

conference

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conférence

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DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION II
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conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/1

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(9 November 1993)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN

9. Programme Implementation Report 1992-93

9. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 1992-93

9. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa 1992-93

LE PRESIDENT: Messieurs les délégués, Messieurs les représentants permanents, Messieurs les représentants des capitales, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la Commission II qui tient sa première séance aujourd'hui. J'aimerais tout d'abord vous dire combien je suis heureux de représenter le groupe africain à la présidence de cette importante Commission de la Conférence, et j'aimerais par la même occasion féliciter les deux Vice-Présidents qui ont été désignés pour participer avec moi à la conduite des travaux de cette Commission, et qui sont M. Carlos Antonio da Rocca Paranhos, Ministre conseiller, représentant permanent adjoint du Brésil auprès de la FAO, et M. Peter R. Janus, représentant permanent adjoint des Pays-Bas auprès de la FAO. J'espère que, grâce à leur aide, nous arriverons à conduire nos travaux dans les délais impartis et dans un climat de sérénité.

Hier, nous avons eu une grande et dure journée ; aujourd'hui, la tension a un peu baissé et les esprits sont calmés. Nous allons, à présent, nous intéresser aux questions importantes qui sont inscrites à l'ordre du jour de cette Commission.

Nous avons élu un Directeur général et je suis fier, en tant qu'Africain, que M. Jacques Diouf ait été élu. Je crois que nous sommes tous conscients, comme la plupart d'entre vous l'ont exprimé hier, du fait que c'est le Directeur général de la FAO qui a été nommé par tous les Etats Membres et qu'il ne s'agit donc pas d'une victoire d'une région ou d'une défaite d'une autre région, comme certains organes de presse ont voulu le rapporter ce matin. Nous avons désigné un Directeur général pour l'Organisation qui reflétera les idées de tous les Etats Membres.

J'aimerais maintenant, avec votre permission, et surtout à l'intention des représentants qui viennent des capitales, vous présenter les personnes qui siègent à mes côtés sur cette tribune et qui sont là pour vous servir pendant la durée des travaux de ce Comité. J'aimerais commencer par présenter M. Shah, Directeur général adjoint, responsable du budget de l'Organisation, ensuite M. Régnier qui est Sous-Directeur général, responsable du Département du développement, M. Pérez de Vega, Directeur responsable de la Division du développement des programmes de terrain. J'ai le plaisir de vous présenter Mme Claude Forthomme, fonctionnaire principale, au Service de l'évaluation, qui est la secrétaire de cette Commission avec laquelle j'ai déjà eu le plaisir de collaborer dans le passé; je suis sûr de pouvoir compter sur sa parfaite collaboration. A sa gauche, nous avons M. Frédéric Dévé, fonctionnaire, collaborateur de Mme Forthomme au Service de l'évaluation. Les présentations étant faites, nous pouvons tout de suite passer à des questions qui vont nous intéresser pendant la durée de nos travaux. Il est prévu que notre Commission travaille pendant seize séances. Nous avons seize points à l'ordre du jour qui sont aussi importants les uns que les autres, mais le programme de travail et budget que nous aborderons à partir de jeudi revêtira une importance particulière. Nous aurons 48 heures de débats et j'aimerais vous

inviter, dans vos interventions, à être le plus concis possible de manière à ce que, compte tenu du nombre moyen de délégations qui vont intervenir, chaque intervention puisse se situer dans un laps de temps de cinq à dix minutes afin de nous permettre de terminer nos travaux dans le temps imparti. Je tiens à attirer votre attention sur le fait qu'il conviendra de consacrer trois séances à l'adoption du rapport. Nous consacrerons donc 13 séances aux sujets qui sont à l'ordre du jour de notre Commission.

J'aimerais également vous dire que, s'agissant du Programme de travail et budget, je crois qu'il est prévu que la partie du rapport relative à ce point soit adoptée par la plénière, le matin du 17 novembre. Le 16 novembre nous serons appelés à approuver cette partie du rapport au sein de la Commission. Donc, le Comité devra travailler dès le lundi soir lorsque nous aurons terminé la discussion sur ce point, peut-être éventuellement mardi matin, de manière à ce que la Commission II approuve cette partie du rapport relative au Programme de travail et budget, le mardi après-midi 16 novembre, afin que la plénière soit en mesure de le faire le mercredi matin.

A propos du Comité de rédaction, je crois qu'avant la tenue de cette 27ème session de la Conférence, les groupes sont parvenus à un accord sur la composition du Comité de rédaction, et j'aimerais vous l'annoncer. Les représentants des pays suivants ont été désignés pour représenter leur région au Comité de rédaction de la Commission II : l'Égypte, Haïti, l'Inde, la République islamique d'Iran, le Mexique, les Philippines, le Sénégal, la Zambie, le Canada, la Finlande, la France, l'Allemagne et les États-Unis d'Amérique. S'agissant du Président du Comité de rédaction, il a été convenu que la personne désignée sera M. Bill Marsh, représentant permanent des États-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO, auquel je présente les félicitations du Bureau.

Pour revenir à la conduite de nos travaux, nos séances se dérouleront de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30. J'aimerais vous proposer de faire une petite pause de 15 minutes, le matin à 11 heures et l'après-midi à 16 heures.

William H. MARSH (United States of America) : First of all, may I reciprocate your gracious congratulations and extend my own to you. I would like to say that it is a great responsibility but it will also be a great privilege and pleasure to work with the Drafting Committee. We may be thirteen at table but that will result in a happy outcome rather than a misfortune.

Mr Chairman, may I applaud most heartily your suggestion that we have a little break during the course of the morning and in the afternoon. This is a very definite sign of progress and it is only the first sign of the progress to come under your leadership of this Commission.

LE PRÉSIDENT: Je remercie M. Marsh de ses paroles aimables. Je le remercie également d'avoir soutenu ma proposition. S'il n'y a pas d'objection particulière, je considère que nous travaillerons de cette manière.

J'aimerais maintenant que nous abordions notre ordre du jour. S'agissant de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier, vous trouverez toutes les informations dans le document C 93/12 et, à l'intention des francophones, je tiens à souligner qu'une petite erreur s'est glissée dans le calendrier, au

document C 93/12, au point 9, il est question de rapport d'évaluation; vous aurez tous corrigé, car il s'agit du rapport d'exécution pour le biennium 1992-93. Les documents C 93/8, C 93/8-Sup.1 et C 93/LIM/3 sont les supports de ce point 9.

Je donne maintenant la parole à M. Shah qui va présenter le point 9 de l'ordre du jour.

V.J. SHAH (Directeur général adjoint, Bureau du Programme du Budget et de l'Evaluation):

Permettez-moi au nom de mes collègues, et au nom de tout le Secrétariat, de vous remercier de vos aimables paroles au début des travaux de cette importante Commission. Nous sommes tous ici pour vous servir et pour vous aider.

Monsieur le Président, puisque vous commencez vos travaux plus tard que prévu, je tiens à souligner tout d'abord qu'en présentant les documents, dont la responsabilité m'a été confiée par le Directeur général, j'essaierai de vous offrir, dans toute la mesure du possible, des commentaires qui pourraient faciliter votre examen de ces documents sans répéter ce qui s'y trouve déjà écrit. De cette manière, je pourrais vous être plus utile, et si je peux me permettre, de vous stimuler. (continue en anglais)

Let me begin by suggesting that in all the discussions which have taken place so far in the subsidiary organs of the Conference, be it the Council or in the subsidiary committees of the Council, there has been frequent reference to the links between the first four documents that you are going to examine. Indeed, numerous interventions have been made about the links between the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme of Work and Budget. In the June Council links were drawn between the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. Mr Chairman, as you begin your work at this first Session I would like to inject a note of a slightly different nature; I would suggest that the first four documents that you examine be considered as a quartet. It is not just a musical or literary allusion that I am making, because I am sure that you will have noticed the links between all four documents, the Programme Implementation Report, the Programme Evaluation Report, The Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

The introduction to the Programme Implementation Report needs to recall that, while the Programme of Work and Budget document in its progressive refinement is a document that the Conference is well used to receiving, as is the Medium-Term Plan as revived by the Conference in 1989 and examined in its reincarnation by the last Conference in 1991, the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report are entirely new documents. These new documents had their birth sanctioned by the last Conference. These two documents replace the former reviews of the Regular Programme and the review of the Field Programmes. May I recall right at the outset, Mr Chairman, an aspect which you may wish to bear in mind in all your discussions of this Report and the Programme Evaluation Report. When the Conference decided to give birth to these two new documents it decided to do so on an experimental basis for this biennium with the material for 1994-1995. So at the conclusion of your discussions of the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report I take it that you will wish to give the Plenary of the Conference your conclusion as to the possible continuation of these documents in future biennia. So much by a way of overall introduction.

Now a few comments on this report. The first point which I would make is that this new Programme Implementation Report deals with both Regular and Field Programmes. This link between the activities under the Regular and Field Programmes was recognized by yourselves, by the Conference at its last Session, as desirable to enable the best examination of the activities of your Organization. We have tried to make each chapter self-contained. We hope it is readable. We have tried to make the document as concise as possible. If I may comment only on selected chapters, I would like to draw attention to the Director-General's Introduction because, if I may say so as a member of the Secretariat, it is much more than a foreword. It contains the reflections and views of the Director-General on many issues which relate to implementation and to reporting on what this Organization does for you. In a sense, some may consider it a provocative introduction, but it is designed to be such. The Director-General stands by his introduction.

Chapters 1 and 2 set the stage for the whole biennium in terms of what the Organization faces in this biennium and what the resources are. Chapter 3, which gives you quantitative information on programme implementation, may be recognized as very much modelled on the information which we used to present to you in the review of the Regular Programme. Moving on to Chapter 4, this gives you the qualitative description of the implementation.

Chapter 5 is, I suggest, particularly important because it deals with the whole development, support and project operations, including synthesizing the views of the technical committees of the Council on the field activities of this Organization. In this connection, I also draw your attention to the supplement document C 93/8-Sup.1, which is particularly related to Chapter 5. This gives the most up-to-date information that my colleagues wish to draw to your attention on the implications of General Assembly Resolution 47/199 as regards Operational Activities for Development.

Chapter 6 is also of particular importance because this Chapter reports to the Conference on the streamlining of the Special Action Programmes and the improved management of field activities, which was a directive of your Conference at its last Session. I do not comment on the remaining chapter, Support and Common Services, because I hope it is self-explanatory, as, I hope, is the Annex Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions.

We look forward with great interest and anticipation to the debate you will have. I will not take any more of your time now. I think it is much more important to you, for the Conference, to have the full debate that it wishes to have. Then I will stand with my colleagues to clarify or to provide any further information that may be requested in the debate.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie Monsieur Shah, pour cette très concise et très brève présentation dans laquelle vous avez très bien situé le cadre du sujet.

Avant d'ouvrir la liste des orateurs sur cette question, je voudrais ajouter un mot que j'avais omis dans mon intervention préliminaire. Je tiens à vous préciser qu'avec mes collègues du Bureau de cette Commission, nous sommes arrivés à un arrangement, à savoir que s'agissant de la conduite de nos travaux sur le point 10 relatif au Rapport d'évaluation du Programme, et que nous aborderons demain ce point 10 sera discuté sous la

présidence de notre Vice-Président, M. C. Da Rocha Paranhos, et le point 11, le Plan à moyen terme, sera traité jeudi sous la présidence de M. Peter Janus. Nous collaborerons étroitement en la matière.

Avant de recenser les délégations qui veulent s'exprimer, et en réitérant mon invitation à ce que les interventions soient concises compte tenu du temps dont nous disposons, je vous rappellerai simplement que ces sujets ont fait l'objet de discussions par les différents comités restreints de notre Organisation (Comité du Programme, Comité financier) et par le Conseil. Vous trouverez toutes les conclusions des discussions de ces comités du Conseil dans le document C 93/LIM/3. Je vous demanderai donc de focaliser sur les questions qui vous paraissent les plus importantes. Je pense qu'il n'est pas la peine de revenir sur des points qui ont déjà recueilli un large consensus au long de cette procédure.

J'invite les représentants qui désirent s'exprimer à lever leur pancarte afin que nous puissions les inscrire sur la liste des orateurs sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Demandent à prendre la parole: Chypre, Pays-Bas, Arabie Saoudite, Danemark, Finlande, France, Royaume-Uni, Portugal, Syrie, Angola, Cap-Vert, République de Corée, Canada, Japon, Mexique, Pologne, Suède, Etats-Unis.

Cette liste n'est pas close mais sans tarder je donne la parole au premier intervenant, le Ministre de Chypre.

Costas PETRIDES (Cyprus): May I firstly warmly congratulate you, as well as the two Vice-Chairmen for your election to this very important committee. I assure you of your sincere cooperation and every assistance for the successful execution of your task.

The Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah as always has made an excellent introduction to this important introduction. I congratulate him warmly.

On behalf of my delegation I wish to express our appreciation and support to the Programme Implementation Report for 1992-93, which together with the Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93, substitutes the previous reviews of Regular and Field Programmes as decided by the last Conference. The report under review provides in a brief and comprehensive way very useful information of what FAO has been able to accomplish with the resources available through regular budget and extra-budgetary funding. Needless to say that the period covered by the Programme Implementation Report has been and continues to be a period of great difficulties and big challenges for both the FAO and its Member Nations. The financial position of this Organization did not basically improve even though there have been positive signs in payments of arrears and this is widely appreciated. A considerable decline of the extra-budgetary funding of field programme is recorded. Additionally, the developments regarding the FAO's Support Cost Income were even more negative as stated in para. 25 of the report. Consequently during the biennium 1992-93 the demands for expenditure required for FAO activities were greatly exceeding the resource availability. We do appreciate the fact despite the well known financial constraints this Organization has managed to perform the wide range of activities briefly described in document C 93/8 and furthermore FAO has played a remarkable role in important international events such as UNCED and the ICN Conferences and other international initiatives concerned with multilateral trade, responsible fishing, tropical forests, the preservation of plants and animal resources, rural development, etc. Likewise, the improvements of

administration services, as described in paragraphs 42 to 44 are also welcome and we expect that these improvements will lead to savings and further increase of efficiency.

Referring to the training facilities which are rightly considered an important modality of action of the Organization we notice on Chart 3.2, page 27 that in the overall distribution of training, i.e. the Near East, the North Africa and European Region is limited to only 8 percent. In the light of recent developments, namely in Eastern Europe, we suggest that increased efforts should be made to reach the new challenges for agricultural and rural development in these regions. Increased training activities in this case is in our view of vital importance. Furthermore referring to the brief formation presented under Chapter 3 on pages 55 to 66 for the Technical Cooperation Programme, we appreciate the fact that the training activities within this programme have remained an important component of TCP. Additionally, we welcome the formation provided for the TCP Supportive Action during the last two years as described in the text books on pages 110 to 111. The various examples of TCP projects presented in this box are certainly very persuasive in that the TCP criteria are strictly applied.

Finally, we wish to refer to the future version of the Programme Implementation Report and the proposed two options included in the introductory note of the Director-General. It is obvious that both options do have positive and negative elements from the view-point of complete data for the whole period of the programme period, the timely information of Member Nations on the Programme Implementation, the preparation and quality of the respective documents, including the preparation of the programme proposals for the next biennium, etc. In the light of these considerations we give preference to option one with the understanding that during each conference the current Programme Implementation Report will always include the actual data for the previous biennium and supplementary documentation with the latest information available for the last year of each current biennium.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais demander aux intervenants de donner leur avis sur les deux options qui nous sont proposées. Je crois que cela contribuerait beaucoup à aider le Secrétariat dans la préparation des versions futures. Je vous invite donc très vivement à vous exprimer sur le choix de l'option qui vous paraît la plus appropriée. Je donne la parole au Représentant des Pays-Bas.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in Commission II, I would like to congratulate you and your two Vice-Chairmen on your election and wish you much success in chairing this important Committee. May I also thank Mr Shah for his clear introduction to the document.

My delegation would like to make first of all a few general remarks before commenting on the report itself. During the review process my country strongly advocated the reintroduction of a Medium-Term Plan and we are pleased to discuss this during this Conference for the second time. This Medium-Term Plan, however, needs to be a framework for the FAO policy in the coming years, a framework based not only on studies about forthcoming agricultural developments but also learning from the past. I can find myself very well in the wording of Mr Shah in calling it a quartet. This

brings me to the question of whether and to which extent the result of the Implementation and Evaluation Report have been used in drawing up the next Medium-Term Plan. If so the Medium-Term Plan should reflect these outcomes adequately.

My second point is the amalgamation of the former reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes. Earlier this year during the meeting of COAG the Netherlands delegation expressed its concern about this approach. In the view of the Netherlands from reporting and discussions of the Field Programmes is of the utmost importance. We do hope that this new approach is not going to slow down this important issue.

Let me turn now to the report itself. It occurred to my delegation that one reads from the introduction a certain reluctance to discuss efficiency and comparative advantage in relation to FAO. Because in an organization such as FAO market conditions are not applicable although rightly it should be tried to judge the activities of FAO on its efficiency another aspect is prioritization. This too should add to the improvement of the efficiency as it requests FAO to leave certain activities to other organizations.

The Netherlands delegation is of the opinion that these issues are highly relevant for discussion leading to the required measurements for improvement. With regard to the options mentioned in your introduction, my delegation is in favour of the first one; discussing data over 1993 and 1994 together with estimates for 1995. With regard to the presented data, my delegation appreciates the transparency of the first three chapters. Problems, however, are occurring in the next part of the Report.

First, I would like to mention Chapter 4 which gives an overview of activities. However, it lacks explanation on what criteria these have been selected and my delegation would like to have more information about this from the Secretariat. A point of concern is the interaction between Regular and Field Programme; although the introduction mentioned that this is one of the characteristics of the document, it is not feasible as such. In this respect my delegation suggests that for the next PIR more attention is paid to data with regard to the Field Programme, the links with the Medium-Term Plan and Cross-Sectoral issues.

Chapter 6 describes the implementation of the ICPF/SARD but unfortunately this is hardly reflected in the medium term. Special attention should be paid to the categories of SARD. These will provide a good starting point for a thorough discussion of how FAO is going to play its role as a centre of excellence in the field of sustainable agriculture. It also gives guidance on the consequences for international cooperation, organization and prioritization of the Regular and Field Programmes and, last but not least, cooperation with other UN agencies.

Mr Chairman, you know my delegation has a sound interest in field activities and, therefore, it should appreciate receiving more information regarding the measures to improve management of field activities, in particular our experience with the Steering Committee on Field Activities, the review of the Field Programme Committee of the Secretariat, the lead Technical Units and the SAP Management, and these issues deserve to be discussed in the next Medium-Term Plan as well.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant des Pays-Bas. Je suis certain que Monsieur Shah a bien pris note de vos souhaits pour

l'avenir et surtout de vos questions et demandes de précisions sur les critères par exemple relatifs au chapitre 4.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I should like, on behalf of my delegation, in my personal name, to extend to you my heartfelt congratulation on your election to the Chairmanship of this Committee. I am quite certain that the work of this Committee will be successful under your leadership and we will do our best to help you achieve real success. I should like also to extend my congratulations to the two Vice-chairmen and Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Mr Chairman, we should like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction, and we especially support the Programme Implementation Report that has been presented to us.

However, we have some remarks that will be quite brief as you have asked us to be. First of all, I should like to mention the importance of the participation of member countries in laying down the directives of policies in the field activities of FAO. We believe that the member countries are the ones who should direct the policy of the Organization and here I would like to know what field activities are not supervised by the member countries. Secondly, the document has expressed some concern on the reduction of the extrabudgetary financial funding resources and this reduction could be due to some reasons outlined in your preliminary remarks. Thirdly, we welcome the participation of FAO in UNCED as well as the ICN.

We also welcome the fact that FAO is undertaking a follow-up in this regard but we must be quite accurate when implementing the resolutions of UNCED and that ambitions would be within the limits of our resources.

In conclusion, so far as the two options are concerned, Mr Chairman, we are in favour of option one.

LE PRESIDENT : Je remercie M. le représentant du Royaume d'Arabie Saoudite pour ses paroles aimables. Je suis d'accord avec lui sur le point qu'il vient de soulever à la fin de son intervention: s'agissant du Programme d'action en matière de suivi de la CNUED, il faut être assez perspicace pour faire le lien entre les programmes qui sont proposés et les ressources qui peuvent être mobilisées.

J'aimerais profiter de l'arrivée de Mme la représentante de la Croatie pour lui souhaiter la bienvenue et, à travers elle, à tous les représentants des Etats Membres qui ont été admis comme membres de l'Organisation à cette Commission II pour travailler avec nous. Bienvenue à tous.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark): The Danish delegation would also like to congratulate you and the other Vice-chairmen on your elections. We look forward to fruitful collaboration on the many issues we are confronted with. We would also like to thank Mr Shah for his stimulating introduction to the item we are now dealing with, the Programme Implementation Report for 1992-93.

I can say, right at the beginning, that we very much welcome the new approach under which the Activity Report of the Organization has been broadened so as to cover both the activities under the Regular Programme and those under the Field Programme. At the same time, we still regret that

the timing of the report makes it impossible to provide final figures for the second year of the biennium, that is, for 1993.

We commend the Secretariat for its efforts in dealing with both the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of the activities. Admittedly, it is more difficult to handle the qualitative part, but it is to us the most interesting feature in the Report and we would welcome further progress in this direction.

We very much appreciate Chapter 6 dealing with the streamlining of the Special Action Programmes. We have noted with satisfaction that the SAPs should have a fixed life span. In this context, we miss a reference to the Special Action Programmes which will be terminated. We have got a complete list. We accept that there must be a limit to their lifetimes but which ones will then be terminated? We should like to know, because we consider this to be part of the priority process. We shall look forward to the documentation for the Special Action Programmes which has been promised in paragraph 309. Perhaps this will also help us to get a clear picture of this programme of termination.

Finally, we have a suggestion to make for the timing and the period covered by the future activity reports which we should like to continue to have presented in the new manner as I have indicated. As already stated, we attach much importance to obtaining final figures for the second year of the biennium and to accept that some overlapping is probably unavoidable. I am not going to vote in favour of the options as we have been asked to do, but we would like to suggest that the SAP Conference receive a report for the biennium as at present but that this report should be followed by a report the following year which will give the final figures for the second year, which in this case is for 1993. Whether that is option one or two, I do not know, but this is the way we suggest it should be done.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis d'accord avec vous qu'avoir des chiffres pour la deuxième année du biennium est un aspect intéressant de la question, mais je pense que nous pouvons valablement procéder à l'examen de cette question sur des projections que nous considérons pour notre part réalistes. Je pense que M. Shah répondra d'une manière plus particulière à cette question.

Ms Birgitta STENIUS-MLADENOV (Finland): Let me join those who congratulate you, Mr Chairman on your election and also thank Mr Shah for his introduction.

Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. The Finnish delegation welcomes the new practice to combine the implementation results of both Regular and Field Programmes into one document presented as the Programme Implementation Report.

Our comments on the Report will concentrate mostly on the Field Programme and its financing.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has repeatedly stated that, in our view, the extrabudgetary funding of development activities tends to distort the focus of the activities from the agreed programme of work. Furthermore, it does not in all cases respond to the needs and priorities of the recipient countries or to the key areas of FAO's mandate but rather reflects the

interests of the particular donor concerned. We are also concerned at the role of the recipient at the planning stage with the activities supported from the trust funds.

Finland acknowledges the merit of extra-budgetary financing in some cases, particularly at the pilot phase or planning stages of new activities. Even there we emphasize the principle of prioritization. In our view the most important issues which are part of FAO's basic mandate and established activities, like the follow-up of UNCED and the International Conference on Nutrition, must be financed through the regular budget so that the matters are properly under the guidance and control of the governing bodies. At the moment approximately half, 47 percent, of the overall activities are already financed through extrabudgetary arrangements and thus beyond the control of the governing bodies. Finland finds this situation unsatisfactory. We would like to draw the attention of the newly elected Director-General to this situation. We propose that he would present his views on the extrabudgetary financing arrangements at some appropriate time.

My government welcomes the supplementary document C 93/8-Sup.1, which explains the recent developments in FAO's sphere related to the national execution and programme approach following UN General Assembly Resolutions 44/211 and 47/199.

The document describes FAO's response to these two important resolutions. The relevance of the follow-up is tested in the activities in the recipient countries and in the improvements made in the coordination of the UN agencies, programmes and funds at the field level. In our view these important concepts and approaches can only be implemented in close cooperation between the recipient government and the UN agencies. These partners have to find an understanding on what a joint UN contribution to a National Strategy Note should contain, to what extent national execution can be utilized, in what ways harmonization should be furthered and so on. In this context FAO's representatives must be able to present the comparative advantage of FAO in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in practical terms. Finland looks forward to more information on the practical results in the next report.

As to the next Programme Implementation Report, Finland holds the view that it is better to continue with a document in its present form even if all the figures are not final. That is Option 1. The other alternative means that the Conference receives a document where the figures are exact but the information is already outdated. In the present report regular and field programmes have been presented together. In this context my delegation would like to reiterate the decision made in the June session of the Council to consider ways to further improve arrangements to review the Field Programmes. Some areas of field programmes, especially those financed through Trust Fund arrangements, are still very difficult to follow and the information is made available only in retrospect. We trust that the discussion on further improvements will be continued in the Governing Bodies.

Finally, I cannot refrain myself from noting the tone in which the Director-General has described the expression "comparative advantage". To us it represents a dynamic process, holding in itself the drive for improvement and excellency. The mandate alone cannot define the "comparative advantage".

Jean-Paul RIVAUD (France): Puisque nous sommes au début de nos travaux, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter pour votre élection au poste de Président de notre Commission II et de vous assurer que la délégation participera activement à nos travaux, elle vous apportera son appui et s'efforcera en particulier de prononcer des interventions courtes.

Nous avons pris connaissance avec grand intérêt du premier rapport d'exécution du Programme concernant l'exercice 1992-93 et nous remercions M. Shah pour ses remarques introductives.

Nous portons une appréciation favorable sur la taille de ce document et sa composition. En effet, l'activité de la FAO est décrite avec suffisamment de détails et illustrée par de nombreux tableaux graphiques.

Nous sommes d'avis que ce Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme, et le rapport d'évaluation dont nous parlerons plus tard, éléments du "quartet" dont parlait M. Shah tout à l'heure, doivent avoir, parmi leurs objectifs prioritaires, celui de mesurer l'impact des activités de l'Organisation sur le niveau de développement des populations concernées.

Pour ce qui concerne les versions futures du rapport, nous appuyons l'option 1, il nous paraîtrait tout à fait utile de disposer à la fois d'un rapport intermédiaire d'exécution du Programme sur lequel fonder la préparation du Programme et budget du biennium suivant et, d'autre part, d'un rapport définitif susceptible de contribuer aux infléchissements nécessaires du Plan à moyen terme.

Ma délégation a déjà expliqué lors du cent quatrième Conseil que le rapport d'exécution du Programme 1992-93 décrivait clairement les orientations des activités de l'Organisation, ainsi que les mécanismes de financement des grands programmes, et surtout la part variable selon les sous-programmes des ressources extrabudgétaires et des ressources du Programme ordinaire dans les activités de la FAO. La lecture de ce rapport nous conduit cependant à nous poser un certain nombre de questions et à les poser au Secrétariat, questions qui rejoignent l'impératif d'efficacité de l'Organisation.

Sans vouloir entrer dans la polémique sur les avantages comparatifs, il nous paraît essentiel, dans le contexte de pénurie relative des ressources du système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble, que chaque Organisation s'efforce de définir ses priorités de manière précise et les mette en oeuvre selon des stratégies concertées entre agences et en liaison avec les donateurs bilatéraux.

Dans le monde interactif que nous connaissons, les mandats des différentes organisations présentent des zones de recouvrement qui, loin d'être des facteurs de concurrence, doivent leur permettre de développer des synergies en abordant les grandes questions qui se posent à l'humanité: l'environnement, le développement durable, la nutrition, l'éducation...

Dans ce cadre, chaque partenaire doit valoriser ses avantages comparatifs, c'est-à-dire contribuer à l'objectif commun en apportant son savoir-faire et sa compétence spécifique.

Une application particulière de ces principes doit être réalisée dans le domaine de l'emploi des fonds fiduciaires par l'Organisation.

Certes, nous convenons, comme il est dit au paragraphe 35, que les besoins exprimés sont très diversifiés. Toutefois, les fonds fiduciaires sont une composante majeure du financement du Programme de terrain et contribuent de manière essentielle aux activités générales de l'Organisation.

Il est donc fondamental, selon nous, qu'ils soient parfaitement intégrés dans les priorités fortes de l'Organisation, sans dispersion ni utilisation "à la carte" des services de la FAO. Nous partageons entièrement sur ce point ce qu'a dit la déléguée de la Finlande sur la question il y a quelques instants.

J'aimerais enfin prendre acte avec satisfaction des efforts menés par l'Organisation au plan interne pour décloisonner ses activités. Ainsi approuvons-nous le travail de l'équipe spéciale mentionnée au paragraphe 39 du Rapport, qui a entraîné un resserrement des liens entre les activités du Programme ordinaire, exécutées par l'intermédiaire des unités techniques, et la conception et la mise en oeuvre de l'assistance technique de l'Organisation.

D.A. TROTMAN (United Kingdom): May I on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation congratulate you and the other Vice-chairman on your election.

The United Kingdom delegation congratulates the FAO on the production of this report, the first Programme Implementation Report in this format. The document provides a clear resume of activities and achievement.

Whilst sympathizing with much of what the Director-General says about FAO's comparative advantage, the United Kingdom delegation is of the view that genuine concerns do exist about FAO's "comparative advantage". It is not in our view, simply a question of priorities within FAO's mandates. Other organizations, both within and outside the United Nations family, have mandates which cut across that of FAO. It could be argued that UNEP, the World Bank, and other international finance institutions have a comparative advantage over FAO in certain areas covered by FAO's mandate. Does FAO have a "comparative advantage" in project implementation, for example? If so, are such activities of high priority for FAO? The United Kingdom delegation would argue that FAO's strengths, vis-à-vis other funding agencies, lie in coordinating such activities where they cut across the political boundaries - for example, the Screwworm Programme in Africa.

Paragraph 63 provides a further example of the need to examine closely FAO's "comparative advantage" and, subsequently, the priorities and criteria for FAO involvement. FAO does not, in the United Kingdom's view, have a universal "comparative advantage" in organizing or implementing training courses. There are, however, circumstances and disciplines where FAO is clearly the organization most suited to organize and carry out these activities. Examples are training courses addressing regional concerns or in support of FAO's "core" normative function.

Paragraph 41: The United Kingdom welcomes the greater emphasis that FAO now places on the role of the Country Representatives in policy advisory functions, and in supporting countries to develop and execute their own development programmes. Obviously, there is a continuing need to ensure that the size of the FAO mission is commensurate with the tasks to be undertaken. FAO will wish to make savings where possible.

Turning away from "comparative advantage" priorities and reporting arrangements, the United Kingdom delegation has the following comments on the achievements over the past biennium. A great deal has been achieved of which FAO can justifiably be proud. We have the following comments:

Paragraph 132: The eradication of screwworm from North Africa was a notable achievement and epitomizes one of FAO's "core" roles: serving as a politically neutral coordinator and source of expertise in tackling problems which cut across geographical and political boundaries.

Paragraph 149: The need to increase participation in extension programmes by farmers' organizations, including women's groups and NGOs, is now well recognized. We welcome FAO's promotion of the concept "knowledge, attitude and practice" to assist in the identification of farming constraints. Farmers must be given greater responsibility for the planning and implementation of developing programmes.

Paragraphs 180 to 192 - Fisheries: The summary of activities of the FAO's Fisheries programme is genuinely impressive and significant progress has been achieved. The Fisheries Department best demonstrates its comparative advantage when approaching problems of resource management at the regional level when developing and disseminating information to its Member States.

The continued emphasis on developing relevant fisheries information data bases and analytical programmes, and their dissemination to national institutions is a valuable contribution to aquatic resource management. The development of a GIS for fisheries off the West African coast is an interesting initiative. Before extending this work to the regions as planned, would it not be useful to carefully evaluate the use made of the GIS of fisheries for fisheries management purposes and whether further expenditure on new GIS would be justified. There is a risk that an expanded programme would be technology-led rather than demand-led. An assessment of the impact of the West African GIS would reveal whether there is demand.

FAO has been instrumental in establishing and coordinating regional and global networks of fish marketing information and advisory services for its membership, and some of these services have been successfully transformed into intergovernmental and commercial entities. We would like to see FAO making efforts to transfer responsibility for managing these to the private sector marketing information services.

Turning now to the Forestry Programme, paragraphs 199 to 220. The United Kingdom sees the Tropical Forests Action Programme (TFAP) as a high priority, including support to the Coordinating Unit and to field activities. The report, however, does not provide sufficient analysis of the progress in implementation and the problems and bottlenecks encountered to date, for example, in the creation of the Consultative Group. The Programme Implementation Report should provide a historical background, and the subsequent TFAP progress reports that issue should provide full details of action to date.

Finally, the UK delegation would support Option 1. We would also request that as much information as possible should be made available to the Technical Committees - COAG, COFI, COFO - in early 1995, prior to the publication of the next Programme Implementation Report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant du Royaume-Uni. Vous avez abordé un certain nombre de points et vous avez posé un grand nombre de questions, dont je suis sûr que M. Shah aura pris note. J'aimerais vous signaler le document C 93/INF/16 relatif aux compétences et droit de vote de la Communauté européenne. Les représentants participent à cette Commission, et plus particulièrement à la page 2 de ce document, une partie a trait aux points qui seront discutés par notre Commission, qui sont les points 9 à 15. Donc, ce document vous donnera toutes les informations utiles sur ce point.

António MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Pendant l'exercice 1992-93, l'action de la FAO a subi d'importants changements relatifs à l'orientation et à l'exécution du programme ordinaire et des programmes de terrain, qui, dans une large mesure, résultent d'une réorientation de la politique globale, désormais axée sur des objectifs associés à une nouvelle approche du développement au niveau international.

La définition des domaines clés pour l'action de la FAO, peut être considérée comme l'aspect le plus pertinent de l'exercice de 1992-93. Cela correspond à un processus d'adaptation aux nouveaux objectifs prioritaires du développement sans cependant mettre en cause la poursuite des tâches associées au rôle traditionnel de la FAO.

Malgré les difficultés d'ordre budgétaire, la prise en considération des rôles reconnus de la FAO, qui sont progressivement réorientés vers les questions axées sur l'environnement et le développement durable, est un des aspects les plus positifs de cet exercice et correspond aux domaines prioritaires pour l'action future, une attention particulière ayant été accordée aux recommandations de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement et le Développement et de la Conférence internationale sur la Nutrition.

Parmi ses multiples domaines d'action, son rôle très actif en matière de négociations internationales a été le plus important. En fait, le succès des programmes techniques et économiques spécifiques est très fortement lié au développement de la coopération internationale, à la mise en oeuvre d'initiatives locales et régionales de coopération et à l'engagement des populations dans le processus de développement. C'est dans ce contexte qu'on justifie l'intérêt accru que porte la FAO à encourager la coopération internationale dans ses multiples aspects, économique, technique et social. Rappelons, à titre d'exemples, la préparation des négociations de l'Uruguay Round, la prestation de services consultatifs et d'assistance à plusieurs organisations régionales et le soutien actif à des réseaux internationaux de coopération technique.

Il faut encore mettre en relief l'action importante de la FAO dans la coordination d'actions spécifiques de nature technique et économique, notamment pour des situations d'urgence. L'efficacité de ces actions, en dépit des difficultés financières, est en large mesure le résultat de sa capacité de coopération technique et scientifique avec d'autres organisations, de caractère national, régional ou international, des gouvernements ou des initiatives privées.

L'exécution de ces programmes, dans un souci de complémentarité d'efforts, fournit un cadre de développement durable, en matière d'alimentation, d'agriculture, de pêches et de forêts. Cependant, il reste encore un vaste champ d'action dans les domaines technique, politique et économique, en

particulier en ce qui concerne la diffusion de l'information, l'approfondissement de la coopération et l'analyse des interactions entre les politiques macro-économiques et sectorielles.

Hassan AL-AHMAD (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Allow me first of all, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you and the two Vice-chairmen on your election to the bureau of this Commission. We know full well your qualities and skills. We should also like to thank Mr Shah for his clear and complete presentation. We should also like to congratulate the Secretariat on the clear document which has given greater transparency to what the Organization did between 1992 and 1993. We are glad to have this information as well as the numerous tables and graphs. We realize that this has necessitated much effort from the Organization. The document covers training, data banks, consultants, the use of capacities of the developing countries in project implementation, and also looks at natural resources, agriculture, genetic resources, harvesting and animal resources.

In so far as the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition is concerned, there has been information on this as well as on the UNCED follow-up and the conservation of genetic resources. The contribution of the Organization to research on environment, international trade, rural development and agriculture is necessary.

This Organization should continue with these programmes and continue to monitor them, and cooperate with other international agencies be they within the UN framework or beyond.

We should like to underline the comparative advantages of our Organization compared with other organizations in fields of common interest. This is also mentioned. However, we do have certain concerns in so far as the orientation of technical support programmes under the UNDP is concerned. On behalf of other sectors and at the expense of the agricultural development sector, we do appreciate the improvements made to the Field Programme in creating the committee with a competence and mandate for dealing with technical aspects and the improvement of coordination between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme.

We should like the Programme Implementation Report to be clearer, with more figures and more data on the different elements of the programme and all of the linked activities.

In so far as the two options are concerned, we would prefer option one, concerning the next report for 1994-95, with the same methodology and style but with more concrete details on the Regular and Field Programmes than has been the case for 1992-93.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola): Comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Je voudrais également féliciter vos deux vice-présidents.

Je voudrais remercier M. Shah pour sa présentation claire et concise du Document C 93/8.

Ce premier rapport d'exécution du Programme 1992-93 présente un compte rendu complet concis, riche en informations et d'une lisibilité facile. Il

nous présente également les progrès accomplis et les résultats obtenus dans la mise en oeuvre des programmes ordinaire et de terrain de la FAO et apporte une amélioration sensible par rapport aux deux précédents examens. Enfin, nous nous félicitons de la nouvelle présentation des données sous la forme de tableaux et graphiques qui le rendent encore plus facilement compréhensible.

Il est certain que la FAO, durant l'exercice 1992-93, a joué un rôle très prépondérant dans plusieurs domaines comme cela est bien indiqué dans les orientations du Fonds. L'Organisation a contribué aux préparatifs du programme Action 21 de la CNUE, de la CIN, du PAFT et a eu une participation active aux négociations commerciales de l'Uruguay Round.

Sur notre continent, la FAO, comme stipulé au paragraphe 19, a largement appuyé les nouvelles initiatives lancées par l'OUA en vue de favoriser un développement accru. La FAO a également eu un rôle actif dans la mobilisation de la communauté internationale face aux situations d'urgence les plus graves comme les infestations de la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord et l'apparition des criquets pèlerins dans la Région de la mer Rouge ainsi qu'à Madagascar. Il ne faut pas oublier non plus les bons résultats obtenus dans la campagne mondiale contre la peste bovine.

Comme on peut le constater au paragraphe 27, suite aux nouveaux arrangements concernant les dépenses d'appui du PNUD, les activités de Coopération technique de l'Organisation ont été affectées et le taux d'exécution des opérations de terrain a fléchi, mais grâce au Programme des fonds fiduciaires, l'Organisation a pu assurer aux pays en développement un apport constant de connaissances techniques, de services consultatifs et d'expérience. A cet égard, nous ne pouvons que remercier les pays donateurs multilatéraux et bilatéraux tout en souhaitant qu'ils accroissent leurs contributions multilatérales.

Nous nous félicitons de constater que la formation est, pour l'Organisation, une importante modalité d'action tant au titre du Programme ordinaire que du Programme de terrain; les résultats obtenus, comme indiqués aux paragraphes 61, 62, 63 et 64, sont très satisfaisants mais il faudra augmenter le pourcentage de femmes : pour nous, vingt-trois pour cent représentent un chiffre très bas. Néanmoins, nous sommes sincèrement satisfaits car la formation est restée un aspect important dans les programmes exécutés durant cette période.

Nous pouvons dire que dans le cadre des programmes techniques et économiques, d'importantes réalisations ont été accomplies comme par exemple un programme sous-régional sur les systèmes agricoles, financé par la Suède, a été lancé à cet effet en Afrique orientale et en Afrique australe, des projets de terrain conduits par la FAO en Afrique australe et au Moyen-Orient qui ont servi de base au développement du Centre international de références et d'informations pédagogiques de la FAO, la défense de l'environnement et la durabilité, la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux, le Codex Alimentarius, ainsi que l'attention portée aux pays les moins avancés et aux petits pays insulaires, etc.

Au paragraphe 120, il est dit que l'un des principaux obstacles à une exploitation accrue, en vue de l'alimentation humaine, de manioc transformé ou non dans les pays tropicaux est sa faible durée de conservation après la récolte.

Nous voudrions savoir où en est la mise au point de variétés se conservant mieux ainsi que du programme conjoint FAO/autres institutions d'un programme cadre visant à résoudre le problème de la détérioration du manioc après récolte.

Au paragraphe 125, le Comité de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin s'inquiète de la faible participation des donations aux programmes à long terme destinés à l'Afrique ainsi que de l'écoulement des stocks indésirables de pesticides en Afrique et au Proche-Orient. Nous souhaitons qu'une attention et une participation actives soient accordées par les pays donateurs à ces programmes car nous connaissons bien les dégâts occasionnés par les criquets ainsi que la pollution que pourraient causer les pesticides indésirables à l'environnement.

Nous sommes satisfaits de voir, dans ce document, plus particulièrement au chapitre 6, que plusieurs nouvelles mesures et activités ont été entreprises suivant les directives de la Conférence pour nationaliser les programmes d'action spéciaux. Parmi ces mesures, nous pouvons citer, au paragraphe 258, la création du Comité directeur pour les activités de terrain dont nous appuyons le mandat stipulé au paragraphe 299. Nous appuyons aussi la création d'un groupe de coordination, comme indiqué au paragraphe 300, qui rendra compte au CDAT et qui veillera à la coordination de l'action lorsque des situations critiques seront signalées par le SMIAR. Nous nous félicitons également de la pratique qui consiste à placer des équipes spéciales unifiées sous la responsabilité de l'unité technique concernée. Sans nul doute, comme cela est indiqué au paragraphe 309, le succès des PAS dépendra en définitive de l'appui financier que les donateurs voudront bien accorder. A cet effet, un financement extrabudgétaire est nécessaire ainsi que l'amélioration de la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Nous partageons l'avis de plusieurs membres du Comité du Programme qui ont jugé que le rapport est plutôt axé sur les résultats obtenus et n'insistait pas suffisamment sur les effets des réductions de ressources affectant l'Organisation.

Pour terminer, nous pensons que le prochain rapport d'exécution du Programme concernant l'exercice 1994-95 pourrait être préparé de la même façon et dans les mêmes délais que le premier.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de l'Angola. J'ai bien pris note, personnellement, de votre intervention concernant le criquet pèlerin. Il ne s'agit pas uniquement de la faible participation des pays au programme à long terme, il s'agit aussi du problème de l'invasion qui se pose à certains pays et qui risque de connaître la même envergure qu'en 1987. C'est une question qui sera traitée par la Commission I à partir de demain après-midi. Je tiens à vous remercier de votre participation car, malgré toutes les contraintes que nous connaissons, vous êtes présent aujourd'hui, ce qui montre bien l'intérêt que vous manifestez à notre Organisation.

Ms Maria de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Même si l'ordre du jour de notre Commission est chargé, permettez-nous de vous manifester notre satisfaction de vous voir présider nos travaux et vous souhaiter, ainsi qu'aux autres membres du Bureau, plein succès dans la conduite de vos travaux.

La dernière Conférence l'a demandé et voilà qu'un nouveau document est présenté pour analyse, le Rapport d'exécution du Programme 1992-93. Combien de fois en effet le dernier Conseil ne nous a-t-il pas fait référence à son mode de préparation et à sa qualité. Ce Rapport d'exécution est considéré comme un document de planification des activités de l'Organisation. En effet, il combine les réalisations du Programme ordinaire et celui de terrain, faisant état de ce qui est fait et quels ont été les moyens financiers, techniques et humains utilisés pour y parvenir. Il permet donc aux Etats Membres de constater les réalisations et de faciliter l'examen plus attentif des activités futures de terrain.

En ce qui concerne les options proposées pour les versions futures, nous réaffirmons notre préférence pour l'option 1, dans la mesure où la suggestion du Comité du Programme devrait permettre de combiner certains aspects des deux options.

Permettez-moi de rappeler l'importance des activités de terrain pour nos pays et d'exprimer en conséquence une certaine inquiétude pour la diminution des ressources extra-budgétaires à cet effet.

Yvan JOBIN (Canada): My delegation would also like to congratulate you on your election. The Canadian delegation welcomes the Programme Implementation Report prepared pursuant to the request of the 26th Conference of the FAO. In a world increasingly hungry for information, and specifically for performance indicators, this document should constitute a key testament of the accomplishments of FAO and to the efficiency and effectiveness with which the priorities and objectives defined by the membership have been operationalized. This Programme Implementation Report is a concise and worthy successor to the reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes which preceded it. While perfectible as a managerial and accountability tool, it does contain much useful information.

Regarding the broad premises underpinning the report, we did find somewhat disquieting the particular treatment of the concepts of efficiency and comparative advantage apparently posited as its points of departure. The first of these seems to minimize the validity of concepts such as rates of return and opportunity costs for some of FAO's work. In this respect, we would note that the benefits of international standards, agreements and conventions can indeed be measured with the operational degrees of accuracy, as can rates of return and opportunity costs on successful campaigns such as Screwworm Eradication and Locust Control operations. In a period of limited resources and of almost limitless demands against them, all such demands require examination with a view to their prioritization. This process is greatly facilitated by the professional application of the concepts of rates of return, value for money and opportunity costs, all of which can successfully help us to make informed judgements and to establish priorities. This is being done by our governments with respect to domestic programmes and it is equally applicable within multilateral organizations.

On the question of comparative advantages we would simply note that this is a dynamic concept, defined by the relative costs and efficiencies of output in a context of competition for resources within and between organizations. It is not one which can be enshrined within a constitution as an unviolable legal principle.

Turning to the Report itself, we particularly liked the succinct overview of FAO activities, with its focus on the major thrusts of programme

activity and on the factors which impinged upon operations. We were struck by the extent to which, as detailed in this Report, the Field Programme captured Regular Programme resources. Thus we learned on page 41 that 41 percent of staff time under the technical and economic programmes was devoted to development and support of field programmes of the Organization. In measurable terms this accounted for some \$131.1 million. When we aggregate to it that portion of activities of the \$103.1 million Development Support Programmes devoted to field activities, the \$79.3 million of the Technical Cooperation Programme, and that portion of the general policy, and direction and the Support and Common Services Programme attributed to the support of FAO activities, we reach a very substantial portion indeed of FAO's total portfolio of activities. However, what remains completely clouded in this Report is what were the material results and benefits to the Organization and to the membership that such a massive investment and resources must have entailed. Also unclear is the extent to which the membership actively participated in setting the policy guidelines and directions, in overseeing FAO field activities and in assessing their results. In this respect, we would note that the section under review of Field Programme Activities by the Technical Committees of the FAO Council seems to overstate the depth and breadth of discussions, for the fact remains that this review is situated at the broadest level of generality, and questions respecting relationships between Field and Regular Programmes, synergies between them in terms of measurable indicators of their existence, coordinating mechanisms to ensure complementarities between programmes and mechanisms for priority setting and for receiving and assessing material results were neither analysed or debated. Obviously, if these processes are to have meaningful effect they must undergo substantial strengthening. These are matters of great concern which we have debated to inconclusive effect at the 103rd Council and they are issues that we believe merit much more detailed consideration. We note and welcome in this regard that the Programme Committee proposes to address this issue in 1994.

