, como lo decía justamente el delegado de los Estados Unidos de América. Es una colaboración en la cual llevamos hacia la Comisión los años de conocimiento y experiencia en el tema específico y específicamente, ahora, los resultados del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación, el reciente SOFA.

Con mucho gusto organizaremos una Reunión Informativa para los Miembros donde podremos profundizar sobre estos aspectos y finalmente, en cuanto al presupuesto, tomamos nota de la atención que el Consejo ha dado al presupuesto del Objetivo Estratégico K y espero que lo discutiremos en mucha profundidad sobre todo durante el próximo Comité de Programa donde se presentarán los resultados de la Auditoría de Género y la Evaluación en donde justamente las recomendaciones son de aumentar el presupuesto, dado que sólo de manera informativa el presupuesto de la FAO en términos del Objetivo de Género es bastante inferior a lo que dedican otras Agencias similares de las Naciones Unidas a este mismo tema.

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

I would like to thank first of all for the very strong support to IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Bio-diversity and Eco-system Services). This was only a document for information but you have sent a very, very strong signal and I will communicate this signal to our partners.

Three brief answers. First, we will prepare a Resolution for the Conference and provide information as requested by Angola, so that you are fully informed on IPBES.

Second, there was a request by Norway, supported by others, to have a fully-costed proposal. This is really challenging because we are not running the show, but we will try to do our best to work together with UNEP, UNESCO and all the others involved in IPBES to give you a flavour of, at least, what the

implications are for a Secretariat to be established. Regarding the entire IPBES process, nobody really knows what will be the cost. But we will do our very best to provide you with some cost estimates.

On item number three, raised by Canada and as explained by our colleague Ali Mekouar, yes Conference could ask Council in November to endorse the Global Plan of Action. But now the ball is back to you because you have to find an agreement in the next session of the Commission in July. Without this agreement, Council in November cannot endorse it.

Mr Peter HOLMGREN (Director, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division)

There was a direct question from Zimbabwe on how to become a member of the UN-REDD Programme. I would like to answer that right away. Requests may be sent to the Secretariat of the UN-REDD Programme. There are currently 29 Member Nations and we expect that number to increase.

There were other comments related to climate-smart agriculture, and other practices of agriculture that need to be improved and adjusted. Let me make a general comment on this matter by emphasizing the multisectoral and multidisciplinary context of climate change issues. It is not only about the practices, it is also about the policies, and about the finance. Further, it is not about one sector at a time. In the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors we seek constant interactions and better integration between these sectors to deal with the climate change challenge. To underscore this I would like to paraphrase what many are now saying that UN-REDD+ must be achieved through agriculture. Think about that for a while, and I think it is very true.

There was a request for more information about climate-smart agriculture. I would like to request you to look up the document that was prepared before The Hague Conference, which summarizes how different units and disciplines of FAO can contribute to this.

Mr Pasquale STEDUTO (Principal Officer, Land and Water Division)

I would like to address two keys points that are somewhat related.

One is the costs of participation in the Water Platform. We are trying to adopt an approach to minimize our internal costs. We build on synergies and task-sharing with the other partners in order to minimize costs. Just to give you an example, in 2009 we were Chair of UN Water and there were funds in UN Water to participate in the Forum, so we benefitted from that. In 2012, there is the partnership with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage with which we share tasks but also, thanks to France, we had one person seconded to help in the entire set of processes. In terms of synergies, we take advantage of possible events that are already organized. At regional or global level, where we try to do back-to-back meetings so there are economies in the of costs in running these things. Just to give you an example, we are in partnership with the Water and Food Institute of Nebraska that is participating and also putting some resources into some of these processes.

So, let us say, that we try to minimize costs as much as possible. There are some direct costs for participation of some of our officers in meetings, but this is reduced to a real minimum. Of course, we cannot go with zero costs.

As regards the Water Platform, I would like to say that we have already completed the entire process of consultation with all the Regional and Sub-regional Offices and at Headquarters. We have prepared a background note with initial programmes for the present years and the next biennium, and I think you should have noticed that in the next PBW there are unit results specifically addressing the Water Platform. We have synergistic arrangements also with the Investment Center, the Gender Division and the Sustainable Crop Production Division. We already have reinforced this year the relationship with the Emergency Division when there was the case of floods in Pakistan.

The interdepartmental cooperation is already being reinforced. Of course, we are growing and we are expecting more and more as we get into the next biennium.

We have already allocated Professional resources to the Water Platform to support the Secretariat. It is a P5 level position.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci. Je vous propose comme projet de conclusion de notre point: «Le Conseil a apprécié les présentations qui ont été faites et pris note de la proposition de soumettre à la Conférence un projet de résolution sur la plate-forme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique, sur la biodiversité et les services éco-systémiques».

Je vous remercie. Je vous informe que le Comité de rédaction se réunira à 14h30 aujourd'hui sous la Présidence du Sri Lanka. Nous reprendrons notre séance demain pour l'Adoption du Rapport. L'heure vous sera communiquée dans l'Ordre du jour de vendredi 15 avril en fonction, bien sûr, de la durée plus particulièrement du Comité de rédaction.

Je me permets malgré tout de dire que nous avons fait des efforts pour essayer de tirer des pré-conclusions, qui ont été, comme je l'ai demandé au Secrétariat, presque intégralement reprises dans le projet de rédaction. J'attire votre attention pour ne pas refaire les débats dans le Comité de rédaction, de faire votre travail, mais de ne pas refaire, ni rallonger puisque nous avons essayé de le faire le plus court possible. Une petite communication et surtout un grand merci aux interprètes d'avoir accepté de prendre quelques minutes supplémentaires.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

A new announcement:

There will be a meeting of the European Regional Group in the German Room at 1.30 p.m. this afternoon.

I would like to repeat the two announcements regarding two events tomorrow.

First, an Update on the Nuclear Emergency in Japan at 9:30 in the Green Room.

Second, the launch of the Zero Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Land Tenure at 10.30 a.m. also in the Green Room.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Sri Lanka)

I would like the Secretariat to make an announcement for the benefit of the members of the Drafting Committee, the venue of that meeting. Members are asking me this question but I do not have this information about the venue and, of course, the timing is 14.30 p.m.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Drafting Committee will be meeting in the Lebanon Room, that is Room D-209.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci bien et encore merci aux interprètes.

The meeting rose at 12.51 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 51

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.51

Council Conseil Consejo

Hundred and Forty-first Session Cent-quarante et unième session 141.º período de sesiones
Rome, 11-15 April 2011 Rome, 11-15 avril 2011 Roma, 11-15 de abril de 2011
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
15 April 2011

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Luc Guyau,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La huitième réunion plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Luc Guyau,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava reunión plenaria a las 15.00
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luc Guyau,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT**(CL 141/REP/1 - CL 140/REP/9; CL 140/REP/11 - CL 140/REP/24)****ADOPTION DU RAPPORT****(CL 140/REP/1 - CL 140/REP/9; CL 140/REP/11 - CL 140/REP/24)****APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME****(CL 140/REP/1 - CL 140/REP/9; CL 140/REP/11 - CL 140/REP/24)****LE PRÉSIDENT**

Mesdames et Messieurs, bonjour. Je déclare ouverte la huitième et dernière séance de la Cent-quarante-et-unième session du Conseil au cours de laquelle nous allons procéder à l'Adoption du rapport. Le document de référence porte le symbole CL 141/REP. Je vais donc donner la parole à Madame Gothami Indikadahena, qui a présidé le Comité de rédaction pour présenter le Rapport qui fait suite aux longues heures de nuit pour le préparer, puisqu'ils ont travaillé jusqu'à minuit, c'est-à-dire un peu plus de neuf heures.

Je les remercie mais je dirai deux mots après la présentation par Madame Indikadahena. Madame Indikadahena, vous avez la parole pour présenter les états des réflexions après le Comité de rédaction. Encore une fois, merci.

Ms Gothami Indikadahena (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the Draft Report of the Hundred and Forty-first Session of the Council of FAO for adoption at this august assembly. Let me first thank you and the Membership of the Council for having had the confidence and trust in me as the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and accorded me the honour of submitting the Report at this last session of the Council.

The Drafting Committee had almost 24 agenda items to be dealt with, in a span of nearly 10 hours which was a tremendous task. I am pleased to inform you that after 10 hours of very hard and painful deliberations, the Drafting Committee was able to accomplish its mandate and present the Report on time.

You will please note that every effort was made, in keeping with the recommendations of the IPA, to keep all the reports as short, concise and to the point as possible. We also exerted all our efforts in having draft reports that were truly reflective of the debates that had actually taken place during the Council session.

As already noted, we worked very long hours with the Secretariat and we were able to overcome many differences. However, as I stated, the assignment was not easy due to a number of reasons. First, the draft reports on a few important issues, compiled by the Secretariat, did not accurately reflect the summary outlined by you, Mr Chairman. At the Council sessions and in such situations, the Members of the Committee are compelled to get clarity and guidance from the Secretariat.

There seemed to be a lack of direction and guidance on the recommendations contained in the draft reports which prompted the Members to interpret the outcomes differently, creating divisions of opinion among the Membership which was later found to be difficult to reconcile.

While judging the contents of the draft report on a few agenda items, some seemed to lack conclusions that the Council had been able to deal with extensively. It would have been in the interest of the Council Membership had we taken clear decisions. If the decisions so-taken had been clearly communicated to the Drafting Committee, long deliberations on substantive issues, at the Drafting Committee level, could have been avoided.

I reveal these findings with the sole intention of making the future Drafting Committee Chair's task easier and to avoid any possible re-negotiations on the substantive issues at the Drafting Committee level.

I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to the Members of the Drafting Committee whose wisdom and guidance were immensely instrumental in finalizing the draft text which is before you. They demonstrated a great sense of flexibility which immensely helped us in accomplishing the task.

I salute the efforts of the Secretariat staff, and appreciate the quality of reports presented to the Drafting Committee. The Secretariat staff was with us during the ten hours of deliberations which was tremendous. Their contribution to the completion of this report cannot be measured.

I would also like to thank the interpreters for providing uninterrupted services during the course of these ten hours of deliberations, and for having demonstrated such a flexibility in providing their services even beyond the established time period.

We feel that this is a balanced report, and that it truly reflects what transpired during the debate of the Council. I am grateful to the Members of the Drafting Committee for refraining from introducing statements into the Report that have not been agreed in the Council.

My task as the Chair is now complete, and I trust that this Report meets with your approval. Since this is basically a consensus report, it is my sincere wish that you, Members of the Council, will be able to adopt it en bloc.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, Madame la Présidente du Comité de rédaction. Je vous remercie pour cette présentation, pour votre disponibilité, mais aussi pour votre ténacité puisque ce n'est pas facile de tenir un groupe comme celui-ci pendant dix heures. Merci aussi à chacun d'entre vous pour la participation pendant la séance et aussi au Comité. Et je dois le dire aussi au Secrétariat et aux interprètes puisque le travail était quand même assez long.

Au cours de la session, nous avons progressé dans le sens que nous avons évoqué à plusieurs reprises concernant la présentation des différents dossiers avec des boxes les plus complets possible. Mais j'ai bien entendu notre collègue du Brésil dire qu'il fallait être très attentif et encore aller plus loin et, comme il l'a souhaité, de pouvoir peut-être, non pas faire les conclusions à l'avance mais donner les axes sur lesquels nous devons nous orienter. Peut-être cela répondrait-il à une des critiques faites sur le manque d'orientation. Mais nous avançons toujours dans ce cadre là, et j'ai essayé durant le Conseil, sur de faire des propositions pour le Comité de rédaction, que je vous ai lu au mieux. Je remercie le Secrétariat, ce qui n'avait pas été totalement comme cela la fois d'avant, sur tous les sujets, d'avoir repris pour ainsi dire in extenso ce qui avait été dit ce qui a évité des dérapages supplémentaires, mais qui nécessiteront sans doute encore d'aller plus loin.

Et je vous rappelle que vous aviez souhaité à plusieurs reprises, que l'on fasse un Rapport plus court. Nous l'avons réussi puisque pour l'instant, sauf si on met trop d'amendements après, nous avons fait 33 pour cent de moins qu'au dernier Conseil, avec un point à l'ordre du jour supplémentaire.

On peut sans doute encore faire mieux, mais nous allons dans le bon sens et j'espère que nous pourrions aller dans ce cadre là plus avant.

Je rappelle aussi à chacun d'entre vous, pour ceux qui auraient des remarques linguistiques à faire, concernant la traduction des rapports qui ne serait pas tout à fait similaire parce que parfois il y a une phrase qui saute, de bien vouloir en parler, et de le transmettre par écrit au Secrétariat qui se fera un plaisir de le rajuster sans problème.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire après la présentation par la Présidente, et je me retourne vers vous. Elle a proposé que le Rapport soit adopté en bloc, mais, bien sûr, vous avez la parole et c'est vous qui décidez si vous avez des remarques à faire sur ce projet de Rapport.

Qui demande la parole? La Jordanie, et ensuite la Tanzanie et le Pakistan.

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

Point 7 in the Report concerning the Near East Conference was discussed at length and, according to the results that we achieved, FAO has withdrawn from this region, thus giving priority to other organizations. What a strange idea. It does not quite reflect the discussion. We were informed of the

decisions and recommendations concerning the Region. If FAO has been informed, what does that mean? After this we should have specific orientations for the other bodies as well, so that recommendations may be taken into due account. The expression that we find in this text is not sufficient. It does not meet our expectations. The basis or orientations need to be provided to the Programme and Finance Committees so as to reflect the recommendations made so that they can take the form of concrete programmes in order to improve the image of FAO in this Region.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Puis-je vous demander? Vous avez une proposition d'ajout ou d'amendement ou simplement vous faites le commentaire pour que cela soit mis au Verbatim? Ou vous voulez changer le texte?

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

Well after the recommendations, we must say that the Committees must reflect on these recommendations – the Finance and Programme Committees – in the context of the Medium-Term Plan.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je donne l'avis sur ce point au Conseil. Est-ce-que il y a des oppositions d'ajouter cetttes recommandations pour la Conférence régional sur ce point? On est bien d'accord?

Le Canada.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I don't see how we can get into a drafting exercise. We have Reports from all the Regional Conferences and those Reports constitute input that have to be worked through in the Programme and Finance Committees. We have a very brief report on that and we accept that this is a report for the Conference. I think that's all we can really do as Council, but in terms of specific proposals regarding programmatic outcomes, that has to go through the PWB process. I don't think Council can be used to circumvent the PWB process, but perhaps I misunderstood the intent of the Jordanian intervention. I don't think that in Council we can really go through every proposal that comes from the Regional Conference. All we can do is take note, accept that this was the Report, and have it duly considered by the competent Committees of Council and then our action is on the PWB. So I would think that if there are specific things that need to be factored into the PWB. That would be the channel for those discussions but, again, I would be happy to be told I misunderstood the intent of the earlier intervention.

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

We need to make a clarification. This is a new experiment. When the Regional Conferences began to play an important role in the context of programming and determining priorities we were very satisfied that the Chairman of the Near East Conference, for the first time, submitted a Report to this Council with a few to reflecting the spirit of the Reform. It is not sufficient for us to say that the Council was informed. That does not mean anything if we do not know whether it agreed with it or not. That expression is meaningless, it is not enough.

Continues in English

We should provide some guidance to the Programme and Finance Committees to reflect these recommendations in the Programme of Work and Budget. We can reach a compromise, we can reach a consensus on this issue, but not to leave it as it is. I feel it is empty, nothing is reflected, we are just reading the Report and taking note of it.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si j'ai bien compris vous voulez mettre: «pour être considéré à travers le processus du PTB», c'est-à-dire de donner bien l'orientation. Est ce que le Canada, avec cette explication, peut accepter cet amendement? C'est-à-dire, on respecte la règle mais on insiste. Le Canada, vous avez la parole.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I was not speaking with a view to opposing any specific suggestion because I was not clear that there was a specific suggestion.

My point is rather one of process. I mean if there were specific decisions that this Council needed to take on specific recommendations coming out of the Regional Conference then we needed a decision box. And we needed all the necessary information on budgetary implications of those proposals. Otherwise all we are doing is accepting that this was the Report, and that it should be considered. We cannot just order Programme Committee and Finance Committee to accept everything that was covered in all five Regional Conferences and one informal Regional Conference, otherwise the Programme of Work and Budget process would be meaningless. I mean the outcome would be probably different than what has in fact, been considered in Programme Committee and Finance Committees. My understanding would be that anything that the Report of the Regional Conference said was already taken into account by Management, by Programme Committee, and by Finance Committee in drafting the Programme of Work and Budget. So I guess I am not speaking with the view to opposing what came out of the Near East Regional Conference at all. That is not my intent. It is just that we have a process, and if the suggestion is that Council order the Programme and Work Budget process to take account of specific recommendations, well, then I just wonder how we can manage that process. It is just that I need to understand more a little bit more what the implications are of that which is being suggested here.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Madame Gothami Indikadahena, Présidente du Comité de rédaction, vous avez la parole.

Ms Gothami Indikadahena (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

Even during the discussion we had in the Drafting Committee, this was an issue that we deliberated at long length, and this was the compromise we reached. However, in light of the explanation provided by the delegation of Jordan, and also after listening to the delegation of Canada, we can propose a compromise at this particular moment. If the Council Membership agrees with that, I can make that proposal. We cannot change the substance of this text because there is a delicate balance here, and making substantive changes to the text would really upset that delicate balance, particularly on this issue where we had a lot of deliberations. But certainly I will be guided by the Membership. So if it is the wish of the Membership, then we can propose this draft insertion.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si j'ai bien compris, Madame, vous demandez si l'on veut bien écouter votre proposition?

L'Arabie saoudite.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia)

We could produce wording, which I think everyone can accept, which would entail a slight change, which I think Canada could accept.

Let us move away from the Finance and Programme Committees for a moment. Instead of saying it took note, we could say that the Council requested the Organization to examine the recommendations submitted by the Regional Conference.

I agree with what the delegate of Jordan has said, because if all we do is take note, then these recommendations could just remain dead letter. So it could say that the Council requested the Conference, which would involve deleting the reference to the two committees, the Finance and Programme Committees.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

Actually we discussed this matter for more than one hour yesterday, but maybe I can add something to resolve this problem. The Council endorsed the report and instead of the word "noted" we can say "welcomed the regional priority framework as approved by the Regional Conference and took note for

the programmatic purposes of the particular recommendation of the Regional Conference related to, etc.” Maybe, probably it could be acceptable to everybody.

Ms Gothami Indikadahena (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

If the proposal just presented by Syria is an acceptable way to come out of this issue, I would like to offer a draft insertion.

If you permit me, I will read that.

“The Council endorsed the Report, welcomed the regional priority framework as approved by the Regional Conference, and took note of the particular recommendations of the Regional Conference to be considered through the Programme and Budget Committee process.”

So that is my draft insertion.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Bien sûr, cela va de soi, le Comité du Programme, le Comité financier et le PTB. On est bien d'accord? Le PTB directement. Est-ce que cela convient à la Jordanie?

Ms Gothami Indikadahena (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I will read that formulation again. The Council endorsed the Report and welcomed the regional priority framework as approved the Regional Conference and took note of the particular recommendations of the Regional Conference to be considered through the Programme of Work and Budget process.

Mr Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan)

It is a matter of wording. This is what I am asking before talking about the PWB before or after. But as a consensus I can live with that. Thank you.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic)

The proposal came from Madame Chair.

Just, if it is possible, we can both instead of noted, request it. The Council endorsed the report and requested the regional priority framework, then the same phrase as the Madame Chair suggested, at the end of the paragraph.

We can accept that.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I think it is for everybody to provide their opinions, I was really asking for clarification earlier because there was not a specific proposal. I do not have a problem with the “welcomed” instead of “noted”, I was not sure how it would read after Syria’s latest proposal but I defer to the Chair of Drafting Committee that meets the intent and is close enough to the consensus of last night.