We also agree with what was stressed in the Report of the Programme Committee respecting the importance of ensuring close links between the presentation of specific planned activities in the Programme of Work and Budget and the reporting of operational results in the Programme Implementation Report. Also, the close integration of the Field and Regular Programme reporting is vital to the effective overview function of this report. On these points we would endorse the recommendation of the Programme Committee for the increased use of targets and benchmarks and of corresponding input and output data in future reports. The omission in this first Programme Implementation Report of resource input data associated with the specific selected outputs is particularly regrettable, in that it obviates judgements on value added and denies us important information on which to base future policy and programme choices. Similarly, the absence of quantitative and qualitative data on variances in specific programme implementation detracts importantly from the functional utility of the report as an accountability tool for management and membership alike. These failings permeate Chapters 4 and 5, and deny this critical portion of the Report the substantive utility and transparency it must have if it is to serve as a means of measuring the Organization's performance and efficiency and assessing its comparative advantages.

On this last point and in conclusion we would underline what we would believe to be the critical interdependence of the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme of Work and Budget and the Programme Evaluation Report if we are to operationalize the concept of accountability within

FAO. It is critical for these three documents to mirror and complement each other in their substance.

Elías REYES BRAVO (México): Gracias Señor Presidente. En principio, le felicito por encontrarse usted presidiendo nuestros trabajos. Me hago la reflexión de que uno a veces habla de grandes países y como que es válido también que pensemos que hay grandes hombres en países que aparentemente son pequeños. Mi Delegación comparte la apreciación que hacía el señor Shah en relación a que debemos tener una versión conjunta sobre los cuatro documentos. Es decir, sobre el informe de ejecución, el de evaluación, el plan a plazo medio y el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Nos dan una visión conjunta muy sustancial. No repetiré, por supuesto, lo que ya han planteado quienes me han antecedido en el uso de la palabra y sí quisiera puntualizar sólo algunos puntos. El Informe nos parece, en general, bien articulado. Comprende temas sustantivos en los que ha trabajado la Organización: en ambos programas, en el de campo y en el ordinario. Destaca también las actividades sustantivas y refleja además el modo en que han operado algunos de los instrumentos de cooperación de que dispone la FAO.

En mi país yo participo en el Comité Nacional de Enlaces de México con esta Organización y estoy convencido de que, a nivel de los países, hay con seguridad una gran necesidad de retroalimentación entre las distintas instancias que inciden en el desarrollo agropecuario. Incluso de una retroalimentación entre lo que es nuestra presencia en estos foros y la incidencia que pueda tener con los pequeños productores, y viceversa, también de allá hacia acá. Por eso seguramente también damos importancia al Documento C/93/8-Sup.I, que está referido a las actividades operacionales en favor del desarrollo por considerar que éste es un tema no sólo importante en cuanto al manejo de los recursos sino en cuanto a la calidad de las relaciones que sostienen los Estados Miembros con la Secretaría y con los distintos órganos fundamentales de esta Organización.

Finalmente quiero expresar, por mi Delegación, que el reconocimiento de la importancia y de la configuración de este informe de actividades nos lleva a pensar en la necesidad y en la posibilidad de que se pudiesen articular informes a nivel de países preparados por las representaciones nacionales de la FAO en los mismos. Son muchas las representaciones nacionales que tiene la FAO y valdría la pena intentar un ejercicio a ese nivel. Sabemos que a nivel regional existen algunos ejercicios en ese sentido. Quizás se pudiese intentar a nivel de los países, y esto pudiera ser muy útil para los mismos ya que el proceso de cooperación con la Organización es amplio, es complejo, y bien merece ser considerado como un proceso que debemos aprender y encauzar para hacerlo incidir de un modo mejor en el desarrollo del sector agropecuario.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais demander aux délégués qui souhaitent prendre la parole cet après-midi de bien vouloir lever leur pancarte. Nous clôturerons la liste en début de séance de l'après-midi.

Le représentant du Mexique était le dernier intervenant pour la séance de la matinée, je vous remercie pour votre collaboration et je déclare la séance close.

The meeting rose at 12.30.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/2

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(9 November 1993)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

9. Programme Implementation Report 1992-93 (continued)

9. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 1992-93 (suite)

9. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Messieurs les délégués, nous avons eu une longue pause et j'aimerais insister particulièrement sur un point qui me tient à coeur: c'est que l'on puisse être, dans la mesure du possible, à l'heure, et par conséquent commencer à 14 heures 30, notamment pour les raisons que j'ai évoquées ce matin, à savoir que nous avons un calendrier très chargé et que nous ne disposons de pas beaucoup de temps pour satisfaire toutes les demandes d'intervention. Si nous voulons terminer dans les délais que nous nous sommes fixés, il faudra respecter nos horaires de manière à ne pas remettre en cause le principe de la pause. Sans tarder, je donne la parole au Représentant de la République de Corée.

Kwang-Wook AN (Korea, Republic of): First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Commission II. I am confident that your outstanding service will help us reach good results on all the items of the agenda under our discussion.

Concerning the current agenda item, I will make only a few comments.

As emphasized in para. 13 of the document C 93/8, I firmly believe that, at a critical juncture, when the world faces rapid changes, international organizations including FAO must meet increasingly complex and adverse challenges.

In this regard I fully appreciate that FAO has been dedicated to the search for a solution of the key issues such as environment protection, multilateral trade system-building of agricultural products and rural development.

In particular, I welcome that, to the maximum extent possible in the light of specific requests, advice for individual countries has emphasized the need for inter-disciplinary approaches, and that the emphasis on people in development has had a strong influence on the approach of many technical and economic programmes of the Organization.

In connection with the Uruguay Round negotiations, I would also like to express satisfaction on the activities of the FAO to assist the net food-importing developing countries in gaining recognition of their special needs.

Regarding the fact that while the world develops a greater understanding of the complexity of problems to be faced in many areas comprehensive solutions remain elusive, I sincerely hope that FAO will be more responsive to internationally-recognized priorities and be more active in assisting the Member Nations in key areas falling within its mandate.

As for the future versions of the Programme Implementation Report, I would like to express the preference for Option I, which presents the major advantage of immediate consideration of current information by governing

bodies and thus a greater potential for facilitating guidance on eventual corrective action.

Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan) : My delegation also joins with pleasure in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission, and also other members of the bureau.

My delegation does not wish to repeat its remarks on the reports before us, as it has made its position clear already on past occasions, such as the One Hundred and Third and One Hundred and Fourth Sessions of the Council, where my delegation stressed in particular the importance of prioritization, streamlining, and transparency of our activities, with a view to improving efficiency effectiveness in view of the daunting and pressing challenges facing this Organization. At this juncture, however, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the remark in paragraph 6 of C 93/LIM/3 concerning improvement of future Programme Implementation Reports in terms of more precise information to assess the plans and targets.

In conclusion my delegation supports Option 1 on the future documentation of PIR.

Ms M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Polish delegation we wish to congratulate you on your election. We would particularly compliment FAO for the very active part played by the Director-General and his staff in the UNCED deliberation resulting in the great emphasis which was then placed on sustainable development in food production and agriculture. As a result, FAO has taken a leading role in promoting sustainability in agricultural development. This role of FAO has the full support of my Government.

Another major event of 1992 was the ICN co-sponsored by WHO. The output of this major conference has indeed resulted in nutrition now being regarded as a central theme in discussions and project developments in food production. It is a sad thought to be aware of the almost 900 million people who go hungry every day. It is not only that they do not get enough food - the little food they get often lacks in essential amino acids, vitamins and minerals. It is a shame for all nations, especially the rich ones, that hundreds of children die of hunger and malnutrition every day. Think of the number of people dying of hunger during this conference when we discuss their plight during the day before dining on excellent and plentiful food at Rome's famous restaurants. I wish speeches and reports could also feed people.

We are also impressed with FAO's role in the drafting of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Statement of Principles on the Management, Conservation and Development of Forests.

We would also like to compliment the Director-General on the important contribution he made to the Conference on Human Rights, where he rightly emphasized" that the right to food was to be considered one of the most basic of human rights.

My Government has also welcomed FAO's active role in exploring with the states of Eastern Europe their future direction, especially with regard to

the building of market economies and privatization of agriculture. We look forward to FAO's guidance on the adjustments which will have to be made in European agriculture. The Polish Government compliments the FAO on the role it played in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. This will benefit world agriculture, particularly in developing countries.

We also appreciate FAO's leading role in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in launching the International Plant Protection Convention.

On the technical side, FAO's significant role in drawing the New World Screwworm Campaign in North Africa to a successful conclusion should be mentioned. It showed clearly that the Organization is capable of swift and effective action in the case of an emergency and that it has the technical skills to deal with such high technology applications as the radiation-sterilization of insects for their eradication. The same can be said of FAO's performance on Locust Control.

We are pleased to conclude that in 1992-93 FAO has continued to explore its "comparative advantage" to exercise its role as a world leader in food and agriculture.

Bo WILEN (Sweden) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation and personally, I should like to congratulate you upon your election as Chairman of this Committee.

My delegation would like to join others in commending the Secretariat for a well-prepared Programme Implementation Report. The document is one part -an important one - out of four documents which do not need to be repeated here any longer. This quartet forms a fine instrument to be used by the Members as well as the Secretariat for the planning, control and follow-up of the activities of the Organization. The discussion here today will certainly give inputs for further improvements of the coming versions of the report.

In this discussion, my delegation adheres to what has already been said by the delegates of Denmark and Finland. From that it follows that my delegation is in favour of Option I.

My delegation would like to dwell a little upon the Conference Document C 93/8-Sup.1 regarding Operational Activities for Development. This document tries to give a picture of FAO's implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 47/199. It takes up such important questions as the Country Strategy Note, Programme Approach, National Execution, Decentralization and the Resident Coordinator system. My delegation had hoped to see a richer and more problem-orientated document and a more active approach to these extremely important issues.

My delegation notes that FAO participates in inter-agency discussions on these matters in the framework of the ACC and others. That is good but, according to my delegation, not enough. For example, we should like to see a close cooperation start up between the Rome-based organizations on these matters.

In order to attract scarce resources for development to the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors, those organizations involved must continuously strive at better efficiency and smooth coordination with the rest of the system. What it comes to in the end is that all those in the UN

system who deal with operational activities define their respective roles in order to deliver together the best possible assistance to the developing world.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I should like to start by congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the other members of the bureau for being chosen to lead our deliberations.

The document we are looking at for the first time is a very useful addition to the family of inter-related documents prepared for this Conference. Mr Shah's introductory remarks are appreciated. They provide a useful framework for eliciting members' comments. We have asked the Secretariat to prepare this report so that members can reflect on what has been accomplished in the current biennium before embarking on a programme of work for the upcoming biennium. While we do not expect the information provided in this report to be as lengthy and detailed as that provided in the Programme of Work and Budget, it should, to paraphrase the Director-General, cover the most important aspects of programme delivery. Moreover, an implementation report needs to encompass regular and field programme delivery by Headquarters, regional and country offices. The United States believes that the report before us accomplishes most but not all of what we would like to see in an implementation report.

On the first page we are told that this report is "not an accounting document" and that therefore references to financial issues are inappropriate. This seems slightly defensive, and does not give credit to some useful information contained in the report on expenditures. We believe that it is most appropriate for a Programme Implementation Report to reflect how resources were apportioned among the programmes implemented during the biennium. We also share the sentiments expressed by the Netherlands and many others regarding the apparent reluctance to discuss efficiency and comparative advantage.

Some delegations are using this document as an opportunity to highlight those programmes and activities which they deem most important. We will also briefly do this, but focus most of our remarks on the structure of the document, indicating the features of the report which are most useful to us.

Deputy Secretary Rominger highlighted some of FAO's important programmes in his Conference address earlier today.

We support the major activities that FAO has focused on during the current biennium. These include UNCED-related programmes on environment and sustainable development, plant and animal genetic resources, tropical forestry, the International Conference on Nutrition, expansion of trade-related activities such as Codex Alimentarius, and the Secretariat to promote the International Plant Protection Convention. Increased collaboration with the private sector and with CGIAR centres is noteworthy. FAO has responded admirably to the Desert Locust outbreak after successfully eradicating the New World screwworm.

After some difficult and time-consuming negotiations, FAO's important role in facilitating implementation of the Tropical Forests Action Programme has begun to take shape. We should like to know the status of the TFAP Consultative Group which was agreed at the last June Council. FAO's

leadership in forging agreement on global fisheries issues will hopefully be demonstrated later during our Conference.

Table 2.2 contains some useful information on resources allocated to the various major programmes both from regular and extra-budgetary resources. Does the wide disparity in ratios of extra-budgetary to Regular Programme resources tell us anything about the value of Regular Programme expenditures? We recall that the experts' review expressed concern about this ratio becoming too high. In areas where it is high such as forestry, one might conclude that donors are according a higher priority to an activity than does FAO.

The quantitative features outlined in Chapter 3 will be more meaningful after a longer time series has been developed. While this section is extremely informative, much of it is new, and it raises a few questions.

We were somewhat surprised that only 21 percent of the meetings were held at FAO Headquarters. Of the remaining 79 percent most of them were held at Regional Offices and in other locations. We were also surprised that FAO has 115 databases and we should like to know which of these are part of WAICENT. Are there plans to consolidate some of them?

Table 3.10 is especially valuable, showing the percentage of Regular Programme staff by major programme area going to field programme support. There is a tendency, though not a pronounced one, for those programmes with a higher percentage of extra-budgetary funding to be geared more to field programme support. The distribution of projects by programme area, region, dollar value and duration gives us a good overview of FAO's field programme structure. The increased attention to nutrition is well-justified. The concentration of Field Programmes in Africa also makes sense, but we wonder if this is by conscious design or primarily a function of Trust Fund contributions.

Regarding the use of consultants and experts from both developing and developed countries, it is important for the Organization to obtain technical expertise from all areas of the globe without employing any specific quota system. It is not surprising that developing countries now provide more than half of such expertise.

Chapter 4 highlights a number of technical achievements by FAO during the current biennium. Some of them are not so well known, and some of them are not yet fully developed. The Organization's involvement in UNCED follow-up work on plant and animal genetic resources has received considerable attention, including the process of preparing for the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. Less known is the valuable work of the Plant Genetic Information and Seed Exchange Unit, which distributes seed samples to Africa. The progress made during the biennium on plant quarantine procedures, reactivating the Emergency Centre on Locust Operations, and developing an animal genetic resources data bank, are equally valuable activities.

We also want to compliment FAO on expanding the AGRIS-CARIS data base and updating the multilingual thesaurus.

During the Conference we hope to learn more of the myriad activities surrounding the improvements in statistical processing and analysis, including plans for further enhancement of WAICENT.

During the discussion of the State of Food and Agriculture, we shall have more to say on that important programme, but for now we would like to enquire about the involvement of country and regional offices in programmes 2.1.7, Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis, and 2.1.8, Food and Agricultural Policy.

In reviewing the data presented in each section, we find that they provide a good overview of what has been accomplished, but in some instances it does not have enough depth to be meaningful. Could a way be found to disaggregate the outputs by sub-programme without adding too much volume to the report? For example, it might be useful to disaggregate the TFAP activities by funding origin, thereby better demonstrating how FAO is broadening the TFAP process.

We would also have appreciated seeing how TFAP is being implemented in the field. Our overall impression is that too much attention has been given to the structural dimension of TFAP and too little to its technical content.

The United States appreciates the excellent material presented in Chapter 6 on the International Cooperative Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. We strongly support this initiative. Not only have a number of outdated programmes been eliminated, but this initiative will place FAO in a strong position to implement key portions of Agenda 21 relating to agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We encourage the Secretariat to give high priority to allocating sufficient manpower and appropriate financial resources to build the required momentum and create linkages between the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary activities that will support the Special Action Programmes. We accord special priority to activities dealing with policy and programme assistance, plant and animal genetic resources, plant nutrition, pest management and tropical forestry.

We would like to make a few comments on the supplement to the Programme Implementation Report on operational activities for development. General Assembly Resolution 47/199 was a major effort on the part of Member States to strengthen the integration, coordination, coherence and delivery of all UN field activities. We welcome the preparation of the Supplement to this Agenda Item as an important addition. FAO's contribution to the UN system's effort to implement this Resolution is critical and must continue. Development is a process, and this Resolution should reinforce all UN development activities. This document illustrates welcome efforts to achieve programme complementarity. It gives us an even better perspective on the programme implementation and should be an integral component of future Programme Implementation Reports.

Mr Chairman, we also believe, as others have said, that Option One is preferable for reasons mentioned numerous times earlier today. We also agree with those who have advocated greater use of targets and benchmarks in future reports.

Finally, we would suggest that future Programme Implementation Reports not be discussed as a separate Agenda Item during the FAO Council preceding the Conference. In our view, the Council discussion of the Programme Committee Report is the best place for Council to review this item.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Comme à l'accoutumée, vous avez soulevé un large champ de questions. J'ai vu que M. Shah avait pris note de toutes vos questions et il se fera un plaisir de vous répondre. Vous avez dû remarquer

la présence de M. Tedesco, Secrétaire général adjoint de la Conférence, qui a été chargé par le Président de la plénière de faire une annonce devant la Commission. Je lui cède la parole.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Chairman of Conference has asked me to inform Commission II that at 16:00 to 16:30 Conference will consider the Second Report of the General Committee relating to the admission of South Africa, which may be followed by the relevant vote. The Chairman would like to ensure that an appropriate quorum is present in Plenary and kindly requests delegations to make arrangements for at least one member of each delegation to be present in Plenary this afternoon.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que les membres ont bien pris note de cette annonce et qu'à 16 heures, à la plénière, il y aura bien un membre devant chaque panneau de manière à permettre que l'adoption du rapport du Bureau se fasse dans les meilleures conditions.

C. KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso): Ma délégation voudrait avant tout vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission. Je suis personnellement convaincu que vous serez à la hauteur de cette tâche.

S'agissant de l'examen du Rapport d'exécution du Programme 1992-93, je voudrais m'adresser au Secrétaire général et à ses plus proches collaborateurs, M. Shah et M. Lindley, ici présents, et à ses collaborateurs absents, pour leur dire notre satisfaction quant à la forme et au contenu du document.

Ma délégation tient également à évoquer le dur travail et le dévouement du personnel qui oeuvre dans des conditions très difficiles.

L'examen du Rapport d'activité de la FAO pour 1992-93 est une occasion pour le Burkina Faso de renouveler à l'Organisation son soutien ferme. Je le fais avec d'autant plus d'enthousiasme que l'exercice 1992-93 a été couronné de succès. Ainsi pouvons-nous noter avec intérêt que dans un contexte peu favorable à la FAO, celle-ci a joué pleinement et efficacement son rôle de chef de file du Système des Nations-Unies chargé de promouvoir le développement agricole.

Ma délégation se félicite des victoires remportées notamment dans les domaines suivants : prévention et réduction des pertes causées par les ravageurs grâce à la mise en oeuvre de la réglementation et des mesures phytosanitaires, élaboration d'informations statistiques sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture et renforcement des systèmes nationaux de statistiques.

Par ailleurs, l'assistance technique fournie par la FAO dans le cadre du Programme de terrain a été très profitable aux Etats en développement pour lesquels le développement des ressources humaines et des capacités nationales demeure une priorité incontournable.

Enfin, le PCT et les missions d'études de Centre d'investissement ont permis à de nombreux pays en développement de finaliser des études stratégiques indispensable et d'établir un partenariat fructueux avec des organismes bilatéraux de financement.

Tous les points que nous venons d'évoquer ci-dessus sont une preuve irréfutable des avantages comparatifs de la FAO, points qui depuis un certain temps constituent la charnière de nos discussions.

Pour finir, l'avis du Burkina Faso sur la forme finale du rapport: nous sommes favorables à l'option 1 qui a été proposée dans le document présenté par le Secrétaire général.

Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary) : The Hungarian delegation is given the floor for the first time in Commission II, and it is my pleasant duty to express our satisfaction on you having been elected Chairman. We will all benefit from your able guidance.

First of all, it is my pleasure to say that we think the new presentation of the Programme Evaluation Report and the Programme Implementation Report as decided by the 26th Session of the Conference seems to be proving itself an efficient tool for informing Member Nations in an easily digestible form about the achievements and constraints of the Organization. The document before us has not previously been considered by the Council and it is therefore felt that a closer scrutiny of the Report's objective and message would be appropriate. The general perception of this delegation on the Programme Implementation Report is favourable. The Report is helpful in making the Organization's field work and programme delivery more transparent than ever. We also like the format of the Report, and the number of "boxes", not only bringing home the points the Secretariat wanted to make by illustrating some aspects of its programming and development support work, but also making the text of the Report more easily readable. The same applies to the considerate use of charts and tables, which we do not feel are tools in themselves but more a visual aid to a quick and thorough understanding of the points put before us.

So far the Hungarian delegation has expressed its views on the format of the new Report, and the addressing of the options we have been invited to consider for the next Programme Implementation Report would now be appropriate. There are two major questions to consider. First, we must ask ourselves whether to have estimated data only for a half-year period, in this case for 1995, would seriously jeopardize the reliability of the report as a whole. Our answer to this question is no. The second question to be addressed is whether FAO Conferences felt it is their duty and privilege to review at every Session the status of the Organization's Programme Evaluation and Implementation Reports. Our answer to that is yes. Consequently, we are going for Option One, although this delegation could go along with a decision of the Conference delegating authority to the new Director-General to make his recommendation to the 1994 summer session of the Council for other arrangements the Director-General might feel to be appropriate.

I should now like to turn to some points of merit. The quantitative and qualitative analysis offered by the Report gives a good insight into operational and other programme-related matters. For the sake of brevity I shall refrain from making complimentary remarks on technical and economic programme and development support activities the Secretariat has reported on. I would just like to comment on two points the Report makes. My delegation is happy with the screening and appraisal of the TCP both as far as the concept and single projects go. Our devotion to this very important part of FAO activity proves not to have been in vain. Examples of recent TCP experiences in the Report demonstrate well many general aspects.

Hungary could supplement that list if required, and I must put on record our appreciation for the quality and speed of some TCP projects successfully executed by FAO in my country. At the same time, I cannot hide my feelings that the approval of some long prepared, drafted and agreed TCP projects could and should be speeded up.

My second comment refers to the food and agriculture policy assistance which FAO is performing. Paragraph 171 reports on sector and structural adjustment programmes. Earlier this year Hungary hosted an FAO delegation to review its meat policy and to make related recommendations. This policy assistance was certainly a pioneering exercise on the part of FAO.

I am not referring to the good quality of the work done but rather to the fact that this policy mission has so far been the only one in the financing of which FAO cooperated with the PHARE programme, i.e., with the European Communities programme established for the economic reconstruction of some European countries in transition. This joint operation was well received by my government.

My last remark refers to the declining delivery rate in FAO programme implementation activity. We are fully aware of the negative influences of a number of factors bringing about this adverse trend, such as the new support costs arrangements, the changing break-down of FAO's total portfolio of programmes, etc. Yet I cannot fail in saying that falling delivery is likely to increase the pressure on project management and sometimes this may cause some unnecessary cuts in FAO Field Programme size and putting the success of execution at risk.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, first and on behalf of my delegation, and particularly on my own behalf, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you for your election to preside over our meeting which is in my view the most important Commission of the 27th Session of the FAO Conference and to assure you of our delegation's support to the important part that you have undertaken and I would also like to congratulate your Vice-Chairmen for their election and express my thanks to Mr Shah for his as usual very clear and excellent introduction of the document before us.

Regarding the subject in present discussion my delegation supports the Programme Implementation Report 1992-93 and in brief, as indicated in the report of the 104th Session of the FAO Council, my delegation would prefer Option 1 of the proposed options. However, it is very important to evaluate and report the effect and results of programme implementation in connection with the objective of programme concern and mandate of FAO. In other words, we believe that it is vitally important to report the results of programme implementation, not only the programme implementation.

Lothar CAVIEZEL (Suisse): J'aimerais remercier M. Shah et ses collaborateurs du rapport qu'il nous ont préparé. C'est avec un très grand intérêt que nous avons examiné ce rapport sur l'exécution du programme 1992-93 et pris connaissance des commentaires qu'ont fait les délégations

qui sont intervenues dans ce débat jusqu'à présent¹. Ce rapport donne un bon aperçu sur ce que l'Organisation cherche à faire et fait effectivement en matière d'activités opérationnelles.

Nous sommes satisfaits du centrage des activités de la FAO sur le suivi de la Conférence sur le développement et l'environnement et de celle sur la nutrition. Nous aimerions par contre dans un prochain rapport voir comment se traduit dans les activités de terrain ce centrage sur le cycle de vie du projet et sur sa durabilité en fonction des ressources disponibles. Cette réorientation a été facilitée par le nouveau régime qui attribue, entre autres, aux pays en développement un rôle accru dans le fonctionnement et l'exécution des projets financés par le PNUD, ce que nous soutenons. Cette nouvelle orientation permettra à la FAO de s'occuper de plus en plus de questions de politiques sectorielles, surtout de politiques agricoles mais également de politiques sous-sectorielles au lieu de se perdre dans des projets isolés.

Nous partageons globalement la conception des avantages comparatifs avancée par le Directeur général qui les définit par trois principes: universalité, neutralité et synergie. C'est grâce à son universalité que la FAO assure ses activités de collecte de données et de diffusion d'informations.

C'est grâce à sa neutralité et nous ajoutons également grâce à sa compétence que les Etats Membres s'adressent à la FAO pour obtenir des avis de politique générale ou des conseils techniques. C'est sur ce point que ma délégation désire un renforcement des capacités de notre institution en matière d'analyse des politiques sectorielles et sous-sectorielles et d'avis sur ces politiques mentionnées. C'est, en outre, grâce à la synergie de toutes ses activités que la FAO assure la validité de ses interventions techniques et de ses activités de formation. Par rapport à ce point nous encourageons notre Organisation à travailler en étroite coopération avec les autres institutions internationales compétentes en la matière.

Nous rappelons que les activités de la FAO doivent être profitables aux paysans et paysannes et s'améliorer dans le sens d'une agriculture durable. Le problème n'est donc pas seulement de caractère technique mais aussi un problème de politique économique, agricole et sociale.

Nous pensons ici en particulier à l'importance de la participation populaire en tant que droit fondamental de l'homme et élément indispensable en vue d'arriver à un développement socio-économique durable. Pour illustrer notre propos, nous nous référons à la mobilisation de l'épargne locale dans le cadre d'institutions financières rurales. Pour être performantes, ces institutions doivent être basées sur une forte participation des intéressés, une solide cohésion sociale et une gestion efficace. Ce sont là des conditions nécessaires pour obtenir un recouvrement satisfaisant des prêts. Cette démarche rappelle d'une part le principe économique de base qui veut qu'il ne peut y avoir de système viable de crédit sans épargne et implique, d'autre part, pour la coopération internationale que tout soutien financier doit éviter de concurrencer l'épargne locale. Elle aura également comme conséquence de réduire l'endettement à un niveau supportable qui permet d'assurer la capacité de remboursement du pays.

¹ Nous soutenons en particulier les propos des délégations des Pays Bas, du Danemark, de la Finlande, de la France, du Royaume Uni, du Canada et du Mexique.

Nous nous réjouissons, en outre, du bon équilibre que la FAO a trouvé entre le nombre de consultants des pays en développement et des pays industrialisés, mais nous sommes par contre préoccupés par l'insuffisante qualité de bon nombre de rapports d'évaluation préparés par ces consultants.

Nous avons pris connaissance avec satisfaction des programmes d'action spéciaux du chapitre 6 et nous soutenons l'intégration des activités dans un nombre limité de programmes d'action spéciaux.

Nous aimerions, par ailleurs, connaître l'état de formulation et de disponibilité pour la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes.

A notre avis, il est souhaitable qu'ils attirent une part importante des ressources financières pour les activités de terrain et nous aimerions, par conséquent, connaître les ordres de grandeur que la FAO proposera pour la répartition de fonds extrabudgétaires entre programmes d'action spéciaux et autres projets de terrain.

En ce qui concerne les deux options proposées pour le prochain rapport d'exécution, nous soutenons l'option 1, c'est-à-dire la répartition des données réelles pour 1993 et 1994 et des estimations pour 1995. Ceci signifie que le rapport couvrira 3 années et pas seulement deux comme le rapport disponible pour 1992 et 1993.

J'aimerais en particulier soutenir la proposition avancée par la délégation française concernant la nécessité d'apprécier les activités de la FAO dans le contexte de la coopération internationale au développement, notamment FAO, FIDA, Banque mondiale, Banques régionales, CGIAR et les bilatéraux. Ce genre de présentation est en grande partie déjà disponible aux Nations Unies à New York. Une telle vue d'ensemble serait grandement appréciée dans un chapitre introductif qui décrirait les champs d'action des uns et des autres avec les ressources financières respectives.

En ce qui concerne les publications de la FAO, nous répétons ici qu'il faudrait faire une évaluation de l'utilisation faite par le public et des professionnels intéressés. Ce genre d'exercice a été récemment réalisé par la Commission économique de l'Europe et il a mis à jour un grand potentiel d'amélioration.

Sra. Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina): Como es ésta nuestra primera intervención, permítame felicitarlo en nombre de la delegación de mi país y expresarle nuestra seguridad de la eficiencia con que conducirá los trabajos de esta Comisión.

Señor Presidente, con relación al Documento C 93/8, la delegación argentina agradece a la Secretaría su presentación amplia, omnicomprendensiva y facilitada además por la inclusión de gráficos muy explicativos.

En lo que hace a la sustancia del mismo y atendiendo a la solicitud de que formuláramos intervenciones breves, haremos algunos comentarios puntuales solamente.

En ese sentido, destacamos nuestra satisfacción por la información brindada en el párrafo 24 y los pertinentes del C 93/8-Sup.1, relativo al progreso registrado en lo que hace al aprovechamiento de las capacidades de los países en desarrollo a través de la participación de expertos y consultores

de los mismos en los proyectos de campo. Así también con lo señalado en el párrafo 249 que, reconoce el creciente papel que desempeña la ejecución nacional en los Programas de Ayuda.

Ellos recogen, en gran medida, una solicitud formulada en ese sentido por algunas delegaciones - entre ellas la de mi país - solicitud que fuera hecha en oportunidad del 103° Consejo de junio pasado.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, mi Gobierno se hace cargo de la recomendación formulada por FAO tendente a que se trabaje en colaboración con el PNUD y otros organismos asociados, para lograr que las nuevas disposiciones de gastos de apoyo en los Proyectos de Cooperación Técnica, nueva modalidad ésta de costo de administración de los proyectos que reemplazan al "Overhead" del 13 por ciento para lograr, decía, que se apliquen en la forma prevista.

Sin embargo, visto que esta modalidad tiene una cierta complejidad, nos permitimos sugerir que se provea a los países información más detallada acerca de los procedimientos de aplicación y cálculo.

Ahondaremos en esta cuestión durante el tratamiento del Tema 23 relativo a los Fondos Fiduciarios.

Abdesselem ARIFI (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous exprimer nos sincères félicitations pour la confiance qui a été placée en votre personne, en vous nommant président de cette Commission. Nous sommes convaincus que vous présiderez ces travaux avec toute la sagesse que nous vous connaissons. Je tiens à exprimer mes sincères félicitations à vos collaborateurs. M. Shah nous a présenté un résumé fort précis au sujet du thème en question. Comme nous le savons tous il s'est limité aux points importants et, par conséquent, je tiens à le remercier de son intervention. Je remercie le Secrétariat pour la méthode fort explicite et exacte adoptée pour la présentation du document. Les travaux entrepris en 1992-93 par la FAO pour aider les pays membres et en particulier les pays en développement, ont été déployés dans le bon sens. Compte tenu des documents qui sont envoyés aux pays membres, nous savons que la diversité des travaux de la FAO ne permet pas de les évoquer dans des documents aussi succincts. Néanmoins, le Rapport 93/10 est très exhaustif et nous a apporté un aperçu très clair sur les efforts déployés par l'Organisation pendant la période de discussions. Nous constatons donc que l'Organisation de la FAO a veillé à mettre à exécution toutes les résolutions prises par le Conseil et a donc respecté son mandat. Nous estimons que les programmes qui ont été exécutés ont permis de réaliser de grands succès, aussi bien quantitativement que qualitativement. Et nous savons que les moyens qui sont fort limités, au sein de notre Organisation, pour la période passée, ont néanmoins permis de réaliser des progrès qui ne sont peut-être pas tout à fait à la hauteur de ceux qui étaient escomptés. Il conviendrait donc de dire que les bonnes analyses ainsi que les calculs effectués par l'Organisation ont été satisfaisants, avant d'entreprendre des projets ou des programmes.

Il faudrait donc mentionner ici qu'il nous faut saluer l'Organisation pour tous les projets réalisés et nous devons insister sur deux thèmes importants: tout d'abord les recommandations et les résolutions en provenance des pays membres et ensuite l'assistance matérielle présentée par les pays membres pour mettre en oeuvre ces résolutions et ces

recommandations. Si l'assistance ou l'aide financière est en augmentation, cela assure l'Organisation d'un véritable développement.

Nous tenons à remercier l'Organisation pour les efforts déployés en 1992 et en 1993 malgré les difficultés financières. Je voudrais insister particulièrement sur le Programme de coopération technique ainsi que sur la mise en application des accords de coopération, en particulier dans le domaine agricole, ainsi que sur les programmes concernant la lutte contre les différents fléaux tels la lucilie bouchère et autres.

Par ailleurs, nous avons passé en revue les différentes propositions contenues dans le document 93/8, concernant notamment la mise en application du programme. La délégation du Maroc estime que l'option 1 comporte une méthodologie logique qui nous incite à l'adopter.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Permítame, señor Presidente, felicitarlo a usted y a los vicepresidentes que fueron electos para dirigir nuestro trabajo. Yo trataré, señor Presidente, de ayudarlo en todo lo posible, sobre todo con la brevedad de nuestras exposiciones.

Al señor Shah, al señor Regnier y a sus colaboradores también les expreso nuestra gratitud por la presentación y el trabajo que ponen ante nosotros para debatir.

Señor Presidente, el conjunto de cuatro documentos que tenemos delante de nosotros para discutir es realmente una petición que viene haciéndose en períodos anteriores y que, a nuestro parecer, culmina exitosamente con un conjunto de cuatro voces que nos permiten interpretar claramente las actividades de la FAO en lo que ha sido el período reciente, lo que será el período inmediato y lo que será el período un poco más a largo plazo; me refiero a los cuatro documentos que tendremos que examinar en nuestro debate. En mi breve experiencia en la planificación creo que estos documentos reflejan claramente todo lo que pudiera constituir el interés de los Estados Miembros en materia de dar adecuado seguimiento a las actividades de la Organización.

Este documento, en particular, nos presenta un cuadro suficientemente amplio de análisis que no deja ninguna duda sobre cuál ha sido el trabajo y la efectividad de los recursos empeñados durante este tiempo que estamos analizando. Naturalmente, algunas delegaciones pudieran estar interesadas en solicitar un poco más de información, pero no siempre un informe y un análisis de esta naturaleza podrían recoger lo que cada uno de nosotros en particular pudiera desear. Por tanto, pienso que sigue siendo un documento muy completo, y que satisface las expectativas de lo que en períodos anteriores nosotros solicitamos.

Señor Presidente, hay una referencia al tema de las ventajas comparativas. Yo quisiera respaldar la propuesta del Director General de que no es pertinente, es más, es innecesario entrar en un debate filosófico, diríamos, o teórico sobre lo que constituyen las ventajas comparativas. Las ventajas comparativas de la FAO están claramente definidas en los principios que rigen la Organización y no es necesario reabrir un análisis sobre ellos; lo cual en períodos anteriores ya fue objeto de un profundo análisis y de decisión por parte de la Conferencia. No se puede hablar de ventajas comparativas cuando, por ejemplo, establecemos unas medidas para proteger el medio ambiente, cuyo impacto, técnica y económicamente, no es posible medir, no es tangible, porque no solamente trabajamos para el

presente, sino que trabajamos para las generaciones futuras y a muy largo plazo. Esta es, en nuestra opinión, la gestión principal de nuestra Organización: preservar lo que tenemos, proteger lo que tenemos y acudir ante las demandas más emergentes de las poblaciones que así lo requieren porque padecen hambre, malnutrición. Y cuando se atiende una demanda de esta naturaleza, no hay ni siquiera tiempo, ni siquiera elementos para poder hacer análisis alguno de costo-beneficio.

En lo que se refiere a los programas que refleja el informe de ejecución, agradezco también el detalle con que se nos informa de todas las actividades relativas al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, evidenciando que éste sigue siendo un Programa de la mayor prioridad para la Organización, pero sobre todo para los países beneficiarios, los países pobres, que necesitan de esa ayuda inmediata, de esa ayuda precisa y oportuna para solventar problemas de verdadera urgencia.

Se nos proponen dos opciones para la presentación del próximo informe. Mi Delegación se suma a los que han expresado como mejor opción la opción primera. En primer lugar, porque consideramos que examinar, dos años después, lo que ocurrió en un momento determinado no tiene mucho valor para podernos proyectar. A veces es más importante tener una buena estimación, acercarse un poco a lo que pudiera ser la verdad y, a partir de ahí, complementar nuestros análisis para proyectar el futuro inmediato y el programa a medio plazo.

Señor Presidente, con respecto al documento C 93/8-Sup.1, quisiera destacar los esfuerzos que realiza la FAO para no dejar desamparados a los países cuando en determinada oportunidad se planteó un desplazamiento de los fondos extrapresupuestarios de la Organización para que fueran administrados por los propios países en determinados proyectos de desarrollo. Tenemos en la actualidad la experiencia particular de tener en ejecución proyectos apoyados ejecutados por la FAO, y proyectos ejecutados por el Gobierno. Y debo decir con toda franqueza que hemos seguido sintiendo siempre el mismo apoyo de la FAO, tanto para los unos como para los otros proyectos, sin que haya ninguna discriminación. En esto vale destacar el esfuerzo que ha hecho la Organización para incrementar, cada día más, la capacidad técnica de los países. Y creo que aquí se cumple uno de los objetivos fundamentales de la Organización al enseñarnos a nosotros, a los países en desarrollo, cómo hacer las cosas, no sólo a hacernos las cosas, sino a enseñarnos adecuadamente cómo debemos hacerlas.

Señor Presidente, algún delegado se refirió a la conveniencia y pertinencia de que los representantes de la FAO en el país realizaran informes con alguna regularidad sobre las actividades que la FAO realiza en cada uno de los países. Mi Delegación se suma a esta proposición, y creo que sería muy útil para todos, en primer lugar para los países que conozcan exactamente cuál es el papel de la FAO, y el rol que la FAO está jugando a nivel de su propio territorio. Por otro lado, en muchos programas se pide cada vez más la participación popular. ¿Y cómo nosotros podemos asegurar una buena participación popular en los programas y proyectos de la FAO, si realmente los beneficiarios, los grupos objetivos, no tienen una información lo suficientemente amplia de lo que es la FAO y de lo que es el trabajo de la FAO?

A nivel internacional de los países, también sería muy conveniente que la representación de la FAO pudiera circular informaciones detalladas sobre los trabajos que se vienen realizando en el territorio nacional sobre la ejecución de proyectos y sobre las perspectivas y posibilidades que brinda

la FAO para apoyar el desarrollo de su propio país. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

MA GENG-OU (China) (Original language Chinese): As this is the first time on which the Chinese delegation has spoken in Commission II, please allow me to congratulate you and the two deputy chairmen. I would also like to congratulate Mr Shah for his very detailed and precise introduction to this document. Our delegation has read C 93/8 very carefully, and we have listened closely and noted what was said by Mr Shah in his presentation. We believe that this is an excellent document which gives a brief resume of the implementation of FAO's programme during the period 1992-93. It has allowed us to see what progress has been made by FAO within the ordinary programme and also during the period for the field programme.

We see that implementation of FAO programmes has been quite good during the period 1992-93. The Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference and the changing world situation, particularly in food and agriculture, has meant that priority has to be given to the environment and rural development, as well as to nutrition.

FAO has played a very important role in the promotion of international agreements in key areas such as environment, multinational negotiations on commerce, as well as in strengthening of international and regional cooperation in the farming and food sectors. FAO has done a great deal to provide technical assistance, and we congratulate FAO for what it has achieved.

We have also noted that at a time when extra-budgetary resources are declining FAO has readjusted its activities and methods. This is necessary in order to bring closer together the design and implementation programmes within technical assistance and the ordinary programme. This will mean that it will be better able to provide technical cooperation in the field. FAO has carried out many encouraging activities, and we hope that it will strengthen these activities in those areas and that they will remain broad based, as is the case for the field programme.

Looking ahead to future presentation of this report, which would allow Member States to be aware of implementation of the programme of the current biennium and so enabling them to be better involved in the preparation of the programme for the following biennium, we favour Option 1 in principle. We hope that the Secretariat will make a real effort to show the advantages of Option 2 and to make good any deficiencies in Option 1. This would mean that this document would be more succinct and more realistic.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est le moment pour nous d'observer la pause dont j'avais parlé ce matin; elle coïncide avec l'appel lancé par le Président de la plénière.

Je propose que nous reprenions à 16 h 18. J'ai bousculé les habitudes en la matière puisqu'il paraît que, depuis plus de dix ans, nous n'avons pas observé de pause. Je compte donc sur vous pour reprendre nos travaux à l'heure exacte.

Shri H. PRADEEP RAO (India) : Mr Chairman, I should like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman. My delegation has already given its views on this report in the recent 104th Council Session. We also agreed that the document has established the linkages between the Regular and Field Programmes very well, and that Chapter 4 of the report brings out in a nutshell the significant achievements of the Organization, and it merits attention.

We should like to reiterate our concern over the fact that field programmes under extra-budgetary funding have experienced a decline. The report of the Programme Committee's 68th session has also emphasized the meeting of the needs of recipient countries in the background of increasing demands on the Organization. The need to devise innovative measures to mobilize additional resources was also underlined by the Programme Committee. Therefore the report of that committee merits the concern which many Member Nations have expressed with regard to Field Programme activities.

The report of the 104th Session of the Council stressed the need to support FAO's Field Programmes so as to enable the Organization to meet demands for assistance.

In so far as the two options proposed by the Director-General regarding future versions of the Programme Implementation Report are concerned, we feel that Option one could be adopted.

Miss Fatimah HASAN J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Kuwait and on my own behalf, I should like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We know you as a friend and as an active colleague in the Finance Committee, which is the sister committee of the Programme Committee in which I take part. There is no doubt that, thanks to your wisdom and qualifications, you will lead the deliberations of this Commission to success. We promise you that we will give you every possible support and we will put our experience at your disposal.

I should also like to congratulate Mr Shah and his staff on the excellent and comprehensive document now under discussion. I will not go into the details of this document because I dealt with it when it was discussed in the Programme Committee. I also refer to the discussions that took place in Council on this document.

I should also like to say that there are certain aspects in this document that should be emphasized by giving priority to the programmes that are being implemented in development. We are in favour of technical cooperation. It should be as wide as possible, although we are not directly benefitting from it. We welcome the first version of this Programme Implementation Report because it is an excellent document containing a lot of useful information and data. It also gives examples of the relationship between the implementation of the Regular Programme activities and the Field Programme activities.

I should also like to refer to the importance given by the report to involving countries in setting the priorities and the guidelines for policies in the field activities of the Organization and their monitoring. I shall refer to other aspects when we deal with them in detail.

Nedilson R. JORGE (Brazil): First of all, may I congratulate you on your election. I am very glad to see you on the chair of this Committee. I am sure with your help our work will be very productive. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his clear and concise introduction to the document presented to us, which is well prepared and comprehensive.

I have some very brief comments on it. The present Report reflects the change that has been implemented in FAO's Field Programmes in the biennium 1992-1993. These changes, as we know, are derived from new patterns introduced in the UN system through the appropriate resolutions in the General Assembly and in the UNDP Governing Council. Important concepts like national execution, programme approach and country strategy notes were introduced, as well as new forms of technical co-operation management. I would like to stress in particular the important change with regard to UNDP financial support. UNDP continues to be the main individual financial source of FAO's field activities. However, since the 1980s UNDP has dramatically decreased its participation. As can be seen in the document, in 1980 FAO participated in 25 percent of UNDP programmes; in 1992 this figure dropped to 13 percent.

Notwithstanding these financial constraints, developing countries continue to need specialized technical co-operation such as FAO provides to us. There has been a considerable increase in Trust Fund projects financed wither by multilateral or bilateral donors, or mainly by our own national institutions interested in the project. From our point of view, Mr Chairman, in order to allow greater flexibility and to better address the needs of Member States, Brazil believes that it is very important to strengthen FAO's national presentations.

We regard to the substantive aspects of the field programmes, two events were very important in this last biennium; UNCED and ICN. Since then FAO has been making efforts, like many other international agencies, to comply with the recommendations of these two Conferences. I would certainly like to commend the efforts FAO has been making from our point of view, and I would like to stress the environmental question. We believe greater efforts must be made to integrate environmental guidelines on all on-going and new projects in order to ensure that enviromental aspects are not treated in an isolated and partial manner.

Finally, Mr Chairman, with respect to the options presented to us for future versions of the Programme Implementation Report, Brazil sees advantages in both options and supports the conclusions of the Programme Committee that there might be a possibility of integrating both options, perhaps with a mid-term review. I would like the FAO Secretariat to explore this possibility.

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic) : To begin with, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chair of this very important Commission, and I am also glad to see you there as a friend and colleague. I am very happy to give you my personal good wishes and congratulations. I am sure you will conduct our proceedings with wisdom and in the light of your considerable experience. I am sure that this general Conference Session will be historic in the development of this Organization.

To demonstrate the trust I have in you, Sir, I will be brief. This report was discussed exhaustively at the last Council, and I would certainly like

to congratulate the Secretariat on behalf of my country on the quality of the document. The Programme Implementation Report is extremely informative. As regards the two options, my country is in favour of Option One for future versions of this report. We think this option will ensure closer follow-up and vigilance as to what is going on. We must of course ensure that there is a good balance in future reports as between transparency and wealth of information.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): First of all, I would like on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate on your election and also to express the hope that we will be able to work fruitfully in this Commission under your guidance. I would like to thank the Secretariat for the very informative and clearly set out document that we are considering, and we would also like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to this report, which was very instructive.

My delegation welcomes this new type of report because it gives all Member States a better overall view of the manifold activities of the Organization which are taking place within the framework of the Regular Programme and the Field Programmes in every biennium. This kind of report makes clear, as does the Programme Evaluation Report, the degree of complementarity and the close interface that exists between the two parts of the FAO operation, Regular and Field.

At the 104th Session of the Council my delegation had already made its position known as regards the two options for future versions of the PIR, what kind of reporting arrangements there should be, and we prefer the rolling arrangement. In this way, the information on the second year of the biennium would only be estimated and it would be useful to have additional updated information which could be submitted to the Programme Committee, and to the Council in the next year, and through the Council and the Programme Committee this information would get to the Member Nations.