I was not in Drafting Committee, and I was prepared to adopt this report en bloc. I do not have an objection but I think the wording needs to be clarified after Syria’s latest proposal.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Après vous avoir entendu, je confirme la proposition de la Présidente. Y-a-t-il des objections à adopter cet amendement? Si tel n’est pas le cas, il en est ainsi décidé. Merci. La deuxième intervention. La Tanzanie.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Africa Regional Group congratulates Madam Chairperson and the Bureau for the good work done, and accomplished within a single sitting of ten hours.

The Report is concise and reflective of issues and my region is ready to accept it as a whole, en bloc, with the exception of paragraph 3 on Item 15, which should be deleted because it tries to reflect a question posed by one delegation and an answer provided by the FAO Legal Office. There was

nothing in that question and the answer for the entire Council to note, so my first point is that the text is factually incorrect.

If we go by IPA Action 2.22, it guides us that the Council Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations. The current paragraph does not reflect that, so it is the position of Africa and it proposes that paragraph 3 on Item 15 should be deleted from the Council Report.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Let me also thank the Chair of the Drafting Committee and the Drafting Committee for producing a concise report. I also have the same point which the Chair of the Africa Group raised. It is not only the IPA which says that the Council's report must consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations, but also the discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group said the same regarding this matter. When the reporting format of the Council was discussed over and over again colleagues emphasized that the Council's report should be focused, and should have conclusions, and recommendations and decisions should be based on actual discussions. When one says the Council noted, or the Council requested, it must be the Council and not one or two delegations. In the Open-Ended Working Group, we were talking about efficiencies and it was concluded that reports of the Council should consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations. I think we should set an example here as Member Governments to show that we can do what we say and we mean what we say. This particular paragraph does not reflect the discussions of the Council, yet we are saying the Council noted and the Council further requested. In view of this, I would support the suggestion by the Chair of the Africa Group that this paragraph should be deleted.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

I would like to join my good colleague from the Africa Group with regard to that same subject under discussion.

Mr. Chairman, I listened very carefully when you were concluding this subject matter and I don't recall you mentioning some of the parts which are in this paragraph and I also propose like the colleagues before me, that is Tanzania and Pakistan, to delete that paragraph.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Quería hacer una aclaración pues lo que deseo es pedir la palabra sobre el Punto 24. Creí que estaba tomando nota, pero me doy cuenta de que ustedes están tratando el Punto 15. Yo pido la palabra para el Punto 24 cuando corresponda.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Let me thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee for your strong leadership over the 10-hour period last night. I applaud you, both personally and professionally, for your diligence in bringing this to closure, not just in time for today's meeting but truly in time for the translation of this document into all the languages of the United Nations. Thank you very much for the work you provided, and to the Secretariat for the support that they provided to you in ensuring we were prepared for this discussion this afternoon.

The United States would support the position and the motion made by the Chairperson that we accept this document en bloc and takes exception with the suggestion that was made by the Africa Group and others that this item was not discussed by the body. In fact, the body did discuss the item, raising not the question of, as some of my colleagues seem to be concerned about, about the leadership of the present Director-General. In fact, the United States looks forward to continuing to represent this Organization under the leadership of this Director-General until such time as his term ends on 31 December 2011.

The transition period, in fact was the raised by the United States on behalf of the North America Group and joined by a number of other Members. The objection that was raised from the floor was not to the question of our seeking additional clarification on the transition period. There was concern raised regarding the length of the period of the sitting Director-General. The United States acknowledges that we have one Director-General and we will continue to have one Director-General

until 31 December, but we will have an appointed Director-General and a transition period of which we have rules that are silent. It was on that question that we raised yesterday that, as I said was supported by a number of other speakers and not objected to by other speakers from the floor. As such, it is rightfully raised in this Report today as a position that was noted by the Council, and for which we sought further clarification.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Avant de donner la parole à Mme la Présidente pour dire comment ça c'est passé, je tiens à redire que dans le projet de conclusions que j'ai établi je n'avais pas fait état de la deuxième phrase, puisque bien-sûr il y avait la délégation des États-Unis qui avait posée la question et, ceci personne ne le conteste mais qu'il n'y avait pas eu d'autres interventions sur ce sujet. Donc, pour les pré-conclusions que je faisais, je dois tenir compte du consensus ou du presque consensus, et dans ce cadre là, je n'avais pas considéré qu'il en était ainsi. Donc je ne l'avais pas marqué, mais peut-être il y a d'autres interventions et ensuite je donnerai la parole à Madame la Présidente. L'Australie, le Canada et le Gabon vous avez la parole.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the Drafting Committee. Australia participated on that Committee and we certainly appreciated your leadership and guidance, especially given the fact that you have been here for such a short time. I think you did a tremendous job, and we certainly appreciate your efforts in that regard.

On this Item, in particular, I think you will find that my Region supported the North American position. So I think it was more than just one country that made the point on this. I would make the clarification as well that the worst case scenario here is that we would have two Director-Generals. We do not have two Director-Generals and we never will have two, but it is to understand what is going to be the situation, otherwise we will find ourselves without any kind of guidance and find ourselves in a very unclear situation. I think that would be unfortunate for this Organization.

So I guess, I do not see the concern with this paragraph. The first sentence, I think, is a factual statement – the first part of the sentence – and the second part is simply seeking clarification. So I am just unclear as to what the objection is at this point.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Yes, just to echo that this is a simple statement of fact. I mean, there is no position being taken here. We note the obvious, and we ask for some information. If we were to take out everything in here that you did not say in your summaries, this Draft Report would be about one tenth the size before us.

So, I am not sure what the problem is, but with the factual statement and our request for information, we would prefer that it be there because it was discussed. As United States said before us, there was no objection to our request for information on financial and other practical information.

It is a straightforward request for information, and it would help the Council with its business as it moves forward through the year.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Si vous me permettez simplement de dire n'en rajouter pas trop quand même, parce qu'alors que nous nous sommes félicités du bon travail du Secrétariat des pré-conclusions, même si elles n'étaient pas exhaustives, elles n'ont pas été reprises totalement. Dire que: «si on n'avait pas repris tout ce que j'ai dit, le rapport serait dix fois moins long,» c'est peu de respect pour moi et pour ceux qui ont travaillé. Le Gabon.

Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais tout d'abord soutenir, bien entendu, l'intervention du Président du Groupe africain mais aussi l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur du Pakistan et reprendre, comme lui, une question de principe et aller encore plus loin d'un point de vue formel.

Il me semble que, pendant la session de vendredi, suite à certaines interventions qui ont fait mention de «période de transition», vous avez précisé en conclusion qu'il n'existe pas de période de transition. Je me demande donc, comment nous pouvons avoir dans notre Rapport une référence à cette période de transition qui n'existe pas?

M Jose Eduardo DANTAS FERREIRA (Cap Vert)

Monsieur le Président, moi aussi, j'aimerais appuyer ce qui a été dit par le Président de mon Groupe. Bien évidemment, tout d'abord, j'aimerais surtout féliciter la Présidente et le Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent travail qui a été fait. Je pense que, en faisant sa proposition notre Président a cherché exactement à donner une contribution qui me semble tout à fait fondamentale dans le cadre de ce Rapport et qui l'amènerait à être dans la direction correcte que nous avons établie, c'est-à-dire reprendre des décisions, nos conclusions et nos recommandations.

Je ne pense pas que nous devions retourner à certaines difficultés que nous avons tous. Nous avons exprimé notre mécontentement par le passé quand nous disions, en effet, que les uns avaient une position. Tant que d'autres ont eu d'autres positions, nous étions en train d'établir exactement ce qui est établi ici d'une façon différente, parce que nous sommes en train d'annoncer, comme nous avons l'habitude de faire par le passé, un désaccord. Notre Rapport n'est pas, ne doit pas jamais continuer à être un Rapport de non désaccord, mais de nos accords.

Je pense que ce n'est pas le Conseil qui a dit ce qui a dit cela, mais certains des Membres du Conseil. Donc, j'appellerai à tous mes collègues de voir cet aspect là.

Je peux comprendre parfaitement ce que les personnes et les délégations pensent, cela est très légitime, mais je pense que c'est pas dans le cadre de cette résolution au moins que nous allons ou que nous devons résoudre le problème. Nous aurons, si il s'agit de corriger, l'opportunité de corriger de manière appropriée et acceptable pour nous tous. Je vous remercie.

M Kent VACHON (Canada)

Monsieur le Président, je m'adresse à vous en français parce que je pense que vous avez mal compris ma dernière intervention. J'ai déjà expliqué que je soutiens le travail du Comité de rédaction et que j'étais prêt à adopter ce Rapport au complet. Ce que j'ai dit c'est que si on se limitait uniquement à vos sommaires des points, le Rapport aurait été dix fois moins long.

Donc il n'y avait aucun manque de respect vis-à-vis du Comité de rédaction. Il y avait peut-être une difficulté d'interprétation de votre part. Je n'ai jamais dit que le Rapport aurait été moins important, j'ai dit moins long. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci de cette explication, l'incident est clos. L'Inde, vous avez la parole.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

On this document, CL 141 REP/15, if you read the title of this document, it speaks about the conditions for the Appointment of the Director-General and, this is slightly different from paragraph 3 which has just now been mentioned because this speaks about financial and practical implications.

Now, we all did know that this was a subject of discussion earlier in the Council, when the current term of the present Director-General was up in December of this year. At that particular time, perhaps that was the right time for all of us to ponder what was going to happen during the period. And the elections were announced much earlier also, so are we now emphasising the situation that this type of period will come to haunt us in the future. Or is just a one-time event and if it is a one-time event, then we must live with it because the term of the new Director-General is going to be three and half years as opposed to what the statutes say, which is for four years. So if it is a one-time thing, then perhaps we may have to live with it. But if it is going to visit us in the future again and again then, perhaps, there's a need for us to debate and discuss the means of dealing with it.