In the section on Resources, the resource picture aspect of the document, we note that there is a continuing improvement in the financial situation of the Regular Programme of the Organization, but we also note that there is a definite drop in the volume of extra-budgetary resources for financing field programmes and, of course, this also means a reduction in Support Cost income. It is necessary to deal with this trend at a time when there is scarcity of resources in national budgets too. So the answer to this trend can only be found in greater efficiency in the use of the scarce resources available. Every effort to this end must be made. The quantitative assessment of FAO Field activities confirms the importance of the priorities already set by the governing bodies of the organization as regards regions, staff and subject-matter areas, and we agree with these priorities in particular and feel they should be borne in mind in future as regards the greater use of experts and consultants from beneficiary countries, in other words, the developing countries. We also very much agree with the really high proportion - upto 90 percent - of resources devoted to agriculture and forestry within the total volume of Field Programme activities.

Generally speaking, we find that the Report gives us a clear picture also on training activities, meetings, seminars, and publications of FAO, and it is really striking. Of course, this, as would be expected, will have a multiplier effect in disseminating and showing the practical application of

new knowledge and know-how, and we feel this is a matter of considerable importance.

In Chapter 4 of the document, it is made clear that you cannot increase production substantially in food deficit countries without using fertilizers. However, use of fertilizer, as the document stressed, must be economical, taking into account the cost and the need to protect the environment. The concept of integrated nourishment of plants by appropriate combinations of mineral and organic fertilizers and making maximum use of nitrogen fixing plants seemed to us in this connection to be very important ways of doing this. We also welcome the initiatives undertaken by the Organization as regards exchange of the results of plant breeding and of genetic research in food crops in particular. We see here that there are many possibilities for technical and economic co-operation between developing countries; TCDC and ECDC, and this is an area that can be developed further in the future.

In paragraph 113 of the document we note the stress on the attention to be given to the intensified production of major staple food grains and my delegation supports the integrated approach to this matter. The efficient use of inputs and using them in an environmentally sensitive manner to protect natural resources, taking advantage of biomass and integrated plant protection are all very important factors in this field.

Paragraph 161 relates to assistance given to developing countries for the development of their own statistics and information capacities, and in this connection, it would be interesting to hear to what extent the quality of information can be raised through FAO activities thus improving the input that these countries can provide into the FAO database.

With these very few quick remarks on the document, which are obviously only fragmentary, I will now close.

Arrow Solomon OBURU (Kenya): Allow me to associate the Kenyan delegation with those who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Commission. I believe the proceedings of this Commission will benefit a great deal from your skilful guidance and that the Commission shall successfully complete the task before it.

May we thank the Secretariat for the Report and the clarity with which it was introduced. We find document C 93/8 an exhaustive reflection of what the Organization has tried to do over the 1992-93 biennium.

The Kenyan delegation notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Organization in the use of institutions and nationals of the project beneficiaries, beneficiary countries to execute consultancies. We consider this a useful development because it facilitates and enhances national capacity building which is essential to sustain development projects, developments resultant from the project.

FAO's work in sensitizing the international community in the significance of integrated development, especially the need to synchronise environmental conservation with resource utilization as a basis of ensuring sustainable development is important. Notable among these is the FAO involvement in promoting the responsible fishing in the high seas. The other importance of this is FAO's promotion of the need to place the people first in project formulation and design because whatever development may achieve if the

target beneficiaries do not realize the benefits then there is no sustainable development.

With this observation allow us to register again our appreciation to the Secretariat for the useful presentation of the document which forms the subject of this discussion.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italy) : With regard to the Option 1 and Option 2 for the presentation of the Programme Implementation Report for 1994-95 the Italian delegation prefers Option 1 because it is necessary that the report be presented to the Conference as scheduled for 1995. We hope that it will be possible to have effective data for the next biennium.

Concerning the Field Programmes we note with satisfaction that the share of Forestry has risen from 11 percent to 17 percent in 1992. The Italian delegation hopes that notwithstanding the financial difficulties the FAO will continue to give priority for the next biennium to the most important field activities which are mentioned in paragraph 87.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP): I would make brief comments on the subject under discussion related to UNDP and its collaboration with FAO, as contained in document C 93/8 and thereby try to clarify some of the points raised in the latter as well as the pertinent references made in the statements of some of the previous speakers.

As you may recall the new Support Cost arrangements were introduced for application as from 1st June 1992. Quite complex by nature as they are their putting into operation was not an over-night exercise as it involved the collaboration of the entire UN development system and also the partners from the developing countries. A series of preparatory actions were put into operation in the large scale. An extensive programme has been undertaken by the UNDP and the agencies together to familiarize both Headquarters and field personnel as well as the Government counterpart in the working of the new arrangements. It was an effective and succesful programme. Inter-agency meeting encompassing all executing agencies are being held on a regular basis, almost every two months where all concerns or problems confronted in the process have been discussed and mutually and timely resolved.

UNDP continues and will continue to collaborate with the agencies of the new Support Cost arrangements having just finished another round of meetings last week in Geneva. As I mentioned already the new arrangements have been in effect since July 1992 and in the 16 month have moved progressively ahead despite the fact that this time period coincided with the reductions of the IPF resources of UNDP by 25 percent. Additionally, during this period has been a large increase in national execution as mandated by the General Assembly and the Governing Council. In fact, US\$284 million or 39 percent of all IPF approvals have been under national execution. However, the five large agencies continue to play a significant role in implementation of such nationally executed projects. TSSI Programme amounts of US\$49 million have so far been approved tentatively against the US\$64 million allocation for the cycle. FAO' share approximates US\$11.5 million or 23 percent of the total tentatively approved so far. Implementation of this up stream facility is proceeding very well with a number of innovative studies undertaken by the agencies. TSS2 approval have amounted to 8 million so far. While this is consistent with the new

approvals to-date the UNDP and agencies are examining ways to ease the pace of approval. I should like to inform you that an external evaluation of the arrangements has been scheduled for early 1994 and the result of it should be available by June 1994 for consideration by the Governing Council of UNDP.

Finally let me turn to the most disturbing concern for all of us, the decline of UNDP resources. As you may be aware the UN Pledging Conference for development for 1994 was held on the 2nd and 3rd of November, only last week. The results are very disappointing if not depressing. The Administrator of UNDP Mr Speth in his statement at the end of the Pledging Conference expressed his deep concern at the shrinking UNDP resources in the last two year as the best estimates for 1994 show no growth compared to 1993. It is expected that total pledge for 1994 will have reached the level of US\$920 million, the same as in 1993 which for itself was 15 percent under the level based on the assumed annual growth rate of 8 percent, a target set by the Governing Council for the 5th Programming Cycle 1992-96. The shortfall for 1994 is of the magnitude of US\$340 million compared with the projected target. The country IPFs for the 5th Cycle had already been cut by 25 percent. The poor results of this Pledging Conference will no doubt impose further cuts of the programme of developing countries. As you all know most of the contributions of the UNDP are used for assistance to the poorest countries, almost half goes to Africa and 59 percent to the least-developed countries and 87 percent of UNDP resources are for countries with per capita income of US\$750 or less. So when our resources shrink as they did between 1992 and 1993 it is the poorest countries which are most severely affected by cutbacks in plans and on-going programmes.

Finally, regarding the General Assembly Resolution 47/199 UNDP stands fully committed to its implementation and will spare no efforts, in close collaboration with all the relevant partners, to this end respecting fully its spirit and letter.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur l'Observateur du PNUD, pour les précieuses observations que vous avez bien voulu porter à l'attention des membres de la Commission.

Nous sommes arrivés au terme des interventions. Vous avez été 32 à prendre la parole et je pense que nous avons eu un débat assez riche. Je vais tout de suite demander au Secrétariat sa réaction à tous les commentaires et questions introduits par les membres.

M. Shah, vous avez la parole.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : May I say right at the outset that after my efforts to respond to the questions and respond to the debate if you would be kind enough to give the floor to my colleague Mr Regnier he will also like to respond to a number of aspects but particularly those dealing with the Field Programme.

Mr Chairman, through you, thank you to Commission II of the Conference for the debate which you have had on this document. I say this with a great deal of feeling. The Secretariat is grateful not only for the reaction that you have given to the document in the sense that we offered it to you but we are grateful for the debate that you have had among yourselves, among Member Nations. As I have served the various intergovernmental bodies who

have considered this report starting with the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and the Council, those of you that have assisted and participated in these successive deliberations will perhaps sense my perception that the nature of the debate among the Member Nations is very different at each stage. At the earlier stages the debate is characterized by a fair amount of questioning to the Secretariat: fair enough, requests for more information, requests for more explanations. But at each stage, and particularly at the stage which you reached today it is not so much a dialogue with the Secretariat that you seek but it is the expression of your views in the forum of the Conference. On behalf of all my colleagues and on behalf of the ex-Director-General I can only express my gratitude for the voice that you have expressed today.

In fact I am indebted to the Representative of Mexico for a reflection that he used which I can promise you is going to guide me a lot in the future. He used an expression that these documents, he was referring to this report, he said these documents determine the quality of the relationship of Member Nations with the Secretariat. That moved me deeply and it moves me and my colleagues to renew our commitment to you, to be ever more responsive to you.

That takes me immediately to the second point about possible improvements. We are very encouraged by the number of expressions of satisfaction over the document, very widespread. It encourages us very much particularly because this was the first version of the document. We do not feel, with all respect, at all defensive about requests which are made for further improvement because after all if our record is any guide, if our past record is any guide, I hope I am not mistaken in saying that we have responded to such requests in the past by making every improvement that has been desired to the best of our ability.

We have to be clear. As it has been said in the debate by the distinguished representative of Cuba, while he expressed satisfaction with the document he realized there are some Member Nations who do want to see more information or information of a different character and this is their right, but whether the Conference as a whole takes a decision on that is another matter and whether the Secretariat can respond to every request is again another matter because it depends on the nature of the improvements sought, how easy, or possible or feasible they are to introduce, and, if I may use the term so often used by some about the cost-effectiveness of some improvements, that also we have to take into consideration.

In fact, Mr Chairman, to use the term cost effectiveness of this document, there is one very important aspect which I did not mention in the introduction and has not been mentioned in the debate and which I would like to emphasize even at this stage; this Programme Implementation Report, aside from the satisfaction that has been expressed, is a commendable model of cost effectiveness in the sense that with the approval of your Council and with the approval of your Programme and Finance Committees this report subsumes and includes a number of documents which were prepared by the Secretariat in the past separately, which were considered by different bodies, and which were never taken into account in an integrated manner.

To give you three examples, we submitted every biennium the report on the use of consultants to the Programme and Finance Committees. You now have the relevant information here on that separate report so that the Programme and Finance Committees need to spend less time on that separate report which no longer exists, and can also have a more meaningful use of

consultants in the manner you have done. Every biennium we submitted to the Finance Committee a report on duty travel. It is now included. Every year at the November Session of the Council we submitted a report on unscheduled sessions and on sessions which were cancelled. You now have it here in this report. Mr Chairman, this again is an aspect of how efficiency and cost-effectiveness, as said by the Director-General in his introduction, is something which, for the Secretariat, has to be a guiding tenet at all times in all our work.

It is not a question of using jargon and it is not a question of just using terms in documents or in debates in order to seek self-satisfaction for ourselves. It is not. It is something which has to regulate our conduct and motivate us at all times and I trust that nobody would be in disagreement with that.

Mr Chairman, let me come to the issue of links of this documents with the other documents we have referred to. While there are certainly links between these documents of the quartet, and we all try, believe me, not only you Member Nations but also in the Secretariat, to enhance these links, I should point out that these links cannot be construed in terms of identity of format or identity of detail or identity of timing.

One of the first interventions of the distinguished representative of the Netherlands, if I am not mistaken, asked why it was that this document could not be considered at the same time by the Council as the Medium-term Plan or the Programme Evaluation Report. Mr Chairman, it is a very good question but I think there is a good answer, an answer for the previous decision of the Conference. It was in order to give the Council more time to consider the Programme and Finance Committees in the spring and to the Council in June, but it is in order to give you the latest information we can for the Programme Implementation Report that the Conference decided that this document should come to you now and go to the Council at its November session. Mr Chairman, this does not in any way, at least so far as we can see, weaken the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Implementation Report because after all it is the same Secretariat which prepare these documents. We impose on ourselves the same concepts, guidelines and methodology in the preparation of these documents so that it is not a question of saying there is a Medium-term Plan which comes to you from somebody else conceived in a different way from the document which comes to you now on programme implementation.

Mr Chairman, Option 1 I think has been unanimously, or almost unanimously, referred to as the chosen option and your directive is very clear, but a couple of distinguished representatives referred to the possibility of providing the definitive data on the second year of the biennium, in the following year, and I would like to respond to that suggestion. Let me start with Option one as suggested in the document. What has been suggested is that the next report covering the biennium 1994-95 would give actual data for 1993 because the data for 1993 at present are only estimates. You will get the actual data for 1993, you would get the actual data for 1994 and you would get estimates for 1995. The Programme Committee in its modification of this made an improvement we think. The Programme Committee in its modification of this made an improvement we think. The Programme Committee's suggestion is, do not just give us the actual data for 1993, but give us the full data for 1992-93 so that we have the full biennium, and the - as proposed - actual data for 1994 and estimates for 1995.

All this, Mr Chairman, is well feasible and is very clear to us and we are prepared to do it if that is your decision but all this is again still speaking about one report which will be prepared in the next biennium which would be finalized by June 1995 and then submitted to the various bodies. If we are to do an additional report in 1994 just to give the actual data for 1993, this is obviously in addition to the step mentioned above, it is an addition to documentation, it is an addition to cost; in the costs, may I explain, that it is not just the cost of publishing a document. Much the biggest element of the cost of preparing such a document is the cost of the staff time, and it is not only the staff time of my office - we are a few people and we all work hard - but it means making demands on all our colleagues in the rest of the house and particularly in the technical departments. These are the demands which I have to weigh and I have to ask you to weigh.

These are the kinds of demands which detract from the time, effort and the energy of programme implementation. We are all accountable. We accept that and we realize that but you have to judge the point at which the effort of additional reporting detracts from the resources and the time and effort of programme implementation.

Mr Chairman, as far as your directive is concerned, if you in your summing up will indicate, the next report covering the definitive data for 1992-93, the definitive for 1994 and estimates for 1995 is well understood and we are prepared to do it.

I also accept the suggestion of, I believe it was, the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom who recommended that while this document itself cannot be prepared in time to go to the Technical Committees of the Council in early 1995, certainly the kind of information it contains we should make every effort to draw to the attention of these Technical Committees and that also I well understand and accept.

Let me return now to some basic issues. They are basic issues of additional information of a quantitative nature which some distinguished members have requested and suggested be included. I start off with the most positive response in that it is not a question of my reacting now and saying no, no, no we cannot do it, or, yes, yes, yes, we will do it. I think many of the suggestions made have been made in a very reasoned way and I hope you will agree the Secretariat should do justice to the suggestion by considering them.

I think that the Secretariat readily accepts to do this but I do not want to give any mistaken impression that everything that is requested can be provided and will be done because if I take some suggestions literally, that this document should detail information on activities, on programme elements, on sub-programmes in relation to what is included in the Programme of Work and Budget, Mr Chairman, if you have a Programme of Work and Budget of some 350 pages then I would need to visualize a Programme Implementation Report of some thousand pages and I frankly would not recommend it either for you or for ourselves.

More information - more meaningful information - yes, but there again there are different perceptions; some have mentioned the need to refer to the cost-effectiveness activities, internal rates of return, and aspects of efficiency. Some distinguished Members have suggested that FAO should first determine the cost-effectiveness of doing something before deciding to do it.

Mr Chairman, I would like to respond to these comments in the much wider debate that you have had because there were many, many more Member Nations who referred to the issue of comparative advantage. We respectfully believe that there is nothing defensive in the Director-General's introduction. As usual he presents his views in a bold, courageous and direct manner and I certainly do not see any need for me or any colleague to appear defensive, but in responding to your debate let me share some perceptions to further the debate we have had.

At one point in the debate it was mentioned that comparative advantage is a concept which is dynamic. How right. I would certainly say that a comparative advantage of an organization may be analysed in terms of the mandate of the organization and the mandate of other organizations which work in related fields or in the same field, but the comparative advantage is not a matter of legislative text. The comparative advantage of FAO in the vast range of actions and undertakings is based on - what?

It is based on its accumulated experience. It is based on the expertise that it has at any one time. It is based on the resources that are available to it to implement what Member Nations want it to implement.

In that sense, take the case of the screwworm campaign, on which almost all of you have commented. Do you think the screwworm campaign could have been implemented by FAO with the success that it has had, had it not been for the years of experience in the issues of pest control, the years of experience in the development of sterile insect technique? Would it have been possible if FAO did not have among its staff the expertise that we have, which was employed to dynamically execute this programme? Do you think it could have been implemented in the same way if the TCP did not exist, and if some 3 million of TCP funds had not been immediately employed to prevent the spread of this disease in neighbouring countries and in order to initiate action until Trust Fund donors very generously provided their contribution?

I give this as an example. Comparative advantage - comparative advantages - of FAO are many, but they are something live and they do not belong to the Secretariat - they belong to you, and these comparative advantages are advantages that you Member Nations must decide to nurture, to keep, and to strengthen. This whole issue is not one of, "FAO should only do this, and we don't want it to do that". It is very much a live issue for Member Nations to assess and make their judgement on.

In this connection, let me come to the issue of what FAO does, again. I respect - as I have always said - the views of every Member Nation and the right of every Member Nation to hold whatever views it wants to have, and to hold.

Some members in the debate today have referred to the relationship between the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources, and stated that they are disturbed by this ratio. One even said that extra-budgetary funding distorts priorities and does not respond to the need of the countries. I respect the Member Nation that holds this view, but I am also aware - we are also aware - that there are very different views held by other Member Nations.

There are other Member Nations who believe in, and who attach importance to, there being a large field programme funded by extra-budgetary resources, for whom this link and this ratio between the Regular Programme

and the Field Programme is a sign of the potential impact of the Organization, is a sign of the relevance of the Organization, is a sign of the effectiveness of the Organization. So it is a matter of perception. To say that the programme activities and the programme choices of FAO can be determined through any methodology, be it of internal rates of return or cost-effectiveness, makes me hasten to add that this Organization is you - you, the Member Nations.

There may be some among you who may wish the return of the Programme of Work for FAO according to a certain methodology, but you, the community of Member Nations, jointly determine the Programme - your Programme of Work, and in so doing you Member Nations are exercising your political will and your political judgement. It is true that the Director-General submits to you a draft Programme of Work, but, as he has always pointed out, this draft Programme of Work is not one of the Secretariat or for the Secretariat. This draft Programme of Work is formulated in response to requests and the demands made by you Member Nations, either directly to the Secretariat or in the range of intergovernmental bodies at which you express your will. We have the regional conferences; we have the technical committees in each sphere in each region; we meet in the committees on agriculture or forestry or fisheries.

I must not abuse the time, Mr Chairman. I know that you want to be punctual and I want to be respectful to my colleagues and give them time as well. Let me therefore turn to some of the specific questions which were asked. I am grateful to some distinguished Members who have sent me notes to say that, while they have asked a number of specific questions, in case time does not permit they would accept my dealing with the most important ones on the understanding that they would of course get whatever information they seek directly outside the meeting. But there are certain questions that I think are of general interest, and if I may be bold enough to select a few:

One question was about Chapter 4. There was, I believe, fairly widespread satisfaction about the qualitative description of implementation, and the achievements: but it was asked, on what basis were activities chosen to be described in Chapter 4? Chapter 4 is structured so as to provide the primary objectives and priorities under each programme and, because of the need for selectivity in coverage, we use a certain number of guidelines or rules for ourselves.

Firstly, as regards the objectives and priorities, these are derived from the statements in the Programme of Work and Budget and in the Medium-Term Plan. Secondly, for the focus in achievement, apart from the aspect of priorities, the amount of Regular Programme and Field Programme resources has been taken into account and similarly emphasis is given to those activities in which there is substantial progress to report under both Regular and Field Programmes. The third aspect is that reported achievements under the Field Programme components are highlighted in order to give an indication of the synergy between the two, the Regular and Field Programmes.

The next question was on status of the consultative group on a Tropical Forestry Action Plan. I recall the Council in June requested the Director-General to mobilize extra-budgetary resources for the establishment of this consultative group. A progress proposal has been prepared. It covers a three-year period commencing in April 1994. The total amount solicited is US\$2.1 million. My colleagues can share more detailed information if

required later on, but I should indicate that so far only one member country has started to provide funds under Trust Fund arrangements, and two others have indicated that they may fund participation of members of the consultative group under bilateral arrangements. At this stage, I hope this brief information will suffice.

Then I turn to the question about the number of meetings held at Headquarters as opposed to others in Regional Offices or in country locations. Certainly, the graphic points out that only 21 percent of the meetings are at Headquarters. Rather than giving you a more detailed explanation, I would only comment that if one looks either at the next Programme of Work and Budget, at the list of proposed meetings, or even if one looks at the list of scheduled meetings in the annex to this report, I think the point will be evident that there are certain kinds of meetings which are better to hold away from Headquarters because of their very nature.

If I may take the example of a conference of plenipotentiaries on the issue of the Near East Plant Protection Organization, this was held in your country Mr Chairman, in February this year. The reasons are I think very clear. Similarly, an expert consultation on the Review of Seed Technology in the Near East - it was particularly suitable that a country in the Near East should be the host to such a meeting an expert consultation on biotechnological methods for diagnosing haemoparasites. Mexico offered to hold this meeting, and because of the participants involved it made sense to hold it in that country. Of course, every meeting, sui generis, indicates where the venue should be.

A side remark: I think this question, and I hope my response, indicates the care with which every activity is handled. Other than quantifiable aspects of cost-effectiveness, there is a range of other considerations which do have to be, and are, borne in mind.

There was a specific question on the databases, and, with reference to Table 3.7, how many of the 115 databases will be contained in WAICENT. There are 57 numerical statistical databases in that table. Of these 40 are related and are incorporated in WAICENT. Of the textual databases, there are 32; by the end of the next biennium 25 will be incorporated.

There was a question about the Geographic Information Systems - where their technology leads, and a comment was made about caution in this regard. My colleagues have asked me to point out that we are conscious of the fact that the application of GIS to Fisheries is relatively new. We shall certainly refrain from expanding the experience elsewhere until we have satisfied ourselves on its application in a limited form.

We have already been contacted by another United Nations Organization to develop a project in East Africa. Our response has been that we want to wait and see how we perform in West Africa before we replicate it elsewhere.

I should like to go on, but I would prefer not to do so in order to give Mr Regnier - I am sorry if I have taken a lot of his time too - time to respond to a number of important questions which have been raised. I thank the distinguished Member Nations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de nous avoir donné des réponses très claires, comme à votre habitude vous avez été concis et vous avez fait le tour de la question.

J'aimerais inviter M. Régnier à intervenir sur les questions qui avaient trait au programme de coopération technique, au PNUD et autres.

A. REGNIER (Sous-Directeur général du Département du développement) : A montour, je tiens à remercier les délégués pour l'intérêt qu'ils ont bien voulu porter à ce point de l'ordre du jour, en particulier à ce qui a trait aux activités du programme de terrain et à l'importance qu'ils y attachent, y compris dans ses liens avec le Programme ordinaire.

Après les réponses très détaillées de M. Shah, je pense que je pourrai personnellement me limiter à un petit nombre de points qui ont, je pense, retenu l'attention et qui méritent un commentaire de ma part. Le représentant d'un pays nous a demandé quelle est l'expérience que nous avons déjà pu tirer du nouveau Comité directeur pour les activités de terrain, du Comité du programme de terrain dans sa forme élargie et des équipes de projets qui sont maintenant responsables des projets pris individuellement. Vous savez que c'est une expérience nouvelle qui vient à peine de commencer et, par conséquent, il pourrait être un peu hâtif de ma part de porter des jugements définitifs, mais je peux rassurer et assurer les délégués de l'objectif de cet exercice. Nous avons voulu rationaliser, le plus possible, le travail interne du Secrétariat dans le domaine du programme de terrain par une surveillance à tous les niveaux et le Comité directeur pour les activités de terrain a évidemment pour fonction principale d'assurer la direction générale et la supervision du programme de terrain et de faire en sorte que les liens entre le programme régulier et le programme de terrain soient assurés à tous les niveaux. Jusqu'à présent l'ancien Comité du programme de terrain était surtout axé sur les questions administratives et financières, les questions purement opérationnelles; nous avons, pensé qu'il fallait également, au niveau des services, assurer la multidisciplinarité de nos activités de terrain, c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons élargi le Comité interne du Programme de terrain à tous les départements techniques. Nous voulons assurer la multidisciplinarité de nos actions sur le terrain et nous voulons également nous assurer que nous prenons en compte des éléments aussi importants que l'environnement - on en a beaucoup parlé au Conseil la semaine dernière, on a également beaucoup parlé de mettre l'homme et la femme, comme le disait le délégué du Kenya, au centre même de la préparation des projets, depuis leur conception jusqu'à leur finalisation. Nous voulons essayer d'améliorer au maximum la formulation des projets et leur mise en oeuvre et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons décidé la fusion en une seule équipe de ce qui était auparavant deux équipes distinctes, une équipe de projet pour la formulation et ensuite une équipe pour la mise en oeuvre des projets. Dorénavant, il n'y a plus qu'une seule équipe qui est placée sous la direction de l'unité technique responsable assurant dans tout le cycle du projet l'unité et l'unicité de responsabilité. Cette responsabilité est confiée à la division technique pour s'assurer que le support technique est au mieux de sa qualité. Il est un peu tôt pour porter un jugement définitif, mais nous pensons que ces améliorations seront de qualité et apporteront une multidisciplinarité beaucoup plus grande à nos activités de terrain.

Le Représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite a demandé quels étaient les secteurs de terrain qui n'étaient pas supervisés par les Etats Membres, je dirai

qu'il n'y en a pas. Il est évident que les Etats Membres n'approuvent pas, ne supervisent pas, et n'examinent pas tous les projets individuellement, la FAO exécute plus de 2 000 projets actuellement et ce serait donc physiquement impossible. Ce n'est donc pas l'objectif. D'autre part, chacun de ces projets fait toujours l'objet d'un audit de la part des commissaires aux comptes, mais les grandes lignes de politique générale du programme de terrain, tous les secteurs techniques, les priorités font l'objet d'un examen - depuis la revue de la FAO il y a trois ou quatre ans grâce à un processus qui passe par les différents comités techniques, d'abord le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des pêches et des forêts, de la sécurité alimentaire et ensuite le Comité du Programme, le Comité des finances, le Conseil et la Conférence, et, comme vous le savez, nous sommes également en train de voir comment l'examen par les comités techniques des activités de terrain peut même être renforcé et, nous sommes persuadés que nous pourrions également améliorer l'impact du dialogue entre les Etats Membres sur le programme de terrain à travers ces Comités.

Le Représentant du Danemark, en se félicitant du chapitre 6 qui détermine un certain nombre de programmes d'actions spéciaux, nous a demandé très pertinemment si, par souci de rationaliser et après avoir défini 12 programmes spéciaux qui correspondent certainement à des sujets majeurs du développement, nous allions supprimer ceux qui existaient auparavant. Je peux rassurer le Représentant du Danemark, notre intention est effectivement lorsque cette rationalisation prendra cours, c'est-à-dire après la Conférence, de supprimer un certain nombre d'anciens programmes d'action spéciaux, certains vont être réintégrés dans les douze dont la liste figure dans les documents au chapitre 6, d'autres seront supprimés et leurs activités, si elles persistent, persisteront au titre d'activités ordinaires. J'ai une longue liste de ces programmes d'action spéciaux, je ne vais pas vous la lire, mais c'est notre intention d'en supprimer. Par exemple, nous allons ainsi supprimer le "Dairy Development Scheme" ou le "Meat Development Scheme", etc.

D'autre part on nous a demandé quelle était l'information que nous comptons faire à ce sujet, se référant au paragraphe 309, disant qu'afin de faciliter la mobilisation des ressources financières, l'Organisation préparera une documentation explicative et analytique pour chacun des programmes d'action spéciaux. J'espère que vous avez déjà eu l'occasion de retirer dans votre casier le petit fascicule que nous venons de publier qui s'intitule: "Programmes d'action spéciaux pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durable". C'est un petit fascicule pour l'ensemble des 12 programmes envisagés mais notre intention était de voir votre Conférence nous donner éventuellement des suggestions afin de sortir un fascicule de ce genre pour chacun des programmes d'action spéciaux et indiquant quel est son objectif, quelle est sa méthodologie, comment nous allons organiser sa gestion et dans une certaine mesure également indiquant nos besoins en soutiens extrabudgétaires, parce que comme le disait très justement le Représentant de la Suisse, nous ne pourrions pas aller bien loin uniquement avec les ressources du Programme ordinaire et nous allons donc devoir, en quelque sorte, si la Conférence appuie cette initiative, nous reposer dans une large mesure sur les fonds extrabudgétaires. La quantification entre ce qui relèverait du Programme ordinaire et ce qui devrait venir des fonds extrabudgétaires à ce stade est une question malheureusement très difficile, car tout dépendra de notre capacité à convaincre les Etats Membres donateurs de la justesse de ce qu'on essaie d'entreprendre et de notre capacité à les convaincre de nous faire confiance avec des ressources additionnelles.

Une question très importante a été posée également, qui consistait à demander si les projets de terrain répondent aux demandes des bénéficiaires et à leurs priorités et répondent aux priorités de la FAO ou si, au contraire, ils sont suscités par les donateurs. C'est une question importante et je voudrais, de manière un peu emphatique, dire que nous considérons que tous nos projets répondent aux demandes exprimées par les pays bénéficiaires et je le dirai d'une autre façon, en précisant qu'il n'y a pas de projets de la FAO, il n'y a pas de projets des pays donateurs, il y a des projets des pays bénéficiaires que la FAO essaie d'assister avec l'appui financier de pays donateurs. Mais tous ces projets viennent d'une part d'un besoin exprimé par les pays bénéficiaires et font l'objet d'une première évaluation par notre représentant sur place qui a pour objectif de s'assurer que cette demande ne nous vient pas de manière isolée mais qu'elle s'intègre dans les priorités nationales et le jour où nous aurons des notes de synthèse par pays comme la Résolution de l'Assemblée générale nous le demande, qu'elle s'intègre également dans cette note synthétique par pays qui définirait le cadre des interventions des Nations Unies. Et d'ailleurs c'est tout à fait normal qu'il en soit ainsi. D'autre part, les pays donateurs ont le choix de financer ou de ne pas financer s'ils s'intéressent à certains secteurs particuliers ou à certains pays particuliers, mais en réalité ils ne viennent pas nous imposer des projets de financement. Je crois que cela n'est vraiment pas le cas. D'autre part, nous sommes extrêmement désireux d'associer les pays donateurs à la formulation avec les pays bénéficiaires des projets en fonds fiduciaires et dans les missions de la formulation; très souvent le pays donateur participe avec nous et peut se rendre compte par le dialogue à trois, le pays bénéficiaire, le pays donateur et la FAO qu'il s'agit bien là d'une priorité et d'un besoin ressenti par les autorités nationales.

D'autre part, déjà dans le cadre des programmes d'action spéciaux tels qu'ils étaient conçus auparavant, plus des deux tiers des projets en fonds fiduciaires relevaient de programmes d'action spéciaux, ce qui est également la preuve que dans une très large mesure le programme du terrain relève aussi des priorités telles que définies par la FAO dans ses organes directeurs, et, ce n'est pas par hasard, c'est simplement parce que dans votre sagesse vous avez identifié ce qui constitue vraiment les contraintes du développement agricole des pays du tiers monde.

Une question a été posée par le Représentant du Royaume-Uni qui s'est demandé si la FAO avait un avantage comparatif quelconque dans l'exécution des projets. Il a pris comme exemple, pour mettre en doute ce point, que notre réussite dans le cadre de la lutte contre la mouche bouchère tenait à la coordination des activités par la FAO. M. Shah a beaucoup parlé de l'avantage comparatif, je n'y reviens pas, mais je dirais seulement qu'en réalité si la FAO a eu un très grand succès dans la lutte contre la mouche bouchère c'est pour les raisons mentionnées par M. Shah, la qualité d'expertise et aussi le fait que nous avons une approche intégrée du problème. Nous l'avons identifié, nous avons sonné la sonnette d'alarme, nous avons évalué les moyens qu'il fallait mettre en oeuvre et nous avons également assuré la mobilisation des ressources, nous avons coordonné la communauté internationale, surtout les autres agences éventuellement intéressées à ce secteur, mais nous avons également exécuté nos projets, et c'est dans cette approche intégrée que réside le succès ou la capacité que la FAO a pu avoir d'assurer le succès de cette opération. Donc la question de l'avantage comparatif ne peut pas être uniquement limité à la coordination, c'est bien plus vaste et cela inclut à notre avis et associe, selon les circonstances, la capacité d'intervenir au niveau de l'exécution de certains projets.

Le Représentant des Etats-Unis a posé deux questions auxquelles je voudrais essayer de répondre. Il nous a dit que nous avons un pourcentage relativement important d'activités de terrain pour l'Afrique, il s'est demandé si c'est par hasard, à dessein ou sous l'influence des pays donateurs: je pense que c'est à dessein et je pense que ce n'est pas seulement le dessein du Secrétariat mais le dessein de la Communauté internationale tout entière qui se rend parfaitement compte des problèmes considérables auxquels les pays africains doivent faire face dans une série de situations d'urgence, en particulier ces dernières années, et aussi par une série de problèmes structurels qu'il faut approcher par des opérations de développement. Je voudrais simplement signaler que la proportion des activités de la FAO en Afrique, sur financement de fonds fiduciaires, est inférieure à celles sur financement du PNUD, ce qui montre bien que nous ne sommes pas entraînés par les donateurs, mais plutôt par le consensus de la Communauté internationale.

En deuxième lieu, le représentant a demandé quelle était l'implication des représentants de la FAO dans les chapitres 2.1.7 et 2.1.8, information et analyse en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, de politique alimentaire et agricole. Je voudrais lui dire que les Représentants de la FAO ont été récemment de plus en plus impliqués dans les avis en matière de politique et à un point tel que nous avons ressenti le besoin d'organiser ici au Siège un certain nombre de séminaires pour nous assurer qu'ils sont tout à fait informés sur ce sujet; c'est donc pour dire que nous comptons énormément sur eux pour assurer cet accroissement d'activités de la FAO dans ces domaines qui sont en amont des projets, l'information et les politiques.

Je vais me limiter à la dernière question qui est celle des rapports que peuvent faire les Représentants de la FAO. Il est évident que nos représentants dans les différents pays sont tenus de faire régulièrement rapport au Siège; ils font un rapport annuel qui est extrêmement détaillé sur la base d'un schéma qui leur est donné de manière à ce qu'ils couvrent non seulement les activités de terrain, mais aussi les activités régulières de la FAO; et tous les six mois, ils font un rapport de mise à jour.

Les représentants sont donc tenus de nous informer régulièrement. La possibilité éventuelle d'un rapport dans l'autre sens - là il s'agit d'un rapport interne à la FAO - c'est-à-dire d'un rapport que le Représentant de la FAO pourrait faire auprès des autorités nationales, est évidemment beaucoup plus compliqué dans la mesure où il y a une masse considérable d'activités que les représentants sont amenés à couvrir. Il y a les activités d'information à partir du pays vers le Siège pour les activités ordinaires, et il y a les activités de terrain. Mais nos représentants sont en permanence en contact avec les autorités nationales et par conséquent l'information doit être presque continue au niveau du gouvernement. D'autre part, nous avons pratiquement, dans toutes les Représentations, une petite bibliothèque qui assure également une information entre le Siège de la Représentation et non seulement les autorités nationales, mais également le public en général.

Enfin, il est vrai qu'un certain nombre de représentants peuvent éditer une petite brochure interne qui ensuite est distribuée dans les milieux nationaux intéressés et peut-être même auprès de la Communauté internationale. Malheureusement, cela a des implications financières, et alors que nous encourageons les représentants à le faire, nous ne sommes pas en mesure de le leur imposer pour des raisons financières. En tout cas, c'est un point intéressant.

D'autre part, je vous signale qu'il y a un catalogue des projets de terrain qui est distribué ici au Siège, mais également dans tous les pays, et qui permet aux autorités nationales de suivre au moins l'évolution des projets, peut-être même d'identifier ceux pour lesquels ils souhaiteraient davantage d'informations et, bien entendu, à ce moment-là, le représentant est tout à fait en mesure de fournir immédiatement le complément requis d'information.

Je m'excuse d'avoir été un peu long M. le Président.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes là pour poser des questions, recevoir des réponses, mais nous sommes tenus par le temps d'interprétation sinon nous serions prêts à passer la soirée avec vous! Vos informations ont été très intéressantes et je suis persuadé que tous les membres en ont tiré le plus grand profit.

Y a-t-il des réactions? Je vois que les Etats-Unis demandent la parole.

Par ailleurs, pour les interprètes, et pour ne pas leur faire dépasser le temps, si vous souhaitez poser des questions qui risquent de prolonger les débats et comme je suis censé faire un résumé, je vous proposerais d'attendre demain matin. Je ne sais pas ce qu'en pense le délégué des Etats-Unis. Est-ce simplement une précision que vous désirez?

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America) : I was hoping I could get a response by Mr Shah on a very simple idea, and that is the practicality or usefulness of having the Council discuss the Programme Implementation Report under the item of the review of the Programme Committee rather than as a separate item. It just seemed to be a practical thing and I would like to know what Mr Shah would think of that.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget) : Very briefly, what the Conference considered important in its decision last session was that the Programme Implementation Report should come to it through the two Committees and through the Council, so what is important is that it should go through the Council. If the Council should prefer to discuss it in relation to the item on the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees, in substance it makes no difference, but procedurally I think it is cleaner for the Report to have its item, for the discussion to draw on the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees and, need I say, Mr Chairman, the Council is sovereign in the sense that it can have as much or as little discussion as it wishes at the time. There is every reason for the distinguished representative of the USA to feel reassured that the next time this report comes to the Council it will be up to the Council to discuss it in the manner in which it chooses.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie M. Shah pour ce complément d'information.

Je remercie également le Secrétariat pour l'ensemble des réponses qu'il a apporté aux questions des membres de la Commission.

Lorsque je vous ai parlé du résumé du Président, je situais cela pour ma part dans le contexte suivant: ou bien nous avons un Rapporteur ou bien nous avons simplement un résumé synthétique des décisions. Or nous ne sommes pas dans cette situation là. Nous avons un Comité de rédaction qui

va se pencher sur la question comme nous le ferons nous-mêmes au moment de l'adoption du rapport. J'aimerais, avec la permission des interprètes, prendre encore quelques minutes pour dire mon sentiment sur les observations des membres sur cette question.

Je crois qu'en examinant cette première version du Rapport d'exécution du Programme qui fait suite à la décision de la Conférence, conformément au nouveau processus de budget qui avait été décidé à l'époque, les membres de la Commission considèrent que ce document présente une amélioration certaine concernant les informations qui y figurent et ils ont apprécié la richesse de ces informations: la présentation, les tableaux synthétiques ainsi que les encadrés qui, tout au long du document, apportent un éclaircissement sur les activités particulières, sur des programmes particuliers. Sur ce point, les membres de la Commission ont été très clairs: c'était une très bonne initiative qu'il fallait encourager.

D'autre part, les membres de la Commission ont été unanimes à reconnaître que ce document faisait la synthèse vous l'avez dit vous-même M. Shah dans votre réponse - de plusieurs rapports qui, par le passé, reprenaient ces informations sur les programmes de terrain et le Programme ordinaire. Cela permet d'avoir des débats beaucoup plus efficaces étant donné que nous avons tous ces éléments rassemblés dans un même document. Vous avez fait allusion tout à l'heure aux informations sur les consultants et, dans l'interprétation française, c'était les "voyages d'affaires". Or moi, je parlais plutôt de missions. C'est là un aspect positif sur lequel les membres de la Commission ont jeté un éclairage particulier.

Par ailleurs, la Commission a également insisté sur ce que vous avez appelé, à juste titre, le "quartet", c'est-à-dire sur la synergie et les liens étroits qu'il y a entre les activités du Programme ordinaire et les activités des programmes de terrain, mais surtout sur la complémentarité du "quartet" tout au long du processus: le Plan à moyen terme, le Rapport d'exécution du Programme, le Rapport d'évaluation et finalement le Programme travail et budget qui est le morceau important. Certains membres ont pensé que le fait de relier la présentation de ces activités et les comptes rendus des réalisations figurant dans le Rapport d'exécution du Programme était une excellente initiative qu'il fallait poursuivre. Il y a eu également beaucoup d'avis exprimés quant à la pertinence - et M. Régnier en a fait part quand il a évoqué les programmes d'action spéciaux de cette approche intégrée. C'est là encore un élément fondamental.

En outre, certains membres - et ce n'est pas l'ensemble des membres de la Commission - ont exprimé l'avis selon lequel il fallait s'arrêter plus particulièrement sur les avantages comparatifs de l'Organisation. A cet égard, M. Régnier a donné un certain nombre de réponses qui devraient donner satisfaction à ceux qui ont posé cette question. Pour toutes les raisons évoquées par plusieurs membres de la Commission lorsqu'ils se sont exprimés sur la question, je crois que, compte tenu des capacités en présence et de l'expertise de la FAO, il n'est plus nécessaire de revenir sur cette question des avantages comparatifs.

Liées à cette question des avantages comparatifs, des remarques ont été exprimées sur la relation efficience-capacité. A cet égard, les membres ont exprimé clairement leur idée sur ce qu'ils pensaient être le rôle de l'Organisation.

Pour en venir maintenant aux différents chapitres, je dirais que sur le chapitre 1, l'ensemble des intervenants a insisté sur le suivi qui doit

être poursuivi concernant le Programme 21 de la CNUED et à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

L'accent a été mis également sur la nécessité de continuer à soutenir les pays dans les négociations du GATT. C'est une question qui a été reprise par de nombreux délégués.

En général, les membres de la Commission ont été d'accord avec les résultats et les informations, tant au plan qualitatif qu'au plan quantitatif, qui figurent dans ce document, aux chapitres 2 et 3.

On a beaucoup parlé, précisément, de l'incidence des avantages comparatifs de cette expertise quant à la réalisation de programmes importants tels que l'éradication de la lucilie bouchère et la lutte antiacridienne. C'est un élément important sur lequel beaucoup de membres se sont exprimés.

Sur le chapitre 5, il y a beaucoup de membres qui ont parlé du Programme de coopération technique, et notamment de la réussite des activités de ce Programme, et surtout du respect des critères. En effet, toutes les personnes qui se sont exprimées, ont considéré que les critères qui présidaient au choix des projets, financés dans le cadre du PCT, étaient parfaitement valables et qu'il fallait maintenir cette tendance.

L'accent a été mis sur les résultats des initiatives et sur le fait qu'il fallait continuer à rationaliser les activités signalées au chapitre 6, et qui sont prises dans le cadre du Programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement durable ainsi que dans le cadre des Programmes d'action spéciaux. Point sur lequel M. Régnier s'est longuement arrêté.

On a parlé également de l'amélioration de la gestion des activités de terrain et il a été dit notamment qu'il fallait continuer à accorder un intérêt particulier à cette question.

S'agissant de la question des résolutions qui ont été adoptées à New York -la 47/199 - les intervenants ont considéré qu'il fallait continuer le suivi des recommandations de cette résolution, et ils ont apprécié le niveau de participation actuelle de notre Organisation dans ce suivi.

Pour en terminer, ce tour rapide concernant le sentiment que j'ai quant à l'appréciation des membres de la Commission, je voudrais parler de l'option - et M. Shah s'y est arrêté longuement.

Pour ma part, la situation me paraît très claire: tous les membres qui ont pris la parole se sont exprimés en faveur de l'option 1. Bien sûr, certains ont proposé que l'on puisse prendre ce que l'on peut considérer être les avantages de l'une et de l'autre. Sur ce point, M. Shah s'est exprimé en disant qu'il fallait être quand même attentif à la question, qui risquait peut-être de créer un surcroît. Je pense que nous n'en sommes pas au point de décider qu'il y aura un surcoût pour l'Organisation au moment où l'on parle d'efficience et de rationalité.

Le sentiment général a donc été en faveur de l'option 1 et je pense que c'est ainsi que les membres du Comité de rédaction apprécieront cette question.

Voilà, globalement, ce qu'a été, à mon avis, le sentiment des membres de la Commission lorsqu'ils se sont exprimés sur ce point. Bien sûr, cela ne

constitue pas du tout les lignes directrices du rapport, rapport qui sera discuté par les membres du Comité de rédaction qui nous représentent, et nous aurons l'occasion de parfaire toutes ces idées pour le rapport. Je m'excuse auprès des interprètes d'avoir dépassé le temps prévu.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres questions, nous sommes arrivés au terme de la discussion sur ce point 9.

Nous reprendrons demain matin à 9 heures 30 avec le point 10 qui est le Rapport d'évaluation du Programme. Au Bureau de cette Commission, nous avons coordonné nos activités pour le futur et demain, ce point sera conduit sous la présidence de M. Paranhos, Représentant permanent adjoint du Brésil.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et de votre patience.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/3

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE TERCERA SESION

(10 November 1993)

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Carlos A. Da Rocha Parannos, Vice-Chairman of
Commission II, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Carlos A. Da Rocha Parannos,
Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos A. Da Rocha Paranhos,
Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. For those who do not know me, my name is Carlos Paranhos and I am the Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil. As Vice-Chairman of this Commission, I have the pleasure of conducting the work today at the request of Mr Sinaceur. As you are probably aware, work tomorrow will be conducted by our colleague from the Netherlands, Mr Janus.

Today we are going to deal with Item 10 of the Agenda, the Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93, and the basic reference documents are C 93/4, the Programme Evaluation Report for 1992-93, and C 93/LIM/9, which is the Programme Evaluation Report, Extract from the Report of the 103rd Session of the Council held last June. This Programme Evaluation Report, as you will recall, is part of the quartet to which Dr Shah referred yesterday.

It is my intention to fully respect what was decided by our Chairman yesterday and to have a 15-minute break at 11:00. I have been threatened that if I do not make the 11:00 break, there will be anti-Brazilian demonstrations, so it is my intention to respect the morning and afternoon break. I would ask our dear friends to be brief in their interventions.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

10. Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93

10. Programme d'évaluation du Programme 1992-93

10. Informe sobre la evaluación del programa de 1992-93

V. J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In view of the overall introduction which the Chairman was kind enough to let me make yesterday, my task today is the easier. I do not need to refer to the context of this document; that is well known to all distinguished Members. I would like to limit myself to certain aspects of the Programme Evaluation Report in order to facilitate your debate.

Mr Chairman, while the Programme Implementation Report was a report which was very compressed, strived to be factual and strived to give the maximum information on what has been implemented during the current biennium, the Programme Evaluation Report, as I think you will recognize, is a much more reflective report.

It is a reflective report because of the nature of its task. When you evaluate something you have to take a certain perspective. You have to try and look at it from the longer term perspective. In this sense the Programme Evaluation Report does not limit itself to what is done in this biennium, indeed the more evaluative it tries to be the more it has to cover a perspective of several biennia in order to see the relevance of what has been done. It is also in a perspective of a spread. An evaluation report I would submit, is not something which should be limited to one document. We have to bear in mind that as desired by you evaluation is a continuing process and the results of this continuing process are submitted to you are submitted to you in a sequence of documents each biennium.