And if it has to be dealt with, then perhaps it has to be dealt with in the right forum. Perhaps the Rules and Regulations of Reform say it has to go to CCLM and all those procedures have to be followed. So I am really confused as to what would be the attainment at the end of the day when we discuss this.

Mr Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

My delegation would like to support fully the Chair of the Africa Group and also Pakistan, Gabon and Cape Verde. My delegation joins these speakers, the Africa Group and the various speakers, to delete paragraph 3 because it does not reflect the discussion nor the consensus that we had when we studied this issue.

You yourself, Mr Chairperson, specified that the present Director-General is going to go on to complete his mandate up to 31 December 2012, and that the new elected Director-General would take office on 1 January 2012.

So this means that there is no transition period and as a matter of fact, you yourself Mr. Independent Chairperson, gave the explanation immediately after the intervention of the United States of America, saying that there is no transition as pointed out quite rightly by Gabon. Therefore, if there is no transition we do not see the point of retaining this paragraph 3 as it does not, as I said earlier, reflect the truth.

If Canada and the United States insist on that paragraph, then we cannot say that it was the Council that noted, we did not have this consensus. It would be the position of North America in that case, if they insist to have that paragraph, but definitely we did not talk about this transition period because there is no transition period.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group.

I would like to associate myself with what was said by the Chairperson of the Africa Group and other members of the Council when they called for the deletion of this paragraph.

I have to stress that this subject was discussed, but there was no consensus on it.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I appreciate the comments of all colleagues on this matter. However, I would recall for the body that, when this point was raised, that, yes, - as Australia has noted and did join and supported - there was no flag raised objecting. Now, my understanding of how we operate in this body is that when a point is raised, if it is not objected to, then we have a consensus of the body. We don't require every country represented in the body to speak in support of a point before we have consensus on such a point.

If that is the case, our meetings would be even longer than they are today. For that reason, we would suggest that there was no objection and we did, in fact, have a consensus despite the fact that the Chair noted - and the United States would say incorrectly - that the Chair noted that the Director-General's term does end on December 31. We acknowledge that the Director-General's term does not end on December 31. That was not what we were asking for, that we had consensus from this body because we did not have an objection regarding this.

We were asking for clarification of what support would be provided, if any, what processes would be provided, if any, to be appointed Director-General during that period. Other UN organizations have budget line items for transitional periods when you have a Director-General who is operating the Organization and a Director-General who has been elected to serve sometime in the future.

Other organizations have processes for how the transition period will take place when a Director-General has been appointed for the future, and a Director-General is serving until the end of his term. We have not had very many Director-Generals because we have had very strong leadership in this Organization. We will now have a transition period where we have an appointed Director-General who will serve a future term during a period of time where we also have an appointed Director-General who is continuing to serve out his contract. That is the point of clarification that was not objected to. As such, we had a consensus.

Mr Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

My country, and I am not speaking for the European Union, certainly could endorse the Report on en bloc because we have trusted rightfully in your capacity to sum up the consensus. We trust fully in the previous summing up by the Chairperson. With regard to this matter, I deeply apologise for taking the floor because a number of uncertainties invaded me.

I would like to analyze this paragraph, I have to be very frank with you, in a very pragmatic and practical manner. I come from a country, Germany, which only recently, 49-60 years ago, achieved democracy. We also had changes of Government and then of course there is a Government elected and, as in many cases, and this is the case and 3 or 4 months later the new Government which is formed perhaps by another Government from the opposition takes power, and then what happens in the meantime?

I would expect *mutatis mutandis*, a nice legal expression, I would expect exactly the same thing to happen here at FAO. I have the privilege and the personal pleasure to know the Management. I must say I deeply respect the Director-General, and his amazing degree of wisdom and experience, and I apologise for being naive, but I expect, and it will happen, and we don't have to put it in the record. I expect that the Director-General will receive a few days or hours after the election the new Director-General, his successor. He will receive him and do what everyone does, for Heaven's sake, offer him accommodation to help him prepare his tour of duty in the Organization. Then, with due respect, we don't know who is going to be the new Director-General; each of the six candidates, six very capable candidates, might have different ideas on how to spend his time until 1 January 2012. Maybe he wants to spend six months on vacation because of the hard job waiting for him.

I think that is the thing that happens in every Organization when we have some time when the new office holder takes over. Of course, I don't need to ask our distinguished and dear Director-General for any confirmation, that we will receive him, offer him office space and help in all respects to prepare him to take office on the 1 January 2012.

So this all I want to say. Clearly there is no consensus on this paragraph. I fully appreciate the different reasons expressed for having this paragraph, again, I was not involved in the subtleties of these extremely sensitive negotiations, but I believe we can leave it with the understanding, among friends and colleagues, that it will be done along the rough lines explained to you.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

I would like to join my colleagues from the Africa Group, particularly our Chairman, Pakistan, Gabon, Cape Verde and Mauritius in supporting the motion that during the Council debate we do not recall that there was a consensus on this issue.

Yes, the matter was raised by the delegation of the United States of America and supported by Canada, I believe. Once, however, the Independent Chairperson had informed the Council that, in fact, the current Director-General leaves office on 31 December and the new Director-General assumes office on the 1 January. There was no legal transition period at this moment in time. So we did not feel there was any need to make any intervention.

We would suggest that the document reflect the consensus decisions of the Council.

Certainly this issue, as suggested by our German colleague, can be discussed outside the context of this Report. But during the Council, there was no such consensus on this issue.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

Just to clarify, we are now on Item 15 but the discussion to which we are referring was a separate discussion that took place under Any Other Business.

Many people are referring to that latter one, which I do not think is reflected anywhere in this Draft Report. This paragraph 3 is from Item 15 which is an item discussed the previous day, I believe, at least earlier in the Council. I think that we can get back on track if people just recall that under the Conditions for the Appointment of the Director-General, there was a request for information.

That is all, that is it. I think it will be helpful to moving forward if we stop referring to discussion that took place under Any Other Business which no one is seeking to characterize in this Report.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I would suggest that we reflect on the statement which has just been made by Mauritius. In fact, the earlier discussion we were having and my intervention, dealt with concepts. But now that the discussion is becoming more specific I would like to echo what Mauritius said. The contract of the current Director-General goes to 31 December 2011. The new Director-General is appointed in June 2012 to take up duties on 1 January 2012, so where is the transition? What Mauritius said, we should reflect on that. If there is no transition, what are we asking for? The current Director-General finishes at end of the year, and the new one is being elected in June, but to take over in January, so I fail to see the transition period. This means we are requesting information based on something which does not seem to exist.

I am sorry for reverting back to this Open-Ended Working Group again, but the ink has hardly dried on the suggestions of the Open-Ended Working Group and we are not following them. In fact, one of the things that was emphasized in the group was that the report should reflect the summary of the Chairman. I have just heard you say, Mr Chairman, that you did not summarize and include this item in your summing up.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

Our objection is a matter of principle. First, we are making reference to IPA Action 2.22, and I think that is what Pakistan is trying to insist on.

Secondly, no flag was raised because the Legal Counsel and the Chairperson's answers and explanations were so clear and we were all satisfied.

The issue is that other UN Agencies do this. I think they do it because they have it stated in their Basic Texts, or in their rules and regulations, but here we do not have this in FAO.

I think as we continue to debate this issue we are opening up a lot of things, because now we come to a point, even suggesting how the Director-General should behave, how he should welcome the new Director-General, how he should give him an office and so forth. We should not go there. We should not go to that extent. Let us go by a matter of principle, otherwise you are opening up other issues.

M Omar COULIBALY (Mauritanie)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je vais joindre ma voix à celle de mes collègues qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter le Comité de rédaction pour l'excellent Rapport fait. Pour en revenir aux questions de la discussion, je fais miennes les positions du Président du Groupe Afrique et tous les autres collègues qui l'ont appuyé.

Je vous invite, Monsieur le Président, à demander à notre Conseil de se tenir aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. Si statutairement, il n'est pas prévu une transition, je vois mal véritablement l'existence de cet paragraphe 3, dans notre Rapport. Je crois qu'il va vraiment falloir vraiment respecter les Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation.

Comme il n'y a pas une période de transition, je pense superflu l'existence de cet paragraphe 3.

J'appui donc catégoriquement les collègues qui m'ont précédé et demande la suppression de le paragraphe 3 qui ne cadre pas véritablement avec les statuts de l'Organisation. Merci Monsieur le Président.

Mr Robert SABIITI (Uganda)

Earlier there was mention that there was no objection when the subject was under discussion, but I recall that Uganda gave the opportunity to speak to our colleague from Cameroon and our colleague made a brief statement. He said that we should be careful not to open a Pandora's box which would be very difficult to close again, and he was reflecting exactly on this point. So I think there was an objection raised to that point.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

Let me apologise to the Council for again taking the floor. Yes, this matter was raised by the United States yesterday, but this matter was also raised, as was pointed out during the discussion on this particular item as well under Item 15, under the Conditions of Appointment of the Director-General.

The United States would ask the Council to recall that during that discussion, the Independent Chair did note, in fact, that the United States had a significant amount of experience with transitions because it is something that we go through pretty much every four years. The Chair also noted, during that point, after consultation with the Secretariat, that there may have been some language in the rules that required a transition of about three months or some period of time, something along the line of three months, they weren't sure, and the Chair, at that point, during the discussion of this item, stated to the Council, on the record, that "there would be incumbent on the Secretariat and on the Council to review what are the rules regarding this matter".

And it was in that discussion as well that there was no objection from the Council that there should be some view of what is the appropriate practice. And the Chair made those statements during that conversation.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Madame, vous avez raison de dire que nous avons parlé de ce sujet quelque peu deux fois. La première fois dans ce point à l'Ordre du jour, comme cela a été signifié. A votre demande, j'ai fait des commentaires disant qu'il fallait s'interpeller là-dessus, mais que je ne savais pas du tout s'il y avait des Règles et qu'il faudrait les voir.

Par l'intermédiaire de l'Ouganda, le Cameroun a exprimé clairement qu'il ne fallait pas aller plus loin sur ce débat là. Personne n'a repris la suite. Donc il n'y avait pas de conclusion à tirer sur ce sujet là.

Lorsque vous êtes réintervenue dans le Point 24, à ce moment là ayant, entre le temps de la veille et du jour, regardé ce qui était en termes de texte sur ce sujet là. Pour moi c'était clair qu'il n'y a aucune référence aux textes qui font appel à cette période qui peut se trouver, qui je le rappelle est exceptionnelle due au fait de changement de procédure dans le cadre des Conférences.

C'est pourquoi, Madame, j'ai été peut-être un peu abrupt quand j'ai repris après votre intervention en disant: « le contrat de Monsieur Diouf va jusqu'au 31 décembre 2011, le contrat du prochain Directeur commence au 1er janvier 2012 » et cela n'est pas à notre Ordre du jour du Conseil de faire la différence.

Mais quant à moi, je ne préjuge pas de ce que peut dire la Conférence qui est souveraine.

Voilà exactement comment cela s'est passé. Au point où nous en sommes rendus ici, c'est clair, cela va être difficile d'avoir un consensus sur ce sujet là.

Je vous propose après vous avoir tous entendu d'inviter tous les Présidents des Groupes régionaux quelques instants en suspension de séance avec moi dans la petite salle derrière pour voir si nous pouvons trouver une porte de sortie consensuelle.

Etes-vous d'accord que nous fassions une petite suspension de séance avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour voir ce que nous pouvons éventuellement faire? Si tel n'est pas le cas, nous continuerons la discussion jusqu'à arriver à un consensus. Le Gabon.

Mme Ivonne ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Excusez-moi de redemander la parole et d'intervenir avant que votre proposition n'ait une réponse de tous les Groupes régionaux. Je voudrais rappeler à nouveau deux points qui sont les deux points à mon avis de principe qu'il faut examiner.

Le premier point, c'est comme l'on dit plusieurs délégations, seules deux ou trois délégations ont soulevé cette question. Donc, en principe nous ne pouvons pas voir dans le rapport figurer: «Le Conseil a noté, que etc....». Le deuxième est que: l'actuel Directeur général quitte ses fonctions au

31 décembre 2011. Le prochain Directeur général prend ses fonctions le 1er janvier 2012. Nous avons donc une nuit entre les deux. Je ne pense pas qu'il s'agisse ici d'une période de transition.

Il n'y a pas eu de définition formelle et légale du mot transition, il n'y a pas de transition du point de vue temporel. Je ne pense pas que nous puissions faire référence à un terme de transition. En l'occurrence, en l'état actuel des discussions, je pense que nous devons faire appel au Conseiller juridique pour qu'il nous dise ce qu'il pense de cette situation. Je vous remercie.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

I think the Conference which is going to take place in June is not only going to elect the Director-General, but it is also going to elect the Members of the Council. I think the present discussion has very dangerous implications on the Members of the Council. Why I say this is because there are certain Council Members who will be out of office by 2011, and there are certain Council Members who will be out of this office in 2012 and the elections will take place for both. So in case there are certain Members who are elected now, further vacancies arising in 2012, then if the same logic is applied to them, then what is going to happen to the fate of these Members.

I really do not understand as to what we are discussing. I am really pained to learn all this year. This is an international body, we should follow the basic texts and rules. We are not politicians, we are all civil servants, bureaucrats and international diplomats, and we should go by the rules.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

En verdad, ya le había anunciado la intervención que quiero hacer sobre el Punto 24. Usted habla de suspender momentáneamente la reunión y yo quisiera saber si puedo, si tengo su venia para que la sala escuche el planteamiento que yo quiero hacer porque es cierto que el planteamiento que se está haciendo, por el cual se suspende la reunión, quizás pueda tomar más tiempo y pudiéramos salir de esto nuestro que es muy sencillo. Pregunto si eso es posible.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Pour éviter, peut-être, une deuxième suspension de séance, je vous donne tout de suite la parole sur ce point, s'il doit poser problème, nous le reportons sinon nous l'adoptons tout de suite.

Le Venezuela, vous avez la parole.

Sra. Gladys URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Igualmente, como lo han hecho otros oradores, va un agradecimiento al Comité de Redacción, a su Presidente, a la eficacia en su trabajo, la presentación a tiempo de los documentos en todos los idiomas y también a la Secretaría por todo el apoyo que le dio al Comité de Redacción.

Yo quería sólo indicarle que el Tema 24 en Otros Asuntos, en el numeral 1 nosotros quisiéramos solamente hacer una pequeña observación. Se indica, el Consejo tomó nota de la propuesta formulada por Bolivia, sin que no queda expresamente dicho, apoyada por el Grupo de países de América Latina y el Caribe o por GRULAC, como lo queramos decir, en manera abreviada o en manera extensa. En verdad sólo pienso que después de Bolivia, y pienso a nuestros países, pudiéramos colocar, apoyada por el GRULAC, que de hecho fue el Presidente pro-tempore de nuestro Grupo, quien hizo el planteamiento porqué se debatió a las ocho y media del día de ayer en nuestro Grupo este tema. Nos reunimos sólo para eso.

¿Quisiera saber si ese cambio o esa incorporación de apoyada por el GRULAC o por el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe puede quedar expreso, ya que Bolivia pide que sea de esa manera expresada en el Informe?

LE PRÉSIDENT

La parole au Président du GRULAC, le Brésil.

M. Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brésil)

C'est simplement pour dire que je suis tout à fait d'accord, en tant que Président du GRULAC, avec ce que vient de dire la Représentante du Venezuela. Merci.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Y-a-t-il une objection à cette proposition? Il n'y a pas d'objection, il en est ainsi décidé.

J'en profite pour faire un petit amendement justement sur le Point 24. Lorsqu'au Point 3, on parle de la nomination de Monsieur Juneja, il est écrit à la fin: «après le départ en retraite de Monsieur He en juillet 2011» en réalité c'est fin juin 2011. Donc, il ne part pas en retraite fin juillet, mais fin juin 2011. Pas d'objection sur ce sujet?

L'Egypte.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a comment to make under Item 7, may I do so now or should I do it later? Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je prends le même ordre. Si ce ne sont pas des sujets qui prennent trop de temps, nous y passons tout de suite. Si cela nous amène à un grand débat, je le reporterai après le point.

Donc vous présentez votre point.

Ms Fatma SABER (Egypt)

I will consult with my Regional Group first of all Mr. Chairman, and I'll take the floor later.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

The United States would like to join Venezuela to ensure that we have a consensus. I am putting my flag up so they are not the only ones speaking on their item, so we know that there is a consensus of the body for the amendment that they would like to make to Item 24.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

We also support the amendment on Item 24 which is proposed by Venezuela.

Mr Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

We have here a clear perception of what the debater says, non consensus' paragraph. If the concerns that were legitimately raised towards this paragraph cannot be removed now by some constructive, if possible, amendment to this paragraph, I do not want to go into seven groups because the interest in the paragraph, to be very frank, is fairly limited. There is no reason to have a break. We all very well know that such a break will not be five minutes, but one hour, and this is a bit out of proportion.

I ask those who should now realize say they do not consent, to get consensus on this paragraph 3 to make forward-looking constructive proposal, either to amend it or, with due respect, to withdraw it.

Mr Arne B. HØNNINGSTAD (Norway)

Yes, absolutely, this is to support my German colleague, a recess now would be the wrong thing to do absolutely. It is clear. There is no consensus about this paragraph.

I would like to say to my American counterpart and colleague, about consensus and you do not raise your flag when a delegation has a question or a legitimate concern. This is the UN System or any other multilateral assembly. You pick your interventions very carefully, and you pick your fights even more carefully. We all know what is behind this – it was a concern from the United States that this should incur extra costs in this period of limited financial resources by the Organization. I think that the answers that we got and the discussion that we had showed us that was not the case. At least I felt that, and I was totally satisfied with the discussion that we had. To make this a major issue in the adoption

of the report is way out of line. I would strongly appeal to my American colleague and good friend that this is withdrawn and that we can adopt the report.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci à la Norvège. Première conclusion de ces deux dernières interventions, il n'y a pas de suspension de séance puisqu'il n'y a pas accord pour la suspension de séance. Je me retourne vers vous pour savoir comment on arrive au consensus. Il y a une proposition qui a été faite par la Norvège. Maintenant, nous attendons les réponses. Le Canada.

Mr James FOX (Canada)

I think we all appreciate the lectures that we have just heard about UN procedures. I will just point out that there was a consensus in the Drafting Committee on this language, which is why it appeared, and that is usually from which one proceeds in terms of determining consensus. I think that should be taken into account by those who have made the comments, and those who have been discussing the concept of consensus.

I would also point out, and this is going to the substance of it, that whether we use the term transition or not, the reality is that there is going to be somebody who is selected to replace our distinguished Director-General. It is normal that existing Directors-General in that circumstance facilitate the process of that so that when the new Director-General takes office, he can start off knowing as much as possible. I find it, quite frankly, and I am from the capital, absolutely astonishing that in this body this is an issue and a question. In other bodies, that is not an issue and a question. To me it speaks to our understanding and assessment of the way this body works.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Permettez-moi, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de dire qu'il y avait peut-être consensus au Comité de rédaction. Le Comité de rédaction travaille, mais je tiens quand même à rappeler que vous m'avez tous demandé depuis déjà un certain nombre de temps d'essayer de canaliser au mieux les pré-conclusions. Comme je dis toujours, ce sont des pré-conclusions. A une ou deux reprises, vous m'avez repris et vous m'avez demandé de rajouter quelque chose à mes pré-conclusions. Ça c'est que j'ai fait. Mais sur ce point, les pré-conclusions ne tenaient pas compte de cela, et personne n'a rien dit. Alors cela n'a peut être pas la même valeur que celle du Comité de rédaction, mais je tiens à le rappeler, si à aucun moment vous ne m'avez repris pour rajouter quelques chose, je dirais c'est le consensuel mou, mais comme c'est arrivé, je dis que sur ce point là, personne n'a rien dit. J'ai donc considéré qu'il y avait là aussi consensus.