Having made those general points let me briefly draw your attention to the individual parts of this report. The three parts are very different from the other as you will have noticed. The Part One of the report deals with the work done under Crop Protection, under Statistics and Assistance to small-scale Fisheries. Returning to my point about the spread of these and

in-depth reviews while this review only deals with three subjects the total number of sub-programmes which have been covered by in-depth reviews under the former Reviews of the Regular Programme since they began in 1978 has reached 31 sub-programmes, which is half of all the Technical Sub-Programmes. Similarly in Chapter 5 where we give an in-depth thematic review of FAO activities in support of the development of international trade, earlier reports have covered 12 other such thematic reviews. So I hope the Conference will get firm satisfaction in recognizing that you now see is only a part of the evaluation results which have been reported to you over a period of time. I do not want to take your time because it is the debate which is important now, but Chapters 1, 2 and 3 have tried to give the results, the impact, the relative usefulness of what has been done. In the case of Plant Protection you see a balanced programme structure with a concentration of activities in areas where FAO has advantages, such as global monitoring and standard setting the work on the International Plant Protection Convention and the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. It shows the technical leadership and the advantages of FAO in areas such as integrated pest management and it shows the areas where FAO has a natural leadership, such as in the Emergency Centre for Locust Operation. It also shows the close collaboration with other organizations such as the UN Environment Programme and the World Health Organization. It shows the inter-action between the Regular Programme and Field Programme. This area has a particularly large field component which has attracted extra-budgetary resources 11 times as large as the Regular Programme resources, covering 580 projects during the six-year period 1986-92.

The second Chapter on Statistics again is an important activity of the Organization but conceptually it is an area which is very different from the first. It is an area where it is the Regular Programme function of the Organization which is paramount because of the basic constitutional functions and not only functions which are in the Constitution but because of the work of FAO which is universally recognized in statistics as the essential hub of the organization and one which is useful to all Member Nations. This is an area where again because of the nature of the work, the assistance Member Nations may seek, represents a much lower volume of field activities but nevertheless active and effective where it is demanded. In terms of specific activities I believe that the chapter gives a good indication of the expansion of AGROSTAT, the statistical component of WAICENT and draws attention to the major publications on statistical year book bulletins again, etc.

The third chapter on small-scale fisheries again is conceptually a different area of work. This is an area of work where there are many more socio-economic aspects which become pertinent, which become decisive I would say, in effecting the influence of the organization on this area. The populations of small-scale fishermen and fisherwomen in national communities usually happen to be the ones that have the weakest voice in influencing the mobilization of resources and because of the various aspects involved essentially assistance to human beings represents an area where the results are more difficult to achieve. They are more difficult to achieve for Member Nations, they are more difficult to achieve through our work and we recognize that. Nevertheless as repeatedly pointed out by Member Nations, particularly in the World Conference on Fisheries in 1984, this is an area to which you attach a very high priority. So it is not a question of despairing and saying that because the impact is not and cannot be as immediate as it can be in other areas the Organization should by any stretch of imagination weaken its efforts.

Part Two of the report gives a synthesis of Project Evaluations regarding Field Projects. Here again we have taken a spread, a spread over the period 1985-91 to give you a few data; a total of 579 projects were evaluated. These were evaluated by independent tripartite evaluation missions representing the Governments whose projects these are, the beneficiary Governments, the Governments who offered extra-budgetary assistance through funding, partial funding of these projects, and FAO which has the responsibility and the ability to assist in the execution of these projects. The number of evaluations each year is increasing quite significantly. Over the period 1985-88 we had about 75 evaluation missions a year, the current level is now 90 to 100. Forty percent of these evaluations were mid-term evaluations in the life of the project and 60 percent were terminal evaluations. Missions such as these involve a cost which we all have to recognize. The average cost for an Evaluation Mission is US\$ 25 000.

In terms of sectors 70 percent of the projects evaluated were in the agricultural sector, 19 percent in forestry and 11 percent in fishery. This is the chapter where you find many more tabular presentations because of the nature of the analysis and we hope that this will be found helpful.

Finally when I come to Chapter 5, without repeating at all what is in the chapter let me say with some passion this chapter shows particularly well what FAO is all about. It shows what is done under the Regular Programme covering all the major functions of the Organization. In this work of FAO on international trade you see the importance of analysis of data. You see the importance of Inter-Governmental consultations both within FAO, such as the Inter-Governmental Commodity Groups, the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Council, the Conference as you see the work of Inter-Governmental fora outside FAO for which our work is relevant and important. I refer only to the GATT negotiations on the Uruguay Round and the work in support of those negotiations which you, the Conference, have repeatedly emphasized. The Regular Programme work is also integrally supported through the work on Commodity Policy Analysis which results in policy advice, which results in policy studies and is projected through the activities in the fields. There are very few areas where the links and the cross-links and the integration of effort can be better seen than in our work on international trade.

Let me stop here Mr Chairman. I have a number of colleagues on whose assistance I will count. I thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Dr Shah has presented us with a very concise and yet wide-ranging view of the documents on the Programme Evaluation Report and, with a bit of passion, sustained the work that has been done by the Organization. I would now invite the members of the Commission to make their comments and interventions.

Jilali HASSOUNE (Maroc): Monsieur Shah, comme à l'accoutumée, nous a prouvé sa grande expérience.

Je serai très bref dans mon intervention pour respecter votre désir.

Ceux d'entre nous qui ont examiné à fond le document qui nous est soumis ont pu constater que la dernière Conférence avait réussi quant aux orientations à donner à la présente Conférence. La FAO a donc respecté son

mandat. On pourrait donc se poser la question suivante: y a-t-il une organisation autre que la FAO qui pourrait contribuer à assister les pays, en particulier les pays pauvres, vers le développement? La réponse est simple: aucune autre organisation que la FAO ne peut entreprendre cette mission importante.

Je pense que tous les pays membres de notre Organisation sont d'accord avec moi pour dire que nous plaçons toute notre confiance dans cette Organisation, la FAO.

Concernant le document qui nous est soumis et qui évalue les programmes effectués au cours des années passées, nous constatons que l'Organisation a réussi dans son entreprise en nous soumettant les différentes informations. En fait, l'Organisation ne peut effectuer toutes les analyses concernant tous les programmes, comme cela a été dit par M. Shah. Cela aurait un coût très élevé et la FAO se devait de tenir compte de nos moyens. La FAO a donc fait tout ce qui était en son pouvoir avec toutes les informations nécessaires.

Les différentes parties du document sont fort explicites. Dans la première partie, ce qui attire notre attention c'est tout ce qui concerne les pêches artisanales. Ces pêches sont appelées pêches artisanales, néanmoins le programme est fort élargi puisqu'il englobe les pays pauvres parmi les pays membres. C'est un point dont il faut tenir compte, et ce, par le biais de ces programmes très importants puisqu'ils sont destinés aux catégories qui nous intéressent, c'est-à-dire les catégories pauvres de la population. Je m'en tiendrai là, Monsieur le Président.

Costas PETRIDES (Cyprus) : Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation I wish to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction and thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 93/4 on the Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93. The Report is very informative and useful, especially as regard the achievements made in the recent biennia. For each subject covered, the assessments included therein are well supported by in-depth analyses of programme implementation and are helpful in making our own judgements on the effectiveness of these programmes.

My delegation well recognizes improvements introduced in this report over the previous reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes in several respects. The report gives in more detail the concrete achievements of the Programmes, especially at the field level, and it brings out more clearly the assessments, conclusions and issues. We also appreciate the frankness and openness of the report in pointing out the weaknesses and shortfalls in programme achievements.

Referring to the individual part of the report I would like to make the following brief comments : regarding part one we are impressed by the achievements of the three programmes covered and believe that these all take good advantage of the organization's status as a global inter-governmental, technical agency specializing in food and agricultural developments. These programmes enjoy our strong support and we would like the Secretariat to take into account the issues raised in addressing improvements in future.

As regards part two, we welcome the comprehensive analysis provided with frankness. Clearly there are difficult problems and issues in the development process of the agricultural sector and we would stress the

important role of all the parties involved, the FAO Secretariat and member countries, both as donors and as recipients, in bringing about further improvements in FAO's technical cooperation activities.

In part three we have a very comprehensive analysis of FAO's activities in support of the international trade. We support these efforts and we would like further FAO activities in providing technical assistance to the developing member countries in the various areas.

Finally, my delegation expresses its satisfaction that this Programme Evaluation Report responds well to our expectations. Its structure, coverage of subjects and analytical approach are very satisfactory in general and we look forward to further progressive improvements in future versions of this report. At the same time we would like to emphasise that such improvements should not be too costly. We are in full agreement on the importance of evaluation but there should be a balanced use of resources between technical and supporting work, including evaluation, considering especially that the Organization is under heavy financial pressure. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia) : Mr Chairman, I would also thank Mr Shah for his introduction. As a member of the Programme Committee and Council, Australia has already been closely involved in the consideration of this report. We made detailed comments on it at the June Council and our views are, therefore, recorded in the verbatim report. I will not take up Conference time by repeating them here.

There are, however, a couple of areas of the report that my delegation would like to refer to in this Conference. In the section on crop protection, Australia supports the four major areas of work or thrusts listed at paragraph 9 under objectives and priorities, the IPPC, the IPM Migratory Pest Control and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

We are pleased to see, as reported on page 19, that in the Asia/Pacific Region, two years after the start of the project, fourteen countries which had had no national pesticide registration scheme had either established them or were in the process of doing so. Two of these are our neighbours in the Pacific, Western Samoa and Vanuatu.

In the Chapter dealing with Small-Scale Fisheries, Australia's interest in this Chapter of the Evaluation report stems from the importance of small-scale fisheries to the economies of many of our neighbouring countries in Asia, the Pacific, and the South-West Pacific Region.

I note from paragraph 51 on page 63 the promising results achieved in the Fish Capture Programme in the Cook Islands, and in particular the success of the Pearl Oyster Programme as a research activity. As a result, a comprehensive management plan has been drawn up to provide the framework for an orderly development of that industry. To us this demonstrates how worthwhile this programme can be in that it can bring direct benefit to one of the small Member Nations, if not the smallest Member Nation in FAO.

We are also pleased with the report at paragraph 57 that FAO implemented a regional project in 15 countries of the South Pacific. This project showed the importance of consolidating information available on fisheries in the

region and on obtaining information from other tropical, small island countries.

Overall, Mr Chairman, Australia congratulates the Secretariat on this first Programme Evaluation Report. We think that this report along with the Programme Implementation Report we have already discussed are improvements on the earlier reviews on the Regular and Field Programmes as major evaluating and accountable reports to the governing bodies. We hope, and expect, that the standard achieved in this report will be maintained and improved on in future reports.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola) : Monsieur le Président, je voudrais en premier lieu adresser mes vives félicitations à M. Shah pour la présentation très claire, précise et concise du document C 93/4. Ce rapport nous brosse un tableau complet des divers programmes et activités de la FAO. Les évaluations constituent pour nous un élément important qui montre l'efficacité de l'Organisation.

Nous félicitons aussi le Directeur général des améliorations apportées dans la présentation de ce rapport et nous ne pouvons qu'exprimer notre satisfaction d'une manière globale dans le cadre des changements apportés en remplaçant l'examen des Programmes ordinaire et de terrain par un rapport d'évaluation unique.

Nous n'avons pas à faire, à ce stade, une analyse exhaustive de ce document car nous l'avions faite lors de la cent troisième session du Conseil, mais nous aimerions faire quelques commentaires et observations sur certains points qui nous semblent importants.

En premier lieu, nous sommes satisfaits des évaluations faites dans le sous-programme Protection des cultures qui est très riche en informations. Malgré les difficultés financières, plusieurs activités ont été accomplies et, de toutes les façons, nous voulons exprimer la satisfaction qui est la nôtre de constater que des fonds extra-budgétaires ont été trouvés, ce qui a permis la mise en oeuvre de plusieurs activités. Nous souhaitons que la FAO continue à jouer pour ce sous-programme le rôle de chef de file afin de favoriser la coopération internationale et de sensibiliser les pays à accepter et à appliquer les mesures de protection des plantes.

Les statistiques jouent un rôle primordial en matière d'information sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture et il ne fait pas de doute que la FAO est l'une des Organisations qui possèdent une grande expérience dans les données statistiques sur ce domaine spécifique. Nous sommes aussi d'avis qu'il est souhaitable d'élargir l'assistance aux Etats Membres en matière de sélection des méthodes adaptées et fiables de collecte et de traitement des données en organisant au besoin des missions d'appui et de formation techniques. Vu l'énormité de la tâche, il serait essentiel de redoubler d'efforts au cours du prochain exercice biennal pour mobiliser des ressources complémentaires.

Un autre domaine non moins important est l'assistance de la FAO aux pêches artisanales. C'est avec satisfaction que nous accueillons l'évaluation faite et les résultats obtenus ainsi que les ressources extra-budgétaires qui ont pu être assemblées pour les quarante-quatre projets exécutés par la FAO. Nous nous associons à l'idée exprimée au paragraphe 86 sur la mise en place d'un système communautaire des zones côtières.

En ce qui concerne l'examen des évaluations des projets, il est vrai que des progrès ont été réalisés au niveau de l'exécution, mais nous savons que des lacunes portant sur l'aspect conception et l'exécution des projets demeurent. C'est une réalité et nous pensons que le fait d'avoir identifié ces faiblesses facilitera sans doute les actions correctives à l'avenir.

A cet égard, nous nous félicitons des diverses mesures qui ont été prises pour corriger les faiblesses identifiées et nous souhaitons que les efforts soient poursuivis. Une attention particulière doit aussi être accordée aux domaines cités au paragraphe 54.

Pour ce qui est des activités de la FAO à l'appui du développement du commerce international, nous approuvons les priorités définies à ce chapitre. La FAO doit toujours jouer un rôle dans les négociations de l'Uruguay Round.

Pour terminer, ce rapport riche en informations constitue une base solide pour les futurs rapports d'évaluation du Programme.

António MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Dans le contexte de l'adoption d'une nouvelle approche du concept de développement durable au niveau international, l'action de la FAO a été confrontée à d'importants défis dans la définition et l'exécution de sa politique globale.

Un des aspects qu'on doit souligner concerne le souci particulier que pose la promotion d'activités d'appui au développement du commerce international, dans une perspective de complémentarité avec d'autres organisations ayant une vocation plus spécifique dans le domaine commercial.

Cette action, qui a pour but l'intégration du développement du commerce avec celui de l'agriculture, doit être considérée comme essentielle pour la promotion du développement durable et l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des peuples.

Dans ce contexte, au-delà de son rôle très actif en matière de négociations internationales, il y a tout un ensemble d'actions complémentaires favorisant le commerce des produits agricoles, notamment celles qui contribuent à l'intégration des politiques commerciales dans les stratégies globales de développement et à la réduction des obstacles techniques au commerce. Dans ce domaine, la FAO a accès à un ensemble d'informations très vastes et détaillées, qu'elles soient statistiques, techniques ou d'analyse des marchés, dont la diffusion reste un domaine important qu'il faudra continuer à favoriser.

Il faut encore mettre en relief, comme étant un aspect très positif, la définition d'une perspective globale et intégrée des aspects techniques et politiques qui a, notamment, accordé une importance accrue au développement durable et à la protection environnementale. Dans ce cadre, les grandes orientations globales et différents sous-programmes ont été soutenus par une approche intégrée, dont la mise en oeuvre a été entravée par de obstacles d'ordre financier, institutionnel et organisationnel.

Toutefois, et malgré toutes les difficultés d'application et d'exécution de ces objectifs très ambitieux, les résultats positifs obtenus (notamment dans le développement de la coopération internationale sous ses différents aspects, commerciaux et autres, et dans l'adoption et la divulgation de

méthodes scientifiques et techniques novatrices) sont très encourageants quant au rôle futur de la FAO. Cependant, il semble qu'il faudra un effort considérable en ce qui concerne le travail conjoint avec d'autres entités, les aspects organisationnels et financiers.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): Monsieur Le Président, je vous félicite d'abord pour la première présidence que vous assurez pour notre Commission. Je voudrais remercier aussi M. Shah pour son introduction détaillée, claire et très courte à la fois.

La délégation française voudrait, comme elle l'a d'ailleurs fait lors du cent troisième Conseil, indiquer combien elle a trouvé intéressant le document C 93/4 et elle tient à saluer à nouveau les efforts menés par le Secrétariat pour évaluer les programmes et les projets de terrain. Cette évaluation est apparue très scrupuleuse, impartiale, et ceci motive l'intérêt que nous devons porter à ses conclusions.

A cet égard, je souhaiterais seulement rappeler l'inquiétude ou la préoccupation que nous avons manifestée au cent troisième Conseil à la lecture des appréciations portées dans ce rapport sur la capacité de conception des projets et sur l'efficacité du Programme de terrain quant aux résultats ou aux effets induits qu'ils ont. L'évaluation du Programme de l'Organisation est une opération coûteuse, comme le soulignait M. Shah dans son introduction, elle ne peut donc à l'évidence pas être une fin en soi, et elle doit permettre, selon nous, la mise en oeuvre à court terme de méthodes efficaces de conception et d'exécution des projets, notamment en matière d'exécution nationale. Cet important travail d'évaluation nous paraît susceptible d'être valorisé dans plusieurs directions:

- premièrement, la possibilité de mettre en lumière, grâce à cette évaluation, l'interaction des différentes unités de l'Organisation elle-même, les difficultés qui sont rencontrées, notamment sur les grandes questions thématiques et horizontales, de manière à suggérer des modifications organisationnelles et conceptuelles au niveau des structures mêmes de l'Organisation;

- deuxièmement, la possibilité de faire le point sur la coordination interagences et avec les donateurs bilatéraux pour identifier clairement les zones de recouvrement et décider des meilleurs partages des compétences, de façon à aider à la définition des grandes priorités et des orientations du plan à moyen terme, dont nous parlerons plus tard, en termes de stratégie globale du Système des Nations Unies. Nous citerons l'exemple de l'intégration de programmes par pays ou par région, et les résultats de ces évaluations pourraient être très utiles en ce sens. Il est donc souhaitable que l'Evaluation ajuste ses méthodes d'appréciation et d'analyse aux différents objectifs poursuivis, dans l'esprit d'ailleurs qui a présidé à la réalisation d'une évaluation des projets de terrain, mais aussi à celle des grandes questions thématiques qui figurent dans ce rapport.

La délégation française souhaiterait en conséquence que le Secrétariat informe la Conférence des modalités selon lesquelles les résultats des différents types d'évaluation seront pris en compte effectivement par l'Organisation, tant du point de vue de l'efficacité même des opérations ou des services que de la révision des orientations que cette évaluation peut permettre.

En outre, dans le cadre d'une programmation budgétaire dynamique, la délégation française estime qu'il serait très utile de prolonger l'évaluation technique par des mesures pragmatiques de rationalisation qui permettraient de renforcer l'efficacité, mais aussi de faire des économies.

Byoung-Joon SUH (Korea, Republic of): Before I go to substantial matters, I would like to express my appreciation to Vikram Shah on his kind and eloquent introductory statement on the Programme Evaluation Report.

On behalf of the Korean delegation, I also would like to extend our satisfaction on such crop production activities of the Organization as the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent Clause into the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, the intensification of the Integrated Pest Management, and other measures.

At this time, I would like to have an opportunity to pay tribute to the Director-General and his staff for their contribution toward providing timely, reliable and comparable statistical information on the salient aspect of global food and agriculture to member countries and relevant organizations in spite of the basic financial and institutional constraints.

As you are well aware, the international community puts the problem of environmental protection on the front burner and tries to find a way to harmonize environment and development.

In this connection, the Korean delegation has an opinion that the activities of FAO concerning the collection, analysis and dissemination of the statistical information on environment should be more intensified for the purpose of helping the Organization to keep pace with the international trend of environmental protection.

Turning to the work of FAO on trade, the Korean delegation agrees on the Secretariat's opinion that the CCP sessions could be rescheduled to the non-year of FAO Conference and that the CCP agenda may be rearranged to allow more time not only to review in general, but also to give greater attention to clearly identified policy issues. I think this programme is implemented as the means of strengthening the role of CCP in setting up and implementing trade policies on forestry, fisheries, and agricultural products.

In closing, the Korean delegation appreciates the responsiveness and readiness of the Secretariat which they have shown in the course of implementing the colossal work of FAO for the 1992-93 biennium.

John D. MIRANDA (United States of America): I should like to thank Dr Shah for his introduction to this item.

The United States has offered a number of detailed comments during the June Council on the methodology employed in evaluating projects, and I will not repeat all of these comments here, but I should like to offer some general observations about the Programme Evaluation Report.

First, we would commend FAO for its efforts systematically to evaluate field projects. It is the view of the United States that candour in these evaluations is the most critical element, even when results are sometimes

disappointing. Candid and systematic evaluations of major programmes and field projects are essential if FAO is to use its resources effectively.

Moreover, once problems are identified in the project implementation, concrete actions must be taken to correct them. In future reports FAO should highlight actions taken to strengthen this implementation effort.

The United States has always recognized the strength of FAO's crop protection programme and recent successes, especially in migratory pest control in Africa, have justified our confidence in this programme. We also recognize the importance of the International Plant Protection Convention and facilitating the work of GATT in assisting in the development of common phytosanitary measures to facilitate trade. We anticipate that there will be growing demand for FAO activities related to pesticides. We urge the Organization to work closely and effectively with the UN Environment Programme as efforts are made to promote the universal application of the principles in FAO's Code of Conduct on Pesticides, UNEP's London Guidelines.

FAO's financial base has improved in the last few years with consensus-based budgeting. With this improvement and management efforts to promote efficiency, we believe resources can and should be redeployed to undertake the additional information and statistical work outlined in Chapter 2 of this report.

Regarding Part Two, Evaluation of Field Programmes, the report points out that many of the key findings on field projects are not new. Although the report suggests that attention should be focused on four areas in order to address these findings, it may go a step further and identify the specific management implications associated with these findings, that is, suggest what actions, if any, should be taken by FAO management and who should take those actions.

While the analytical framework for looking at field projects is helpful, it tends to overlook issues of cost-effectiveness, long-term impact and replicability. Sustainability was only peripherally examined. Future evaluations conducted by FAO should explicitly incorporate these elements of project performance and impact.

None of the common issues raised in the section on extension concerns gender. This is surprising since many farmers are women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and women farmers often do not adopt new agricultural technologies from extension agents who are typically men. The lack of target group receptivity referred to in this section may well be gender-related. None of the common issues raised in this section on natural resources conservation and development concerns inappropriate economic policies or land tenure arrangements, both of which are often associated with environmental degradation.

With regard to Part Three, In-depth Review of Thematic Topics, the United States has often discussed in FAO the crucial role of agricultural trade and fostering economic development. Therefore, we were particularly pleased to see international trade singled out for discussion in this report. We should like to offer the following observations.

FAO should be complimented for its work to foster trade, especially on the assistance it provides in support of the Uruguay Round. This support is primarily visible in the work of the Committee on Commodity Problems, in

the International Commodity Organization, in the Codex Alimentarius. In the years ahead we can anticipate the continued need to deal with non-tariff barriers to trade, and with the issues arising from our simultaneous goals of preserving and developing our natural resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The need for FAO involvement is likely to grow. For this reason, we feel that FAO should devote a far greater percentage of its resources to activities related to trade. A higher percentage of the resources devoted to the Technical Cooperation Programme, for example, could be directed towards supporting trade, especially in training and technical assistance in the area of food safety and quality.

Lothar CAVIEZEL (Suisse): J'aimerais à mon tour remercier M. Shah et ses collaborateurs du rapport qu'ils nous ont préparé. C'est avec un très grand intérêt que nous avons examiné ce rapport sur l'évaluation du programme 1992-93 de la FAO, et pris connaissance des commentaires qu'ont faits d'autres délégations avant moi.

Ce rapport donne un bon aperçu sur la qualité des opérations menées par l'institution, de même que les forces et faiblesses constatées. Il traite également des activités des Programmes ordinaire et de terrain d'une manière intégrée.

Avant de parler de l'évaluation des projets, nous aimerions préciser qu'à notre avis la FAO doit continuer à réorienter ses interventions en fonction de ses réels avantages comparatifs par rapport à d'autres agences de coopération et par rapport à ses propres activités. Nous sommes d'avis que ces avantages comparatifs se trouvent surtout au niveau du conseil en matière de politique sectorielle et sous-sectorielle et du renforcement des capacités nationales plutôt qu'au niveau de l'exécution de projets isolés.

Ceci dit, nous avons pris note avec intérêt de l'analyse approfondie des quelque 580 évaluations de projets entreprises entre 1985 et 1991 et de son suivi qu'a connu l'exercice à l'intérieur de l'Organisation ainsi que sur le terrain. Nous apprécions cet instrument de contrôle et de gestion. Nous sommes par contre étonnés, malgré les progrès réalisés, que seulement 45 pour cent des rapports d'évaluation soient de bonne qualité. Ceci exigera beaucoup plus de rigueur dans le choix de futurs consultants et un effort tout particulier de mise à jour de leur capacité professionnelle exigée par notre institution.

Nous sommes aussi très déçus des résultats des évaluations malgré les tendances d'amélioration. Car ne sont classés comme étant bons que 18 pour cent des projets au niveau de la conception, 22 pour cent des projets quant à leur exécution, 24 pour cent des projets au niveau de leurs effets et 30 pour cent des projets en relation avec leurs produits. Ces résultats insuffisants s'expliquent surtout par le manque d'intégration avec leur environnement institutionnel, par l'absence de coordination avec d'autres projets en cours, par une planification défailante du travail, par l'insuffisance de prestations de contrepartie et d'appui du gouvernement.

En vue d'améliorer la qualité du projet, nous soutenons fermement les points avancés dans le document du Secrétariat. Comme lui, nous sommes aussi d'avis qu'il faudra en particulier mettre l'accent à l'avenir sur une approche plus multidisciplinaire, le renforcement des compétences des consultants et du personnel, une amélioration des méthodes et processus de la FAO et une plus grande sélectivité des projets afin de tirer parti de l'avantage comparatif de notre institution. Il faudra également veiller à

une meilleure intégration du projet dans son environnement institutionnel, à la coordination avec les autres projets en cours, et surtout à un appui engagé du gouvernement et de la population concernée.

Nous souhaitons, en dernier lieu, que les sujets du prochain rapport d'évaluation soient discutés dans le cadre du Conseil d'administration.

Mlle Adelaide Manuela RIBEIRO (Cap Vert): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation du Cap Vert, présenter nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour son excellent document. Il s'agit d'un document très clair, très bien présenté, avec un souci de transparence. Nous remercions aussi M. Shah pour son excellent exposé introduisant ce point de notre ordre du jour.

C'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous accueillons ce premier rapport d'évaluation du programme qui couvre même le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain. Nous constatons que des améliorations ont été introduites, ce qui nous a permis d'avoir une vision claire et concise de certaines activités menées par la FAO pendant la période couverte par ce rapport. La première partie de ce rapport est un examen approfondi de quelques importants programmes qui reflètent les réalisations accomplies, l'impact des exécutions, les difficultés rencontrées et les mesures prises pour surmonter ces difficultés. Il nous amène à réfléchir à l'efficacité et l'importance de ces programmes et à penser aux futurs programmes.

Nous constatons que malgré les ressources limitées dues aux défis et difficultés auxquels la FAO et ses Etats Membres ont été confrontés pendant la période couverte par ce rapport, des programmes ont été réalisés et évalués de manière satisfaisante et avec succès.

D'après l'analyse de la deuxième partie du rapport, nous constatons que, malgré les améliorations des résultats des missions d'évaluation, il reste encore beaucoup à faire pour atteindre le niveau souhaité. C'est pourquoi nous sommes d'avis qu'il serait nécessaire de prolonger les missions d'évaluation sur le terrain, de façon à permettre aux personnels de la FAO d'avoir une meilleure connaissance et une vision plus claire des réalités. C'est pourquoi il est nécessaire que les Etats dans lesquels les missions sont réalisées apportent leur soutien et donnent toutes les informations utiles et pertinentes pour faciliter leur tâche de façon à permettre l'élaboration de rapports complets et de bonne qualité.

Nous espérons que les prochains rapports d'évaluation seront plus détaillés et de meilleure qualité et que d'autres programmes importants seront mentionnés. Nous sommes convaincus que ce type de rapports permettra de renforcer l'efficacité du système d'évaluation de la FAO.

Patrick K. LUKHELE (Swaziland) : May I first congratulate you and your bureau on your election. I wish also to commend you, Mr Chairman, for the excellent manner with which you have been conducting the meeting since this morning. I want also to thank Mr Shah for the very clear and precise introduction to this discussion.

My delegation welcomes the general thrust and style of document C 93/4. In particular we appreciate the summary which gives a brief but very clear review of FAO activities for the 1992-93 biennium. The subject of Plant Protection referred to in Chapter 1 is very important to most of our countries, particularly us from the developing world. For those countries

such as Swaziland which has not yet formulated plant protection legislation the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides has been an important instrument for the handling and management of pesticides. I wish also to thank the FAO for assisting my country in producing the first draft legislation on pesticide use and distribution. My delegation wish to encourage the FAO to continue providing professional and technical leadership in searching for solutions for weed control and promotion of Integrated Pest Management Concepts for small and subsistence farmers in Africa.

On the chapter on Statistical Processing and Analysis and Development I wish to encourage the FAO to assist national statistical systems in better and speedy ways of collecting and processing data. Some of our countries have generated a large volume of data which remains unutilized because of lack of capacity to process such data.

Chapter 4 of the report on evaluation gives a very interesting review on outputs and effects of selected budgets. My delegation wishes to encourage the FAO to continue to seek ways of evaluating effects of projects and beneficiaries even though we agree that such an exercise is very complex. The poor and disappointing results on project design and implementation are called for great concern. This therefore calls for more FAO inputs in assisting countries to improve on local capabilities particularly with respect to manpower and institutional developments.

Hassan AL-AHMAD (Syria) (Original language Arabic): I would like to begin by thanking Mr Shah for his masterly introduction to the Programme Evaluation Report and I would also like to say how much we welcome it. It has a very valid basis for a better evaluation of the programme which in turn will make it possible for us to identify the positive and negative, the strong and weak, points of each programme. We have also acquired a great deal of information which can be used in planning future programmes.

We would like to welcome the success of many of these programmes despite the financial difficulties faced by FAO recently. Indeed, the period has been characterized by the completion of the International Plant Protection Convention and a number of other events as well as a number of analyses of trade and the effect of non-tariff barriers which make international trade more difficult.

Sir, we feel that for the future it will be necessary for FAO to step up its efforts with respect to integrated control of certain pests and diseases and to help developing countries. We feel that FAO should continue to offer its assistance to developing countries so that they can choose the right methods for collecting and processing data, as well as in training of staff and technical training programmes.

Furthermore, FAO should help developing countries develop quality control in food production and strengthen our trade circuits and networks. With respect to the evaluation of field projects, Sir, we feel that this is a particularly important aspect of FAO's work and we would like to draw attention to project design because that is what success depends on. Thank you, Sir.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): My delegation has already given its detailed observations on document C 93/4 at the 103rd Council Session and welcome this new form of evaluation reporting concerning activities under the Regular and Field Programmes.

The Secretariat has gone for a new method that enables one to track individual programme activities over a long period and this is an approach that we very much appreciate, because in this way the objectives and the focus of the short and medium-term programme planning can be better assessed. This also facilitates decisions about winding up or continuing with individual programme activities.

The report of the 103rd Council Session makes a special reference to weaknesses in project design and these emerge in Chapter 4 of the Document with a comprehensive presentation of project evaluations, 1985-91. These become clear here and this is something I think which should be taken very seriously by the Secretariat.

Table 7 in the document gives relatively high percentages for individual weaknesses in 437 individual projects that were evaluated. The conclusion must be that in terms of desired results of effectiveness and timely completion, these projects offer considerable scope for improvement.

A comparison of two projects by way of example, some with inadequate and one with good project design, together with the negative and positive consequences, would have illustrated the problem more vividly. Overall my delegation would like to emphasize the self-critical tenor of the report. This clear presentation of weaknesses contributes to promoting dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat and keeps the programme activities transparent.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize the point made by the Cypriot delegate concerning joint responsibility between the three sides involved in terms of quality and outcome of project implementation and also the introductory reference by Mr Shah to the cost factor evaluation is something that we should bear in mind in continuing with this form of reporting. In particular one should consider out of 580 projects only 45 percent turned out to be of good quality. With that concluding remark, Sir, I would like to close and thank you for your attention.

Ms Kirsti ESKELINEN (Finland): Mr Chairman, I have the honour of taking the floor on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. Let me start by indicating the Nordic support for the new way of undertaking the reviews and evaluation on the activities of the Organization. Selective in-depth evaluations and assessments of both Regular and Field Programmes are a welcome improvement compared to former reviews on the Regular and Field Programmes.

The present way of reporting does justice to a continued practical interlinkage and dialogue between the Regular and Field Programmes and projects. The selection of a number of sub-programme activities as well as FAO assistance to small-scale fisheries development for evaluation is a good and representative list of FAO activities.

The Nordic countries welcome the candid way of presenting the results of the Field Programme. They demonstrate some successes and also indeed failures, but mainly with results somewhere in between. When these

successes are compared with the evaluation results of other international development institutions, FAO's low overall failure rate raises sceptical questions on the viability of the standards criteria and methods used to evaluate projects. We, therefore, wonder whether the results reached by-using the same methods as other UN bodies or international financial institutions are useful.

The Nordic countries find it regrettable that sustainability has been ruled out of the scope of the review. Sustainability and impact assessment are the two very central concepts highlighted in the recently agreed OECD/DAC principles on evaluation. Therefore, the Nordic countries would like to see FAO taking advantage of the standardization work done by the OECD/DAC instead of trying to develop its own standards for evaluation.

As to the results of the evaluations, the part related to fisheries is clear. After assessing the selected programme elements such as over-exploitation of resources, environmental degradation of coastal areas, participatory approach, women's integration into the activities, credit facilities and support to fishermen's organizations, the Report concludes that these integrated all-inclusive projects are far more complex and difficult to implement than expected. The Nordic countries can agree that a change in the underlying strategies are needed, as proposed in the document, and we would like to recommend a more cautious approach to launching these all-inclusive large and costly programmes in the future.

Similar analyses would be required in the Field Programme evaluations as well. As presented now, there are only a few observations on common problems on a very general level. We would like to emphasize the prioritization process and greater selectivity of projects already at the identification stage in line with FAO's comparative advantage. In this context we feel that the document fails to provide the necessary analysis because, in our view, the main tasks of an evaluation are to assess if the set objectives have been reached on a sustainable basis as well as to produce lessons to be learned and incorporated into future operations. Furthermore, evaluation can be useful for a governing body for overseeing and valuation of money control and also as a tool for the top management of the Organization itself.

Mr Chairman, the section on Statistical Processing and Analysis demonstrates the Organization's role in collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating information on food, agriculture and nutrition. Here the Nordic countries would like to see FAO cooperate more with other UN agencies when developing indicators to follow issues like food security and nutrition. The provision of information and analysis on aspects of commodity trade for the shorter and longer period on the basis of trade statistics is of great importance at this particular point in time both to the developed and developing regions alike. Although the trade issues are not the prime concern of the Organization, FAO is in an extraordinary position to make full use of its already established networks and programmes for market information and analysis to provide its member countries with an extensive global evaluation of the effects of the results achieved in the Uruguay Round.

Mr Chairman, contrary to the disappointment in various field projects and programmes in FAO's activities, the Sub-programme on Crop Protection presents more encouraging results and can be regarded as a relative success. This is encouraging since these same activities are most relevant

and timely in translating the concept of sustainable agriculture development into practice under Agenda 21.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, the Nordic countries would encourage the Organization to continue to strive for objective evaluations of Regular and Field Projects and Programmes. The Nordic countries look forward to the next Programme Evaluation Report which, in our view, should include the central concepts of evaluation, namely impact assessment and sustainability. The Nordic countries also see a need for a Chapter relating to the forestry activities which were neglected in the report presented this time. Another item we would like to see reported in this context is the cooperation between FAO and the other UN bodies. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Shri H. PRADEEP RAO (India): We would like to congratulate the Secretariat on this excellent document, the Programme Evaluation Report. As has been mentioned, this Report, containing selected in-depth reviews and evaluations of FAO's operations, has been introduced for the first time. This document, read with the Programme Implementation Report, gives us a good overview of FAO activities in the recent past.

Part One presents in-depth reviews of three selected programmes - Crop Protection, Statistical Processing and Development and Analysis, and Small-Scale Fisheries. The work done under the Sub-programme on Crop Protection is commendable and the achievements of the activities related to IPPC and Integrated Pest Management are noteworthy. The evaluation of the two Statistical Sub-programmes is comprehensive and useful. We, in India, have found the data generated under these programmes very useful in evaluating our performance in agriculture and in carrying out comparative studies. We support the efforts to maintain and strengthen the FAO database.

The activities of FAO in assisting small-scale fisheries has been noted by us. As a nation participating in the Bay of Bengal Programme, we have found the efforts made by the Programme in publication of extension material in local vernaculars, development and demonstration of small-scale fishing , craft using non-conventional materials such as ferro-concrete, etc., noteworthy. We are also of the view that there is a need for increased assistance and support through the Bay of Bengal Programme for Coastal Fisheries Management during its third phase.

Part Two of the Report, containing an analysis of evaluation missions, has brought out that project design and implementation have been rather disappointing. As the weaknesses in these areas have also been identified, we would hope that the FAO will take the required remedial steps in this direction.

This becomes imperative in a scenario of scarce resources and increasing demands on the Organization.

We have also noted with interest the in-depth review of FAO activities in support of the development of international trade. FAO must continue its efforts towards the establishment of a fair, equitable and transparent international agricultural trading system.

J.J. NEETESON (The Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation appreciates the new and more concise format of the document now called "Programme Evaluation Report". Although the general approach and set-up basically follow that of the former Review of the Regular Programme, this Report now includes both Regular and Field Programme activities. It also claims to have more evaluation, but I regret that this is not entirely honoured, and the review is still mainly of a descriptive nature.

I have two more general remarks before I comment on some of the Chapters.

It is not clear to us what criteria guide the selection of Programmes, Sub-programmes and thematic topics which are subject to an in-depth review. The ones selected this year have certainly caught our attention in the sense that they represent well chosen priorities. Nevertheless we should like to hear more about the selection criteria. As I take it that this Conference has some influence on the selection, I would like to suggest two topics for inclusion in the next Programme and Evaluation Report: firstly, the Integrated Plant Nutrition System (IPNS), and, secondly, activities on tropical forestry.

It is also not clear to us how the outcome of the evaluations and in-depth review influence the future work of the Organization. Obviously, there should be a link between the Programme of Work and Budget, the Medium-Term Plan, and the Programme Implementation Report. This point has already been mentioned by the Chairman in his introduction, but we would like to be informed about some details of this relation.

With regard to the Chapter on Crop Protection, my delegation would like to commend FAO for the activities of this Sub-programme. The priorities given to Integrated Pest Management and the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and Migratory Pest Control are welcomed by us. Integrated Pest Management has become a cornerstone of the Crop Protection Sub-programme. Especially, the IPM programme for rice has been successful, and has obtained a break-through in some countries for the implementation of IPM techniques on a wide scale, based on participative training methods for farmers. The challenge of implementation of IPM now lies in Africa, where physical and institutional infrastructure has so far prevented adoption on a large scale.

We fully support the observation made in the document that the next challenge would be to develop a more holistic approach to crop protection, in collaboration with other disciplines and FAO units, in order to define its contribution to strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The Chapter on Small-Scale Fisheries presents a useful review of FAO's activities in this field. A large part of the available funds went to the Sub-programme on Transfer of Technology and within this Sub-programme to fish production. In comparison, the Sub-programme Resources and Fisheries Management received a much smaller part of the funds. In view of the existing problems of access capacity in the open access regime for fishing waters, which often lead to over-fishing, we would have liked to have had the distribution of funds the other way round. It becomes clear from the review that fishing is not an isolated activity. Fishery projects grow into integrated development projects. These should be set up from the outset in a multidisciplinary way. Fishery planning is an important part of resources and fishery management and deserves more systematic attention.

FAO has responsibility for monitoring the world fisheries situation, and has a long and successful experience in this field. The available information on small-scale fisheries in inland waters however is insufficient for stock assessment methods to be successfully applied. When allocating priorities, inland fish stock assessment was not included. We therefore question the statement in this Chapter that inland fish stock assessment has generally been satisfactorily implemented.

Finally, some remarks on the Chapter on Evaluation of Field Programmes. Out of the four key aspects that are measured separately in the evaluation, project design had the poorest rating - only 18 percent of the projects rated "good", which is disappointing, as the document also mentions. Since project design comes at the beginning of the project cycle and is the single factor which is easiest to be brought under control by the implemented agency, one should be able to raise this percentage.

The same applies to our own bilateral programme with FAO, of which we have received a synthesized evaluation prepared by the FAO Evaluation Service, and we would like to thank the Service for this. Output and effects of projects are often negatively influenced by insufficiently taking into account the limited institutional capacity of the target groups. This is a lesson learned also by other donors and implementing agencies. It confirms the importance of participation of the local population and of socio-economic and institutional factors in the planning process, which again is a design aspect.

One of the conclusions written down in this Chapter is that FAO should be more selective in identifying, formulating and executing projects. This should be in the fields where FAO has comparative advantage, and fit in the existing technical and operational capacity of the Organization. My delegation fully subscribes to this conclusion. Clustering projects and Special Action Programmes is one way of doing this. It would be interesting to learn whether or not projects within Special Action Programmes have a better score than projects which are outside Special Action Programmes.

XU NANSHAN (China) (Original language Chinese) : I would like to thank the Secretariat for the way in which it has prepared this document C 93/4, and also Mr Shah for his introduction. This document C 93/4 has maintained the clear and understandable nature of the former Regular Programme Report but has also introduced a certain selectivity and the quality of evaluation has been improved. It reflects not only the importance of FAO's three functions, which are to provide policy advice, training activities, and technical support; it also reflects the interdependent nature and the complementarity which exists between the Regular and Field Programmes.

Generally speaking, the Programme Evaluation Report is objective. It confirms the comparative advantage that FAO enjoys, and also indicates the weaknesses that exist in its work and the places where improvement could be introduced.

Having said that, I would now like to make one or two comments on the implementation of the Report.

The thorough analysis of the three programmes shows that ever since 1966 FAO has been facing financial difficulties and has been making every effort to make the most of its comparative advantages, in line with the priorities set. This has made it possible to ensure the implementation of

the Regular Programme. At the same time, it has undertaken a number of field activities and we are happy at the very important role that FAO has played here.

Secondly, FAO's field activities have stimulated the implementation of the Regular Programme, and have also emphasized FAO's comparative advantages. Furthermore, they played an important role in training staff and providing technical assistance and policy advice to developing countries. We hope that FAO will explore new approaches as the international situation and scene change, in order to strengthen its activities in those areas.

We are of the opinion that the Evaluation Report has not thoroughly described the successes in the Field Programme. We think that more work has to be put in to improving the implementation of FAO' Field Programmes and to ensure the effectiveness of projects.

Thirdly, with respect to international trade in agricultural commodities: We have noticed that a number of developing countries do not have enough staff or expertise to analyse agricultural commodities and markets and trade policies, or to draw up agricultural trade strategies. With the addition of agricultural trade to the GATT agenda, the problem is becoming more crucial than ever. We do hope that FAO will stress the need for technical training and policy advice for developing countries so as to increase their capabilities in the matter. At the same time, we need to give importance to the collection, processing and distribution of information.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Au nom de la délégation libanaise je tiens à vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence. J'aimerais également remercier Monsieur Shah de nous avoir présenté ce document de façon excellente, comme à l'accoutumée.

Je saisis cette occasion pour féliciter le Directeur général et son Secrétariat d'avoir élaboré ce rapport relatif à l'évaluation des programmes. Le rapport est très important et comporte des informations très intéressantes sur la réalisation au niveau des programmes et projets de l'Organisation. Nous saluons les progrès réalisés au niveau des pêches, qui est le thème de la première partie du document, car nous estimons que l'analyse a été fort positive et critique.

Nous voudrions insister sur l'importance des deux sous-programmes qui ont traité les activités statistiques entreprises par l'Organisation. Nous appuyons la proposition, mentionnée dans l'introduction, et qui concerne l'intensification des activités pour rétablir des indices ou des chiffres indicatifs relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire, à la sous-alimentation, à la pauvreté et à l'environnement. En ce qui concerne la deuxième partie relative à l'évaluation des programmes sur le terrain, nous voudrions féliciter le Secrétariat pour la transparence des thèmes fort importants. Ces thèmes ont été couverts de façon adéquate et reflètent toute leur importance et la précision du traitement des questions. Tout ceci mérite que nous adressions nos remerciements au Secrétariat. Je voudrais donc insister sur l'importance de ce rapport et sur sa précision et j'espère que la FAO fera preuve de persévérance puisque ses résultats ont été tout à fait conformes aux objectifs escomptés.

Yvan JOBIN (Canada): The importance of continuous efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of particular programmes is illustrated by a recent World Bank report comprising case studies of the performance of donor countries and of multilateral agencies in six African countries. The study found that much of the development assistance provided had failed to deliver the expected results, and it pointed to the need to diversify traditional approaches to development assistance.

This is a sobering set of conclusions, given contemporary fiscal realities and the never-ending proliferation of new national and global issues and needs, which are joined to existing and unresolved problems in the intensifying competition for limited public resources. It is in this context that evaluation - defined as an accountability exercise whose primary function is to determine whether resources are spent in a responsible, cost-effective way, and provide reasonable rates of return - becomes a critical function of the management process. As such, it is of importance not only to the membership who need to be satisfied that public funds have been well used, but it is also a critical tool for management in selecting priorities, for taking decisions on activities, and for assessing the appropriateness of their choices of strategies and direction.

Our Organization is to be commended for the seriousness of the effort with which it has addressed the function of evaluation as represented by this first Programme Evaluation Report. This document is an indispensable link in a management information system aimed at optimizing programming choices, implementation and accountability.

The Director responsible for this work should be justifiably proud of the contribution he and the evaluation service have made to our understanding of the impact of the rich and varied portfolio of this Organization. In sharing with the membership our evaluation of this report, we do so with a view to contributing to a constructive dialogue on its further evolution and refinement.

In our view, proper evaluation should address at least the following questions :

What did we set out to do, and why? How did we propose to do it? What were the results expected against which to judge the returns/benefits/ efficiencies of the effort made? What did we do, meaning actual results achieved, and a detailing of resources expended in pursuit of these results in order to get a measure of costs and benefits? What were the reasons for any divergences that were found? What actions will be or have been taken to correct shortcomings, and what lessons have been learned that might be applicable to future project/programme selection, design and implementation?

Against these criteria, we would offer the general observation that this report still features certain weaknesses characteristic of its functional predecessors. This is particularly so in regard to the detailing of target results, actual outputs and costs thereof on which to build a cost/benefit analysis, and the identification and analysis of divergences and sustainability of results on which to build appropriate lessons.

Thus, for example, Part One of the report details a range of accomplishments in a number of programme areas, but fails to specify the benchmarks against which to gauge them. As a result, we do not know why FAO achieved what it did, whether it did so on time, whether the associated

costs were under or over projections, whether all that we set out to achieve was, indeed, done, and if not why not. The integration of specific sub-programme activities with the relevant field programmes is also not clearly described and explained. For example, we understand from the Programme Implementation Report that 49 percent of the staff time of programme 2.1.2 (Crops) is devoted to Field Programme support. Yet we know nothing about the specific elements of field activities carried out by this sub-programme, in order that we might correlate these activities to the evaluations of field programme delivery contained in Chapter 4.

The relative neglect of analytical treatment of Field Programme activities along the lines I have described and the absence of the TCP are also vital omissions.

That said, we would single out the Assistance to Small-scale Fisheries portion of the report for the rigour and candour of its analysis, especially that respecting deviations and the operational conclusions that derive therefrom. We believe this section represents the closest approximation to a model for emulation by other services.