Ce que dis n'a pas été traduit me dit-on?

Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres interventions ou d'autres questions sur ce sujet? Nous sommes devant une proposition d'amendement de supprimer le paragraphe 3 du Point 15. S'il n'y a pas d'objection, il en est décidé ainsi. Merci. L'Égypte n'a pas d'autres questions.

Y-a-t-il d'autres interventions sur d'autres points? L'Australie.

Mr Travis POWER (Australia)

Thank you Chair. This is not a suggestion for amendment. I think my delegation would have been prepared to adopt the report en bloc. But I do want to reflect on one point that came up during the Council and this is about the merits of actually including within the documentation so pre-drafted conclusions. I think that this would help us in great length in avoiding this kind of long debate about what we did and didn't agree. If we have something in front of us that we can all react to and either agree to or not very explicitly, we can do so then and we can move forward with a very clear understanding. So, I urge you that perhaps that is something that we should be looking at in this Council, to make sure that we have clear consensus and everyone understands what that consensus.

I think the outcome of that last item was unfortunate, and I think in future it would be good if we could understand exactly what we are all agreeing to. Thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci, et comme je l'avais répondu au collègue du Brésil, c'est un sujet qui doit évoluer. C'est clair qu'on a fait des boxes pour présenter le sujet et on a mis quelques lignes de points d'objectifs de conclusions. Pour certaines questions, c'est facile puisqu'on décide premier point, deuxième point, troisième point. Pour d'autres points, c'est beaucoup plus compliqué parce qu'il y a des débats. Mais, je vous propose que lors d'une réunion future, ou dans une réunion informelle avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux, nous réfléchissions bien en avant pour savoir comment on peut faire un pas supplémentaire dans cette direction. Mais comme je l'avais dit au collègue du Brésil l'autre jour, je ne pense pas que l'on puisse écrire les conclusions de façon définitive parce que ce serait un manque de respect pour le débat. Mais il faut les canaliser, les orienter avec: premier point qui doit être décidé, deuxième point..., etc.

Je pense que c'est un sujet sur lequel on doit pouvoir continuer à travailler. Nous en avons parlé un peu dans les méthodes de travail. Dans le cadre du groupe ouvert, je vous propose simplement, et je ne suis pas sûr qu'on ai besoin de l'inclure dans le compte rendu du Conseil mais au moins dans le Verbatim qui sera donné, de le reprendre pour le faire progresser, peut-être progressivement.

Mais personnellement, je pense que l'on y gagnera. Mais nous avons progressé en la matière marche après marche et là il y a une autre marche à monter qui peut-être ne se traduira pas d'un seul coup, mais que nous pouvons faire en plusieurs fois. Donc, si vous en êtes d'accord, on intégrera directement dans le Rapport. Mais je le dis vraiment de façon claire avec me semble-t'il au moins une approbation de principe. L'Argentine, vous avez la parole.

Sra. María del Carmen SQUEFF (Argentina)

Yo creo que hay que tomar alguna medida con respecto a las conclusiones. Yo tuve el honor de participar ayer en el Comité de Redacción. Agradezco a la Presidenta porque fue una excelente conducción la que realizó.

Pero quiero destacar que cuando tratamos el tema de las Oficinas Descentralizadas, que es un tema muy importante, tuvimos que pedir la traducción de su síntesis del francés al inglés para poder tomarlo tal cual y poder trabajar sobre el mismo. Esto da la señal clara de que hay que tomar una medida clara y precisa sobre las conclusiones.

Yo no creo que sea una falta de respeto al Consejo, que usted en tal caso repita sus conclusiones o las presente por escrito, por ejemplo, que al día siguiente se tengan las conclusiones del día anterior. No es una falta de respeto al Consejo. Es una medida de transparencia y de facilitación de los trabajos en el Comité de Redacción. Lo presentamos como propuesta, en tal caso para trabajarlo en el Grupo Abierto sobre la Eficiencia de los Órganos Rectores.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci et je partage ce que vous dites. Comme j'ai dit tout à l'heure, qu'on ne peut pas écrire les conclusions avant. Quand on présente le Rapport, on peut mettre les boxes, mais quand il y a des décisions et des positions qui sont prises, je suis d'accord pour qu'elles soient publiées plus rapidement. D'ailleurs, si j'ai bien compris quand vous êtes allée chercher le Verbatim français sur mon intervention lorsqu'il a été traduit, il a été accepté à 95 ou 97 pour cent. Donc, c'est pour cela qu'on a sans doute besoin de l'écrire. Donc, je vous propose qu'on travaille là-dessus. On fera un groupe restreint dans un premier temps. On en parlera avec les Présidents des Groupes régionaux pour pouvoir changer les prochaines fois. Le Conseil du moi de juillet nous n'aurons pas forcément besoin de cela, mais pour celui de novembre, il serait important qu'on ait une nouvelle procédure ou, plutôt, une procédure améliorée.

Merci, je passe la parole au Mexique.

Sr. Jorge Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

Ha estado renuente intervenir en esa discusión pero creo que cada día esto esta mas enredado en lugar de aclararse más. Si el elemento básico va ser el resumen del presidente, entonces habrá un debate sobre el resumen del presidente porque ese es el elemento básico del Informe.

Nos vamos acercando a tener que discutir en el consejo lo que el Presidente resume, y cada uno interprete si refleja más exactamente lo que él dijo sin tenerlo por escrito para discutirlo. Creo que eso va crear más problemas que soluciones.

En segundo lugar, les quiero indicar que para la delegación de México, el consenso es un proceso de no objeción. No quiero reabrir ese Tema pero eso es el consenso porque sino sería un proceso de unanimidad, y no estamos hablando de unanimidad, sino de consenso.

En tercer lugar, tendría mucho cuidado en las referencias a los Textos Fundamentales de esta Organización, porque estamos hablando de cumplir un período de cuatro años que a su vez destapa al siguiente, que sería un período de tres años y medio. Entonces estamos aplicando la Constitución ahora y no la aplicaremos después. De que estamos hablando exactamente, porque estamos perdiendo las referencias.

Mr Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

I move formally to adopt the report en bloc.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je vous assure que je ne l'avais pas oublié et il est bien clair, que j'allais vous proposer une adoption en bloc. Mais en référence quand même les trois modifications que nous avons faites, celles des points 7, 24 et 15.

Maintenant, puisque vous l'avez déjà presque fait, je ne sais pas si vous applaudissiez pour le Rapport ou vous applaudissiez l'ambassadeur d'Allemagne, peut-être les deux à la fois. Je vous pose donc la question: il y-a-t'il objection pour adopter ce Rapport en bloc? Pas d'objections? Merci à tous.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRÉSIDENT

Madame la Présidente, vous avez bien-sûr la parole.

Ms Gothami INDIKADAHENA (Chairperson of the Drafting Committee)

I take this opportunity to thank all the delegations who have spoken good things about the role I have played as the Chairperson of this Drafting Committee. I think that most of the credit should go to the members of the Drafting Committee because without their support, I would not have achieved the outcome which you have adopted. Thank you so much for those kind words.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais vous remercier, une nouvelle fois, pour tous ceux qui croyaient que nous avions une petite nouvelle qui était arrivée sans expérience. Nous avons vu que vous avez déjà une grande expérience du management et de la négociation, soyez-en félicitée.

Encore une fois merci à tous les Membres qui ont participé au Conseil, aux Observateurs, au Secrétariat pour tout le travail qui a été réalisé.

Je vais lever les travaux de cette cent-quarante-et-unième session du Conseil et vous rappelez quand même que nous aurons notre Trente-septième Conférence au fin juin 2011, et que le prochain Conseil aura lieu les 4 et 5 juillet 2011.

Avant de lever la séance, conformément à ce que nous avons décidé dans le Rapport où nous avons dit que d'ici la Conférence nous devons nous réunir pour parfaire nos positions sur le budget, il y aura donc deux réunions des Amis du Président, une prévue le 17 mai 2011 à 9h30 et l'autre le 15 juin à 9h30. Celle du 17 mai sera pour permettre à chacun d'entre vous, dans vos Groupes, à partir de

l'éclairage que vous avez eu sur les discussions sur le budget que nous avons eu pendant presque sept heures, pour que vous puissiez arriver le 17 mai avec des positions un peu plus précises. Nous nous sommes engagés, avec le Secrétariat, à faciliter la discussion en cernant un peu plus les sujets sur lesquels nous devons travailler, et nous vous laisserons un mois pour parfaire la discussion pour nous retrouver le 15 juin, c'est-à-dire 15 jours avant la Conférence. Je vous donnerai les modalités exactes de ces deux réunions qui auront lieu avec traduction intégrale dans les six langues.

J'en profite pour vous dire que j'organiserai une réunion des Présidents des Groupes régionaux l'après-midi du 15 juin, pour parler de différentes choses et aussi de la préparation de la Conférence. Cela n'est pas directement de la responsabilité du Conseil, mais le Président indépendant du Conseil a la mission de faire en sorte de maintenir une bonne relation entre toutes les délégations et nous pourrons le faire à ce moment-là.

Je vous remercie une nouvelle fois pour votre contribution à la présidence de ce Conseil. Je vous rappelle que mercredi, nous avons innové avec l'audition des candidats au poste de Directeur général. C'était une première et le Secrétariat l'avait bien organisée. Nous avons bien travaillé avec les Présidents de régions et les ambassadeurs des pays concernés et je crois que cela a été très productif.

Merci Monsieur le Directeur général d'avoir participé ce matin et d'être venu pendant une partie du Conseil.

Je lève la séance.