We were disappointed, however, with the section concerning the In-depth Thematic Topics. The matters dealt with are very important and valuable areas of activity for the Organization, and the summary overview of these which is provided is good. Nevertheless, this section strikes us as somewhat unfocused, devoid of a real sense of what was achieved relative to what we set out to do, and as implying that a statement of utility is sufficient to prove the fact. Once again, we have no sense of yardsticks against which to measure the quantity, quality, and efficiency of outputs, which is the *raison d'être* of an evaluation report. Notwithstanding the difficulty of defining measures against which to judge value and performance, it must be recognized that we live in an economy increasingly dominated by producers of services whose continued viability is dependent upon the skilful application of measurement technology to the justification of their production and pricing decisions. The use of such tools is proliferating, even as their capacities are being expanded and their contents being refined. We would, therefore, urge FAO to consider actively the appropriateness and feasibility of technology imports.

The evaluation of Field Programmes is a most useful synthesis of project performance which we note has been addressed with commendable candour.

We were struck by the number of evaluation reports - put at 20 percent - which were considered to be unsatisfactory. Perhaps a time-series describing the evolution in this performance might help dilute any concern. Notwithstanding the generalized improvement in project performance during the period covered by this report, we were also struck by the stagnation and decline in project performance, notably in respect to project design where FAO has particular responsibility. We would welcome any elaboration as to the factors underlying this development, and of steps taken to reverse this trend.

The concluding paragraph in this section details four areas of focus for future attention. These appear to be eminently sensible. Yet they also disturbingly suggest a sense of *déjà vu*, in that the immediately preceding paragraph speaks of findings and lessons which are not new. It would be reassuring to have a fuller understanding of actions proposed and taken to effect improvements such as to avoid past mistakes. And for the bean-counters among us, this section would be enhanced with the description -

perhaps in an annex - of the methodology used in conducting evaluations. This can contribute not only to understanding, but also to confidence in and consequent acceptance of results.

While the evaluations conducted did seem to address the question of sustainability, this is mentioned but in passing in paragraph 21. We believe this should be given equal prominence with the other elements around which the evaluation was conducted. Also apparently missing is an economic efficiency (value for money) assessment. It is, after all, the long-term effects of cost-efficient projects that will maximize the developmental leverage of field projects, and we believe these evaluation elements should be integrated into future reports.

We would also underline the importance, as evidenced yesterday, of the Special Action Programmes for the field activities of the Organization. These are the instruments of choice for the operational integration, coordination and rationalization of field activities.

On their success hinges the effectiveness of the predominant proportion of FAO activities. It is accordingly essential that we be provided with a detailed insight into their operation and efficiency.

The question of coordination, avoidance of duplication and the associated concept of comparative advantage brings us to one final point, namely that of cooperation and coordination with complementary organizations within and outside the UN system. FAO is not an island. Coordination and avoidance of duplication contribute importantly to the achievement and sustainability of effects, to efficiencies and to the maximum leveraging of any given inputs. Accordingly, we believe this to be an important and fertile area for assessment in future reports.

I should like to conclude, Mr Chairman, by reiterating two central thoughts that have guided our assessment of this document. The first is that my delegation would again emphasize what we believe to be the critical interdependence of the Programme of Work and Budget, the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report. If we are to operationalize the concept of accountability within the FAO it is essential for these three documents to mirror and complement each other in their substantive content. The second thought is to reiterate Canada's full support for the evaluation process as undertaken by the Secretariat. We are particularly pleased with the evident candour of this document in addressing both successes and problems. This demonstrated willingness to build upon the positive and to learn from the negative remains in our view the optimal way of preserving the centre of excellence that we wish our Organization to remain.

Adrian ISSETTO (Argentina): Mi Delegación desea felicitar una vez más a la Secretaría por la presentación de este Informe sobre Evaluación del Programa. El nuevo diseño del mismo permite efectuar una evaluación en profundidad y distingue claramente el análisis de la ejecución de la evaluación del Programa.

Al mismo tiempo, en nuestra opinión, examina y evalúa de manera completa las realizaciones y resultados obtenidos en varios programas, por lo que constituye un documento útil para la planificación y ejecución de actividades y programas futuros.

Esto, señor Presidente, en cuanto a la forma. Pasando ahora al fondo del documento C 93/4, mi Delegación desea expresar su preocupación por los resultados de la evaluación de 579 programas - Parte 2, Capítulo IV -, realizado por la FAO para el período 1985-1991.

Deseamos enfatizar, señor Presidente, que si bien dichos resultados mejoraron en el período analizado, resulta imprescindible que se capacite más y mejor a todo el personal de la FAO, como a los funcionarios de los Estados Miembros, para un mejor diseño y ejecución de proyectos, aspectos éstos que registraron las tasas más bajas de calificaciones, aunque sin por ello descuidar las cuestiones vinculadas a los resultados, efectos y eficacia de dichos proyectos.

Mi Delegación desea asimismo poner de resalto el empeño que la FAO ha puesto en lo que hace a la aplicación de una metodología de evaluación de proyectos tendientes a mejorar los procesos y procedimientos para la programación, formulación, ejecución y seguimiento de apoyo de los proyectos de cooperación técnica.

Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan): I will be brief in stating our position on the issue before us. My delegation commends the efforts of the Secretariat to produce this informative and analytical Report, in accordance with the decision taken at the last Conference. My delegation agrees with the necessity to improve the Report based on the findings in the Report and the various comments and suggestions made by previous speakers. It is important to improve the Report itself in terms of style or analysis but it is far more important to reflect the results of the evaluation in designing, planning, implementing or operating of programmes or projects as well as in the Medium-Term Programmes. It is related to the whole process of activities of this important Organization. The exercise as such is of paramount importance to the nature of evaluation. We should avoid paper work or discussion for its own sake. The results of the evaluation exercise should be reflected in daily actions for the effective and efficient activities which secure our commitment to the Organization. In the light of this important exercise, my delegation fully supports the continued exercise of an evaluation.

Mrs Wafaa Mohamed YOUSSEF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the effort made in the preparation of the evaluation of the Programme and the field projects. We welcome the improvements made on this detailed Report, which clarifies the evaluation and the findings concerning the programmes and field projects. We also welcome the objective of the Programme of the Organization, namely, the optimal use of fishery resources and the support to small-scale fisheries.

My delegation thinks it is important that in what is done by the Organization's activities in the implementation of the integrated management of crop pests we should lay down the criteria for the safe and effective use of pesticides and the implementation of the International Code of Conduct concerning the distribution and use of pesticides. We also welcome the efforts of the Organization in the analysis of market commodities and trade policies. My delegation would also like to support the Organization in supporting international trade and carrying on complementary activities with other organizations concerned with

international trade. Finally, we think it is important to focus on technical cooperation in the Organization.

D.A. TROTMAN (United Kingdom): May I congratulate Mr Shah on his comprehensive introduction to this Report.

The United Kingdom delegation took part in the debate at the Council in June. The United Kingdom, together with a number of other Member States, made reference to paragraph 8 on page 76. "About 40 percent of these were mid-term evaluations and 60 per cent terminal evaluations, with very few ex-post evaluations." In the Report of the June Council, which is also reproduced in C 93/LIM/9, the main reason for the lack of ex-post evaluations is given as the absence of funding by donors for this purpose. This point is well taken but Technical Assistance Projects should include sufficient funds, not only for monitoring and terminal evaluation, but also for ex-post evaluation. The United Kingdom delegation gives particular importance to ex-post evaluations of Technical Cooperation Projects in view of the Secretariat's insistence at earlier meetings of technical committees that the TCTP provides essential underpinning and feedback to FAO's technical departments. Ex-post evaluations provide the most effective feedback on the impact and sustainability of different approaches. As such they should inform the shape of future programmes.

The benefit of ex-post evaluations is maximized by undertaking "synthesis studies" which draw together the findings and lessons from evaluations in given sectors or subject areas involving programmes and projects undertaken in a number of countries. Funds from FAO's Regular Programme Budget will need to be identified for these studies.

Turning now to more specific issues, namely FAO's Assistance to Small-Scale Fisheries, Chapter 3, we welcome the production of an evaluation report focused upon the important small-scale fisheries sector. The regular evaluation of FAO activity is an essential contribution to the maintenance of relevant work programmes. This is particularly true for the small-scale fisheries sector, where FAO's objectives were established at the World Fisheries Conference in 1984.

The United Kingdom, in common with other members of the Committee on Fisheries, has for some years expressed concern at the lack of performance data to inform and guide the future course of FAO activities in the fisheries sector. Evaluations such as this are an appropriate response to this concern. We would encourage the annual evaluation of different sectors addressed by the FAO Fisheries Programme, with reports produced as working papers for the benefit of COFI discussion. This current evaluation would have been of considerable value to discussions at COFI in March this year.

In paragraph 82 on page 70, the Evaluation Report calls for an in-depth technical review of the Programmes of Action established by the World Fisheries Conference, the purpose being to re-examine FAO's role and strategy. To undertake this properly would require an assessment of the global response to the Programmes of Action, the orientation and effectiveness, impact and benefit of all national and donor-supported effort. This is a substantial task. Only then could FAO's role be put in context, a difficult task for the small-scale fisheries sector alone, an impossible task for all five Programmes of Action.

Finally, the evaluation is somewhat qualitative and descriptive. It summarizes what was done but is less focused on results. No attempt has been made to evaluate the impact of FAO activities on beneficiaries and to establish, even in the broadest terms, whether value for money has been obtained. It may be too difficult to distinguish between benefits arising from FAO support and benefits arising from the many other donors supporting the fisheries sector. If this is so, it should be stated.

The United Kingdom delegation wishes FAO well in its endeavours to learn from its experiences, as noted in paragraph 54 on page 96, by focusing attention on:

- a. a more multi-disciplinary approach to project planning; and
- b. upgrading the skills of FAO staff and consultants.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italy): The Italian delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat of FAO for the work made in preparing the document C 93/4 Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93 which gives for the first time an integrated overview of the Field Programme and Regular Programme. We approve of this report which is complete with tables and lists which give detailed information about the activities of FAO. However, we think that it would be useful to have a summarizing table pointing out the expenditures of the main chapters and the increases or decreases in figures and percentages with regard to the previous biennium.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh): I would like to thank Mr Shah first for the excellent introduction of the Programme Evaluation Report. The Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93 is an informative and useful report, like the new Programme Implementation Report, having an integrated coverage of Regular and Field Programme activities. The report contains a comprehensive assessment of the performance of selected programmes and activities. The coverage of programmes and activities represent FAO's main areas of work and priority concerns.

The overall achievement under the programmes covered in the report are generally satisfactory, particularly in view of the fact that FAO had been undergoing considerable financial constraint throughout the period in the report. The in-depth and critical review of the selected programme activities provides a good feedback to those responsible for programme planning and implementation.

Part Two, Chapter 4 of the report which dealt with Field Programme Evaluation is of particular interest. The findings of evaluation will be very helpful in bringing about future improvements in FAO's field operations while steady improvement in the quality of the Evaluation Report is a positive sign it is a matter of concern that the scenario relating to project design and implementation leaves much to be desired. As mentioned in the report the picture with respect to the project design is particularly disappointing. A number of weaknesses and deficiencies have been identified in this respect which need to be addressed with greater attention. In terms of project success in achieving the results only 19 percent of the 579 projects received good rating on both the quality and quantity of output produced; 6 percent were rated poor and 75 percent were in-between. This also does not indicate a satisfactory situation. Corrective measures need to be taken depending on specific requirements. Some of the

remedial measures have been highlighted in the report itself. The four areas of emphasis suggested in paragraph 44 of the report to bring about desired improvement in various aspects of project performance are important. Increased efforts should be made to initiate action along the lines suggested in the paragraph. FAO's expertise in promoting international trade in agricultural products is well recognized. The Evaluation Report has made a detailed report of this important aspect of FAO's functions. This a subject which is of broad interest to Member Nations, especially in the context of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. FAO should continue to play an active role in such areas as policy level discussions agricultural trade among Member Countries, commodity market analysis, technical standard settings for food quality and pesticides and technical assistance to Member Countries.

Sra. María E. JIMENEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Me agrada mucho verlo presidiendo nuestra Sesión de esta mañana. Mi delegación va a ser muy breve, ya que ya se han planteado muchísimas cuestiones esta mañana sobre este importante documento.

En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer la excelente presentación que del tema nos ha hecho el señor Shah; felicitamos a la Secretaría por la elaboración de este documento, que reúne los exámenes del Programa Ordinario y de los Programas de Campo. Nos parece muy adecuada su presentación.

Nos referiremos brevemente a un solo aspecto del documento. Nuestra delegación comparte plenamente lo expresado por el señor Shah en su exposición del tema sobre la particular importancia que reviste el Capítulo 5 del documento, relativo a las actividades de la FAO en apoyo del fomento del Comercio Internacional. El Salvador, señor Presidente, está convencido - y así lo ha expresado hace un momento el Ministro de Agricultura de mi país en la Comisión I - que una situación más justa y equitativa en el Comercio Internacional es la clave de la solución de muchos de los problemas agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Estamos de acuerdo en que la FAO no es el foro por excelencia para negociar acuerdos comerciales internacionales, pero sí creemos, señor Presidente, que su contribución indirecta puede ser muy eficaz. Por ello, nosotros deseamos brevemente apoyar las medidas contempladas en los párrafos 111, 112, 116 y 188, orientadas a reforzar las actividades de la FAO en apoyo del Comercio Internacional. Gracias, señor Presidente.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): En la tarde de ayer le felicité por intermedio del Presidente de la Comisión, pero vuelvo a felicitarle porque siempre es mejor recibir el original que la copia. Quiero saludar al Sr. Shah por la excelente presentación del tema. Volvemos a reiterar que este documento, muy valioso, forma parte del cuarteto de las voces que hablamos en el día de ayer. Quisiéramos decir que es un documento muy completo, que responde a las expectativas planteadas en la Conferencia pasada y que ha sabido apoyarse adecuadamente en los informes anteriores de evaluación del Programa Ordinario y del Programa de Campo. Asimismo, debemos mencionar con toda justicia el gran esfuerzo que realiza el grupo de evaluación de la Secretaría: Debemos reconocer este esfuerzo porque conocemos que es un personal muy reducido que trabaja a veces en condiciones muy difíciles, y aquellos que hemos tenido la oportunidad de recibir misiones de evaluación con alguna frecuencia, notamos la sobrecarga de trabajo que tiene para poder atender adecuadamente las demandas de su trabajo.

Creemos que además de lo que se refiere propiamente a una evaluación de los programas de campo, las misiones de evaluación con sus informaciones nos dejan a nosotros también un caudal de asistencia para que los nacionales podamos mejorar nuestro trabajo. En este sentido, queremos llamar la atención sobre la necesidad de mejorar la calidad de los informes de evaluación y que haya una adecuada retroalimentación hacia los países para poder incorporar las conclusiones y recomendaciones que realizan cada una de las misiones, de manera que nuestro trabajo sea cada vez más coherente y más eficaz, tanto el trabajo de la FAO como el trabajo a nivel del terreno, o sea el trabajo de los nacionales.

Aunque en el documento quizás no se le atribuya mucha importancia a los problemas de diseño como efecto de mala calidad de ejecución de los proyectos, nosotros quisiéramos reiterar que es necesario insistir en el problema de diseño de los proyectos, por cuanto pensamos que un proyecto bien diseñado es la garantía de que pueda ser un proyecto bien ejecutado, de manera que sobre todos los nacionales que tienen que actuar en la ejecución del proyecto, sobre todo el apoyo gubernamental que necesita cada proyecto, cada uno de nosotros debemos tener suficiente claridad para poder hacer una buena ejecución del proyecto. No sé si sea el caso mencionarlo aquí, pero creo que, en cuanto a diseño de proyecto, hay que introducir mejoras metodológicas, mejoras que faciliten el trabajo, que hagan los proyectos mucho más claros. Por ejemplo, haría una referencia a la metodología del proyecto del PNUD, puesto que realmente a veces resulta para los técnicos nacionales un poco difícil su trabajo. Creo que esto es algo que si bien no corresponde examinarlo aquí, es una recomendación que hacemos para que se establezcan las coordinaciones pertinentes con la Institución aludida.

Quiero insistir, en lo que se refiere al Párrafo 44 de este Documento, en respaldarlo, en apoyarlo y decir que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con él, pero al máximo; añadiríamos la necesidad de reforzar el trabajo con los equipos nacionales. Decimos esto porque cada vez más los países han ido aumentando progresivamente su capacidad de formulación, ejecución y evaluación de proyectos y progresivamente se ha ido prescindiendo, en algunos casos, de asistencias técnicas prolongadas o en muchos proyectos de disponer de una asistencia técnica o un director técnico del proyecto junto al director nacional del proyecto. Esto podría favorecer el que haya un mejor equilibrio en los programas y en el presupuesto del proyecto al prescindir un tanto de trabajos o consultorías prolongadas para asistir a los directores generales del proyecto. Creo que es necesario seguir ampliando esta capacidad nacional como factor importante para poder ejecutar bien nuestros programas.

En este documento se presta atención a un tema muy importante, que es el relativo al comercio internacional. Quisiera sumarme a los planteamientos realizados por la distinguida representante de El Salvador, en cuanto que éste es un tema que debe seguir siendo objeto de análisis y de seguimiento permanente. También, si las condiciones y el presupuesto lo permiten, desearíamos agregar dos temas para el próximo informe: el primero, sobre las actividades de montes, es decir el sector forestal. Sabemos que en los últimos tiempos el Programa de Acción Forestal ha ido incrementando sus

actividades y que en estos momentos tiene un respaldo financiero importante y por lo tanto debe ser objeto de un análisis. El otro tema, que se vincula directamente con los problemas de agricultura y del medio ambiente, es el relativo a la sostenibilidad. Creemos que éste es otro tema que debería tratarse en profundidad en el próximo informe.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco al representante de Cuba sus palabras y observaciones. Estoy seguro de que el Dr. Shah las va a tomar en cuenta en los comentarios que nos hará en el parte inicial de la tarde.

The meeting rose a 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/4

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(10 November 1993)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Mr Carlos A. Da Rocha Peranhos, Vice-Chairman of
Commission II, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de M. Carlos A. Da Rocha Peranhos,
Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos A. Da Rocha Peranhos,
vicepresidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIÉS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

- 10. Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93 (continued)
- 10. Rapport d'évaluation du Programme 1992-93 (suite)
- 10. Informe sobre la evaluación del programa de 1992-93 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. We will now resume the work of Commission II and if, as I understand, there are no more countries wishing to take the floor, I will ask Dr Shah to respond to some of the questions and issues raised this morning by different delegations.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I am greatly obliged to you and the Commission for having completed your debate before the lunch break so that I had more time for reflection on what I propose to say now. Once again on behalf of the Director-General and the Secretariat I would like to express gratitude to the Commission for the debate it has had and for the reception it has given to this first Programme Evaluation Report. The Report, as you know, was submitted by the Director-General, so it is to him that I will convey your sentiments and your conclusions, with a great deal of pleasure.

A Report such as this is not only formally submitted by the Director-General. As you can imagine, it is prepared under his direction and "direction" is not an empty word. His direction includes management of the process and encouragement. So when the Secretariat is responsive to him, it is because of all these aspects of the direction that he gives us. Certainly, as far as the hard work is concerned, I take all the kind words that have been said not as being addressed to me; they should be addressed to my very many colleagues, and particularly to Mr Kato, the Chief of our Evaluation Service.

One of the first impressions I have of the debate is the unanimity of the Commission's sentiment in appreciating what many of you called the objectivity of the Report, the candour, the frankness. This is extremely important to us and I would present it to you as our commitment to maintaining the integrity of standards of evaluation. I can assure you that the fact that the Director-General decided many years ago to put the Evaluation Service in my office had nothing to do with me - it happened before I came to this office - it is a mark of the importance attached to having a unit, whether it is large or small, which has direct access to him, and a unit which can stand firm in its judgement. I stress that, in making objective, frank evaluations, my colleagues need to have the courage to stand behind their analyses and the courage to say what they think. We all know that is important. What is equally important is that there is no interference, either by me or anyone else, in allowing them to say what they think, and I think we all attach importance to this.

Another aspect which has often been referred to in the debate is the link between evaluation, programme formulation and medium-term planning. There are no magic recipes. There are no listed guidelines to ensure this. Certainly there are guidelines which we observe in our work but these are management practices. What is important, I submit, is that the functions are all together. Again, this is nothing to do with me. I am not seeking

to take any credit but I very much benefit from the fact that these functions are together in my office because that is what permits the Secretariat to ensure that the results of evaluation are used in programme formulation on a continuing basis and that the process of programme formulation is in the minds and the hands and the pens - or the personal computers - of the same people who work on the Medium-Term Plan.

Mr Chairman, I have now to address some remarks relating to individual sections of this report, starting with the comments which were made on the selection of topics for the in-depth review in Part 1. I believe your debate recognized that these were all suitable topics. They all gave you a different emphasis, different aspects of our programmes. This was very much one reason for their selection, but who selects them? If I may respectfully say, I do. It is a question of management judgement. Of course, since I am accountable to the Director-General, I submit my recommendations to him but it is, I put it to you, a management judgement about which topics are selected, and I hope you do not see anything wrong in that. Certainly for this Report you have all felt that the topics were appropriate.

One of the aspects which I took very much into account was which topics had been covered before and what the distribution and spread of these topics is between different programmes and sub-programmes. Let me give you an example. One or two distinguished Members, when referring to this aspect, asked why there was no forestry sub-programme included, and I respect their questions. I thought about it, and the reason I did not include it is that, for the overall length, size and scope of the review, we wanted to keep Part One to three sub-programmes. One could have had four or five, you might say, but it was a judgement for the overall length and scope of the Review to keep the in-depth section to three sub-programmes. You have two from Major Programme: Agriculture; one from the Agriculture Department, one from the ES Department, and one from Fisheries.

Forestry is not forgotten. What I did consider is that in the previous in-depth reviews we have covered forestry fairly well. In 1980-81 we had Forest Industries and Trade; in 1982-83 Development and Management of Forests; in 1984-85 Fuelwood; in 1986-87 Community Forestry Development; in 1988-89 Forestry Training and Institutions and in 1990-91 Forest Food, Fodder and Fuelwood Systems, so I felt that forestry had not been badly covered. Also, in the last couple of years we have had a great deal of attention given to and evaluation made of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, with its revised, expanded concept. That is the reason why we did not include a forestry sub-programme, but again, there is no reason, Mr Chairman, with all respect, for me to feel defensive. I hope I do not need to. I have taken note of the suggestions made for the future, and certainly these are the kinds of suggestions we respect and wish to take into account.

Going to Part 3-1 have not forgotten Part 2; I will come back to it later because it needs a much deeper response - it was suggested that we could have included sustainable development and sustainable agriculture as a suitable topic for this part of the Report. Again, I appreciate very much the reasoning behind this suggestion and I will only mention that the reason we did not do so is that in the review of the Regular Programme for 1988-89 we did have the special topic of FAO Support to Member Countries in Conservation and Amelioration of the Natural Environment and Introduction of Environmental Considerations into FAO Projects and Programmes. Then, of course, we subsequently moved into preparations for UNCED and there was a fair amount of reporting on that. That was the reason why the subject

chosen this time was that of international trade, and I am glad that overall it has met with a great deal of interest.

Turning now to the remarks made by a number of distinguished Members who attached importance to thematic evaluations - it was the distinguished representative of France who referred to this - and evaluations of Special Action Programmes - the distinguished representative of Canada among others referred to this - Mr Chairman, we attach a lot of importance to thematic evaluations and we would like to do them more in the future. We have done several in the past. We did a thematic evaluation on agricultural education and training, we did one on national agricultural research, and we did one on aquaculture. All of these are interesting because we did not do them alone. We did them with UNDP, sometimes with a Member Government interested in the same subject and with its own programme in that field. In a thematic evaluation, as was desired by the Representative of France, the evaluation covers a period of easily ten years, and it covers not only the FAO activities but also the activities of other organizations and activities funded by a number of donors. However, these are pretty huge exercises and we just have not had the resources in recent years to pursue them but, God willing and your generosity flowing, it is the kind of thing which my colleagues and I look forward to continuing.

Turning to Special Action Programmes, yes, there again in the past, as some of you may remember, we had in-depth evaluations of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, of the Seed Production and Improvement Programme, and of the Programme of Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis. Each of those evaluations at that time - and this was some four to six years ago - cost between US\$300 000 and 400 000.

We do intend, again resources permitting, and this is an area where those Member Nations who are interested in being substantial donors to individual special action programmes may also be interested with us in carrying out in-depth evaluations. The evaluation of the twelve special action programmes which you considered under the Programme Implementation Report is something that we envisage as systematic. The Evaluation Service will be drawn into making sure that there are periodic evaluations of each Special Action Programme.

Then I turn to a very very important problem that has been raised by a number of distinguished members and that is the feedback of evaluation. Now I already referred to the fact that as regards the Regular Programme the feedback of evaluation is something which I take as a primary responsibility of my office. Certainly when the evaluation results are shared with all our colleagues in the technical department, they are shared with them in order that they may take those results into account in formulating their proposal for future Programmes of Work and Budget. Since it is the task of my office to consolidate and to prepare the Programme of Work and Budget, it is really our responsibility to make sure how the results of the evaluation have been taken into account, and in the final analysis the decisions on resource allocation which the Director-General makes are, of course, his decision but are a matter on which I hope I have some room of recommendation to him. This is as regards the Regular Programme. As regards the Field Programme I would really like to share with the Conference our practice, our procedures, how we try to promote this feedback into the improvements of field projects first of all by saying, I am convinced, I am very deeply convinced that this is a matter which cannot simply be handled by procedure. It has been suggested to me by representatives of some Member Nations in discussions that they have with

me, would it not be a good idea if you sent a form around to each unit to say when you have formulated this project and you have submitted it to the Development Department for possible funding by UNDP or for possible funding by a Trust Fund contributor, you have the officers sign a form to say "I solemnly swear that I have taken the results of previous evaluations on this subject into account." Perhaps I am too cynical but I do not believe in such procedures because such procedures and the filling of such forms may be, I do not want to insult any of my colleagues, may be or may become a proxy for the substance of action. For this reason we have preferred to choose a path of dissemination of the results of evaluation, making syntheses on an annual basis of the field project evaluations in each field. We synthesize the results of project evaluations in agricultural extension projects, or in fishery training projects, distributing these syntheses through our Field Programme Committee that Monsieur Regnier is Chairman of and then pursuing the incorporation of the feedback into new project formulation. Now you may be satisfied to note that this is not just a formal procedure. The annual synthesis of project evaluations we share widely in all Departments. I even send a copy to the External Auditor to make sure he is aware of what we are doing, what is happening. The Field Programme Committee has a discussion of the synthesis and then the Field Programme Committee has established a Working Group to review the nature and scope of the issues involved and then making sure that arrangements are made to improve the project formulation and appraisal processes.

Let me now turn more broadly to the subjects of field project evaluation as it has been presented to you and as you have reacted to it in your debate. First of all in view of the interest expressed I would draw your attention to the FAO guidelines on field projects evaluation. These guidelines have been developed by my colleagues in the Evaluation Service and they are published. For any representative who is interested in having them we shall be glad to make copies available.

The second aspect about field project evaluation and looking at Chapter 4 is the frank assessment which we have said we are concerned about. You have shared the same sentiment and in fact if there is any paragraph in this document which has been more frequently referred to than any other it is paragraph 54 on page 96 of the English text at the end of Chapter 4. The lessons are clear. You have said that the steps we propose to take are appropriate but the question has been asked: "But what is being done?". Quite right, and I would submit to the Conference that other than the improvement of procedures and the training of staff and consultants, both at Headquarters and the field, which is increasing, the other actions envisaged will be very much a subject of our discussion, not in this Commission but in Commission III of this Conference on Friday 19 November if the schedule of the Conference is maintained. The item under which I look forward to discussing this subject further is the item on the proposals of the Director-General on Trust Fund Support Costs Reimbursements.

I submit now, and as you wish we will discuss it in Commission III, the proposals of the Director-General are a total, logical and integrated response to the measures which are indicated here as the measures which are necessary. A more multi-disciplinary approach to project planning, design and implementation is what the Director-General's proposals address, they really address the substance of this issue and how we propose to deal with it. Improvement in procedures and processes for programming, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and backstopping and the last point about greater selectivity in identifying, formulating and implementing projects

in line with FAO's comparative advantage and with the existing technical operational capacity in the Organization. I will not go into the substance of the Director-General's proposals because you do not have them before you now, but let me point out that the issue of selectivity and efficiency is the gist of his proposal. The Director-General wishes the field programme of this Organization to grow in response to the effective demand of Member Nations but he is also committed to ensuring that this Field Programme is soundly organized, is equitably funded and is maintained in the best interest of Member Nations. His proposals make it clear that he does not consider it in the interest of the Organization as a whole to have a limitless level of a field programme which cannot be well managed or well implemented or which is not financially viable. These are all elements then where the Conference will pronounce itself and I emphasize the words "The Conference will need to pronounce itself" because as the Director-General has always maintained, this is a matter for all Member Nations and not for selected Member Nations, whether they are generous contributors to the Trust Fund Programme or Member Nations who are beneficiaries of such programmes.

With regard to the concerns over the quality of field project design and implementation, a number of members requested how our experience compared with that of other organizations. It is a very valid question and I think my reply may interest not only the members who asked the question but may interest the Conference generally. The problem is not unique to FAO, it is very widespread and it is widespread among the Governments who have bilateral assistance programmes and it is widespread among international organizations. In UNDP there was a synthesis of 810 project evaluations conducted between 1986 and 1992: 810 is a good sample, as is ours. On the subject of project design the UNDP synthesis indicated that there remains a serious weakness despite improvement in recent years.

Between 1986 and 1990 alone only 15 percent of projects were assessed as good - only 15 percent - and over 30 percent were assessed as poor. This compares with FAO, where we said 18 percent good and 15 percent poor. I am not seeking satisfaction. These are not results we should be proud of. For 1991 and 1992 the UNDP synthesis showed a substantial increase in good projects. It went from 15 percent to 45 percent - bravo! - but the level of poor projects was still 25 percent. This synthesis also showed the specific weaknesses are very similar to those identified in our own analysis. As regards project outputs UNDP found that for the period 1986-1992 only 13 percent of the projects evaluated were assessed as good and 21 percent poor.

In the case of UNIDO we have the results of their synthesis. However, only 18 projects (which is a very small sum) were evaluated in 1989. As regards project design they confirmed that it remains a serious weakness: 25 percent were assessed as adequate and 75 percent as inadequate. Project outputs resulting from the UNIDO synthesis showed 11 percent as good and 28 percent as poor.

Unesco did a synthesis of 24 projects in 1991. Again it showed the quality of project design was a serious weakness. About 50 percent of projects evaluated had serious defects in project design.

Lastly, there is the World Bank with an estimated US\$2.2 billion committed for technical assistance in 1991. The World Bank's annual review of evaluation results for 1990 found that 62 percent of what they call freestanding technical assistance projects which were reviewed were found to be

satisfactory. 62 percent is impressively high, but they themselves point out that this sample includes engineering and construction projects. It is evident, Mr Chairman, in projects of that nature such as construction and civil engineering, both the project design and the project implementation are susceptible to a very different set of criteria both in their conception, in their formulation and in their implementation. The World Bank for this reason does admit that the technical assistance projects aimed at institution building, which are much more similar to the types of projects that we are engaged in, were the most difficult.

Only 25 percent of 355 technical assistance projects in institution building, and I quote, "were assessed as having achieved their objectives". In another 25 percent they achieved negligible institutional results.

A final point on this aspect: the World Bank had an internal task force to review its technical assistance operations and it concluded in 1991 that technical assistance is (a) intrinsically difficult, it is laborious and staff-intensive relative to the money involved, and takes more time and effort to achieve the results than any other operational work; (b) it is difficult to design, and the achievements are not often easily measurable; (c) is directly affected by institutional, financial and other constraints existing in the beneficiary and the recipient countries and weaknesses related to difficulties in the Civil Services and local and administrative infrastructures.

Lastly, and this is most interesting as it is the conclusion of the World Bank task force, this technical assistance is critical to the success of national development efforts and to the Bank's lending programme. Even if the results are less than fully satisfactory, the Bank needs to have an expanded role in this area of technical assistance.

Mr Chairman, there is no satisfaction for anyone in what I have said except to say that we shall share the concern; the difficulties are real and are not imagined, the difficulties are encountered by all those who are engaged in this business of technical cooperation and assistance, and above all surely we can all agree that we must never cease or spare efforts to improve.

Mr Chairman, let me now turn to the specific question of the subject of ex-post evaluations. This was referred to by the distinguished representatives of the United Kingdom. I am glad he recognized that certainly we can and we will be interested in doing more ex-post evaluations on the understanding that they are funded and that the proper places for funding them are the projects themselves. So far, very few contributors to Trust Fund operations have been in the position to earmark such funds.

If I may express a tribute to the Netherlands, the Netherlands agreed to provide US\$50 thousand to carry out an ex-post evaluation on farmer participation in one of the countries in which they had assisted through a Trust Fund contribution. We hope that others who are interested in ex-post evaluation will do likewise and certainly we would be interested in carrying out such activities.

A specific question was raised about why the results of evaluation on small-scale fisheries were not provided to the Committee on Fisheries. The remark is well taken, leave aside the question of timing because I do not want to make too big a point of that. The Committee on Fisheries which met in March of this year had a very full agenda, Mr Chairman, and this agenda

included an item on the review of the Fisheries Field Programme, but I have to admit the results of this evaluation were not submitted to it. I will take the point that in the future we should make sure that the results of such evaluation, not only in fisheries but in other technical fields, would be useful to draw to the attention of the relevant technical committee of the Council.

A specific question was asked and a suggestion made, I believe by the distinguished delegate of Finland, that in our work on statistics on food and nutrition and on nutrition standards we should collaborate with other organizations. The point is well taken and I am happy to confirm that all UN agencies have free access to, and are using, the FAO database for their work on socio-economic indicators. Thus the UNDP's Human Development Report uses FAO data in 12 tables. The World Bank and WHO use FAO data on per caput food availability on self-sufficiency indicators, on food composition, and UN Statistical Office and UNCTAD use the FAO databases on trade in food commodities.

On our side equally we are very pleased to say that we use the data on wages and salaries from ILO, data on the gross domestic product and other macro-economic indicators from the UN Statistical office, data on malnourished children from UNICEF, data on illiteracy from Unesco, and we are all fortunate that there is an inter-secretariat body to facilitate such collaboration and coordination and that is the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

Mr Chairman, this brings me to the last point to which I would like to respond and that is the consideration of suggestions for improvement. My approach is really basically the same as my approach on the Programme Implementation Report. We have taken careful note of the wish for continued improvement. On that, I think, there can be no disagreement. You surely all wish, and expect, each Programme Evaluation Report to be better than the previous one.

Then there is the wish of some members who have specified what kind of improvement they would like to see. As I said in response to the debate on the PIR, we will consider every one of these suggestions. We will see the extent to which we can introduce them in the next report, how feasible it is, what the cost could be, and I am glad in this connection that you all bear in mind there is an effort involved and there is a cost involved, but the message is heard. It is the lines of the improvement which are important to us all and you have indicated the lines of further improvements and this brings me to my final comment on this subject.

Mr Chairman, please do not misunderstand me; I am not trying to give the impression that FAO is the best or FAO is better than anyone else but I say it very seriously that it would help us very much if there were similar evaluation reports in other organizations which contained the sort of desiderata which we would be pleased to take as a model. We are always glad to learn from others but I can tell you, unless I am mistaken, I have looked, and my colleagues have looked, of course, much more closely, at the evaluation reports of other Specialized Agencies and of the United Nations itself. It is for you to judge but I think that you can be proud that your Organization has given you among the best of such reports. What I also want to add is that the improvements which are indicated in your debate I do not find in any of the other reports. I wish I could find them, and I will look for them because in making improvements we would like to use the experience of others and even improve on it.

On the substantive points, may I make one plea?

In my introduction yesterday to the PIR, I reminded you that the last Conference had decided on the introduction of the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report on an experimental basis for this biennium. Having heard your debate, I take it, and I now await your summing up to confirm, that the Conference wishes these two Reports to continue in the future. This is a matter just not for us in the Secretariat, but it is a matter for a Conference decision, which you will wish to record as you think fit.

Once again, thank you very much for your debate and for the reception given to this Report, and for your patience in allowing me to respond.

CHAIRMAN: I would first of all like to thank all of you for the very high level of debate and the observations that have been made. Obviously, it is not for the Chair to comment on the comments, but as a general remark I would like to thank all the delegations for the high level of the observations that were made on the Programme Evaluation Report during the debate we had this morning.

This was the first edition of the Programme Evaluation Report in this format, and I think that we are all agreed that this is a part of a full programme, or set of documents. There was emphasis on the complementarity of the four documents which Dr Shah referred to yesterday as "the quartet" - that is, the Programme Implementation Report, the Programme Evaluation Report, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget.

The quality of the Programme Evaluation Report which we went through this morning was generally very much appreciated. I think that most of the delegations that intervened - and I must stress that there were 27 delegations intervening in this morning's debate - have acknowledged and recognized the frankness and the candour with which the Secretariat has stressed some of the problems and difficulties, not only of the evaluation exercise in itself, but also the candour and frankness with which problems of specific projects were raised, and the importance of this for feedback into planning and programming.

There were a number of suggestions for improvements of future Programme Evaluation Reports. Among those I would mention the questions of assessment of impact, sustainability of results, value for money, and the degree to which programmes met targets.

Members also wished that more attention be given to links with other agencies, and I think that in his comments Dr Shah has given us a lot of interesting information about how other agencies promote their evaluations. He also referred to the fact that to a certain extent other agencies do not have the same streamlining, or perhaps the same strict demands or requests concerning programme evaluation.

There was concern about the weaknesses which were reviewed in the report, and one point was very much stressed. This concerned the question of project design and the effectiveness of projects. I think that this question should be kept under review as we evolve to the idea of having other Programme Evaluation Reports, which was a point raised by Dr Shah at the end of his remarks.

I think we can see also that there was general support, not only for the Evaluation Report, but also for the programmes which were selected for reporting and the programme evaluation. Remarks were made in terms of the different areas of the programme, but I would like to stress that a significant number of members have emphasized the importance of FAO's systems in improving national statistical capacity as well as in raising national capacity on trade analysis and for work on the trade issues which will follow up the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Obviously, we must also be aware of the importance of avoiding duplication of work with other agencies. I am thinking especially, not only of GATT, but also of the International Trade Centre and UNCTAD in this matter.

The question of pests - pest control, migratory pests, and pesticide safety - also received mention in various interventions.

I would like to end these comments by suggesting that, although this was not clearly stated in all the interventions this morning, the exercise of this Programme Evaluation Report, combined with the Programme Implementation Report and analysis of what to do in the future, must continue and I would suggest that this would be considered by the Members of our Drafting Committee, in the sense that it is not Commission II. However, the Conference itself should make a decision on the continuation of these evaluation reports and exercises in the future.

It is also obvious that the evaluation exercise is directly linked to a very, very simple question that was indirectly raised by many delegations - "O.K., we have an evaluation, we have an implementation report and an evaluation report - so what do we do from evaluation?" After all, "evaluation" - we can have many concepts, many ideas about evaluation, but the important thing about the exercise is to take up the lesson to have an even finer tuning of what to do from here to the future, and I think the Conference is now in a position to work on a set of recommendations, taking in the excellent work done by the Secretariat under Dr Shah's direction for this Evaluation Report that we have just discussed.

In thanking you for your patience and attention, I would also like to say that since we have advanced consideration of Item 10 on our Agenda, it is now my intention - and I have consulted with the Chairman of this Commission - to go on to Item 11 of the Agenda, the Medium-Term Plan. Conduct of Item 11 will be the responsibility of our colleague from the Netherlands, Mr Janus, whom I shall call to this Chair.

I thank you very much for your attention and for your cooperation in the discussion of Item 10 and trust that we will keep in touch with the work of the Commission.

Mrs Janet F. BITEGEKO (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you for chairing this session. Since it is the first time for my delegation to take the floor in this Commission allow me through you to congratulate the Chairman of Commission II and the two Vice-chairmen on their election.

Mr Chairman, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his brief and concise introduction and the Secretariat for a thorough document.

Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the document and commends FAO for its in-depth review. We are satisfied with Part I of the document and the encouraging results made in crop protection statistics and small-scale

fisheries. Efforts made in IPPC, IPM and Migrating Pests are notable and should be strengthened. The strategy of promoting IPM through people participation at farm level are encouraging although it requires strengthening of pest management structures and a lot of technical assistance and training of various experts. My delegation also welcomes FAO's achievement in the safe use of pesticides.

Mr Chairman, my delegation thinks that it would be useful also to review programmes geared toward sustainable agriculture. The Tanzania delegation thinks it is important for FAO to direct its efforts especially in the integration of food security actions with environmental protection especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Chairman, Part II of the report is very interesting especially the review of field projects. My delegation feels that there is room for FAO and nations to correct the weaknesses that are documented. The success of projects depends greatly on good project designs and implementation. We feel involvement of project beneficiaries at all stages would guarantee project success and sustainability. We also recommend privatization and continuous objective evaluation.

Mr Chairman, the involvement of FAO in international trade is commendable and should be continued.

Finally Mr Chairman, my delegation wish the recommendations and actions contained in the document will influence and strengthen FAO's activities in the future. Thank you.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, Mr Chairman, I wish to begin my statement by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for providing us such a comprehensive and very useful document on Programme Evaluation Report 1992-93. Particularly, for mentioning the result of a project evaluation which has been implemented in our country, namely, project IRA/86/004.

Mr Chairman, in general we fully support and welcome the Programme Evaluation Report, and it must be continued in more appropriate manner. However, in our view, FAO as a technical organization should emphasize on the quality of technical works are implementing, in order to achieve the immediate and development objectives of projects implemented, and we are of strong opinion that this factor is an important one, in comparing with the other factors which have been considered in programme evaluation. In this context, the quality of consultancy and specialized experts who are employed for project formulation and implementation can play an important role. Thank you.¹

P.R. Janus, Vice-chairman of Commission II, took the Chair

P.R. Janus, Vice-Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia P.R. Janus, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request

- 11. Medium-Term Plan 1994-99
- 11. Plan à moyen terme 1994-99
- 11. Plan a Plazo Medio para 1994-99

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, I would like to reconvene and start Agenda Item 11.

However, before we start this Agenda Item I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for having elected me as one of your Vice Chairmen. I would also like to thank delegates who have extended their congratulations to me in this respect for having done so.

We have two documents for this Agenda Item: first of all, the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99, contained in document C 93/23. Secondly, there is another document relevant to this Item, which is an extract from the Report of the 103rd Session of the Council which took place in June 1993 contained in document C 93/LIM/10.

I would like to remind you that this is now the second time that an FAO Conference has discussed a Medium-Term Plan after it has been introduced. The first time was in the Conference of 1991, where we discussed the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97. To refresh your memories on what the Conference concluded on that Medium-Term Plan I will read out to you the general conclusion on the concept of a Medium-Term Plan and its usefulness as a tool for the Membership and the Secretariat.

In the Report of the 1991 Conference, in paragraph 157 it states: "The Conference welcomed the Medium-Term Plan as a major policy synthesis document responding to the terms of Resolution 10/89". This was the Resolution in the 1991 Conference which asked for the Medium-Term Plan to be introduced. It goes on: "The Conference recalled that the reintroduction of a formal long-term programming process which would enhance the participation of Member Nations in shaping the long-term orientations of the Organization was one of the key outcomes of the FAO Review. While a number of suggestions were made as to possible improvements in the format of the document, the Conference felt that the first version of the Medium-Term Plan was responsive to the expectation that it should facilitate a constructive dialogue among Member Nations. Its complementarity to the Programme of Work and Budget was highlighted. The Conference suggested that the FAO Regional Conferences should also have a greater involvement in the discussion of long-term priorities."

"The Conference agreed that the document provided a comprehensive and realistic basis for assessing the context of FAO's action over the medium term. It recalled that the primary purpose of the Medium-Term Plan was to serve as a tool for priority-setting during its period of coverage".

I suppose this gives the general sense of what the Conference in 1991 thought of this important tool. In the LIM document I referred to earlier I would like to draw your attention particularly to paragraph 139 which indicates in which fora the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 has already been the subject of discussion. I would like now to give the floor to Mr Shah to introduce Item 11 to you.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme/ Budget and Evaluation) : I would like to follow very closely on your own thought process because in drawing attention to the conclusions of the last

Conference on the previous Medium-Term Plan, you remind me to point out to this Session of the Conference the directives which were given to the Director-General in preparing this Medium-Term Plan. Again referring to the Conference Report of the 26th Session as you did, the Conference requested the Director-General to arrange for the submission of the next Medium-Term Plan covering the period 1994-99 to the 27th Session of the Conference, through the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council, taking into account the views of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees of the Council. "It agreed" the quotation goes on "It agreed that the next version should be more concise but still self-contained document concentrating on policy issues and reflecting major development" I will stop there.

Firstly then it is my privilege to present the Medium-Term Plan of the Director-General for the period 1994-99. He has scrupulously carried out the directives of the Conference in submitting this plan through the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council. He has also sought the views of the Regional Conferences which were held in 1992 and the views of the technical committees of the Council. At each of these meetings he presented a document on the Medium-Term perspectives and priorities to which the Regional Conferences and technical committees could react, the Regional Conferences from the perspective of their regions, the technical committees from the perspectives of their sectoral area and these views in these instances were then taken into account in the formulation of this plan. I hope the Conference will also be pleased that according to the directives this Medium-Term Plan document is quite a bit shorter than the last one. It is self-contained and we hope that it is readable and responsive to the requests of the Conference that were indicated two years ago.

My introduction will be extremely brief because as you pointed out it is the debate that you Member Nations have on the Medium-Term Plan that you foresee for your Organization that is important. The Director-General in submitting this plan has only one wish, that he has given you a good basis for such a dialogue. His Introduction to the Medium-Term Plan is reflective of this sentiment because it may be noticed that there is, if I may say, a very personal touch to his Introduction recognizing that this was the last Medium-Term Plan that he would be submitting to the Conference. He has chosen to share his own thoughts and his own perception and the introduction of the Director-General is very much the introduction of the Director-General. With all respect I submit it on his behalf for the attention of the Conference.

The remaining sections, chapters, I hope will be found stimulating: the context of FAO's actions, the cross-sectoral priorities, the programme priorities and the regional priorities. Let the text speak for itself. I will not try to comment at this stage. I would be much more interested in responding to whatever aspects you may wish me to respond to but there is one aspect that I would like to draw your attention to and that is the very last chapter on resources. Some of you who had the opportunity to examine the previous Medium-Term Plan may recall that in that previous version the Director-General did address the issue of resources but in a very calm way. He recognized that there were some Member Nations who wished that the Medium-Term Plan should be linked to an indication of future resource requirements but he equally recognized that there were some Member Nations who did not want that because they felt that even an indication of future requirements might be considered too binding. So in that first plan he had put forward resource indications in the form of desiderata and so as not to

force any debate on any actual amounts he had presented this information in two different ways, one was to say if you accept a certain nominal growth in the Programme of Work and Budget over the next six years what would be the resulting possible allocation of resources and the other way was to say if you want to envisage the future in terms of no programme increase, just a percentage distribution of resources at a no-growth level, what would be the possible or what could be the possible allocation of resources. Well, as the Conference found there was no agreement on any one course and that is why in this Medium-Term Plan the Director-General says quite clearly he does not wish to encourage divisiveness of this issue. He does not because he fully respects all points of view expressed. In his opinion it would seem relevant to be able to gauge the broad impact in financial terms of proposed courses of action. However, so as not to distract on the policy dialogue which this plan should stimulate he has not included any resource projections for the future. However, in looking at the future it is desirable also to look at the past and that is why in this very brief chapter of two pages, Chapter 5, the Director-General has considered it pertinent to look at the past three biennia in terms of the approved Programme of Work and Budget, what was approved by the Conference and what were the programme savings, programme cuts which in fact represented a programme decrease. These are matters of fact. Every figure given there is a factual figure. On this issue, as you will have noticed from the document C 93/LIM/10 which gives the views of the Council, the Conference of course, may wish to note that the Council in general agreed on the usefulness of purely indicative resort projections for future versions, so the matter again is really in the hands of the Conference. We will do as you desire for the future.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr Shah for your introduction. I would now like to start the debate on Agenda Item 11.