The meeting rose at 16.40 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.40

CL 141/PV Appendix A

**Reports of the 105th (8-9 February 2011) and 106th (21-25 March 2011)
Sessions of the Programme Committee (CL 141/4; CL 141/8)**

PC 106

1. Mid-term Review Synthesis Report -2010
2. Corporate Strategy on Capacity Development, implementation plan
3. Sustainable animal health and contained animal-health related human health risks, action plan
4. Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for the Near East
5. Appointment of the Director of Evaluation
6. Access to TCP on a grant basis – eligibility criterion

1. Mid-term synthesis Report - 2010

- First such report under the new results-based reporting system
- Noted that FAO was performing well against the Ors
- Some concern about alignment of EB resources
- More clarity needed on performance on decentralization, highlighting areas of concern, mitigating measures
- A number of other recommendations on the structure and format of future reports

2. Corporate Strategy on Capacity Development, implementation plan

- Endorsed
- Requested to be reflected in the PWB
- Recommended systematization in the field projects
- Recognized the critical importance of CD and urged all to commit to it
- Requested FAO to provide feedback in 2012 on TCP in CD, including TCP criteria

3. Sustainable animal health and contained animal-health related human health risks, action plan

- Endorsed, including focus on the One-Health approach
- Considered the work fundamental
- Noted funding requirement of USD 193.8 million which is not in the PWB
- Requested information on how the plan would be prioritized and sequenced
- Requested exploring alternative sources of resources to promote the related IFA

4. Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for the Near East

- Appreciated the quality, including the extensive stakeholder consultation
- Noted the key role of FAO representations
- Stressed the importance of
 - an appropriate recruitment policy,
 - effective rotation policy,
 - adequate training, and
 - an adequate skills mix

4/2. Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for the Near East

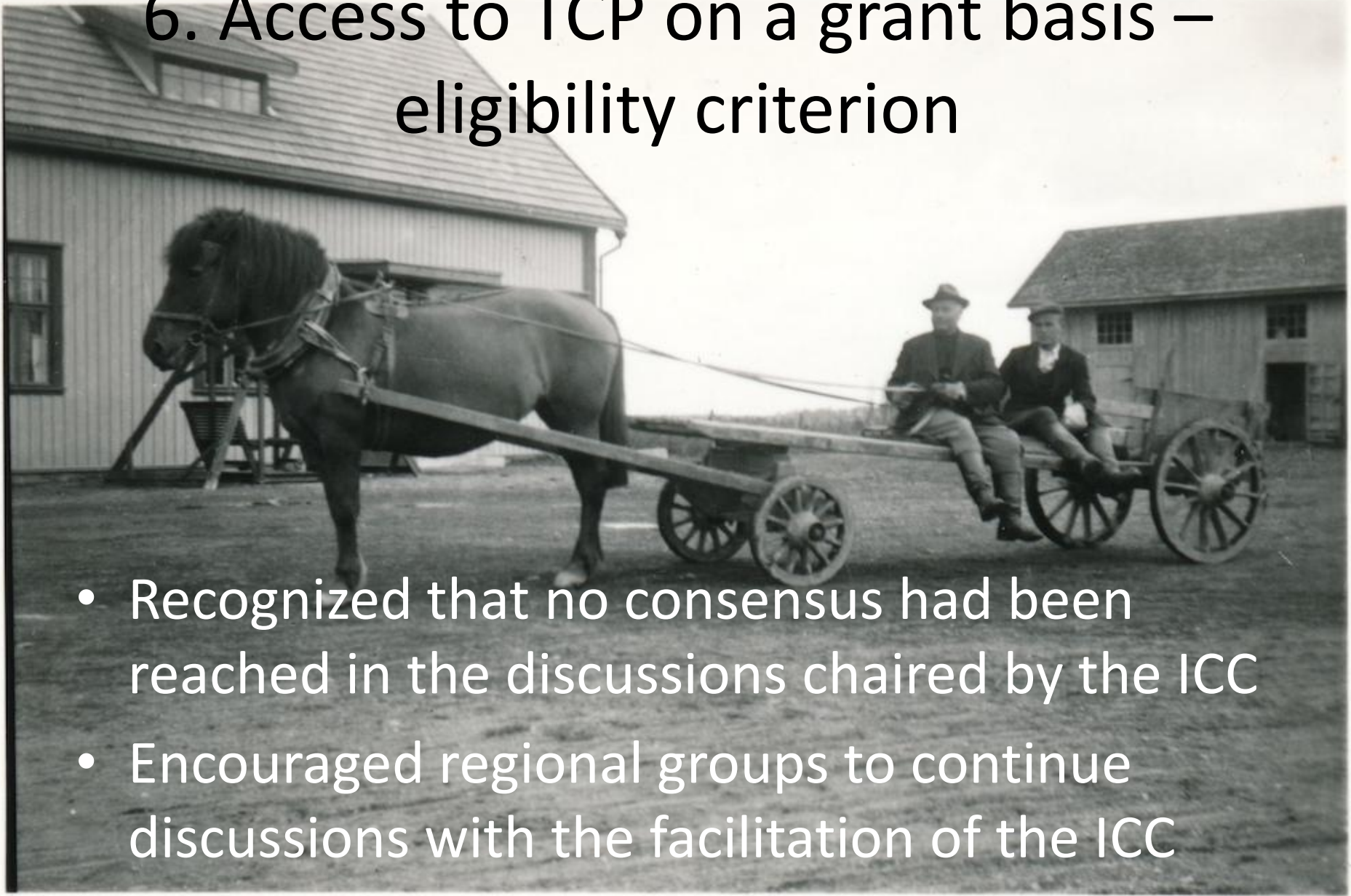
- Noted the applicability of a large number of the recommendations also in other regions
- Recommended that the results be considered in PWB and in the Vision for Decentralization
- Recommended that similar evaluations should take place in other regions. They should be carried out in a consultative manner

5. Appointmet of the Director of Evaluation

- Was informed that the current Director of Evaluation is reaching retirement age, while not having completed the 4-year term foreseen in the Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation
- Requested the PC chair to write to the DG, asking him to consider an extension to the end of the 4-year term

6. Access to TCP on a grant basis – eligibility criterion

- Recognized that no consensus had been reached in the discussions chaired by the ICC
- Encouraged regional groups to continue discussions with the facilitation of the ICC



**FAO/WHO Cooperation on Food Safety. World Health Assembly
Resolution 63**



FAO/WHO Cooperation on Food Safety World Health Assembly Resolution 63

**Tom Heilandt
Codex Secretariat**

FAO/WHO Cooperation on Food Safety

Scientific advice (risk assessment)

Joint FAO/WHO

- Expert Committee on Food Additives (since 1956)
- Meeting on Pesticide Residues (since 1963)
- Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (since 2000)
- Expert Meetings on Nutrition (since 2010)
- Ad-hoc consultations

Standard setting (risk management)

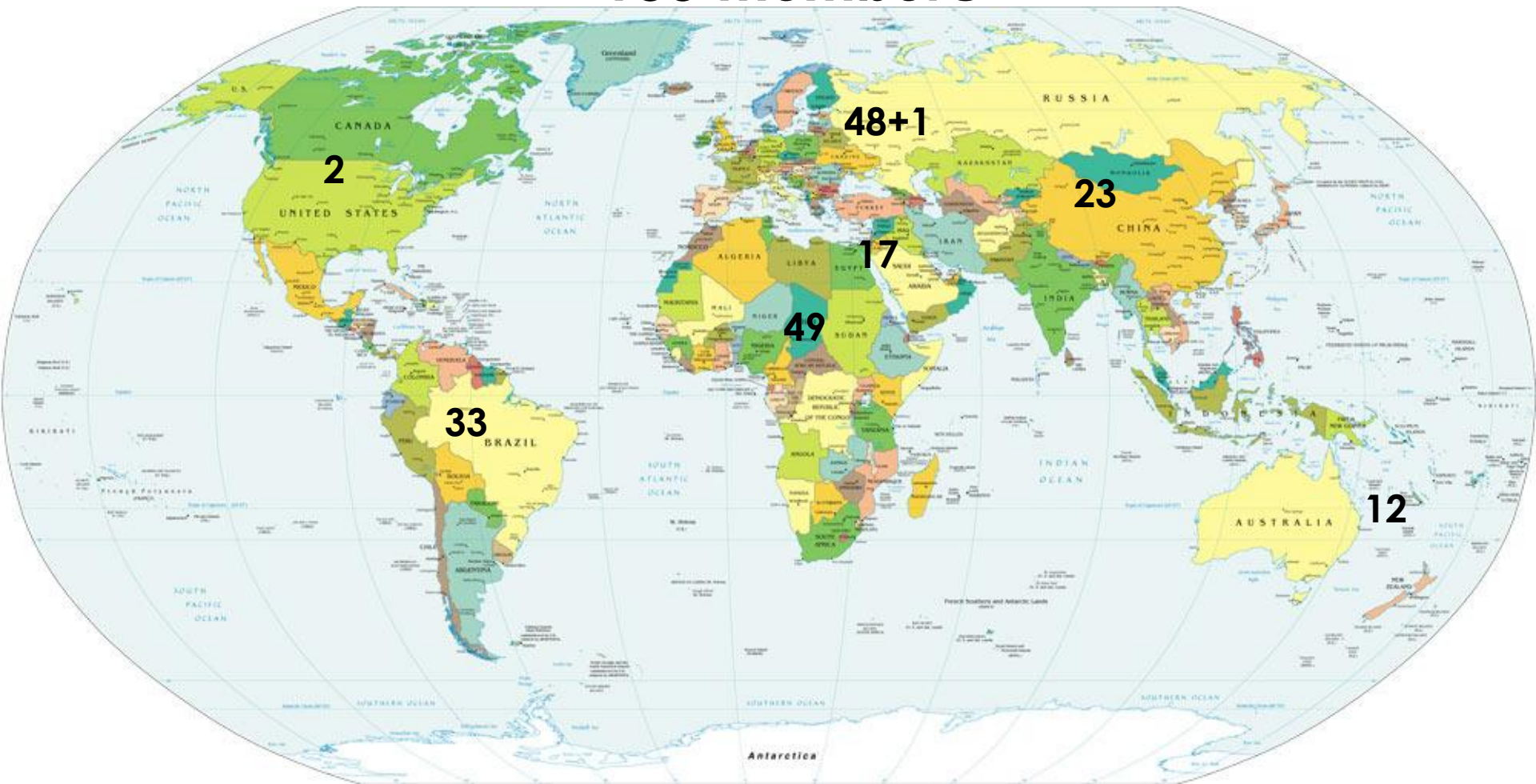
- Codex Alimentarius Commission (since 1963)

Capacity building

- to build national food safety systems and to assist in the application of standards and specific food safety situations (projects and tools)
- to increase effective participation in Codex (e.g. Codex trust fund (since 2003))

INFOSAN (International Food Safety Authorities Network)

A FAO/WHO cooperation success: Codex Alimentarius Commission 185 members



WHA Resolution 63

- Confirms the **continuing serious threat of food-borne disease** to the health of millions particularly in developing countries with poor nutritional status
- Supports **improving monitoring and reporting** on the burden of food-borne and zoonotic diseases through global networks such as INFOSAN
- Supports **improving the assessment, management and communications** of food-borne and zoonotic risks

WHA Resolution 63 recognizes:

- that the **continued growth of global trade** contributes to the **risk of spread of pathogens and contaminants** across national borders and the need for more efficient global sharing of food safety information;
- the **important roles of FAO/WHO** in support of the **Codex Alimentarius Commission** as the reference point for international food standards;
- the **unique opportunity offered by the Commission to all countries to join the international community in formulating and harmonizing food standards** and ensuring their global implementation and notes the increased participation, particularly of developing countries in the work of the Commission.

World Health Assembly Resolution 63

- The resolution requests the Director-General of WHO to provide adequate and sustainable support for:
 - the joint expert bodies of FAO and WHO,
 - the Codex Alimentarius Commission and
 - INFOSAN.
- The resolution also called for:
 - the **inclusion of food safety in the international debate on food crises** and hunger emergencies, and technical support to Member States and
 - international agencies to **consider food safety, nutrition and food security issues in a comprehensive, integrated manner.**

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FOR EVERYONE



International Food Standards



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www.codexalimentarius.net

Thank you!

10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Natural Resources and Environment

144th session of the FAO Council
Rome, 11-15 April 2011

Agenda Item 20:
Developments in international for a of importance for FAO
Ref. Document CL 141/INF/6

- 3) 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity**
- 4) Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

Biodiversity for food and agriculture

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

- ▶ FAO events included: Launch of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Major global events of relevance to FAO included:

- ▶ **Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-10)** adopts, inter alia, Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
- ▶ United National General Assembly (UNGA) calls for establishment of an **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**.

UNGA proclaims 2011 to 2020 as **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**

CBD COP-10

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

- ▶ Five strategic goals & twenty “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” form the global strategy for biodiversity for the whole **International Community**;
- ▶ FAO will need to play a **major role in the implementation**

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

- ▶ Explicitly recognizes (in response to FAO Conference **Resolution 18/2009**) the **importance of genetic resources to food security**, and importance of **CGRFA** and **ITPGRFA** in this regard;
- ▶ Is in harmony with **FAO ITPGRFA**;
- ▶ Allows Parties to develop and implement **special sectoral agreements**;
- ▶ CGRFA-13 will consider need for further work in July 2011.

CBD COP-10

Decisions on agricultural biodiversity and on other sectoral issues

- ▶ Welcome **FAO's and the Commission's work**;
- ▶ Recognize **lead role of FAO** in agricultural biodiversity, including on soil biodiversity, pollinators and biodiversity for food and nutrition.

FAO and CBD

- ▶ **Strengthening strategic collaboration** between FAO and CBD in the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan, CGRFA Multi-Year Programme of Work as well as other FAO activities;
- ▶ **Workplan** for 2nd phase of cooperation between FAO, CGRFA and CBD currently under preparation;
- ▶ Joint efforts to facilitate jointly **implementation relevant of policy instruments** (Global Plans of Action; Nagoya Protocol; International Treaty).

IPBES

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

- ▶ UNGA called upon UNEP, in collaboration with CBD, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP to convene IPBES plenary meeting consider **modalities and arrangements to fully operationalize IPBES** (Resolution 65/162)
- ▶ IPBES is the result of **global consultations**:
 - ▶ International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (**IMoSEB**);
 - ▶ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (**MA**) follow-up process;
 - ▶ Three intergovernmental/ stakeholder meetings convened by UNEP: **Busan outcome**.

IPBES

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

► Busan outcome

IPBES should:

- provide **science-policy interface** for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- be an **independent intergovernmental body** administered by one or more existing UN body/ bodies;
- develop **scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed assessments**;
- be **policy-relevant not policy-prescriptive**;
- support **policy formulation and implementation**;
- identify **capacity-building** needs to improve the **science-policy interface**.

FAO and IPBES

- ▶ Countries in Busan **welcomed the interest expressed by FAO** in participating to the IPBES
- ▶ FAO as active part of IPBES
 - ▶ Profile food security concerns in the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem service
 - ▶ Develop scientifically credible, independent and peer-reviewed assessments on sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries management
 - ▶ Support Countries integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services science into production policies
- ▶ FAO outside the IPBES
 - ▶ ??

Implications for FAO under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Conference of the Parties 16 (UNFCCC COP-16) held in Cancun, Mexico (November - December 2010)

144th session of the FAO Council

Rome, 11-15 April 2011

Agenda Item 20:

Developments in international for a of importance for FAO

Ref. Document CL 141/INF/6

6) Implications for FAO under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 16 (UNFCCC COP-16) held in Cancun, Mexico (Nov. – Dec. 2010)



Two Goals of Our Time

1. Achieving Food Security

- 1 billion hungry
- Food production to increase 70% by 2050
- Adaptation to Climate Change critical

2. Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change

- "2 degree goal" requires major emission cuts
- Agriculture and Land use = 30% of emissions..
- ..and needs to be part of the solution



Cancún Agreement – selected points of high relevance to FAO

- Formal recognition that current emissions pledges need to rise
- Decision on Long-Term Cooperative Action, including:
 - Enhanced action on adaptation (Cancun Adaptation Framework)
 - Enhanced action on mitigation:
 - improved assessments nationally and internationally,
 - registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions)
 - REDD+ (includes, potentially, mitigation actions related to all types of forests, i.e. in the agriculture–forest interface)
 - Finance (Green Fund, 100 b\$/year by 2020 for developing countries against climate impact and for low-carbon development. World Bank to be interim trustee)
- Extension of Kyoto protocol was postponed
- Agriculture work programme was postponed



Key considerations for FAO's continued work on climate change (1)

- Establishment of the Green Fund raises expectations of FAO's contribution and involvement, particularly in adaptation. The on-going and cross-cutting work to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Framework Programme in FAO is a key starting point.
- The agreement on REDD+ will take us towards an implementation phase. The UN-REDD Programme provides a basis for moving ahead. It is likely that requests for support from countries will increase. It is likely that FAO's role will be increasingly knowledge based (as opposed to operations)



Key considerations for FAO's continued work on climate change (2)

- The MICCA (Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture) Programme provides an important lead in the development an agriculture work programme. This includes pilots in countries, capacity building, knowledge base for agriculture mitigation practises, and assessments of emissions and mitigation potentials in the agriculture sectors
- FAO's involvement in the "Climate Services" partnership, i.e. improved observations, analyses and decision support – with a focus for FAO on Food and Agriculture issues – is of strategic importance.
- Energy issues (both energy from agriculture sectors (bioenergy) and energy consumed in agriculture sectors including rural household energy) will increasingly be in focus.



World Water Forum and World Water Week

Natural Resources and Environment

144th session of the FAO Council
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5) World Water Forum and World Water Week

World Water Forum

- ▶ The Forum : a **platform** where the water community and the policy and decision makers from all regions of the world get together, debate and attempt to find solutions to achieve water security.
Organized every three years, it is the largest international event on “water”
- ▶ Participation of FAO to the Forum has served to raise the Agricultural dimension in the debates, initially dominated mostly by drinking water supply and sanitation

World Water Forum

- ▶ At the 5th WWF (March 2009) in Istanbul, FAO obtained a significant success because, as Chair of UN-Water, it coordinated the Theme “*Advancing Human Development and the MDGs*” (particularly poverty and hunger).
- ▶ In that occasion, Food, Water & Agriculture reached the maximum recognition ever by the Forum

Next steps

- ▶ FAO has been invited to participate also in the 6th WWF (March 2012) and to coordinate the thematic priority on “*Water & Food Security*”. To be done in partnership with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage and addressing technical, political and strategic measures to:
 - ▶ sustainably increase “productivity” of land and water (under rainfed and irrigated agriculture)
 - ▶ better manage groundwaters
 - ▶ reduces post-harvest losses
 - ▶ improve food supply chain efficiency
 - ▶ promote sustainable diets

World Water Week

- ▶ World Water Week : an **annual event** providing a unique forum for the exchange of views, experiences and practices between the scientific, business, policy and civic groups.
- ▶ It focuses on **new thinking** and **positive actions** toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, climate, economic and poverty reduction agendas. It differs from the World Water Forum because of the more technical and scientific profile

World Water Week

- ▶ Due to the high number of diverse participants, side-or back-to-back meetings, donors presence, etc., the WWW represent an exclusive opportunity for networking
- ▶ Due to the technical and scientific profile, it represent an opportunity for “update”
- ▶ Main reason for FAO to participate in the WWW is the attendance to the annual UN-Water meetings

Next steps

- ▶ FAO has been invited to participate in the following events of the World Water Week 2011:
 - ▶ a full day event on the Rio+20 process addressing “The Value of Water in a Green Economy”
 - ▶ a Seminar on “ Water and Food Security”, as informal stakeholder consultation toward the WWF of Marseille and as anticipation to the World Water Day 2012 (on the same theme)
 - ▶ participate in various panel discussions

Challenges for FAO

- ▶ The core function “Policy and strategy options and advices” is taking place in a non conventional FAO process
- ▶ An effective “ advocacy and communication” at these events requires the presence of a few people

Question to FAO Members

Should FAO continue to participate to these future Water events?

If yes, to which extent of participation?