Adel Mahmoud ABOUL-NAGA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic) : At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election as Vice-chairman of this important Commission of the General Conference. I wish also to thank Mr Shah for his concise and valuable presentation of this document.

Mr Shah has referred to a number of important issues, namely that this document has been the result of a major consultation process amongst the Technical Committees and as a result of the recommendations of the Regional Conferences. In addition to that this document has been reviewed by the Programme Committee and then by the Council in its last Session. However, in this contents I would like to reiterate some points which have been discussed within the framework of the Programme Committee and also within the framework of the Council in its last Session.

Amongst these points I can refer to the support for the activities of the Organization in giving higher importance to the cooperation with NGOs and the many organizations outside of the UN. Secondly, we hope that the Organization's support given to the East European countries would not be to the detriment of the African region. As for the intersectoral activities I would like to confirm here the importance of technical and economic cooperation amongst developing countries in addition to the need to further the cooperation with these countries in the field of sustainable development.

As for the priorities, the programme of priorities, we do support what is contained in this document concerning fisheries and forestry in addition to the need to increase the budget allocated to agriculture. Furthermore, we would like to stress the need to attach great importance to the research work in the field of plant genetic resources. In addition we would like to support the activities of the Organization in the field of international Conventions and Treaties.

We would also like to stress the importance of the Organization's contribution to the strengthening of research and exchange of information. Finally, concerning the regional issues and priorities, I would like to focus once again on the need to give higher priority to Africa.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark) : Mr Chairman, on this item of the Agenda I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The Nordic countries very much welcome the fact that the Medium-term Plan of the Organization is presented in a separate and self-contained document (C 93/23). We agree with the Director-General that the discussions of this plan is an indispensable feature of the policy dialogue among the membership for the purpose of steering the course of the Organization. We do in fact consider the preparation and presentation of the plan to be one of the most important outcomes of the Review process.

As you will know, the Nordic countries have for a long time been advocating that medium-term planning is an essential element in the process of ensuring a better priority setting in the work programme of the Organization. In our opinion, it is through the discussion of the Medium-term Plan that member countries have the best possibility of guiding FAO's action over the coming years.

We much appreciate the efforts which have gone into the preparation of this important document. The Secretariat should be commended for this accomplishment and for the coordination with the document on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. The plan document provides a comprehensive picture of the tasks and challenges as well as the activities planned by the Organization. Its preparation has no doubt provided a good opportunity for renewed deliberations and clarifications of the plans for the future.

At the same time we realize that it is a demanding task and in spite of the good intentions it is not always so easy to get a clear picture of the relative priorities when going through the three levels of priorities, i.e. across sectors, within programmes and by regions. In particular, we find it regrettable that nothing at all could be said about the planned relative deployment of resources.

As stated by the Director-General in his introduction, the whole UN System is facing a period of scarce resources and there is a likelihood of reduced resources put at the disposal of FAO. In such a situation it becomes even more important that the Regular and the Field Programmes supplement each other, and that there is an optimal use of the scarce resources throughout the Organization.

In view of the limited capacity of the FAO, it is essential to concentrate the resources available in a limited number of areas, if substantial

results of efforts are to be obtained. The Organization should therefore be careful not to attempt to cover every possible subject, and always try to sharpen its priorities for practical action as much as possible. In this connection we lack more clear indications of lower priority areas, as there will have to be some in this category also.

In this respect we look forward to the continued efforts toward increased efficiency and elimination of marginal activities resulting from: Review of the Organization which took place some time ago. This is a point referred to by the Ministers of Agriculture and the Nordic countries in their statements in Plenary.

With regard to the future fate of the plan document, we find it most important that there will be a regular and continuous consideration in each biennium of the Medium-term Plan for the Organization. On the basis of a "rolling" plan. It is desirable that it be presented in a self-contained document, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary repetition. I might add here, as a case in point, there is a negotiation of the overall objectives of Member Nations which perhaps could be eliminated in the future. We shall look forward to hearing about the results of the ongoing review of the numerous existing Special Action Programmes and how these results will affect the activities of the FAO. A more precise discussion of relative priorities should form an important part of the deliberations of the Governing Bodies. In our opinion, this also applies to indications in relative financial terms of the implications of the proposed courses of action.

We fully share the opinion of the Director-General that this would normally form the essence of any plan. It is not satisfactory just to consider the total impact of the plan and then hope for sufficient resources to be made available.

Finally, we should like again to stress as a guiding principle that the activities of the FAO should continue to form an integral part of the collaborative efforts of member countries as well as the efforts of other international organizations and agencies involved in food and agriculture. This in our view is imperative in order to obtain optimal use of the resources available. At the end of the day, it is the results achieved that matter more than anything else. We will turn to these issues in more detail under Agenda Item 12, Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95.

MA GENG-OU (China) (Original language Chinese): I would like to thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take the floor on this item and, first of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat on the preparation of this document C 93/23 giving us details of the Medium-term Plan 1994-99. I would wish to thank Mr Shah for introducing it.

This looks at the prospects before us and the challenges that the world has to face in the whole area of agricultural development and it identifies cross-sectorial priorities within FAO for the next three biennia and we think this is extremely useful. There are now some major problems to be solved in a variety of regions and these are also clearly identified in this document. It is a concise document yet comprehensive because it brings out all the main issues before us and this gives us an excellent basis for our consideration.

We have noted that for some time now the international community and the governments of many countries have been making tireless efforts to combat hunger and poverty and to promote agricultural development throughout the world. Major successes have been achieved but nevertheless hunger and poverty are still with us and are a matter of grave concern. There are substantial constraints militating against the production of food and agriculture in many countries. In addition, population growth on the one hand, degradation of the environment on the other, make the problems more acute and it means we have to face an increasingly serious challenge in connection with agricultural development.

FAO has a comparative advantage in this field, of course, and FAO has identified in this connection the priority areas for its work and they include sustainable development, advice on policies, people's participation in development, the struggle against poverty and malnutrition and technical and economic cooperation in developing countries, in other words, TCDC and ECDC and we fully share the view that these are the priorities to be pursued. We are convinced that to do away with hunger and poverty and to ensure sustainable agricultural development we must strengthen the capacities of developing countries themselves. This is the only way. These countries must become self-sufficient and this is why we think that in formulating these programmes FAO should pay particular attention to the training of staff in developing countries as well as the technical assistance and advice on policy matters. The Organization would make efforts to contribute to the improvement of the environment so as to be conducive to improved developing countries as well as promoting technical and economic cooperation among developing countries and also between developing countries and developed countries. Thank you, Sir.

D.A. TROTMAN (United Kingdom) : The United Kingdom Delegation would like to endorse much of what is presented in the Medium-term Plan 1994-99.

We welcome in particular:

- the concern for the environment and sustainable rural development;
- the emphasis on policy analysis and formulation;
- the integration of social and institutional aspects into the programmes (including the role of women); and
- the recognition of the role of the private sector in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The UK, amongst other members, noted at COAG that there are uncomfortable trade-offs that must be recognized between poverty alleviation and the sustainable management of resources. Many of the rural poor in developing countries live in ecologically vulnerable areas. The recognition, in para. 16, that FAO has an increasing role in helping member countries to estimate the environmental cost of policies and to help formulate new policies that minimise these conflicts is welcomed.

The UK Delegation urges FAO to continue to play a full role in follow-up activities to UNCED in collaboration with other UN agencies and international bodies. We note in para. 103 that FAO will continue to seek and expand cooperation with NGOs. NGOs and farmers' organizations must participate more fully in the formulation and implementation of development programmes.

Turning now to Poverty Alleviation, Nutrition and Food Security in para. 149: The ICN Declaration was quite right not to seek to specify new global targets for Nutrition. It is for each country to establish its own goals and a plan of action to achieve them, based on its own circumstances. It is clear that many countries will require assistance in this process for which FAO has a major role to play. It has particular expertise in data collection so that beneficiaries of direct nutrition intervention programmes can be better targeted. It is also well placed to advise mass-media communication techniques in the promotion of better health and nutrition education.

Looking now to the Programme Priorities in Chapter 3: The Soil and Water Conservation programme is of increasing importance. Emphasis needs to be placed on matters of land rights, ownership and tenure which are the major issues bearing on the introduction of improved land management practices. As the rural population increases conflicts arise over the use of scarce resources. FAO must, through policy guidance, assist Member Nations to adapt existing land use systems to meet changing needs.

In many newly industrialized countries, water scarcity is already recognized as a major constraint to development, and water-related conflict of interests is also a certain issue in the medium term. Para. 187 should emphasize the need for strategic thinking on water resource allocation at national level and also the need for appropriate institutional strengthening, including moves to cost recovery. Water use efficiency is mentioned and improved management in this context should concentrate on programme and extension work rather than on the traditional project bias. The primary activities should include action to improve and increase the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water resources.

Turning now to the Fisheries Programme: the proposed activities in support of fisheries development and management closely follow the priorities agreed at COFI in 1993, with increased attention to five areas of FAO work. We support the clear objectives established in the programme, and we would encourage FAO to implement a programme to monitor performance against achievements of these objectives and the impact of such achievements. Progress toward the objectives should be specifically reported to COFI each biennium.

With reference to paragraph 235, in terms of overall priority, we would emphasize the particularly important role of FAO in the collection, processing and dissemination of fisheries information, data and statistics. This is a role for which FAO is uniquely positioned, and the quality of its performance will greatly influence the ability of developing countries to improve fisheries management.

The UK Delegation studied with particular interest the sections in Chapters 2 and 3 on cross-sectoral and programme priorities. These set out clearly the priorities for any series of programmes which aim to increase food security and the levels of nutrition globally. However, given the inevitable constraints of funding it will be necessary to ensure that FAO concentrates on what it does best within these priority areas. Any other approach would be to make less than optimal impact. In considering any activity or series of activities FAO needs to ask itself whether money could be better spent elsewhere within the Organization.

We therefore commend the FAO on the production of the Medium-term Plan. It will provide a useful background in the debates of the Technical Committees in early 1995 in formulating the work programmes of the next biennium.

Ruall C. HARRIS (Barbados) : May I begin by congratulating you and your colleagues on your appointment to your respective posts in this Commission.

With regard to the Medium-term Plan 1994-99, those of us who are in the Programme Committee and other Committees of the Organization have discussed over the past year the contents of this Programme, and I wish to congratulate the Secretariat on the production of this particular document. I do not want to repeat the statements which have been made in the various Committees, but I wish to emphasize the programme for the island states which is referred to in paragraphs 112 and 113 on page 26.

It seems to me that FAO must go further, and establish a programme that is more comprehensive in scope for all island states across the globe. You will recall that FAO sponsored the first Conference on Island States in Barbados last year. Next year we in Barbados will also host the Global Conference on Sustainable Development for the Island States. I know that some time during this week there will be an informal gathering of the island states to discuss the second FAO Conference, which will take place in the latter part of 1994. I believe that the outcome of these consultations on island states will inform and influence the FAO programme, from which FAO could develop a more comprehensive programme for the island states.

The other point I would like to make is in respect of regional cooperation. In paragraph 441 mention is made of the cooperation which is expected to take place between ECLAC and FAO. I would like to emphasize that there are other regional and subregional organizations whose scope and purpose is agriculture, forestry and fisheries. I believe that in this respect FAO must have a greater cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in an effort to ensure effective cooperation and rationalization of their efforts in the subregions with respect to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

As you are aware, the inter-American Ministers of Agriculture met in Mexico earlier this year, and indeed mandated the newly appointed Director-General of IICA, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, to discuss with the new Director-General of FAO a cooperation programme by which the two organizations could develop programmes for the Latin American and Caribbean region, I think this is the right direction in which to go.

Finally, with respect to resources: I know that the Medium-term Plan does not envisage any - or does not mention really - the kind of resources which would be needed for the Medium-term Plan. It is my belief that governments should in fact be aware that the Medium-term Plan is going to cost something, and I believe that it is necessary for us to indicate early that there is going to be a cost of the Medium-term Plan.

I have been involved in discussing the strategy for a subregional organization in the Caribbean for up to the year 2000. We felt there that it was necessary for governments to be aware that this strategy - the programme that would be adopted by that particular organization - is going to cost, and I believe that it was necessary for FAO and governments to

know that the Medium-term Plan will cost something, if only in an indicative way.

Nedilson R. JORGE (Brazil): Brazil has already expressed its points of view on this item during the last session of the Council. I shall therefore be very brief, as I do not want to be repetitive.

In Chapter One I would like to stress the importance of the subject dealt with in paragraphs 54 to 58 on page 11. FAO should continue to strengthen and make use of each country's own capacities toward national execution and management of projects.

With respect to Chapter Two, Brazil supports the five major cross-sectoral priorities and the proposed actions. We would however like to have more in-depth coverage of forestry issues.

Again, in Chapter Three, we would like to have seen a more clearly established priority toward forestry, in terms of both plant activities and resources allocation.

I would also like to stress our full support of activities related to technology transfer to, and between, developing countries.

With regard to Chapter Five, Brazil believes that future versions of this document should contain a projection of resources priorities, either in terms of percentage of total budget or of planned net increases and decreases.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): He pedido la palabra para hacer una pregunta. Creo que el debate ha avanzado rápidamente. Si seguimos así podrían terminar los trabajos de la Comisión tal vez este fin de semana. Realmente, algunos delegados hemos tenido que ausentarnos de la Sala porque están nuestros Ministros haciendo sus respectivas intervenciones en el debate general.

Quería preguntarle si usted podría darme la oportunidad para intervenir mañana en este tema, y no dejar cerrado el debate por el día de hoy. Creo que hay tiempo suficiente y habrá también muchos delegados que se encuentren tal vez en la situación que yo tengo.

CHAIRMAN: In reply to the question by the delegate of Cuba, I am certainly not closing the debate, nor even closing the speakers' list, but I had understood that he might wish to take the floor at this moment. We will add your name to the speakers' list for tomorrow.

Are there any other delegations who would like to put their names on the speakers' list for tomorrow, although the speakers' list will remain open so you can indicate whether you would like to intervene on this debate tomorrow morning?

The list of speakers we have so far is: Cuba, Kenya, Haiti, Philippines, India, Switzerland, Germany, France, Cape Verde, Libya, Korea, United States, Canada, Argentina, El Salvador, Poland, Japan, Iran, Netherlands and Romania.

In connection with the Papal Audience which will take place tomorrow, there is a slight change in the schedule. We shall start at 9 a.m. and continue until 10.30 a.m. We will resume in the afternoon at 2.30 p.m., as usual, and we will have a 4 p.m. break.

If no delegation wishes to take the floor I will adjourn the meeting.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

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C 93/II/PV/5

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION

(11 November 1993)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.25 hours

Mr P.R. Janus, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 25

sous la présidence de M. P.R. Janus, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la Quinta sesión a las 9.25 horas,

baio la presidencia del Sr. P.R. Janus, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

11. Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 (continued)

11. Plan à moyen terme 1994-99 (suite)

11. Plan a Plazo Medio para 1994-99 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I declare the 5th Meeting of Commission II open. We will continue this morning with the deliberation of the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99.

ABD.BAKIR ZIN (Malaysia): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this morning's session. During the period before the Conference Malaysia launched four important documents, the first Vision 2020, the second the Outline Perspective Plan, National Development Plan and National Agricultural Policies 1992 to 2010.

The Vision 2020 is a vision to direct Malaysia to be a developed country. The National Agricultural Policy will address the shortcomings of the previous policies and take into account Vision 2020 and the second Outline Perspective Plan. Our goal is to transform the Agriculture Sector into one that is a highly modernized, commercialized and sustainable, whose growth and development will be market driven with human resources led. The over-riding objective of the policy is the maximization of income through optimal utilization of resources. Its specific objectives will include the achievement of a balanced development between the agricultural and other sectors of the economy; enhancement of the integration of the sector with the rest of the economy, in particular the manufacturing sector; the achievement of a higher level and greater depth of food industry development and the attainment of sustainable development in agriculture. We hope this policy is in congruence with the FAO World Projection Towards 2010 and this collaboration can be expected between Malaysia and FAO.

Mr Chairman, for the FAO Medium-Term Plan 1994-99, the Malaysian delegation felt that the first scrutiny of any Medium-Term Plan is consistency between mission, priorities, programmes and activities proposed and the resources it has in order to deliver these services and assistance required by Member Nations.

Assuming the FAO mission is a right one and is in congruence with its long-term vision, it would be necessary to look at the broad priorities of programmes and activities; whether it has the capacities in terms of resources, both financial and human, to fulfil such priorities so that the most effective of the Plan can be capitalized on and the least effective could be eliminated.

To ensure FAO's well-documented Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 can be realized and implemented effectively, the Malaysian delegation suggest that the Plan should offer clear vision and strategies of agriculture and food towards the 21st century in order that its Medium-Term and Long-Term Plans can be re-aligned. Perhaps by having such a vision Member Nations would have a clearer understanding of what a multilateral organization can do and cannot do in order to achieve its mission.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): La délégation haïtienne appuie les différentes priorités incluses dans la proposition. Elle estime aussi que le plan proposé cadre bien avec les politiques nationales et arrive à temps pour les soutenir. Haïti voudrait en particulier soutenir les propositions concernant la biodiversité. En effet, on constate que, pour certains pays -c'est le cas pour Haïti - avec la dégradation des sols et la pression démographique, les écotypes locaux sont détruits ou se détruisent, ce qui entraîne, et ne peut qu'entraîner, l'importation d'autres ingrédients. Le programme vient à temps pour permettre aux pays de conserver leur patrimoine phytogénétique, cette conservation étant une richesse pour les générations futures, mais également un besoin pour les économies des pays concernés.

En deuxième priorité, Haïti appuie également les propositions et la convention sur la protection des végétaux. Certains pays n'ont pas les moyens de produire des pesticides ni les moyens pour la formation du personnel pour l'application de ces pesticides destinés à préserver l'environnement. Ce programme renforcera sûrement les institutions des pays membres de l'Organisation dans leur recherche d'un meilleur contrôle de ces utilisations.

En troisième lieu, dans le rapport, la délégation haïtienne a aussi retenu les propositions et commentaires concernant l'agriculture durable qui n'est d'ailleurs pas une idée nouvelle. Cependant, chez nous, les petits paysans protègent déjà leurs terres mais n'ont pas assez d'appuis institutionnels ni de ressources financières pour le faire. Nous accordons donc une attention toute particulière à cet égard.

Ces trois priorités que nous venons d'évoquer nécessiteront des fonds pour le Plan à moyen terme et nous comptons sur le soutien des donateurs pour que cette tâche noble puisse s'accomplir, tel que cela est prévu dans le Plan, tâche qui ne peut conduire qu'à l'augmentation de la productivité agricole pour les petits pays et, de façon corollaire, à une amélioration des conditions de vie.

Ms Jindra Linda DEMETERIO (Philippines): Mr Chairman, we have had the opportunity to express our views on the Medium-Term Plan in the debate within the Finance Committee and so my delegation's intervention on this particular item will attempt to underscore only a few points.

The Philippines delegation welcomes this Medium-Term Plan. We believe it provides an indispensable and useful basis for a periodic review of priorities among Member Nations in charting the future course of the Organization. However, like other delegations who have spoken before us, we would like to call attention to the desirability of including indicative resource requirements in future iteration of the Plan. Among other things such resource projections would serve to sharpen the relative priority and level of efforts that Member Nations would like to accord to the various elements of the Plan.

It would also be useful to have an indication of targets for specific outputs and timeframes expected for each of the major areas of action in order to have clear benchmarks against which performance can be measured.

On the substantive contents of the Plan, Mr Chairman, our delegation supports in particular the priority accorded to environmental issues and sustainable agricultural development as well as people's participation and

the role of women in development. We are also encouraged by the emphasis given to the provision of technical assistance for policy advice and analysis to developing countries. This is a timely and welcome emphasis as developing countries attempt to develop appropriate responses to the impact of structural reforms on the agricultural sectors and rural economies.

Finally, we would like to commend the Secretariat for the work they have put in in evolving this important document, and we would like to encourage the continuation of this planning process.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Muchas gracias señor Presidente y buenos días. Una vez más queremos saludar al señor Vikram Shah por la presentación de este tema y quería agregar que durante diez largos años que llevamos trabajando aquí siempre ha sido reiterativa esta felicitación.

Señor Presidente, el programa que se nos presenta para el plazo medio lo consideramos muy pertinente; está muy equilibrado en cuanto a las prioridades que se concede a los diferentes programas; pero quisiéramos que se siguiera haciendo hincapié en todo lo que se refiere al problema de la agricultura sostenible. Creo que muchos de los Estados Miembros continúan padeciendo el mal de una agricultura altamente tecnificada en décadas pasadas, con un alto uso de agroquímicos para poder alcanzar determinados niveles de productividad, pero que todo conllevaba a un deterioro del medioambiente, pero al mismo tiempo un deterioro de las prácticas de producción tradicionales de nuestros campesinos.

En mi país en este momento estamos retomando el camino de la agricultura sostenible como una alternativa viable y económica para hacer más eficiente la producción agrícola, pecuaria, forestal e incluso pesquera. Por esto desearía que en los análisis para el próximo período se siga concediendo a ésta la prioridad que se le concede al tema de la agricultura sostenible y su vinculación con la protección del medioambiente.

Señor Presidente, como todo plan programático de mediano plazo que no puede alcanzar precisiones detalladas, este documento es un valioso elemento para el diálogo y para las discusiones y las deliberaciones de la Conferencia. Sin embargo, tal vez pudiera complementarse un poco más con algunas metas que pudieran ser especificadas para los diferentes programas; metas a alcanzar en el mediano plazo, y que servirían como línea de orientación para los programas bianuales que cada año venimos discutiendo.

Shri H. PRADEEP RAO (India): My delegation welcomes the Medium-Term Plan for 1994-99 as a document that provides a prospective on the future direction of FAO as laying down the priorities it has identified over the medium term. We have earlier detailed our views on this document in the June 1993 Session of the Council and I shall therefore be very brief.

I would like to say that our Government supports the programme priorities outlined in Chapter III of the Medium-Term Plan document, the regional priorities indicated in Chapter IV as well as the cross-sectoral priorities in Chapter II.

We would like to point out that the Medium-Term Plan would have been even more useful if the resources for implementing line programmes and priorities mentioned in the Plan could have been discussed at least in an indicative manner. We feel that this could have been more useful and meaningful.

We would again like to stress the importance of national capacity building. Paragraphs 157 to 171 dealing with TCDC are of particular importance and we feel that the approach of the FAO on TCDC responds to the aspirations and wishes of the developing countries. FAO's activities in this area will help in creating, in developing countries, what can be described as "TCDC consciousness". This would also help the developing world in meeting the challenges that confront it.

We would again like to reiterate the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Its value to the developing countries cannot be over-emphasized but it is also still scarce and it is therefore necessary to develop innovative and cost-effective ways to integrate external technical inputs into the national planning environment.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Ma délégation a eu la possibilité de s'exprimer sur le Plan à moyen terme au Comité financier en mai dernier. Comme nous ne sommes cependant pas membres du Conseil, vous me permettez de faire quand même quelques commentaires au sujet de ce document.

D'abord, j'aimerais remercier M. Shah de son excellente introduction de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Comme il l'a rappelé, le Plan à moyen terme de la FAO a été réintroduit grâce aux recommandations de l'examen de la FAO, adopté par la 25ème Conférence, en 1989. Il s'agit d'un plan glissant sur six ans pour les activités de notre Organisation. Ce plan doit nous permettre de placer les activités de la FAO dans le contexte d'une stratégie claire et réaliste, dans le contexte d'une stratégie qui répond aux principaux défis qui concernent notre Organisation. Ce sont aussi les principaux défis posés à l'humanité: l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté dans le monde, ainsi que la réalisation de l'objectif d'un développement durable, d'une agriculture durable, de foresteries et de pêches durables.

Face à ces défis, il est utile et nécessaire de se poser de temps à autre, et notamment lorsqu'il y a un changement à la tête d'une organisation comme la FAO, des questions sur ce que nous attendons et pouvons attendre de cette Organisation.

Permettez-moi de poser quelques-unes de ces questions avant d'en venir au document C 93/23: quelle peut et doit être la contribution de la FAO à la solution des défis mentionnés plus haut et quelle peut et doit être la contribution des autres organisations du système international ? Quand et pourquoi est-ce la FAO et quand et pourquoi est-ce une autre organisation qui doit s'occuper de telle ou telle question ? Qu'est-ce que la FAO ne peut pas faire ? Qu'est-ce que seuls les pays peuvent et doivent faire ? Comment la FAO peut-elle aider les pays concernés à faire ce qu'eux seuls peuvent faire ?

Les réponses aux questions que je viens de poser sont importantes, car elles nous permettent de mieux nous rendre compte, premièrement, de ce que sont les différents outils dont nous, la communauté internationale, disposons pour nous attaquer aux défis posés et, deuxièmement, des

avantages comparatifs respectifs des différentes organisations internationales, dont la FAO, dans les domaines qui nous intéressent ici. C'est ce genre d'information qui nous est nécessaire pour pouvoir faire un choix informé, rationnel concernant les priorités pour notre Organisation.

Nous partageons l'avis de la délégation danoise, qui s'est exprimée hier: le Plan à moyen terme doit surtout permettre aux pays membres un dialogue constructif pour la définition des priorités de notre Organisation. J'aimerais souligner que choisir des priorités est un exercice clairement positif, car cela nous permet de faire le maximum avec les ressources dont nous disposons, lesquelles seront toujours trop limitées face à l'énormité des besoins.

Avant de commenter les différentes parties du document, je voudrais souligner que ma délégation considère l'exercice du Plan à moyen terme comme très utile, que nous considérons le document dont nous sommes saisis comme un bon document, dont nous remercions les auteurs, et que nos commentaires ne sont pas à considérer comme critiques mais comme expression du désir de contribuer à des améliorations futures du document et de son utilisation.

J'en viens au chapitre I qui traite du contexte de l'action de la FAO. Ce chapitre ne nous satisfait pas encore. Nous aimerions y trouver dans le futur une brève description des domaines d'action et des ressources disponibles de l'ensemble des organisations internationales s'occupant des questions qui concernent le mandat de la FAO. Une telle information supplémentaire nous permettrait de mieux situer la place actuelle de la FAO et de ses activités.

Pour aborder la question des priorités de notre organisation, il est nécessaire de bien connaître le cadre dans lequel s'insère l'action de la FAO. Nous demandons non pas une information détaillée, mais une vue d'ensemble et des ordres de grandeur.

Chapitre II: priorités intersectorielles. Ma délégation se félicite de ce chapitre. Il est important de développer une approche holistique des nombreux problèmes qui nous sont posés. La CNUED et la CIN ont amélioré, notre compréhension des liens entre les différents problèmes. C'est l'approche indiquée pour améliorer la cohérence des politiques, pour définir les domaines prioritaires d'action.

Chapitre III: priorités du programme. C'est ce chapitre qui doit assurer le lien avec le Programme de travail et budget du biennium, qui doit nous faciliter le choix des priorités. Il ne nous satisfait pas encore. Il ne facilite pas vraiment la sélection des priorités. Les priorités du Programme proposées sont à notre avis trop vastes. Les priorités ne tiennent pas suffisamment compte des actions des autres organisations internationales engagées dans les domaines du mandat de la FAO ni des possibilités d'améliorer la coopération et la division du travail. Quand une autre organisation mène des activités dans un domaine d'action de la FAO, nous avons toute raison de nous réjouir car cela ouvre la possibilité de soulager notre organisation d'une charge, de libérer des ressources pour des activités plus prioritaires et plus centrales pour son mandat et d'améliorer du même coup l'efficacité du système international. La discussion sur les priorités du Programme dans le chapitre III serait facilitée par les informations que je viens de demander pour les versions futures du chapitre I. N'oublions pas que le but du document sur le plan à moyen terme est de nous faciliter le choix des priorités. A ce sujet, il

est clair que le processus des priorités ne peut pas être mené par les pays membres seuls. Ce serait sous-estimer le rôle du Secrétariat. C'est lui qui doit nous proposer des concentrations sur des priorités, qui doit animer notre débat à ce sujet, à l'aide notamment du plan à moyen terme.

Permettez-moi dans ce contexte une référence à la déclaration très intéressante du Ministre de l'agriculture du Bangladesh que nous avons pu suivre en plénière hier matin. Le Bangladesh est un pays avec des problèmes énormes, qui nous apprend beaucoup sur les problèmes du développement. Le Ministre de l'agriculture de ce pays a informé notre Conférence des récents progrès réalisés dans son pays vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire. C'est une excellente nouvelle. Il a attribué ces progrès aux réformes des politiques, notamment agricoles, de son pays. Retenons bien cela. C'est donc davantage grâce à l'amélioration des politiques que ces progrès ont pu se réaliser qu'aux nombreux projets techniques. Beaucoup de pays en développement se trouvent dans une situation similaire à celle du Bangladesh. J'en tire la conclusion que les analyses et avis en matière de politiques doivent être une grande priorité pour la FAO, qu'elles doivent avoir une plus haute priorité que les projets techniques, à l'exception des situations d'urgence.

Chapitre IV: questions et priorités régionales. Permettez-moi de soutenir les propositions d'activités en faveur des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale. La FAO a beaucoup à offrir à ces pays. Il est cependant important que son action s'insère bien dans les nombreuses actions menées à ce sujet au niveau multi et bilatéral.

Chapitre V: ressources. Ma délégation soutient l'approche choisie pour ce chapitre, c'est-à-dire de limiter l'information aux ressources disponibles du passé. Comme dans notre commentaire concernant le chapitre I, nous proposons de donner également dans ce chapitre des informations sur les ressources disponibles chez les principaux partenaires internationaux de la FAO.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): The document before us, in the view of my delegation, is an excellent continuation of the plan presented for the period 1992-97. My delegation would like to thank and congratulate the Secretariat for the highly professional manner in which it has carried out this task.

The Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 has already been discussed in regard to food and agriculture in meetings of the Committee on Agriculture in April, where thorough analysis of the document took place. This comprehensive Medium-Term Plan, which is represented in C 93/23, was also thoroughly discussed at the 103rd Council Session in June of this year. My delegation would therefore like to refer to the statements made at those meetings.

The Medium-Term Plan necessarily includes numerous cross-references to the comprehensive Conference documents: C 93/24, Agriculture: Towards 2010, which is now under discussion in Commission I. Against this background, it seems to us of extreme importance that the working groups and committees of FAO should ensure that the programme priorities outlined in Chapter 3 for the major Programmes for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are in line with the problems listed in the study Agriculture: Towards 2010, as well as with the measures to be derived therefrom or will be adopted in one or other direction.

My delegation is particularly impressed by the very clear and extremely far-sighted declarations which Director-General Saouma included in his introduction to the Medium-Term Plan. There he speaks of the requirements for sustainable agriculture which protect the environment and resources and for appropriate nutrition to overcome poverty and hunger. These requirements are put before the Secretariat and Member Nations. He outlines these requirements in a very clear and expressive fashion.

In this context, I would like to quote Chapter 2 of the Medium-Term Plan, which discusses the priorities of particular interest today: environment, sustainable development in reference to the Rio Conference, nutrition, and food security in relation to the International Conference on Nutrition. Add to this policy advice in the areas of food, agriculture and rural development, the participation of the population, including women, in the development process, and finally economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

The highlights of Chapter 2 are a precise representation of the commitment of FAO in the individual areas, the actions foreseen in the medium term in the framework of existing or new programmes, and the coordination of corresponding measures within and outside FAO.

These are the foundations for efficient, economic and problem-orientated tackling of topical themes. My delegation would like to stress once again that we agree fully that the years until 2000 are of critical importance for mankind. Besides general global economic and political conditions, a number of factors will determine the development of countries, especially those of the Third World. They will influence the orientation this development will take. I am referring to sufficient production of agriculture, fisheries and forestry for all regions and groups of population; secondly, a sustainable development of agriculture, protecting environment and resources, as well as of rural areas; and thirdly the development of population growth.

I should like to make a few comments with regard to the regional programme for Europe. First, I welcome the fact that more staff were included in the Regional Office. The numerous tasks that stem from a restructuring of agriculture and food economy in Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the successor states of the Soviet Union warrant an increase of staff.

Furthermore, considerable change has taken place due to the reunification of Germany. In these Eastern Federal States (Laender) of Germany, the structural changes in agriculture since 1990 appear to be unique in the world. This process is being followed by many countries with great interest. There are numerous parallels in the restructuring of agriculture and the food sector that can be found between the previously centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe and the new federal states, the Laender.

An exchange of experiences has taken place in many FAO bodies. It was started by the Regional Conference for Europe in Prague in 1992, and continued at the meeting of the European Commission on Agriculture in Malta in September. Contributions were made to this end, as well as with the financial support of FAO, at the Ministerial Meeting for Eastern European countries, held by Hungary in August this year.

Despite the comprehensive measures to improve the agricultural structure supported by substantial funds and accompanied by social measures, this process has yet not been terminated in the new federal states.

One of the important points of the Federal Government is that bilateral projects of individual countries and measures taken by international organizations, especially the EC, FAO and the ECE, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the World Bank, be coordinated in order to use the scarce resources in the most efficient manner. Progress has already been achieved, which we encourage and support.

This approach is also in the interests of countries of the Third World, as they are entitled to see that the measures and resources designed to develop their countries are not limited in the future.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Nous avons beaucoup apprécié le document C 93/23 qui, comme le rappelle le Directeur général dans son introduction, n'a pas pour objectif de présenter un cadre budgétaire précis mais d'élargir l'horizon des réflexions. C'est un très bon document qui resserre l'ordre des priorités en fonction des nouvelles orientations définies au plan multilatéral sur plusieurs thèmes qui nous importent: le développement durable, la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire, les nouvelles approches du développement rural intégré et la participation des communautés de base. C'est également un document qui traduit assez fidèlement les conclusions des dernières conférences régionales de 1992.

Trois séries de remarques vont être faites par la délégation française: s'agissant du développement durable, nous notons avec satisfaction qu'il s'agit d'une préoccupation de l'Organisation dans l'ensemble des grands programmes.

Cependant, et j'attire votre attention sur ce point, le concept de durabilité ne doit pas constituer simplement une sorte de rajout verbal aux politiques sectorielles. Il s'agit en fait de renouveler la vision et d'avoir une vision globale et nouvelle des politiques agricoles et alimentaires au sens large, ce qui implique assurément un travail intersectoriel et multidisciplinaire.

C'est pourquoi nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat informe la Conférence des dispositions institutionnelles et opérationnelles qui ont été prises en son sein pour s'assurer que la conception des programmes s'intègre bien dans une perspective globale de ce type.

On pourrait suggérer à cet égard un réseau de concertation plus étroit entre les Départements ou un Comité consultatif d'orientation pluridisciplinaire interne.

S'agissant de la Sécurité alimentaire, deuxième objet de nos remarques, la délégation française estime qu'il s'agit de la priorité essentielle de l'Organisation. Elle a déjà, lors de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour, indiqué combien il était important que la FAO renforce encore son appui aux pays pour la préparation des programmes d'action prévus par la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, notamment par la formation de cadres nationaux. Il ne faut pas que les conclusions de la dernière Conférence internationale sur la nutrition restent simplement au niveau médiatique de la prise de conscience, mais conduisent à des actions concrètes.

Il est en effet fondamental que les programmes de sécurité alimentaire partent d'une analyse de la situation concrète sur le terrain, ce qui implique une capacité nationale effective qu'il faudra peut-être créer tant pour leur conception que pour leur exécution.

Par ailleurs, les bureaux de la FAO dans les pays membres devraient constituer les points focaux naturels des organisations des Nations Unies intervenant dans ce domaine.

Le Secrétariat pourrait-il informer la Conférence des dispositions prises à cet égard et des directives données aux responsables de ces bureaux?

Enfin, je souhaiterais évoquer, comme la Délégation française l'a déjà fait lors du 103ème Conseil, et comme viennent de le faire nos amis allemands, l'équilibre à trouver entre l'action de la FAO et celle des autres bailleurs de fonds, dans les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et les nouveaux Etats indépendants, d'Asie centrale notamment.

Ces pays bénéficient, bien entendu, des concours techniques et financiers des grandes organisations que sont la BIRD, la BERD et la Communauté européenne.

C'est par ces canaux que transite l'essentiel de l'aide internationale et européenne vers ces pays.

Mais la FAO a naturellement vocation à intervenir dans les pays en transition conformément au principe d'universalité des Nations Unies. En outre, plusieurs de ces pays font dès à présent partie des pays en développement au regard des critères appliqués par le Comité d'aide au développement de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques.

La Communauté internationale est d'ailleurs consciente des apports des pays en transition au système agricole international et à la réflexion sur les questions agricoles et alimentaires, et de leurs possibilités de coopération avec les pays du sud, bien sûr en raison de la part qu'ils prennent dans la production de biens alimentaires.

Par ailleurs, la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale ne peut qu'être confortée par la revitalisation du secteur productif agricole de ces pays. C'est donc qu'il n'y a pas d'opposition entre l'aide au développement par les organisations internationales et les efforts qui doivent être faits vers les pays de l'Est.

Ces deux secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation sont précisément le fondement du mandat de la FAO.

Il est cependant indispensable que la FAO se place sur les créneaux techniques essentiels, ce sont les créneaux où elle a un avantage comparatif indéniable en coordination étroite avec les autres intervenants déjà cités et les pays concernés eux-mêmes. Il s'agit, en effet, d'utiliser au mieux, dans la transparence, les ressources limitées actuelles et de préserver une répartition équilibrée et appropriée des actions.

Certaines des recommandations que j'avais reprises lors du 103ème Conseil sont déjà prises en compte par les organismes cités: le système de la Banque mondiale, le système de la Banque européenne de développement; mais d'autres actions doivent être complétées ou renforcées.

A cet égard, les recommandations pourraient être hiérarchisées comme suit:

Tout d'abord dans le domaine de l'élaboration de programmes et de la mise en place d'institutions orientées vers l'économie de marché, la FAO pourrait intervenir à l'amont: en participant à l'amélioration des systèmes statistiques et du cadastre et de leur fiabilité, en précisant les données pertinentes à recueillir.

En outre, la FAO est susceptible d'apporter une compétence peu partagée dans le domaine du droit international et de la législation concernant ces pays.

Dans le domaine de la classification des produits, du contrôle de la qualité, de la réglementation phytosanitaire et des techniques de production qui tiennent compte de l'environnement, l'Organisation peut compléter très avantageusement les actions entreprises par la CEE en contribuant à la définition de programmes de formation.

En outre, tous les partenaires concernés ne trouveraient que des avantages à valoriser les capacités de la FAO en matière de formation à la recherche et d'appui à la gestion de la recherche, facteur essentiel des progrès de ces pays.

Troisièmement, le secteur des pêches, peu couvert par les autres opérateurs - n'oublions pas qu'il y a aussi la pêche intérieure - devrait faire partie des priorités de la FAO dans ces pays, au même titre que les forêts.

Quatrièmement, enfin, le Centre d'investissement de la FAO, particulièrement performant dans le secteur agricole, pourrait intervenir comme sous-traitant des organismes précités.

La FAO pourrait, à cet égard, concentrer son attention sur des projets illustrant ses recommandations en matière de politique nationale, par exemple des projets de restructuration de certaines filières de production.

En dernier lieu, j'indiquerai deux mesures supplémentaires qu'il conviendrait de prendre pour atteindre les objectifs en question, à savoir:

D'une part, étudier les modalités pratiques de l'implantation de la FAO dans ces pays, en envisageant par exemple l'affectation d'un expert agricole dans certaines représentations du PNUD. Ceci faciliterait l'expression des besoins par les Etats, des propositions d'action de la FAO compatibles avec ses ressources et la concertation avec les autres organismes.

D'autre part, mettre au point, au niveau des directeurs des organismes cités et de la FAO, une répartition des tâches mieux ciblée qui évite le double emploi, valorise les avantages comparatifs et permette une étroite association dès le stade de l'identification des actions.

Je soulèverai également la question, sans proposer de solution, de l'examen de différentes représentations et des différents bureaux régionaux concernant l'Europe de l'Est.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, since I take the floor for the first time within the framework of the deliberations of this Commission, on behalf of my delegation I should like to congratulate you most warmly on your election as Chairman of this important Commission.

I should also like to thank the Director-General of the Organization and his collaborators in the Secretariat for their sound preparation for this Medium-Term Plan now under discussion.

I would like to congratulate them all on the expertise they have gained in preparing these Plans, taking account of the lessons drawn from the implementation of similar plans which have been prepared in the past. Undoubtedly their experience has increased as well as the expertise and skills available within the Organization. I believe this will also have a major impact on future Plans and Programmes prepared by the Organization. It will improve the future work of the Organization. I also think Member Nations will draw a major benefit from these activities in the future.

Mr Chairman, the priorities contained in the Plan under discussion today conform with the world trends looming on the horizon. However, we believe that there is always an urgent need to reconcile the developing countries' expectations and such Plans, taking into consideration the development indicators in those countries, which are generally linked to the international economic situation. The economic transformations the world is now witnessing, specifically the unjustified speed of the process of liberalization of the market, will not help the developing countries to assimilate these changes. They cannot cope with this pace of change, especially if we take into consideration the fact that developing countries are making many sacrifices as they go towards achieving market economies. At the same time, developed countries are still adopting protectionist measures and are still subsidising their production and their commodities. This applies to agricultural commodities in particular. We believe this attitude does not take into consideration the reality of the needs of developing countries. This, as I have already said, would undoubtedly affect the economic situation in the developing countries.

Furthermore, Mr Chairman, I would like to highlight here the fact that this Organization has made strenuous efforts to assist developing countries and to strengthen the cooperation between this Organization and the developing countries. I would like to stress that there are a number of urgent problems which the developing countries are living through and suffering from now, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid regions. One of the most serious problems is related to water scarcity, and we believe the Organization should give absolute priority to this issue.

I think there is a consensus on the fact that water resources are the mainstay of any developmental process and therefore, Mr Chairman, we believe this Plan gives the relevant attention to the Integrated Development Plans in all fields. However, we should like to see more attention paid to the African region, which particularly suffers from the problem of water scarcity. Water and pastureland represent one of the biggest issues facing the developing countries, which are in dire need of cooperation with this Organization and also of efficient cooperation amongst themselves.

We also believe that the developed countries should facilitate the transfer of technology to the developing countries. This technology should be adequate and adapted to their requirements. In the past we have noted that

the choice of technologies transferred to the developing countries were based uniquely on commercial gains and profits, whereas transfer of technology should take into consideration the needs of these countries and their realities.

We believe this Plan is very important and that it will promote the activities of the Organization and foster cooperation between Member Nations and the FAO.

We think FAO should further strengthen its cooperation with other international organizations, financing institutions and organizations concerned with population matters. Since all organizations have their own programmes and activities, there should be further cooperation in order to avoid the duplication of work.

I would like to conclude by stressing the need to undertake adequate research work when future Plans and Programmes of Work are prepared. I would like to support the following paragraphs: 97, 102, 106, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 120, 123, 127, 129, 157, 161, 162, 168 and also those paragraphs dealing with Africa, namely paragraphs 358 to 369.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Libya, and I would like to thank him for his congratulations to me. I must point out, however, that I am not the Chairman of this Commission but only the Vice-Chairman. We will pass on your congratulations to the actual Chairman.

I would now like to proceed with the last speaker but before doing so I would like to mention that Argentina has asked for its intervention to be included in the verbatim record.

Byoung-Joon SUH (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the Korean delegation, I would like to express thanks to the Secretariat for preparing well-organized proposals for the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99. Challenges arise in all areas in Member Nations. One aspect is food security, another is the shift from destructive agriculture to environmentally sound agriculture. A concurrent challenge is the ongoing political and economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe and the former countries of the Soviet Union. FAO is also confronted with the conflicting requirements of Member Nations. My Government strongly supports FAO's continuing efforts to deal with these diverse needs.

My delegation is concerned that the Field and Regular Programmes might be cut back because of FAO's zero growth budget. In this connection, FAO should ensure that Member Nations do not stop their own research activities in related areas.

We support FAO's active involvement in the UNCED Plan of Action, Agenda 21. FAO's efforts to strengthen long-standing activities related to environment protection are valuable in this context. In keeping with the theme of Agenda 21, compatibility of systems is as important as international cooperation.

We understand that fish production from most marine resources and many inland fisheries has reached the maximum sustainable yield with the regulation of fishing on the high seas. My Government supports FAO's Major

Programme on Fisheries, especially the aspects of timely and appropriate information. This cannot be done without the cooperation of Member Nations.

My Government would like to cooperate in strengthening technical and economic cooperation between developing countries (TCDC/ECDC).

I take great pleasure in saying that the Korean Government has already launched cooperation programmes with developing countries to share its own progress. My delegation hopes that FAO's Medium-Term Plan will effectively integrate with Sub-programmes to be implemented in the coming biennium.

Mile Adelaide Manuela RIBEIRO (Cap-Vert): Document C 93/23, plan à moyen terme 1994-99. Merci Monsieur le Président. Comme d'habitude M. Shah nous a fait un excellent exposé, pour cela nous le remercions. Nous remercions aussi le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité du document.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Cap-Vert a déjà eu l'opportunité de se prononcer sur ce point au cours des Conseils, alors nous ne serons pas longs, pour ne pas répéter. Nous voudrions souligner que nous apprécions beaucoup ce Plan à moyen terme 1994-99.

Il contient des programmes et priorités exprimés par la FAO en accord avec les besoins et les demandes des Etats Membres et en dépendant de nouvelles orientations dans le cadre multilatéral. D'après une analyse de ce plan, nous aimerions manifester notre accord sur les priorités intersectorielles et les priorités du Programme qui sont traitées au chapitre deux et au chapitre trois respectivement. Nous sommes d'avis que ces priorités sont très importantes et contribuerons pour atteindre le développement durable.

En ce qui concerne les priorités intersectorielles, deux questions ont particulièrement attiré notre attention. Il s'agit des points: environnement et développement durable et la participation des populations au développement.

Au moment où on parle de suivi de la CNUED, les contenus des paragraphes 96 à 100 du chapitre deux nous semblent très importants pour la mise en oeuvre du PCC I/ADRD (Programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durables). L'interaction des populations au processus de développement est essentiel, si l'on veut qu'elles participent activement et effectivement au développement socio-économique .

Dans le chapitre 4 qui traite des questions et priorités régionales, nous voulons nous référer à l'Afrique. Nous manifestons notre accord avec l'analyse faite sur les défis que le continent doit relever et, par conséquent, avec les propositions d'actions envisagées.

Pour terminer, nous espérons que les futurs plans à moyen terme seront aussi concis et complets que celui qui nous a été présenté .

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Sra. Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina): La delegación argentina desea destacar la importancia que otorga, por las condiciones internacionales imperantes, a que se encare un proceso de adaptación de esta Organización a las mismas, adaptación que implicaría cambios profundos frente a las mayores exigencias y desafíos existentes.

En este sentido, merece una consideración especial la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo (CTPD). Si bien es cierto que son los propios países quienes tienen la responsabilidad en el proceso de cooperación horizontal, es fundamental la participación que cabe a organismos internacionales como la FAO en el fomento y consideración de esta modalidad de cooperación.

Esta participación debería orientarse tanto hacia la capacitación de funcionarios nacionales en los métodos y procedimientos de los CTPD - tal como se señala en el párrafo 142 del documento C 93/LIM/10, como hacia el apoyo a las gestiones de los países para obtener recursos externos para la ejecución de proyectos.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación está persuadida de que una mejoría de las perspectivas para el crecimiento de la producción agrícola dependerá de la evolución de los precios internacionales. Debe comprenderse, señor Presidente, que sin un aumento de los mismos, los esfuerzos y acciones desarrollados por la FAO seguirán siendo insuficientes.

El alcance de las acciones que lleva a cabo la FAO depende también de la liberalización del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas y de la eliminación de las barreras al comercio impuestas por los países desarrollados.

En relación con el Plan a Plazo Medio que estamos examinando, esta delegación deja constancia de su preocupación por el hecho que el mismo verá reducida sustancialmente su eficacia y resultados en un ambiente internacional plagado de políticas que distorsionan la asignación de recursos productivos.

Por otra parte, es esta una oportunidad propicia para enunciar el apoyo del Gobierno de mi país a las actividades de la FAO para mejorar la sanidad vegetal y animal, así como la sostenibilidad agrícola, sin abandonar por ello los objetivos originales de producción. Este apoyo es extensivo a las acciones que la FAO realiza relacionadas con la Ronda Uruguay del GATT y alienta además una profundización de la vinculación de la FAO con el Banco Mundial y el FMI.

Respecto al Programa de Campo y su evolución, destacamos la importancia que asignamos a su transformación y apoyamos las acciones tendientes a promover un mayor grado de "sustentabilidad" y autonomía nacional del mismo.

Señor Presidente, con relación a las Prioridades Sectoriales descritas, consideramos necesario subrayar la importancia y rol que tiene la FAO en cuanto al asesoramiento sobre políticas agrícolas, así como en la prosecución del análisis de las interacciones entre comercio, agricultura, medio ambiente y desarrollo.

Por último, señor Presidente, coincidimos con la idea expresada en el documento en cuanto a la poca eficacia que conlleva el diseño de políticas y programas autolimitativos en relación con: la seguridad alimentaria, la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos, la mayor participación de la mujer, el incremento de los ingresos, el desarrollo rural, etc. La única garantía de eficacia es que la FAO intensifique sus actividades de asesoramiento y que las mismas se caractericen por el reconocimiento activo que tienen todos los componentes de una política global, así como de sus vinculaciones y repercusiones.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

The meeting rose at 10.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 10 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.30 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

C

C 93/II/PV/6

SIXTH MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE SEXTA SESION

(11 November 1993)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Peter Janus, Vice-chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Peter Janus, Vice-Président de la
Commission II

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Peter Janus, Vicepresidente de la
Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 11. Medium-Term Plan 1994-99 (continued)
- 11. Plan à moyen terme 1994-99 (suite)
- 11. Plan a Plazo Medio para 1994-99 (continuación)

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): We commend the Secretariat for preparing a much-improved Medium-Term Plan for this Conference. As noted by Mr Shah, in his introduction, the June Council favourably received the 1994-95 Plan, noting that it is more succinct, better focused, and more closely related to the proposed biennial programme of work than was the previous version.

The United States appreciates the inclusion of a wealth of information on the global and agricultural economic environment, significant events in the UN system and FAO's evolving role. The document under review is streamlined but maintains a strategic focus, thus providing a clearer sense of direction in each programme area. It is clear, however, that FAO needs to look at its own internal structure and rethink how it deals with the entire issue of Agenda 21 implementation. Achieving all the post-UNCED agenda will require flexibility and creativity on FAO's part.

As the Director-General appropriately notes in his introduction, the UN system has demonstrated its usefulness in a broad range of areas in recent years. But while the challenges facing the UN system, including FAO, will continue to increase, resources will remain tight. This is an unfortunate situation, but one that we must deal with. FAO will have to seek ways of achieving greater efficiencies and collaborating more with other international institutions in delivering programmes. There is much scope in this area and FAO must maximize these opportunities.

In this regard, we particularly support the comments made by Barbados yesterday concerning increased cooperation with IICA in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

We appreciate the dilemma FAO faces when environmental concerns are seemingly at odds with economic concerns, as noted in para. 16. Further analysis by FAO will be required to better understand the long-term implications of short-term decisions regarding the environment. All countries need to recognize and understand short and long-term trade-offs invariably associated with environmental options. This is but one example of the type of issue FAO will be confronting in the medium term as it reorients priorities to concentrate on UNCED Agenda 21 issues and the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition. We are pleased to see the marked shift envisioned in country capacity-building during this Medium-Term Plan.

FAO's ability to collect analyse and disseminate timely and accurate data and information will underpin its current and future activities. All countries rely on it, but it is pivotal to those countries in Eastern Europe and elsewhere that are in transition to market economies. We encourage stronger linkages among all FAO members to help each of us benefit from individual efforts to improve policies and increase productivity.

The United States continues to support FAO's increased collaboration with GATT on a number of trade-related issues that are well identified in para. 33. In some circumstances, collaboration with UN Regional Commissions is a useful way of efficiently working with other UN bodies. Renewing FAO collaboration with ESCAP in the Asia-Pacific region has clear potential for maximizing the strengths of both institutions.

We also agree that close collaboration between headquarters, regional and country offices is essential, as well as collaboration between FAO, at each level and other UN Agencies.

Regarding "coordination and the role of FAO country offices" (as noted in paras 63-71), in our view, this important issue could and should better reflect the FAO full commitment to the implementation of GA Resolution 47/129, the latter being recognized by the world community as the basis for strengthening the coordination of the UN development system at the country level.

FAO must serve all its Member States since members represent various stages of development; FAO's strategy toward assisting them must be tailored to individual country requirements relating to project support, policy advice, production techniques food safety and quality and technological improvements. FAO must combine these efforts to formulate strategies for sustainable agriculture in each country.

The cross-sectoral priorities identified in Chapter 2 have our support, but designing effective programmes to address these complex priorities requires a multi-disciplinary approach that will transform how FAO does business in the future. Discussion of the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development on pages 21-26 identifies a number of activities FAO will have to undertake to assist developing countries in building national capacities.

FAO's unique ability to provide integrated global data and information on sustainability suggests that this area must be systematically and rapidly developed. Similarly, the multi-disciplinary approach envisaged in the policy advice arena is very forward-looking.

The programme priorities reflected in Chapter 3 seem to be appropriate and consistent with those proposed in the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget. Increased work on integrated pest management, trade-related activities and a range of sustainability issues are appropriate.

The United States strongly supports the conclusion of the International Consultant Group on Food Irradiation, which convened last week in Geneva. In particular, my government has offered to establish a world centre for food irradiation in Washington to be co-sponsored by FAO, WHO and IAEA. We believe that future versions of the Medium-Term Plan should highlight activities in this important area. The sections on forestry and fisheries point out the important future challenges for FAO in those areas. UNCED Agenda 21 activities, especially those related to tropical forestry and biological diversity, will drive much of FAO's work in these sectors. The Centre for Domestic Animal Diversity needs to be initiated and its Advisory Board put in place to facilitate follow-up to UNCED requirements on animal genetic resources. Hopefully, the restored resources in the forestry area will allow FAO to accomplish more Agenda 21 follow-up issues, but we still believe FAO may be overly ambitious, given the difficulty we have experienced in obtaining agreement on TFAP matters. We also presume that

support to Regional Forestry Commissions and to field activities will be gradually increased, as part of an overall effort to embark on a country-driven, participatory approach to resource management.

The question of resource implications for proposed programmes always prompts lively debate. The United States believes that this document should be used primarily to map out a strategic programme thrust for the future, with consideration of resources not becoming a focal point until the Programme of Work and Budget is being formulated for a given biennium. However, some types of indicative resource projections would be a useful addition to this document.

Yvan JOBIN (Canada): The Canadian delegation has contributed extensively to the debate on the medium-term perspectives of the organization of meetings of COAG, COFI, and COFO, and in the Programme Committee. Thus, our comments at this stage will be essentially recapitulatory in nature.

The document before us identifies well the major undercurrents and associated challenges which impinge upon the FAO, and on the UN system as a whole. While we are in substantial agreement with the analysis presented, we are not convinced by the assertion respecting a wave of inward-looking nationalism. We believe that an objective appreciation of increasing resource limits in a context of rapidly evolving and growing needs at both national and international levels, and not an erosion in human capacity for sharing and multilateral action, is perhaps a better conclusion to draw from the evidence before us. That said, we agree that this document is an important strategic link in the planning, priority-setting and implementation cycle of the work of the FAO.

We also concur with the Director-General's positive evaluation of the extent to which the UN system has manifested its utility in a variety of areas. This comes at a time of ever-growing complexity of challenges coupled with progressively limited availabilities of resources. The only possible response in this context is to redouble efforts to do more with less - a call long-since insistently made on, and answered by, national administrations. This means that the FAO, too, must persist in its search for economies and efficiencies, among which we would identify the delegation and streamlining of authority, the simplification of procedure and the unsparing revisiting of priorities as fertile areas for possible action. The evolution towards a UN wide strategy respecting the system's presence at the country level, suggests potential benefits from a reexamination of FAO's presence at the country level. As well, cooperation and the establishment of strategic alliances with other international institutions, with non-governmental organizations and with the private sector, are obvious mechanisms to seek to exploit in maximizing impact and leveraging finite resources in the delivery of programmes. Such collaboration will be particularly important in addressing the priority to be given to the environment and sustainable development. Here the FAO must work closely with other agencies, in both lead and subordinate roles, in order to avoid duplication of effort and the consequent dissipation of resources. FAO's unique capacity to generate integrated global data suggests just such a commanding role, provided the necessary sustainability indicators and databases are quickly developed.

The desirability of integrating environmental considerations into programme design and delivery will not be painless, as is made clear in Chapter 2. There do exist potentially uncomfortable trade-offs between poverty

alleviation and the sustainable management of resources. These the FAO is well-positioned to help us better understand, as we struggle with the critical problem of how best to reconcile the major policy conflicts inherent to the alleviation of poverty and nutritional insufficiencies among the rural poor in developing countries, most of whom live in ecologically vulnerable areas.

Increasing the national capacities of member countries to manage and carry out the agricultural portion of their own national development programmes should continue to be a major objective of this Organization. FAO's move to upstream activities in its field activities is the essential concomitant of such a policy. In this respect, FAO leadership will be indispensable in the timely identification of trends and emerging issues, and in encouraging nations to accept and act upon the reality of a shared and finite planet and to work together in a common cause. Additionally, FAO must lead in developing methodologies and approaches to the sustainable exploitation of limited resources. FAO's ability to provide this leadership will test both its governance and delivery structures.

As FAO reduces its emphasis on downstream activities, it will be important to retain a focus on beneficiaries throughout the process of project design, implementation and evaluation. On this last aspect, FAO could provide technical backstopping to national governments and to other organizations. In facilitating donor support for projects in difficult areas of agricultural and rural development, this could have significant multiplier potential.

Concerning the broad prioritizing of the role of women in the development process which is articulated at various points in this report, and which we fully support, we would offer the importance of leading by example. In the view of my delegation, the FAO has a major responsibility to give full substance to this goal by developing and implementing a pro-active policy designed to integrate, to a much greater extent than currently is the case, the talents of the underrepresented 50 percent of humanity into its own operations.

Concerning the question of indicative budget figures that might be added to a Medium-Term Plan, we would side with those who caution against such an approach. Indicative numbers associated with broad visions of the future are invariably speculative, but their acceptance of part of a Medium-Term Plan package would invariably be interpreted as implying a parallel commitment of resources. Few governments are prepared to project commitments so far in advance, and we suspect a fewer still will be prepared to do so against an at best ball-park estimate of costing of activities whose details may well change significantly as actual operational realities assert themselves.

UNCED recognized that forests are of primordial importance to the planet's ecological balance and to the survival and sustainable development of human populations. The Canadian delegation is particularly pleased to see the recognition of the multiple roles of forests, and the reflection of a wide variety of forest values, in addition to economic development, as a central feature of FAO's approach to programming in this sector. This is fully consistent with the UNCED forest principles and with agenda 21, Chapter 11, which emphasizes the importance of perceiving forests as integrated ecosystems.

Canada is in general agreement with the programme priorities for forestry outlined in this document. Specifically, we state these as: 1) policy advice; 2) national capacity-building; 3) formulation of approaches to the conservation and utilization of biodiversity; and, 4) the formulation of criteria and indicators for sustainable development. Nevertheless, as COFO and this Council have clearly indicated, if FAO is to aspire to maintain leadership in global forestry issues, it must devote much greater focus and emphasis to forests than has hitherto been the case, and we urge the membership to unite behind this goal.

In confirming our broad support for the programme priorities described in the report, we would underscore the important normative task represented by work on the proposed Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing with which the FAO will be proceeding during the period covered by the Medium-Term Plan. We share the view that a well-conceived code is an important element in the development of sustainable fisheries on a global basis, and we will give our full cooperation to this enterprise.

Finally, and in closing, my delegation would like to recall Canada's proposal, tabled at the 103rd Council, for making the 50th Anniversary of the founding of FAO. We would hope that this could provide a suitable occasion for reflecting on the past accomplishments of our Organization, and for considering the future challenges and responses thereto which will dictate its character at the turn of the century. We hope that this Conference will accede in granting Canada the privilege thus to contribute to the constant process of institution-building and renewal of the FAO.

Marian BRZOSKA (Poland): The Medium-Term Plan is one of the most important documents being discussed during the Conference for FAO work, especially for developing regions and for East European countries. Poland much appreciates FAO's efforts in preparing this document.

The Medium-Term Plan forms the basis for the appropriate stratification of FAO's tasks and function. The expected evolution of the Organization's programmes can be seen also in the East European region. However, the proposal has not been on a sufficiently large scale to meet historical changes in the region. Therefore, Poland supports the idea expressed by many delegations of far-reaching changes in FAO's long-term programmes in Europe.

Poland's support for large-scale changes is justified. East European countries have been transforming their economies from centrally-planned to inter-market ones. None in the world has tried to achieve that goal. We have already achieved many successes based on our determination and bilateral assistance, from EEC, US and other countries, but at the same time we are paying for many mistakes. Our work is followed and will be followed by many countries. They may repeat our mistakes or avoid unnecessary costs.

As a region, we need more technical assistance from FAO, other organizations and developed countries, even at the expense of activities of secondary importance. We need technical assistance mainly in the field of institution-building typical for market economies: banks, credit institutions, market information centres, chambers of agriculture and commerce, commodity exchanges, farmer's professional associations, trade and investment insurance institutions, and so on.

I should like to underline that these are new institutions for our economic system.

Institutional development is decisive not only for the effectiveness of transformation but also it is a condition for an inflow of foreign capital to the agricultural sector.

In our opinion assistance in that field should be a main part of FAO's activities in central and eastern Europe, described in paragraphs 408 to 416.

The beginning of this type of work by the REUR and the FAO European Agricultural Commission met with great interest in many countries. This type of work is not too costly and, importantly, it can mobilize non-statutory funds for the FAO programme.

KENJI SHIMIZU (Japan): My delegation welcomes the Medium-Term Plan before us, prepared by the Secretariat, as a useful guideline for our future activities. The mandate of FAO to promote food and agriculture development by its nature needs medium- and long-term perspectives. Therefore my delegation supports the plan in general. My delegation has made clear its position in general on previous occasions but this time my delegation wishes to make a few remarks on coordination, and in particular we refer to paragraphs 63 to 71.

First, coordination is always one of the major concerns of Japan. Japan has supported the coordination arrangements mainly elaborated at the General Assembly where we have taken numerous actions and decisions to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of UN activities, including those of FAO.

My delegation commends the efforts of FAO's Secretariat in this context to promote coordination at country levels, as described in the aforesaid paragraphs. However, we urge the Secretariat further to strengthen efforts in particular along the lines of General Assembly Resolution 47/199 as a basis for strengthening the coordination of the entire UN development system at the country levels. My delegation fully associates itself with the concern which has been expressed by previous speakers.

Secondly, on the representative office of FAO there is an indication to strengthen FAO's country representative offices in those paragraphs. The indication has some serious implications in terms of coordination and resources. My delegation has difficulty in endorsing the indication as such without careful study of the implications. The study may be considered in the light of constrained resources as well as the need to prioritize the issues in an interdisciplinary or holistic manner, which implies more coordinated and integrated approaches. The approaches are all supplied on the roles or functions at country levels where UN agencies are expected to work in a well-coordinated manner.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God, the Almighty, the Compassionate, first of all, I wish to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent job that has created such a valuable document. Secondly, concerning the subject of the present discussion, I wish to make some remarks on issues of great concern.

Regarding the environment and sustainable development, I wish again to congratulate the FAO on its efforts to integrate sustainability criteria in all its programmes and activities. However, given the mandate of this technical organization of the United Nations, some key points within the concept of sustainability and development should be highlighted and emphasized in the performing of FAO's functions.

First, in developing countries more emphasis must be placed on development in comparison with environment protection. In other words development, particularly socio-economic development, should be preferred to the environmental protection as environment and natural resources degradation in developing countries is primarily caused by the rural communities in order to meet basic needs and requirements for living.

Second, in developing countries, the problems of sustainability are usually related to lack of agriculture research, agriculture inputs and environmentally sound technology and to improper agricultural practices. So special attention should be given to these essential needs of developing countries within the functions of FAO. In particular, access to and transfer of technology on preferential and concessional terms to developing countries is vitally important, and in this regard the Intellectual Property Rights should not hinder the transfer of technology to developing countries.

Third, we are of the strong opinion that natural resources are the main basic source for and supportive of every development, particularly agriculture development, and that increased attention should be given to the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of natural resources in every region of the world, particularly in developing countries. In this context, the people who make their living from it play a crucial role. In particular, this should be taken into account in arid and semi-arid areas of the world, where the productive capability of land is too low to meet the rural community's demands.

Accordingly, we fully support the Natural Resources Programme of Agriculture major programmes. Above all, we strongly believe that more attention must be given to this Programme in all the aspects concerned.

With regard to forestry issues, unfortunately in spite of national activities, along with technical assistance to developing countries from FAO and international support we are still witnessing deforestation and forest resources deterioration at an alarming level in various regions of the world, particularly in developing countries. Therefore, as stated in the statement of His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Plenary meeting, the time is right for decisive action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of the world's forest resources to be taken. In this regard, it should be noted that there should be an equitable burden-sharing for the sustainable development of the world's forests by all countries, and for all types of forests in all ecological zones.

In line with this approach, FAO should assist the developing countries in preparing and implementing their national forest action programme in accordance with the specific needs of each country, and take decisive steps to mobilize the international commitment effectively. My delegation believes that this issue must be recorded and more greatly emphasized in an appropriate manner in the report of this Commission.

As my delegation actively participated in the Eleventh Session of COFO, we fully support the medium-term objectives for the Major Programmes in Forestry established at the above-mentioned Session. In particular, we consider the objectives pointed out at paragraph 328(e) of Document C 93/23 as the most important requirement for the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in many developing countries.

In general, Mr Chairman, on the Major Programme of Forestry, we fully support the programme areas mention in the related paragraphs in the document. However, I would like to emphasize some programmes which are closely related to the same key objectives of the Forestry Programme, such as poverty alleviation through the socio-economic development of forest-dependent populations, the launching of National Forestry Action Plans, the strengthening of institutional arrangements, the development of human resources and of research and training capabilities, the enhancement of community forestry and the integration of forests and trees into land-use systems.

Mr Chairman, with regard to the Regional Forestry Action Programme, as we have said on several occasions, we believe that every Regional Forestry Action Programme must be implemented through the strengthening and implementation of the National Forestry Action Programme of each country. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts of FAO to establish a Mediterranean Action Programme. However, it should be noted that it could be implemented successfully if it is dealt with through the National Forestry Action Programme of the countries involved, particularly the developing countries of the region.

Regarding fishery issues, I would like to make the following remarks. Firstly, information plays an important role in development and it is therefore obvious that, with the expansion of databases, the needs and capacities of a country will be known. In coordination with FAO, various countries in a region are able to understand the potential and the needs of neighbouring countries. We believe that this type of database can be created bilaterally as well as multilaterally among various developing countries in a region, which is the aim of most developing countries. FAO should therefore strengthen cooperation with Member Nations with a view to accelerating the development of national capabilities in the collection and analysis of fisheries information and statistics in order to understand their needs and capacities, and disseminate the information among Member Nations to encourage them to cooperate with each other.

Secondly, aquaculture is a major concern in fisheries. In order to expand aquaculture, which is necessary for the protection of the environment, FAO should increase its Regional Workshops in various spheres, including fish diseases, genetics, farm management and the introduction of new species to existing water resources.

Thirdly, Mr Chairman, high seas resources, especially in the Indian Ocean, are very important to the Asian countries and the majority of people in this region are dependent upon these resources. Although some steps have been taken to control over-exploitation by high seas fishing vessels, the over-fishing of these resources leads to shortages in coastal areas, on which the livelihoods of millions of people depend. FAO should examine other ways of controlling over-exploitation of resources in high seas fisheries while establishing and expanding regional projects for improving fisheries management in coastal areas.

Finally, Mr Chairman, in our view, TCDC has brought many benefits to the countries concerned and therefore, in order to expand these activities, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to urge FAO to concentrate on this issue, particularly on a regional basis.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (The Netherlands): Mr Chairman, first of all, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to this third part of our quartet, bearing in mind the important role Agriculture Towards 2010 has to play in the Medium-Term Plan. I would rather speak of a quintet but I leave that to Mr Shah himself.

It is far from easy to describe the developments in such a broad field as that of Sustainable Agriculture, with all its regional-specific aspects and problems. Nevertheless, the document provides in a brief and concise way an outline of the most important aspects of FAO's activities. The Netherlands delegation compliments the Secretariat on this result. Does this mean that the Medium-Term Plan fully lives up to expectations? It occurs to us that this is not quite the case. For instance, the general analyses and consequences of the first two chapters of the document are only partly reflected in the Programme Priorities. Secondly, the chapter regarding regional issues stands very much on its own. Basically, we would have preferred it to be integrated in the first chapter or preceding the Programme Priorities. Such an approach would have better reflected the supporting role of this chapter to these priorities.

In his introduction the Director-General mentions an "inward-looking turn in national and human attitudes". The Canadian delegation has already mentioned this. There is more and more of a tendency towards micro-nationalism in the justification of the own identity as a result of the increasing battle for the scarce means of existence. In the Field Programme there is even more emphasis on sector and sub-sector studies and the strengthening of the development capacity of countries. This must result in more delegation of responsibility to the field and closer cooperation between donors and involved parties in the recipient countries. This analysis shows first of all that FAO Member States must be more responsible for their own development.

Secondly, it concludes that there is a necessity to pay more attention to a sustainable approach in agricultural development. The consequences for FAO's activities of this analysis are properly reflected in the discussion of cross-sectoral priorities. My delegation agrees with this analysis.

Let us now turn to the way this analysis and its corresponding priorities influence the activities within the various programmes. We think the document is not sufficiently clear. This is because the following has to be concluded: first, the strengthening of the policy advisory role. This requires more attention to the consequences of the liberalization of world trade, the realization of the targets for sustainable agriculture, sectoral policy adjustment for Structural Adjustment Programmes, a shift from public to private sector and the strengthening of institutional capacities in both sectors.

Moreover, more attention should be paid to a catalytic role to protect and strengthen the weak chains of the biosystems and social systems. Secondly, FAO's role in development will change. More often than in the past FAO will play an intermediate role, and will have to cooperate with international organizations. Thirdly, FAO's programme must be adjusted in substance with

less attention being given to the production of individual crops, and more attention to the capacity to acquire knowledge and the strengthening of institutional infrastructure by the development of human resources and organizations such as cooperatives. More attention should be paid to inter-disciplinary cooperation for the development of knowledge and technology in the field of sustainable agriculture.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to my statement earlier this week on the Programme Implementation Report. On that occasion I expressed my concern that the implementation of the ICPF/SARD was hardly reflected in the Medium-Term Plan. I also requested that measures for improving the management of field activities be dealt with. I hope these remarks will contribute to the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan.

Tiberiu VASIESIU (Romania) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this special opportunity to speak to this distinguished Commission for the first time on behalf of the Romanian delegation. We also thank the Deputy Director-General for his presentation of the Plan. Romania welcomes the Medium-Term Plan 1994-1999, and greatly appreciates the Secretariat's drawing-up of this document. We think this is a very good document. It is concise, and concentrates on policy issues covering a wide scope. The Plan depicts the policy concept quite rightly, and against this background appear the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which have broken sharply with past policies and are struggling through major reforms designed to put market-oriented economic systems into place. Among these countries is my country, Romania, with its specific features, problems, and priorities. The immediate objective of the Government's new Programme as regards agriculture is the halting of decline and the relaunching of agricultural production. Romania has an agricultural area of about 15 million hectares, of which 75 percent is arable land. At present 79 percent of this agricultural area is privately owned and 21 percent is state owned. The population of the rural area represents 45 percent of the 23 million inhabitants of Romania. Thirty-three percent of Romania's total area is mountainous and in these regions, 3.5 million people live in about 75 000 settlements . We also have large areas of forests. We are fully aware of the efforts we must make, and we envisage updating our irrigation systems • and making them fully operative over almost 3 million hectares. We would also like to increase the agricultural potential in the mountain areas.

In Chapter 4 of the Medium-Term Plan, Regional Issues and Priorities, we find our complex problems very clearly set out in the paragraphs beginning at paragraph 3 93 and between paragraphs 407 and 429.

We fully agree with the idea on paragraph 114 page 26 on the English version that FAO is mandated to work with and assist the Member Governments to achieve shared goals, specifically with regard to food, agricultural rural development. I think that this idea is also true for the Chapter "Assistance to Transitional Economies" and thus for my country.

We would like to present to you the domains and sub-sectors in which we request the FAO assistance: modernizational assistance for irrigation and land regulation work; then improvement of quality of food industrial products; development of agriculture in the mountain areas; setting up of database for the preservation of genetic resources, namely updating some laboratories, some scholarships for the expertise, technical assistance; setting up of a database for informatics for various types of farms and for various sectors, agriculture, industry, forestry, water management and

finally, monitoring forestry resources under sustainable management practices. In requesting FAO's assistance, support and consideration of the above-mentioned priorities we feel and remain confident that these are attainable during the following years. We have requested a few actions of FAO's assistance to Romania but at the same time we are ready to share our experience in seed production, namely in wheat, corn, sunflower. We are ready to host, with the support of FAO, several meetings in Romania to be attended by experts from developing countries. The Minister of Agriculture from my country, Romania, in his statement of yesterday advanced the proposal for Romania hosting, under FAO's aegis, an international course of management of 15 to 20 days for both foreign and Romanian experts. Another proposal advanced by the Minister of Agriculture Romania is that in Romania there be set up a Regional FAO Centre for Central and Eastern Europe.

Romania nurtures the hope that guided by FAO and steered by FAO's leadership with the assistance of other international bodies and with the support of the donors whom we highly appreciate and with whom we would each of us like to share some day this particular happiness of lending a helping hand to others we hope then that the request of Romania, as well as the request of other countries for FAO's assistance will be fruitfully considered by FAO and will be soon implemented.

I also support here the proposal by the representative of Poland as regards the Region of Central and Eastern Europe.

James Owade OTIENO (Kenya): Thank you for giving my delegation this opportunity to express our views at this important Session of the FAO's Conference. Permit me that in my introductory remark to note with appreciation the fact that the documentation before us is of excellent quality and I give a lot of credit to my friend Dr Shah for this.

We note that in the words of the Director-General at the introductory part of the document we have does reflect the changing circumstances in the international situation. As a matter of fact, if I need to emphasize we are within a period of changing circumstances, in a period where we begin to speak of peace dividends and a period in which we have to listen to the call of the Secretary General of the United Nations in his proposals under the Agenda for peace and we hope that this kind of circumstance will be borne in mind in the programme activities of FAO.

In the Plenary we did take note of the report of FAO so far as the World Food situation is concerned and I think it was noted that over the last two decades or so food production and in particular food production per capita in Africa has not shown any significant improvement, if anything it has declined and I think that the attention FAO is drawing on this matter is of crucial concern to countries of Africa like Kenya. So I congratulate FAO for exposing a new dimension in Chapter 1 of how their operations are going to be carried out.

With regard to Chapter 2, again I congratulate the Secretariat for the comprehensive and thematic manner in which they have handled the issue. I only want to remark and my remark should not be interpreted as any criticism, I am only saying that Kenya believes that there are certain areas where emphasis should be given. Let me say before then with the Report I think the whole world was there in Rio when we made commitment to ensure if not in contradiction to the health of that planet. In fact they could be made to go hand in hand and I see this is reflected, at least my

understanding of it in the documentation we have. However, may I share a little bit of concern in this matter, purely on a scientific or practical level the definition of sustainable development as presented in the Bruntland Report, that is using today's resources without compromising the use of those resources for the future in generations is a precise formulation of what is at issue. Nevertheless, we think that FAO should be in a position to translate this thing into workable concepts that suit the agricultural sector in particular and we have read certain documentation which gives different interpretation in so far as the principles of sustainability should be applied to agriculture and we would like FAO to make every effort to define this concept of sustainability, if it can be, even in renewable circumstances.

I think it is quite clear that even from Rio, the issue of poverty is a serious matter in Africa, and as in the case of Agenda 21, poverty eradication is the main issue and I think in the ordering of priorities FAO should be able to consider poverty eradication and its connection with malnutrition and ill health. We feel in these cross-sectoral issues the correct emphasis has been given for the need for preservation of biological diversity. For many years, until quite recently, the whole value and the reason why humanity should set aside certain areas for the preservation of biological diversity have not always been clear. There has always been a controversy as to whether the opportunity costs of setting aside of certain areas for biological diversity may not conflict with the need to use such areas or such resources for immediate use of today but after Rio I think the call is clear, that there is greater need to do so if you have to take the long-term perspective of the future and therefore I agree with this problem. Kenya believes that the participation of people in the development process is critical. We happen to have had access to some of the publications or research findings of such diverse UN Agencies as IFAD, FAO, UNDP, World Bank and it is becoming increasingly clear that through the dynamic changes taking place which have brought about democratization, pluralism, must also empower the local people to take charge of their affairs and to see that agricultural production is within the reach of their own resources and the decision-making process must be with them and therefore I urge FAO to do the most they can to strengthen the people's ability to participate and mobilize their own resources for their own benefits.

I think the question of technical cooperation between developing countries is well understood and I think FAO should continue making efforts such that scientists, technicians, exchange views between continents and between regions and sub-regions and I think this is the correct way of doing it.

However, I have a small concern with respect to the area of the UN, the FAO cooperation with the other UN agencies. I would not like to speak on behalf of other delegations but let me pin this down to the experience we have in Kenya. In Kenya we find that unfortunately the role of FAO has been diminishing over the last few years. We do not know why and probably we will have an opportunity to discuss this with FAO and if Mr Shah would be available we might discuss it further to see why this is taking place. Nevertheless, I should mention two other aspects which raise concern:

(1) With respect to the guidelines which have been made through the General Assembly regarding the cooperation between other UN agencies particularly with respect to the preparation of the country's strategy route, Kenya is about to prepare that but what we observe is that the interests of FAO, if anything, is marginal; (2) We find that with respect to the preparation of

the UNDP Country Programme which is also inputting information into the development processes, again FAO's inputs in this process, in our view, is rather minimal and I think FAO and UNDP should be able to cooperate.

In the same manner we find that in the areas of environmental concern a little bit more coordination should be achieved between FAO country office and the UNDP headquarters in Nairobi. We see this as a very important part of the activities of FAO and also hope that in the context of the outcome of Rio and the establishment of the Commission for Sustainable Development that FAO needs to redefine its role in the area of sustainable development so that it becomes more effective.

With regard to Chapter III we do not have much to say except the focus is correct and again we would like to emphasize that we need to find ways in order to maximize the use of forests and other conservation measures. In our case we think FAO should be involved in the programmes of biological diversity. We have the East African Biological Diversity Project which is being funded under GIFAP and I think the FAO should have an input in it; I do not know by how much but we think this particular area should be expanded.

We believe the proposals contained in the priority areas with regard to nutrition are correct and also with reference to science and technology.

With regard to fisheries we have the following concerns: you know, Mr Chairman, that Kenya shares Lake Victoria with several other countries, Tanzania, Uganda and others. We have witnessed for the last ten years or so the lake's environment and the lake itself is beginning to show very serious deterioration in its ecological set-up. We know that there have been initiatives through other sources in order that countries of this region consider the health of this lake but we would ask FAO to put in more effort and join with others so that the international community can make a concerted effort to save this lake, which is shared by many other countries.

I would also point out that under the auspices of FAO, to take the experience we had at Lake Victoria where non-indigenous species were introduced with almost catastrophic consequences to the ecology of this lake, that these kinds of experiments should be discouraged elsewhere. We should be able to note also that increasing pollution of fish habitats in many of the African lakes and waters are taking place at an alarming rate, basically arising from agricultural use.

With regard to forestry, I would like only to mention that for some reason Dr Shah and his colleagues, in the documentation we had before Plenary, only refers to the industrial aspect of forestry. You have been talking of timber and timber trades, and you are very happy to give us statistics to that effect but we would like to invite you, within the spirit of Rio, to look at forestry in its wider context and the whole question of the role of forests in the preservation of the ecosystems, the role of forests in the food chain, as well as the role of forests in many other aspects. You need to expand this view.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, with regard to the Rio issues, particularly with respect to the African Regions, I think you are on the right course and I only want to emphasize again that for our region capacity building in the area of policy analysis and data gathering should be given more emphasis. These are the views I wanted to share with you.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): This version of the Medium-Term Plan is clear and well presented. It is concise while remaining comprehensive. The Secretariat should be complimented for the effort involved in its preparation. We have been particularly struck by the frank language of the Director-General's introduction. The Director-General has rightly drawn attention to the likely prospects of modest resource levels at the disposition of FAO in relation to future challenges.

In Chapter I we welcome the emphasis given in particular to environmental issues in the light of the follow-up of UNCED. We also welcome the action placed on the conference decision, particularly the Central and Eastern European countries, and we agree that FAO should provide the means of assistance to these countries. We also welcome the interesting coverage of developments in the UN system, the prospects regarding the Field Programme and selected management issues.

With regard to Chapter II the selection of five major cross-sectoral priorities should be commended. My country attaches particular importance to technical cooperation among developing countries but also to policy assistance which FAO is best placed to provide to Member Nations both in addressing domestic and agricultural problems and in relation to the international developments. We also are in broad agreement with the sectoral priorities highlighted in Chapter III and the description of regional issues and proposed activities in the regional chapter.

We appreciate the fact that FAO regional conferences have been able to consider the perspective sections. This process has permitted it to reflect latest developments and first-hand perceptions of necessary cooperation at the regional levels.

Finally, we think that Chapter V on resources is really interesting. We note that following deferred use on the matter at the last Conference no resource projections have been included in the Medium-Term Plan but what is the value of a plan if unaccompanied by at least an indication of the likely resource implications? We note that the Programme Committee has in general recommended that some type of resource projections be included in the next version of the plan. We would tend to support these recommendations keeping in mind the indicative character of such projections.

In concluding, we would therefore reiterate our Delegation's appreciation of this document which gives a good basis for us to reflect on the future orientations and activities of FAO.

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): Señor Presidente, el Plan a Plazo Medio expuesto por el Señor Shah, tal como lo presentó la FAO, creemos que refleja las prioridades de la Organización, no obstante haberse producido algunas variaciones respecto al Plan a Plazo Medio presentado en 1991.

Entendemos que la prioridad asignada en 1991 al papel de la Mujer en el Desarrollo forma parte de la nueva prioridad presentada como "La Población en el Desarrollo". Conviene, no obstante, resaltar la especial importancia que el papel de la mujer juega en ofrecer la posibilidad del cambio en la familia, en el acceso al crédito, en la educación y en la propiedad de la tierra.

Para España, tanto el papel de la mujer como la posibilidad de potenciar y mejorar la formación de las poblaciones, son elementos básicos en el esfuerzo para aumentar la participación popular en el proceso de desarrollo. La nueva formulación de esta prioridad no debe olvidar los programas de formación para jóvenes y para adultos.

Para nuestra delegación el equilibrio en el medio ambiente, basado en un desarrollo sostenible, es básico. La FAO debe, efectivamente, mantener la prioridad acordada hasta ahora en las actividades de seguimiento de los acuerdos adoptados en la Conferencia de Río.

España se felicita en particular de las prioridades acordadas sobre nutrición, tras la celebración de la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Tal y como reflejó la declaración de Barcelona, sobre los "Derechos Alimentarios del Hombre", la cual debe ser una prioridad permanente de la Comunidad Internacional. En ese contexto, la FAO debe, efectivamente, incrementar sus esfuerzos para el alivio de la pobreza. A finales del siglo XX se hace imperativo el asegurar los aportes nutricionales y vitamínicos mínimos al aproximadamente un tercio de la población mundial que sufre en la actualidad deficiencias básicas en su dieta.

En cuanto a las prioridades programáticas, España atribuye especial importancia al programa principal 2.2, sobre Pesca. Una vez más, nuestra delegación insiste en la importancia de dotar al Consejo General de Pesca del Mediterráneo de los medios necesarios para llevar a cabo sus cometidos de gestión, evaluación y conservación de los recursos pesqueros del Mediterráneo. Para hacerlo sería necesario adecuar, sin modificar las cantidades, los presupuestos previstos para cubrir las prioridades y objetivos que se decidieron en la última reunión de ese Consejo General de Pesca.

También hemos de subrayar la importancia que España concede a la elaboración del Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable, prevista en el párrafo 301 C del Plan a Plazo Medio. Esperamos que se cumpla la recomendación del 104º Período de Sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, en el sentido de iniciar las deliberaciones de los principios generales de dicho código durante los primeros meses de 1994.

Creemos, Señor Presidente, que el Plan a Plazo Medio es de gran utilidad, puesto que permite estimar las prioridades, orientaciones y previsiones de futuro de la Organización.

Sra. María E. JIMENEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador) : La Delegación de El Salvador desea hacer unos breves comentarios al documento que estamos analizando. En primer lugar, nuestra delegación apoya el Plan a Plazo Medio que nos ha presentado la Secretaría y agradecemos la excelente presentación que del mismo ha hecho esta mañana el Sr. Shah. Nuestra delegación estima que el documento refleja en forma adecuada las prioridades y programas que la FAO se debe fijar para contribuir en forma eficiente al desarrollo de nuestros países en los próximos 6 años. La reorientación que se ha realizado en las principales prioridades intersectoriales para actualizarlo e incorporar los resultados tanto de la Conferencia sobre el Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo como de la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición merecen nuestra aprobación.

A estas alturas de nuestro debate, en esta sala se han hecho muchos comentarios que nosotros compartimos. Deseamos, sin embargo, recalcar unas pocas cuestiones que interesan particularmente a nuestro país. Primero, compartimos plenamente la necesidad de dar siempre particular importancia al desarrollo sostenible. Hemos escuchado puntos de vista pertinentes a este respecto en nuestro debate, los cuales nosotros apoyamos. Asimismo, El Salvador apoya el reforzamiento de las actividades a largo plazo relacionadas con el medio ambiente basadas en el Programa 21 de las CNUMAD. Debemos trabajar intensamente en este campo. Estamos de acuerdo en el hincapié que se hace en la asistencia de la FAO para creación de capacidades nacionales. Creo que ésta es una cuestión de fundamental importancia. Compartimos, en general, los puntos de vista que se expresan en el documento con relación a problemas y prioridades de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. En ese sentido, apoyamos las orientaciones de la labor de la FAO en nuestra Región indicadas en los párrafos 439 al 445.

Para concluir, deseo unir mi voz a los comentarios que ha hecho hace un momento el Delegado de España con respecto a la atención que se debe dar a la mujer en el desarrollo.

Mme Fatma LARBI (Tunisie): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je tiens à vous féliciter pour votre élection et remercier M. Shah ainsi que le Secrétariat pour l'effort entrepris dans l'élaboration de ce Plan à moyen terme 1994-99.

Ma délégation étant membre du Comité du Programme et du Conseil a eu l'occasion d'intervenir et d'exprimer sa position quant aux priorités des programmes d'action de la FAO.

Je serai très brève et mon intervention sera plutôt axée sur le chapitre 5 se rapportant aux ressources.

Il est facile, et même aisé, de demander au Secrétariat d'élaborer des plans à moyen terme et de faire des évaluations de programmes et projets, mais comment peut-on arriver à satisfaire toutes les exigences des Etats Membres sans que des ressources supplémentaires ne soient prévues dans le budget de notre Organisation qui, comme vous le savez, a subi des réductions durant l'exercice biennal 1992-93.

Il est important que le Secrétariat puisse nous informer sur ce que coûte à l'Organisation l'établissement d'un Plan à moyen terme et la réalisation du Rapport d'évaluation du programme.

Les Etats Membres ont des droits, mais ils ne doivent pas négliger leurs devoirs envers notre Organisation. Ma délégation appuie le contenu du paragraphe 472.

Juste un commentaire sur le chapitre 4. Ma délégation souhaite insister notamment sur les programmes intéressant la Région Proche-Orient, à savoir: la maîtrise et la gestion des ressources en eau; la lutte contre la désertification et l'amélioration des ressources pastorales; l'amélioration des compétences techniques des femmes exploitantes agricoles et des conditions de vie des familles rurales.

Je voudrais, avant de conclure, appuyer les interventions sur le chapitre 5 des délégués qui m'ont précédé, notamment les Barbades et les Philippines.

Raoul VAN LANDUYT (Belgique): Un peu tardivement, mais comme c'est la première fois que je prends la parole au nom de la Belgique dans cette enceinte, je vous félicite, ainsi que le président de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission fort importante. Je remercie également le Directeur général adjoint, M. Shah, de l'excellente introduction qu'il a faite hier concernant le document sur le Plan d'action à moyen terme 1994-99.

En ce qui concerne ce Plan à moyen terme, je félicite la FAO et son staff de l'avoir présenté sous cette forme, mais c'est surtout son contenu que nous avons apprécié, c'est-à-dire les orientations qui vont dans la bonne direction. C'est également le programme de terrain qui a attiré notre attention et, dans ce secteur spécifiquement, les orientations suivantes: la délégation de plus en plus large des pouvoirs mais aussi des responsabilités vers le terrain, l'exécution nationale des projets et programmes, une plus grande attention à l'intégration des femmes dans les économies agricoles ainsi que la place plus large qui sera faite aux problèmes environnementaux.

Hier, plusieurs délégations ont souligné la priorité qui devait être réservée aux groupes cibles ainsi qu'à une meilleure coordination à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur de la FAO.

J'ai retrouvé tous ces éléments dans les orientations futures du Plan et j'en remercie les auteurs.

La Belgique appuie les priorités énoncées dans ce programme à moyen terme mais l'exécution de ce Plan risque de connaître des contraintes d'ordre financier et qui sont d'ailleurs reconnues dans le document et dont vient de parler l'honorable déléguée de la Tunisie.

J'espère que notre Organisation sera à même de faire face à ce défi.

Guillermo BASSANTE (Ecuador) : Ante todo agradecemos la presentación del documento Plan a Plazo Medio, cuyo contenido permite apreciar ampliamente el valor de las directrices, orientaciones y prioridades de la Organización para el citado período. Consideramos que este Plan ha sido concebido en buena y debida forma, por lo que mantenemos nuestra fe para que se constituya en vertebral y decidido aporte para el desarrollo armónico de las actividades de la FAO. Sin apartarnos de estas consideraciones generales, quisiéramos sin embargo hacer unos breves comentarios alrededor de algunos aspectos particulares que a esta delegación le interesan. El reto que significa el marco de acción ha sido desarrollado de manera muy pertinente, en cuyo contexto compartimos con agrado la relación dada entre los programas ordinario y de campo, así como el espíritu de apoyo existente para el aprovechamiento y mejora de las capacidades nacionales de los Estados. Aspiramos a que la ejecución de estos enunciados tenga lugar en base al análisis comparativo de las regiones y su necesidad de manera justa y equilibrada.

El Capítulo II, referente a las prioridades intersectoriales, lo consideramos completo y bien concebido. Igual criterio nos merece el siguiente capítulo, que hace relación a las prioridades programáticas. Estimamos que deberá ponerse mucho énfasis en los sectores que se orientan a aliviar la pobreza, la malnutrición y la inseguridad alimentaria, problemas que, entre otros, constituyen quizás los peores males de las sociedades en desarrollo.

En esta parte destacamos lo expresado en el documento cuando se dice que los esfuerzos catalizadores y promocionales de la FAO tendrán que centrarse a plazo medio en sectores determinados por el carácter evolutivo de las necesidades de los Estados Miembros. Igualmente nos unimos al enunciado que allí mismo se hace, cuando se afirma que una base sólida de información sobre las capacidades y necesidades de los países en desarrollo es una condición imprescindible para disponer de programas sistemáticos y bien organizados de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Particulares como los expresados merecen, señor Presidente, el más irrestricto apoyo y estímulo en la confianza de que la ejecución de éstos contribuirá para que los países menos desarrollados puedan lograr metas más elevadas en sus procesos productivos y para el alivio de sus más acuciantes dificultades económicas, financieras y sociales.

En lo que hace relación con el capítulo de los problemas y prioridades a nivel regional, queremos compartir con satisfacción la consideración de que la Región está dotada de abundantes recursos naturales que le permitirían satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias globales de toda la Región y producir excedentes considerables para la exportación. América Latina, se expresa también en el documento, está reconocida como una de las pocas fronteras agrícolas que quedan en el mundo y la depositaria de una gran riqueza de recursos genéticos. Nos satisface también el conocimiento de los esfuerzos que viene haciendo la Región para concretar cambios políticos y económicos que podrían constituir la base para un crecimiento interior continuo.

Especial atención nos ha producido la referencia respecto de los nuevos criterios en materia de política económica que ahora se manejan en América Latina tendientes al establecimiento de nuevas y mejores condiciones para el comercio exterior, así como para el ajuste macroeconómico. Esta situación, expresada tan atinadamente en el documento, nos permite hacer la exhortación para que en el ámbito adecuado se proporcionen respuestas extrarregionales recíprocas en consonancia con estos postulados que, por cierto, se alían con la historia y con la justicia como única manera de establecer auténticas relaciones de equilibrio.

El adecuado manejo de estas variables, consideramos, contribuirá positivamente a estimular y mejorar nuestras políticas agrícolas y de productividad, bases motoras de nuestras sociedades en desarrollo.

Finalmente, queremos reiterar el hecho tantas veces enunciado de que el panorama agrícola de América Latina está acosado por la deficiencia de recursos financieros, tanto internos como externos, por lo que estimamos que, en apoyo a las expresiones vertidas en el documento sobre el cual ahora deliberamos, debe procederse a la ejecución de planes regionales adecuados y pertinentes. Le agradezco, señor Presidente, haberme permitido hacer estas breves expresiones.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): We should like to congratulate the Director-General and Secretariat on the preparation of this document. Obviously, considerable effort, thought and analysis of the views expressed by members in the various FAO fora, including regional conferences, has gone into what we feel is a very useful document.

Whilst the document is only about the half the size of the previous plan, reflecting greater focus and a streamlined approach, it remains a large document of over 100 pages. We would therefore like to take some time to note specific areas which Australia has an interest in or which it would wish to add its support to.

Australia supports the context within which FAO plans to undertake its activities in the area of poverty alleviation, nutrition and food security. In particular, FAO's emphasis on alleviation of poverty is endorsed. Australia supports rural development and poverty alleviation as worthy goals for FAO, but strongly believes that poverty alleviation cannot occur in isolation from broadly-based economic growth. Poverty alleviation requires action on a number of fronts, through programmes that promote economic growth including agriculture, and through programmes targeted directly at the poor, including the rural poor.

We note in the medium-term approach at paragraph 147 that reference is made to a global nutritional status monitoring system. We understand that the WHO undertakes nutritional status monitoring and we would be concerned if the FAO proposal entailed duplication. Therefore, we urge collaboration between WHO and FAO in this important area.

Australia is supportive of FAO's proposed directions for work on forests as set out in the plan, and considers that the priorities arising from UNCED have been properly integrated into the plan. However, it is noted that only around 4.6 percent of the budget of the Regular Programme is devoted to forestry programmes. We would wish to see this proportion increased.

My delegation is pleased to see an emphasis being given throughout the plan to cooperation with UN and other international bodies. We wish to see cooperation continue and flourish. Such cooperation is to encompass also NGOs and the private sector. The Australian Development Cooperation Programme also provides for the valuable contribution of NGOs. As such, we welcome the statement in the plan that closer cooperation with NGOs and the private sector will also be pursued.

Paragraph 102 refers to the cooperation by FAO with other international and regional institutions in facilitating the negotiation of an International Convention on Desertification and Drought and its implementation. We support this having been active participants in the UN Desertification Conferences this year. We are also pleased to see that the intention is to make effective use of countries' own capacities in managing and carrying out the agricultural portions of their national development programmes. We note at paragraph 58 that in the next several years in the area of sustainability it is likely that a steadily increasing amount of FAO services will be directed towards strengthening countries' capacities to undertake national execution effectively.

Australia supports the priority given by the FAO to promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development and implementation of the relevant aspects of UNCED Agenda 21. Our views on this will be covered in more detail in our intervention on Agenda Item 7.

In the plan's section on management issues, we note in paragraph 74 that reference is made to the general budgetary climate within the UN system calling for increased delegation of authority, streamlining of operations and simplification of procedures. As a member of the Programme Committee, we agreed with that Committee's endorsement of FAO's intention to

vigorously pursue the streamlining of administrative procedures and the strengthening of management systems.

One area of the Medium-Term Plan where we have some reservations is the chapter on Resources. Many governments will not be prepared to make financial commitments too far ahead, and certainly not for up to six years. There is a risk that Conference endorsement of a Medium-Term Plan involving resource projections, no matter how purely indicative, may lead to an unrealistic expectation that resources will be forthcoming no matter what the variation in the economic situation prevailing at the time, either globally or for individual contributing countries.

Australia supports the work of FAO in Research and Technology development. The specific objectives mentioned in paragraph 227 of the Plan are very similar to the philosophy of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, which at times collaborates closely with FAO.

In our region, the Asia and Pacific Region, we would support the focus of work for the medium term which lists 12 areas, in particular formulation and implementation of policies for the prevention of food loss, expanded animal disease-free zones, improved equity by raising the incomes and living standards of the rural poor in general and women in particular, implementation of the ICN action plan and improving food safety and standards for local consumption and trade, and improving national capabilities in fish stock assessment and management.

We note from paragraph 388 of the Medium-Term Plan that the less developed countries and the small island countries of the Pacific sub-region will be more particularly assisted in the identification and preparation of projects, mobilization of funds for investment and monitoring and evaluation of projects. This is something we welcome as will the small island nations of the South-West Pacific region with whom we closely associate ourselves in the FAO context and elsewhere. Similarly, we support the plan's proposals for coastal areas and small islands generally covered in paragraphs 112 and 113. These refer to the need for an integrated approach to ensure sustainable development and environmental protection in the coastal zones and small islands, and assistance from FAO to protect coastal fisheries from inland sources of pollution.

My delegation will have further to say in support of the Action Plan on Women in Development mentioned at paragraph 137. Our intervention will take place under Agenda Item 8.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh) : The Medium-Term Plan document is a well conceived and appropriately focused plan which in general is responsive to the needs and priorities of the Organization. FAO Regional Conferences held in 1992, Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as well as the Programme Committee, provided significant guidance and inputs in the preparation of the plan.

The plan incorporates major challenges that FAO will be expected to face in the medium term. Apart from its mandated role in providing policy assistance and advice in agriculture, forestry and fisheries to the Member Governments, it will have to play an important role in helping member countries to assess the environmental costs of policies and to help formulate new policies that can achieve development objectives having due regard to the environmental considerations. We welcome the emphasis on

FAO's assistance in strengthening national capacities in executing projects effectively. FAO has been doing a good job of facilitating the process of national capacity building which will eventually result in greater cost effectiveness of FAO's global operations. Increase in the number of nationally executed projects funded by UNDP over the last four years from 15 percent to 40 percent is a positive development and demonstrates the progress that has been made in promoting greater national self reliance.

FAO's expertise and capabilities will have to match the actual needs of the recipient countries in such a way that they receive the services and assistance in the areas they need most. It will, therefore, be necessary to reorientate and readjust FAO priorities in the coming years taking into consideration the changing needs and situations.

The ongoing process of restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations System in economic, social and related fields may have significant implications for FAO's overall operations. The process is aimed at ensuring greater coherence, coordination and effectiveness in the activities of the UN System. While the outcome of the exercise is yet to be finalized, it however seems that FAO's functions particularly at the field level will undergo a process of reorientation. We hope the final outcome of the restructuring exercise will see FAO performing its functions in a more effective and coordinated way in close cooperation with other UN agencies and programmes.

The plan very correctly brings into focus FAO's vital role and responsibilities in the implementation of Agenda 21 of the UNCED Plan of Action. FAO will need to undertake important action-oriented programmes in close cooperation with UN and non-UN organizations to achieve the objectives of the UNCED Plan of Action. Follow-up action by FAO in the medium term in biological diversity and climate change, conservation and a rational use of critical natural resources, sustainable development and environmental protection in the coastal zones and small islands are, therefore, particularly important.

The need for policy advice and assistance by FAO to the Member Governments in the medium term will go up further. Increasing demands for policy assistance by countries in transition from a centrally planned to a market based economic system will considerably stretch FAO's capacity in this regard. While FAO will need to be responsive to these new demands, it should also ensure that such assistance is not at the expense of the genuine requirements of other regions. FAO should be provided with additional resources, if needed, so that it can shoulder this growing and very important responsibility.

Poverty alleviation, nutrition and food security being basic mandates of FAO have received priority attention in the Medium-Term Plan. FAO's planned actions in these fields cover a broad range of activities. Active participation of rural men and women in the FAO-assisted field programmes will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the various planned activities. Increased FAO assistance will be needed in the Medium-Term Plan period to help member countries design and implement national nutrition action plans as called for in the ICN Plan of Action for Nutrition. In this respect, FAO actions must be well coordinated with concerned UN agencies and international financial institutions, particularly, IFAD, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, and the World Bank.

TCDC and ECDC have always played a significant role in achieving both agricultural and economic development objectives in the developing countries. FAO support in this area will continue to be needed to enhance national capacities in formulating and implementing major initiatives in this regard. Assistance should be dictated by specific needs and emphasis should be given on appropriate transfer of technology.

The medium term objectives and priorities under three major programme areas of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are realistic and achievable. FAO is encouraged to pursue these objectives vigorously.

Support in such areas as natural resource assessment, conservation and sustainability, integrated crop management, preservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources, research and technology development is vital to the needs of the developing countries. In Fisheries, FAO support should focus on supporting national efforts in the management of EEZ resources and strengthening national research capacities. Inadequate management and overfishing are mainly responsible for fishery resource degradation. Therefore, the need for an initiative like integrated coastal area management is of crucial importance, and FAO is well placed to support this initiative. FAO activities in Forestry as envisaged in the Medium-Term Plan (1994-99) are consistent with its expertise and capabilities. Agenda 21 and the Forest Principle adopted by UNCED will require a more active FAO role and assistance in achieving the objective of managing, conserving and developing forests on a sustainable basis. Increased support will be needed in building up country capacities in launching national forestry action programmes.

Regional issues and priorities highlighted in the Plan reflect a balanced view. However, considering the fact that Asia and the Pacific Region accounts for 53 percent of the world population and half of the world's poor still live in this region, its share of FAO resource allocation should perhaps be more than what is currently being provided.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italy): The Italian delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for its good work on the preparation of document C 93/23, the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99, which illustrates the priorities of the Programme for the next five years. We agree with this list of priorities and wish to underline the importance of the objective of the integration of women in the process of development, which was included in the priorities in the previous Medium-Term Plan.

We have noted that the Medium-Term Plan does not include any resource projections for the future. We can accept this Plan taking into account that there will be no programme growth for the next biennium, but we wonder if the Plan should have an additional chapter illustrating the financial consequences which could arise from devolution in the FAO's Field Programme, as described in Chapter 1, paragraphs 45-53. We are aware of the important and rapid changes in the Field Programme over the next years which derive from the new arrangements between FAO and UNDP and from the objective of reinforcing the national capacities of the developing countries. We think it would be useful to examine this question in depth and to study the consequences in terms of costs and relative financing.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie): Prenant la parole pour la première fois devant cette Commission, je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission et vous assurer de l'appui de ma délégation durant ses travaux.

Je souhaiterais également remercier Dr Shah pour son excellente et pertinente présentation de ce thème. Ma délégation se félicite que le Secrétariat ait préparé un document concernant le plan à moyen terme, et tient à faire ici quelques commentaires sur ce document.

De manière générale, le projet que nous avons entre nos mains reflète nos préoccupations actuelles et représente une bonne base de travail pour la prochaine étape.

Ma délégation se félicite de la synergie recherchée entre programme ordinaire et programme de terrain et de l'attention accordée par la FAO au renforcement des capacités nationales. Une telle démarche de soutien est indispensable pour les pays en développement qui ont engagé des réformes pour accroître la production agricole et répondre ainsi aux besoins vitaux de leurs populations. Tel est le cas dans mon pays qui a engagé des réformes afin de promouvoir le développement agricole en procédant à la réorganisation foncière qui contribue à stabiliser et sécuriser le producteur. Parallèlement des efforts sont faits pour aider la profession à s'organiser et prendre en charge les préoccupations des agriculteurs et devenir un partenaire privilégié aussi bien sur le plan interne qu'avec les institutions internationales.

Mon pays juge nécessaire d'appuyer les mesures de lutte contre la désertification pour protéger les potentialités agricoles, la conservation des patrimoines phytogénétiques et zoogénétiques ainsi que la promotion des luttes intégrées contre les ravageurs, comme le criquet pèlerin, car autrement, toute politique nationale de garantie de sécurité alimentaire serait illusoire, mais recommande en outre l'adoption de mesures permettant d'une part de faire face aux graves pénuries d'eau et surtout à son gaspillage. Mon pays qui appuie les priorités intersectorielles retenues agit d'ores et déjà pour une concrétisation à travers une démarche globale de concertation à plusieurs niveaux avec les pays d'Afrique, les pays arabes et dans un cadre plus restreint, avec les pays du Maghreb. Dans ce cadre, l'accent est mis particulièrement sur la nécessité d'impliquer davantage les populations pour leur permettre de tirer bénéfice du développement et de sortir de l'étau de la misère et de la pauvreté.

Ceci étant, ma délégation ne cesse d'insister sur la nécessité d'accroître l'aide au développement qui viendra appuyer les efforts déployés, au prix de lourds sacrifices, par les pays en voie de développement pour améliorer les conditions de vie de leurs populations. Ceci est d'autant plus nécessaire que nous assistons actuellement à une réorientation des énergies et des ressources au détriment des pays en développement.

Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México) : En relación con el tema que nos ocupa, Señor Presidente, en primer lugar queríamos agradecer la presentación que ha hecho el señor Shah. Nos tiene acostumbrados a magníficas presentaciones y mi delegación agradece ésta tan brillante que ha hecho.

Para no dejar pasar el trámite de sanción positiva de nuestra delegación para el Plan a Plazo Mediano, queremos solamente destacar algún punto del documento al que de inmediato damos nuestra más completa aprobación. En

primer lugar, el párrafo 139, que nos asegura que la FAO cumple con unos procedimientos muy rigurosos para la aprobación de sus planes y de sus programas. Los documentos que nos presentan pasan por un tamiz muy adecuado, pasan por Comités Técnicos, por Consejos, por una serie de instancias que nos permiten llegar a la Conferencia ya casi sin mayores problemas para su aprobación.

En segundo lugar, Señor Presidente, quisiera destacar los párrafos 142 y 143 del documento, porque advertimos en ellos la necesidad de que la FAO cuente, cada vez más, con mayores recursos. Ello es difícil pero veríamos con muy buenos ojos que tuviese mayores recursos para que la necesidad de dar una cobertura a todos los países del mundo, en cuanto a sus necesidades de asistencia, pudieran acometerse sin ningún problema. Nos parece que estos párrafos son muy acertados.

Por último y en aras a la brevedad, quisiéramos destacar las cuestiones relativas a las prioridades programáticas, y en especial a un tema que para nuestro país ha sido de vital importancia y que nosotros siempre hemos apoyado con ahínco, es el referente a las cuestiones pesqueras. México tuvo la oportunidad de realizar una Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable y el tema, para nosotros incluido en las prioridades programáticas, nos parece muy atinado.

Queremos, por todas estas razones, dar nuestra completa aprobación al Programa de Plazo Medio.

Jagan Nath THAPLIYA (Nepal) : It is a great pleasure and honour for me to addresss this august gathering and to share with you the views of my delegation. Before I start, my delegation would like to congratulate you on being elected a Vice-chairman of this very important Commission.

Mr Chairman, in many countries of the world there has been liberalization on both political and economic fronts. In keeping with this trend, we in Nepal started formulating a pragmatic economic policy to integrate our economy nationally and internationally soon after the formation of the newly-elected Democratic Government some two-and-a-half years ago. FAO's Mid-Term Plan is by and large consistent with our Mid-Term Plan, a Five- Year Plan from 1992-97, and both documents are extremely useful.

At the same time, Mr Chairman, I have no hesitation in admitting that the task of economic development of Nepal is an uphill task. Our economy is passing through a transitional phase, that is, from a more or less heavily controlled and relatively closed economy to an integrated and more open one. We now talk in our plans of a free market, enterprise economy, a liberalized economy, privatization, sustainability, focus on women's role in development, people participation, food security, poverty alleviation, agro-ecological consideration, environmental consideration and the like. If these planning objectives and priorities in the process of implementation are to be achieved, however, my delegation seeks FAO's assistance, both technical and otherwise, as well as bilateral and multilateral assistance, to translate these planning objectives into action in order to achieve our planning objectives and assist in the process of development.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Nepal for the congratulations he extended to me. We have now come to the end of the list of speakers, but we have received a request from the delegate of Switzerland to take the floor on this item for the second time.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Merci de me donner la parole une deuxième fois. J'avais oublié, ce matin, de proposer une suggestion pour les futures versions du document. Afin de mieux saisir l'évolution d'un Plan à moyen terme à l'autre, ainsi que celle des propositions concernant les priorités, il serait très utile, à notre avis, d'avoir, au début de chaque chapitre un bref rappel des principaux changements proposés par rapport à la version précédente. Ce rappel pourrait consister en un bref paragraphe qui indiquerait les nouvelles priorités proposées et les priorités de l'ancien plan abandonné.

A notre avis, cela faciliterait l'analyse et le suivi du plan à moyen terme de la FAO par les différents services intéressés dans notre administration.

Lino VISANI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative internationale): M. le Président, l'ACI porte un grand intérêt à l'ensemble du document relatif au plan à moyen terme. Nous soulignons l'importance de renforcer, face aux grands changements en cours dans le monde entier, la direction intersectorielle de la FAO.

Nous soulignons encore l'exigence à propos du développement agricole et rural, de la mise en oeuvre de nombreuses initiatives tant au niveau local que régional ou international, pour renforcer le dialogue et la collaboration entre les organisations populaires, et notamment les mouvements coopératifs libres et indépendants, les gouvernements et les agences internationales, comme la FAO, soit pour assurer l'application effective du Plan d'action pour la participation populaire, soit pour réaliser l'unique politique possible afin de promouvoir un développement durable.

CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of the speakers list. I think we have had a very long and very interesting debate on this very important issue that is before us. We have heard 36 Member States intervening on the subject and one observer. I would like now to invite Mr Shah to respond to the observations made by the Commission and the question raised.

V.J. Shah (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : If you had asked me to make a projection, even an indicative projection of the length of the debate you were going to have on the Medium-Term Plan yesterday afternoon my forecast would have been widely wrong. At that time, I would have said "Well, I think I hardly need to answer any questions or to respond to the debate except to express my thanks, my gratitude" but today has been a very rich day, certainly for the Secretariat and certainly for us. I believe, if I do not presume, also for the Member Nations because once again this has been an outstanding instance of a debate among Member Nations on policy issues which you attach importance to in your Organization.

I am glad that the overwhelming impression that I have of the reaction to the Medium-Term Plan, is a favourable one. In fact, a very favourable one because certainly many members have expressed their satisfaction with the plan that has been submitted to you. I have been very attentive, as always, to the suggestions for improvement but nobody has said "This is useless. We are so disappointed that we do not even want to consider a Medium-Term Plan". I am very glad because while you have been giving your reactions I have been reflecting on this process and the fate of Medium-Term Plans in our own Organization and developments elsewhere. To summarize briefly, I think we started the Medium-Term Plan process in the late 1960s. The then Director-General presented to the 15th Session of the Conference a Medium-Term Plan in 1969 and we continued this until 1982. In between 1969 and 1982 if you look at each Medium-Term document and if you look at the Verbatim Records of the discussion I think you will find a lack of grasp, a lack of willingness to grasp the Medium-Term Plan. There was always a wish, or a reflection in the debate of "Well, this is all very good but it is not quite what we want, let us try something else". So there was a great deal of trial and experimentation during that period. In 1982, you decided that you did not want a separate Medium-Term Plan, that you wanted Medium-Term objectives, indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget and that is what you had until 1989 when you asked for a new Medium-Term Plan. It is also I think interesting to reflect that Member Nations express a variety of opinions in different fora. You have decided and we respect your decision that you want a Medium-Term Plan in FAO, a rolling plan covering six years to come to you at every Conference. We are committed to serving you and to improving the plan in response to your wishes. But, is it not interesting to reflect that in some other organizations of the UN system, in which your countries are members, in some of these there is a Medium-Term Plan prepared only once in six years, including in the United Nations itself. Is it not interesting to reflect that in ILO Member Nations recently decided to do away with the Medium-Term Plan? Is it not interesting to reflect that in the United Nations the Secretary General has presented proposals to the current Session of the General Assembly radically changing the Medium-Term Planning process? The proposals comprise three elements: a perspective very brief document with a ten-year coverage; a second aspect is a four-year rolling Medium-Term Plan to be considered with the outline Programme of Work and Budget; and the third aspect is a biennial or an annual budget. Now these are only proposals of the Secretary General. We do not know yet how the General Assembly will react but following the subject as my colleagues and I do, we were very interested to find that in the discussion of these proposals in the Committee on Programme and Coordination of the United Nations some Member Nations have again expressed the view that they should do away with the Medium-Term Plan and others want to develop it under certain lines.

I only indicate this to share my own reflections with you, but there is no firm and fast decision either in FAO or in other organizations that Member Nations have wanted to pursue. In that context, I immediately add that I am delighted, the Secretariat is grateful for the reaction you have given to this document because the reaction you have given, I repeat again is a very positive one. You have recognized that we have built on the last plan. You have given us very thought provoking and well thought out suggestions of ways in which you would like to see improvements made in the future. Again I would like to say these are suggestions which we undertake to consider, study and see how we can respond to them in the next Medium-Term Plan. Bear in mind also that while the Director-General will be very pleased when I report to him the results of your debate, and very interested to see the decisions that may be reflected in the Conference Report, the process of

preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan will only begin some months down the road in 1994. At that time, of course, the Director-General will direct again the preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan and the Director-General at that time will want to take very much into account, I am sure, the results of this debate. I have emphasized each word I hope carefully enough.

Let me now respond to several issues which have come up in the debate. I will not refer to individual delegations because I think a number of these issues have been raised accross the room by a number of members. Again I reflect that it is interesting that these same issues come up time and again under a number of reports, under a number of agenda items: the issues of what FAO should do; how you should relate to and share efforts with other organizations; all this in relation to the priority setting process. So much has been said that I would not presume in this brief response to cover all aspects of what you have said. I hope that my response can further our dialogue because this dialogue, of course, we all hope will continue.

I would like to suggest that the role of FAO and its relationship with other organizations is a matter which cannot be prescribed in terms of one document, or one debate or at any one time. Let me start with one of the suggestions which was made, which I would like to consider further with my colleague, so I take this as a preliminary reaction. One suggestion was made quite early on in your debate, if I recall by the Representative of Switzerland, that the next Medium-Term Plan should contain information about other organizations, about their mandates, their role, their functions, their resources.

Let me point out that in the last Medium-Term Plan we have included distinct sections under each programme area of the other organizations involved, and an indication of what the relationship with FAO was. We have not done so this time because you wanted the plan to be more concise. Let us take the suggestion of providing such information. One reaction, with all respect which I share with you now, is that we would have difficulty in containing this information, how much information to give, how little information to give, to make it meaningful. Secondly, there is the aspect of what is considered relevant and what is considered less relevant. I must say if such an exercise were to be carried out in other organizations and they were going to refer to FAO, I would be very sensitive - not just me but I think the Director-General would be very sensitive - about how your Organization is portrayed by other secretariats. It is a matter to consider.

The third aspect is surely that under each area of activity, under each programme area, the relative weight of other organizations will vary enormously. It is not just a question of listing organizations and saying that these are the organizations working in the field of food, agriculture, nutrition, forestry and fisheries. Some of them are large intergovernmental organizations. Some of them are limited to functions of research and others are limited to functions of investment activities, as well as others which limit themselves to functions of technical assistance. So in each programme area it would be a kaleidoscope that you would have to look at.

This brings me, Mr Chairman, to a more general point. Please take it as a reflection which we should all pursue, and certainly we in the Secretariat do. That is the issue of policy analysis on the one hand, and micro-

management on the other. It really is a matter of weight. Who is going to do what? If at the supreme level of the governing body, which is this Conference, you really want to go into micro-analysis and micro-management that is, of course, your decision. But it is a decision which a number of governments are not sure of, and even in public statements have questioned as to their own interest in pursuing that.

The subject of how FAO collaborates with other organizations in any particular field or of joint or related activities of mutual interest, it seems to me, is already pursued at a variety of levels. When a Member Government requests assistance from FAO in a technical field, I would ask whether that Member Government has not taken and does not take into account the activities of other organizations which are already working on its territory, other organizations which have offered assistance and made its own judgements and assessment of who is in the best position to assist it best. It is only one aspect, but we do not only respond to requests from individual Member Nations. When requests for assistance are made in the forum of a technical regional commission, whether it is a regional commission on statistics or a regional commission on farm management or a regional commission on fisheries, is that not the forum, I ask you, where the respective roles, functions, capacities, abilities of the various organizations involved are also taken into account?

When there are discussions in the Committee on Agriculture, or in any of the other technical committees of the Council, is that not again a forum where this kind of issue is surely borne in mind, should be borne in mind and should be pursued? I believe it is. When the Programme Committee, following the directive of your Council, undertakes programme reviews in the non-conference years, and these are as distinguished members of the Programme Committee know fairly in-depth reviews, with ample time for members of the Programme Committee to examine and raise all these aspects and others, I would suggest it is very much in fora like that that there can be a very thorough, very frank and very open discussion among members, and between members and the Secretariat, on these aspects. Without being at all negative, I offer these few reflections with all respect and suggest that, yes, even though these are very valid issues, there are a number of possibilities and ways in which they can be pursued and they do not need to find their culmination only in one document like the Medium-Term Plan or any of the other reports that you receive.

This leads me now to a point about coordination at the country level which I have just referred to. There was a specific question from the distinguished Ambassador of France in his intervention this morning and also from the distinguished representative of Kenya. Let me give you responses on two fronts. Firstly, on the form, and then a few reflections on the substance. On the form, I would like to address the question raised by France because the distinguished Ambassador of France asked whether there were arrangements for coordination between FAO representatives in a country and representative of governments with bilateral assistance programmes or representatives of governments with bilateral assistance programmes or representatives of other organizations in that country. My immediate response was to look to my colleagues of the Development Department to say, I know you send out instructions when the Director-General appoints an FAO Representative in a country, and what do we say about it? Certainly this is an aspect to which attention is paid.

In the letter of instructions to every FAO Representative there is a part which says "To facilitate your task, it will be necessary for you to establish and maintain close and constructive working relations with the Government, the various departments and units at FAO Headquarters, the regional representative, the UNDP Resident Representative, the resident coordinator, as well as other missions and Technical Assistance Programmes providing and contributing to the country's agricultural development". At least, the system has given provision for it.

The instructions also point out on the same subject, "In order to facilitate the coordination of all forms of technical assistance at the country level, you will exchange information on programmes, requests and so on with multilateral, bilateral, governmental and non-governmental agencies as appropriate; always of course, in consultation with the government concerned". That is one aspect of my reply, but then the very thoughtful remarks of the distinguished representative of Kenya made me reflect much more.

Mr Chairman, in a debate such as this I would not want to give the impression that when such thoughtful remarks are made the Secretariat comes up just with snap replies. I would rather like to say that the sort of comments which were made are very serious comments and comments that the Secretariat takes seriously. The distinguished representative suggested that if I were to have time he and his colleagues would like to come and discuss them. Certainly the Secretariat is here to find time and to make time for these kinds of discussion and it is not only me because, after all, on the matters which were raised, other colleagues of mine who are more familiar and responsible for the handling of those matters are here but, on their behalf as well, let me answer that we want to be responsive.

A specific comment was made by the distinguished representative of Kenya about assistance in the development of the country strategy note. I understand that there was a TCP project approved to help identify the extent and scope of FAO involvement in this process and I understand also that the Director-General has presently under consideration another request from the Government of Kenya for TCP assistance in drawing up national agricultural policy and an in-depth review of the sector in the light of the reforms being undertaken by the Government. This exercise will form the basis of our further contribution to the preparation of the country strategy note and my colleagues will certainly pursue this further with the Delegation of Kenya.

The reference to Lake Victoria aroused a very personal interest because before I came to FAO, among the projects I was handling in UNDP, was the initial one in 1966 on Lake Victoria Fisheries Development. I have not kept in touch with it in recent years but I am told, again by my colleagues, that we have had a TCP project to assist in the diagnosis of the environmental problems on the lake. The Fisheries Department is planning in the next biennium to outpost a fisheries officer to support the Sub-Committee of Fisheries Management in Lake Victoria of the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Africa. So again this is not an answer just to say everything is all right but we are attentive and hope we respond adequately to the concerns which have been expressed.

A number of distinguished members referred to sustainable development and if I may use an abbreviation, ICPF/SARD. To deal first of all with the comments of the distinguished representative of the Netherlands I believe he said ICPF/SARD is hardly visible in the Medium-Term Plan. Mr Chairman,

ICPF/SARD is, as you have always said, a framework whose elements are described in the Programme Implementation Report but also in the Medium-Term Plan. Paragraphs 116 and 125 deal with policy advice on this subject, paragraphs 136 and 139 on People's Participation, paragraph 202 on Integrated Pest Management, paragraph 185 on Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems, and there are others. Finally, Mr Chairman, I would only recall that the ICPF/SARD and the Special Action Programmes are essentially field programme activities, as mentioned in paragraph 59 of this document.

The distinguished Ambassador of France asked about the introduction of sustainability criteria in the formulation of plans and programmes of the Organization.

This was a concern which we remember was mentioned in the Resolution of the last Conference (C 91/2). A progress report, as you know, was presented to Council at its 102nd Session, and the Council expressed satisfaction at the measures taken. The growing activities referred to - IPM, biodiversity, soil conservation and sustainable fisheries - should constitute evidence that we are not just paying lip service to these subjects, but actually doing something about them.

In this connection, the distinguished Ambassador of France also referred to the need for ways in which there can be coordination within the Secretariat, within units, and cutting across departmental lines. I take note of that point, but I must say that we do not dwell too much in our documents on internal Secretariat arrangements. Perhaps we should do so more in the future, but certainly we feel that these are internal processes - which are of course open to you all to see - that we should concentrate on the policy aspects and on the macro-management aspects, rather than burdening you with details of how we work. However, as the subject was raised, it may be useful to point out that on the subject of sustainability we work across technical departments and we work across the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. The way in which this is done is through the Steering Committee, of which my colleague Mr Mahler is Chairman. This is a Steering Committee, at the level of Assistant Directors-General. The Steering Committee then has an interdepartmental working group at Director level. They have seven task forces or sub-groups, among which one deals with sustainability indicators, and the introduction of sustainability criteria in agricultural policy, planning programming and project formulation. There is much more information which we shall be glad to share later, if you wish.

The distinguished representative of Barbados asked a question about small island states and FAO's efforts to help them. FAO participated actively in the intergovernmental preparatory committee meeting for the preparation of the UN Conference on Small Island States, which is to be held in Barbados at the end of April next year, and we have provided a number of contributions to prepare for this meeting. My colleagues who have been active in this field found, unfortunately, that the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry were scarcely represented at this preparatory meeting, and as a result these sectors are not very well covered in the draft Action Plan for this Conference, despite our efforts. Consultations among delegations of the small island countries during the present Conference would indeed be very useful and we hope that they will lead to more active participation of the sectors which are our concern in the delegations to the Conference to be held in Barbados.

As so often happens, I have tried to respond to the general debate, as well as to some specific points. This is not through any attempt to convince individual members whose points of view have been well heard, and who may not be at all convinced by my reflections. I hope nevertheless that the reflective approach of this response will give them satisfaction that their voice is indeed very clear, is heard, and that we shall again continue to give you more satisfaction. That is certainly the intent of the Secretariat, under the Director-General.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Shah, for your response to the Commission, your answers to questions raised, and your observations. I would now like to ask the Commission if there is any delegation who would like to respond to the responses of Mr Shah? I do not see any delegation wishing to take the floor at this stage, so I take it that the answers of Mr Shah have been satisfactory to you.

We have now come to the end of what has been, I think, a very interesting debate on a very important issue, which is the third part of our so-called "quartet".

I will not attempt to make a full summary of this debate, because after all we have a Drafting Committee, which is very broadly composed and is under the able chairmanship of Mr Marsh. I am sure they will come up with a report that will reflect the debate and we will then have the opportunity to adopt that report. I shall therefore merely highlight a few main points that have come up during the debate, and which I personally think are important.

I would like to divide my remarks into three parts: First of all, general remarks that have been made about the usefulness of the Medium-Term Plan as a tool and an instrument to enable a dialogue between membership and the Secretariat on the future orientation of FAO's work. Secondly, a number of remarks have been made on the format of the Medium-Term Plan. The Medium-Term Plan has been reintroduced recently; we are at an experimental stage with the format, and a number of remarks have been made there. Finally, I would like to highlight a few points that have been made concerning the content of this Medium-Term Plan which has been before us during this Session.

So far as the usefulness of the Medium-Term Plan as a tool is concerned, I think it is fair to conclude that there is broad consensus that the Medium-Term Plan is indeed a useful tool and that we should continue to have it and to further develop it, maybe refine it and improve it - but that we should keep it. It is an important instrument, we think, to formulate the priorities for the Organization for its work in the medium term, and it is a useful basis for this dialogue.

Concerning the format of the Medium-Term Plan, I think one of the major issues which was raised during the last Conference was whether it should include resource projection or not. This issue has come up again. I conclude from the debate that there is a great number of Member States who would indeed like to see at least some sort of indication of the resources required for the implementation of the Medium-Term Plan. On the other hand, I know that there are other delegations who were cautious in this respect, and would like to mention the possibility that such indications could be construed as commitments on the part of governments to make available these resources.

Suggestions have been made to include in the Medium-Term Plan indications of targets, outputs that we are striving for, and timeframes for the various activities. Other suggestions have been made to the effect that the Medium-Term Plan perhaps should not indicate only high priorities, but should also indicate areas where the priority may be somewhat lower. In general, various delegations have made the remark that the Medium-Term Plan might have a somewhat sharper priority focus. A remark, which has already been responded to by Mr Shah in his remarks, is that in the Context Chapter information could be given on the relationship of FAO's work with other organizations, to put it in a broader context.

We have also heard remarks from several delegates to the effect that indications would need to be given of the areas in which FAO has a comparative advantage, so that could be the basis for development of the Medium-Term Plan.

I think these were the remarks on the format of the Medium-Term Plan. As far as the content is concerned, I think I can again conclude that the Commission has general appreciation for the content of the Medium-Term Plan. Of course, the Commission has made remarks concerning certain themes, strategies, and sectors which would require perhaps more attention than has been given in this Medium-Term Plan. There seems to be broad consensus that the issues of environment and sustainable agriculture not be put as an additional theme to other themes, but as an overall guiding approach in the whole work of FAO. In this respect, the question was raised of what the implications would be to the internal organization of FAO.

Another point that many delegations have raised is that they agree that poverty alleviation should be one of the focuses of FAO. The same goes for issues like food security and nutrition. A number of delegations also stressed the important role of FAO as an organization to give policy advice. The move towards upstream activities was mentioned.

Furthermore, the importance of cross-sector priorities, on which we have a whole chapter in the Medium-Term Plan, was stressed by many delegations. I noticed quite a number of delegations who mentioned in particular people's participation and women in development as important principles and strategies to be used by FAO in its work.

National execution, national capacity building and shifts from the public to the private sector were also issues mentioned by quite a number of delegations. A number of delegations underlined the importance of training and technical assistance. ECDC/TCDC, which receives quite some attention in the Medium-Term Plan, was also mentioned by many countries as a very important area.

Another question which arose, and which may be relatively new, is that of the situation of countries in Central and Eastern Europe, and the so-called "countries in transition". I noticed that a number of countries which fall into this region took the floor on this issue, and have asked FAO to pay more attention to this particular area. In particular, more technical assistance was requested. Delegations of countries outside this region also mentioned this aspect.

Quite some time was spent during our discussions on cooperation with other organizations, not only within the UN system but also outside the UN system - private organizations. NGOs were mentioned.

Private organizations, NGOs, ECA and GATT were mentioned, as organizations with which FAO could perhaps cooperate more intensively than it has done so far. Almost all sectors have been mentioned by delegations as sectors requiring more attention. I should like to mention a few in particular.

It struck me that one of the sectors that was mentioned by many delegations as needing somewhat more attention was the forestry sector. The development of National Forestry Action Plans in the framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme and the technical assistance required for that was stressed by a number of delegations.

Another sector that received quite a lot of attention was the fisheries sector. Various aspects were mentioned: first, the important role that FAO has in the area of collection of information for the sector, and secondly the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing and questions such as integrated coastal management also received some attention by delegations.

Water was mentioned, as well as soil degradation, plant and animal genetic resources, biological diversity, plant protection, IPM and IPNS. Those were all areas mentioned in the course of the debate, so I think you will agree with me that that covered almost every subject in the Medium-Term Plan, but these are all important issues. I should like to thank all the membership for their constructive contributions to the debate. I have very much appreciated the fact that you have been brief, which has enabled us to finish our work within the time set. I should like to thank the Secretariat, in particular Dr Shah and Mrs Forthomme for their assistance and all the other members of the Secretariat who have helped in the deliberations on this issue.

This closes the deliberations on Agenda Item 11. Thank you all again for your cooperation.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/7

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE SEPTIMA SESION

(12 November 1993)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la
Commission II

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10.00 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la
Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITES AND PROGRAMME OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 12. Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95
- 12. Programme de travail et budget 1994-95
- 12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, je déclare ouverte la septième séance de la Commission II. Nous sommes au point 12 de notre ordre du jour qui est l'examen du Programme de travail et budget. Sous la conduite de mes collègues brésilien et néerlandais, nous avons épuisé les points sur le Rapport d'évaluation et le Plan à moyen terme. Le Comité de rédaction, sous la présidence éclairée de notre ami M. Marsh, Représentant des Etats-Unis, a travaillé assez tard dans la soirée pour examiner les deux projets de rapport sur le Rapport d'exécution et le Rapport d'évaluation. Cependant, il reste un petit paragraphe en suspens qui sera discuté ce soir lorsque le Comité abordera le projet de rapport sur le Plan à moyen terme.

Nous allons passer tout de suite à l'examen du Programme de travail et budget pour lequel je rappelle que les documents de support sont les documents C 93/3, C 93/3-Corr.1 pour la version anglaise, C 93/3-Sup.1 et C 93/LIM/11. Je tiens à attirer votre attention sur le fait qu'il y a un autre document LIM qui ne figure pas dans le journal de la Conférence et qui est le C 93/LIM/23 relatif au Code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Nous devons traiter de cette question au cours de nos travaux sur ce point 12, pour la simple raison qu'il y aura peut-être une incidence financière. Je vous renvoie au paragraphe 5 de ce document où il est indiqué que le Directeur général s'efforcera de mobiliser des ressources en vue de convoquer des consultations sur la mise en place de ce Code de conduite pour une pêche internationale par la voie extrabudgétaire, ou alors, pendant la mise en oeuvre du programme lui-même, il envisagera la manière dont le coût pourrait être pris en charge dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget approuvé 1994-95. Je souhaiterais donc que les délégués s'expriment sur cette question.

Nous allons aborder le Programme de travail et budget. Comme nous avons eu l'occasion de le dire auparavant, lors de l'examen du Rapport d'évaluation du Plan à moyen terme, ce document fait partie du "quartet" - c'est une expression qui a été déjà employée et que l'on peut reprendre - et il fait suite à la décision de la Conférence de 1991 quant à la procédure à suivre en matière de questions budgétaires. Cette procédure est passée par plusieurs phases et cette question a d'ailleurs été examinée tout au long du processus par le Comité financier, le Comité du programme, le Conseil, et maintenant par la Commission II. Au départ, nous avons eu un schéma de travail et budget, ensuite nous avons eu un sommaire pour arriver enfin à cette version du Programme de travail et budget.

Je vais tout de suite donner la parole à M. Shah, qui va introduire ce point à l'ordre du jour le plus brièvement possible, compte tenu de l'importance du sujet. Nous avons réservé trois séances à cette question: toute la journée d'aujourd'hui et lundi matin. Le Comité de rédaction, sous la présidence de M. Marsh, aura à se pencher sur cette question lundi après la séance plénière, de manière, d'une part, à ce que la Commission puisse adopter le rapport relatif à ce point de l'ordre du jour, le mardi après-midi et, d'autre part, à ce que l'Assemblée plénière de la Conférence soit en mesure de l'adopter elle-même le 17 au matin.

Mr V.J. SHAH, Deputy Director-General (Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : It is indeed an honour for me to submit for your consideration the Director-General's proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95. Following your directive, Mr Chairman, I shall keep my introduction very short, drawing attention only to those key points on which we feel the Conference may wish to express itself, and leave the maximum time for your own debate and for such response as you may wish me to make at the end.

As you have already referred, Mr Chairman, to the documents before you, let me only say that the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees from their September session and the report of the Council at its Session immediately before the Conference indicate a very sound basis for whatever comments I now draw to your attention.

First of all, I want to emphasize that the Director-General, in order to permit all Member Nations to unite - and that has really been the leit-motif of all his efforts in the preparation of this Programme of Work - to permit you to unite in its approval. For this reason the Director-General started with a very key decision in formulating his proposals. That decision was that he was proposing - is proposing - a Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium which has no programme growth over the level of the approved Programme of Work for 1992-93. The approved Programme of Work for this biennium, which you approved two years ago, was US\$676.9 million, and the proposals contain no overall programme growth.

The Director-General realized that this is not the wish of a considerable number of Member Nations who have already expressed concern on this issue. They have expressed their wish that there could have been real programme growth, because of the demands on the Organization, because of their own needs, because to them it is inconceivable that an Organization which has been subjected to budgetary problems over six years and has had significant programme cuts should not now be able to face a period of even nominal programme growth. But no. These Member Nations are very respectfully requested to take into account the views of other Member Nations who have difficulty, or would have difficulty, in accepting any programme increase.

With this basic decision of no programme growth, I turn now to the proposed distribution of resources. Here I would point out that we have gone through a phase in the outline and in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget where the proposed allocation of resources did not meet with the general satisfaction of the bodies which considered the proposals. In particular, there was considerable concern over the proposed reduction of resources for the Major Programme: Forestry, the Major Programme: Fisheries, the Major Programme: Agriculture, and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, the concern also dwelt on the fact that TCP would not increase its share in the total budget. The Programme and Finance Committees and the Council have expressed satisfaction in their autumn sessions at the way in which the Director-General has responded to these earlier concerns, and these concerns have led to the Director-General revising his earlier proposals.

As you see now in the document before you, and in the reports of the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees, the proposed allocation of resources to Forestry is no longer a decline, but an increase. The proposed reduction of resources to Fisheries has been reduced, so that

instead of a very large reduction it is now a nominal reduction. The proposed reduction for the Major Programme: Agriculture, which was over US\$2 million in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget - US\$2.8 million - is now US\$1.1 million. On all these three fronts, we are very appreciative of the reaction of the intergovernmental bodies to the revised proposals.

On the Technical Cooperation Programme, let me indicate that whereas earlier there had been proposed a reduction of almost US\$2 million before the inclusion of cost increases - I am talking about the real Programme - now the Programme decrease is under a million dollars. When you add the proposed cost increases, however, the amount of TCP appropriation for projects will increase from US\$77 million to US\$82 million. So I would respectfully urge that you bear this in mind - the appropriation for the approval of TCP projects would increase from US\$77 million to US\$82 million.

As regards the share of the TCP in the total budget, the document indicates that Chapter 4, which presently represents 11.7 percent of the total Programme of Work, would reduce to 11.2 percent. But, without going into details which I have already given the Council and which are contained in the reports of the Council and of the Programme and Finance Committees, at the budget rate which the Conference may be expected to set when it approves the Programme of Work and Budget next Wednesday the share of the TCP would not decline, but would increase. At the current market rate of around Lit. 1 650 to the dollar, the share of the TCP in the total budget would not be 11.2 percent but would be 12.3 percent to 12.4 percent.

The Director-General is very conscious that this is scant satisfaction - this is little reason for satisfaction to those many, many Member Nations who recall that Conference Resolution 9/89, adopted in 1989, had decided that the share of the TCP should gradually move up to 14 percent, and eventually to 17 percent, of the total Programme of Work.

Turning now to the financial parameters of the proposal : I have already referred to the base level. To this base level we have to consider the issue of cost increases. This is an area where I am happy to say that the developments are also aimed at satisfying all Member Nations.

At the stage of the outline Programme of Work and Budget the cost increases had been estimated at US\$85 million. At the stage of the Summary these cost increases were reduced to US\$81 million. At the stage of the full Programme of Work and Budget which you have before you they have been reduced to US\$76 million.

The Finance Committee examined these cost increases as usual in all the detail it wished, and as you note from the Report of the Finance Committee these estimates have been accepted by it, and they have been endorsed by the Council.

This brings me to another issue which was raised during earlier consideration and which is well reflected in the reports of the subsidiary bodies which are submitted to you. That is the issue of the lapse factor. The Director-General refers to it in his Introduction.

The Director-General has used a lapse factor of 3 percent according to the decision of the Conference in 1989, which he continues to observe unless and until the Conference gives him another directive.

The issue of the lapse factor, without going into the technicalities at this stage, finally boils down to its impact on the budget level. If a higher lapse factor were utilized, this would lead to a reduction in the level of the Programme of Work and Budget. Those who accept that the level of 3 percent be maintained see the proposals before you at that proposed resource level. Those who would wish to see no lapse factor reduction, or a lower reduction of 1 or 2 percent instead of 3 percent, would have to face the consequences of a higher budget level. That is finally what it amounts to. But without seeking to be controversial, I think the debates in the Programme and Finance Committees and in the Council are also to be seen as helpful to the Conference because these earlier debates recognize that the issue is not settled to the satisfaction of those who wish to see the lapse factor changed. But they recognize that the matter can be pursued in the next biennium and it can be pursued very well by the Finance Committee requesting the External Auditor to comment on the technical aspects of this matter.

I mention this issue because none of us should ignore it. Certainly, the Secretariat is very attentive to all the differing views expressed. But it is not a matter which I hope need be divisive in the Conference and will certainly not hinder you in seeking the unanimity which we all desire.

Finally, let me come to the aspect which all Member Nations face and not only the delegations represented here but eventually the governments at home, the treasuries, the finance ministries. What do these proposals mean for you if they are approved in the manner suggested by the Director-General?

The present Programme of Work and Budget was approved at the rate of 1 210 lire to the dollar, and the share of assessed contributions in its total funding was US\$633 560 000. I am not counting here the impact of the tax equalization fund because this does not affect any Member Nation except the United States which levies Income Tax on staff members who are US nationals. For all other Member Nations the share of assessed contributions in the total budget in the present biennium is US\$633 560 000, and the approved Programme of Work was US\$676.9 million. At the rate of 1 650 lire to the dollar, which is the rate we have seen in recent days and weeks, the level of the Programme of Work and Budget would no longer be US\$676.9 million but would come down in dollar terms to US\$675.5 million. Because of the proposals for the funding of these proposals, utilizing the expected payments of arrears and the estimated miscellaneous income, the level of assessed contributions for funding this Programme of Work and Budget would no longer be US\$633.5 million but would be some US\$10 million less, US\$623.7 million.

I will not guess what may happen to the currency markets. None of us can. For example, this morning the opening rate - I have the quotations from the Chemical Bank London, Den Norsk Oslo, and the Union Bank Geneva - are between 1 658 and 1 663 lire to the dollar, so if anything the currency markets are moving in the direction which would reduce the level of the Programme of Work and Budget and reduce further the amount of contributions of Member Nations.

There are so many issues which are very dear to our hearts, to all of us, which I am sure will be raised in the debates. At this stage I will stop, with only two references. One is the reference to the substance of the Programme of Work. I have talked a lot about figures, about budgets, about dollars, about financial aspects, because it is my duty to draw this to

your attention, but finally it is your Programme of work which counts. What do I have to say on that?

The Director-General presents his proposals which have been discussed, as you know, so often in various aspects in different degrees of detail but the moment the Conference adopts the Programme of Work and Budget, it is your Programme of Work and Budget. We only work towards producing something which you may accept and make your own. On the substance of the Programme of Work the Director-General hopes that you will have the enormous satisfaction of knowing that the priorities of his proposed Programme of Work are endorsed and re-endorsed by Member Nations in the various fora. The Programme Committee has unanimously endorsed these priorities, as have the subsequent discussions that have taken place.

Finally, since you, Mr Chairman, referred to a document which bears the title C LIM/23, I only draw attention to it to say that this document relates to the further work on the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. The work on the International Code of Conduct is included in the Programme of Work and Budget under Major Programme-Fisheries. However, since the Programme of Work was formulated the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries dispatched a letter to the Director-General suggesting that the tempo of work on this matter be speeded up and intensified. Speeding up the tempo of work, doing more in the same period, has budgetary implications. Accordingly, we draw this to the attention of the Conference. Once again, I would point out that this matter need not be at all divisive. We are here to respond to your reactions and directives, but if you decide that you want this work speeded up there are two ways in which the budgetary implications can be dealt with. We can deal with them either through the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources, and/or we can try to speed up this work in the course of implementation by seeing whether a priority cannot be given to organizing some of the meetings that are required, reducing the priorities to some other work in, after all, a Programme of Work for Fisheries which is substantial enough to permit such relatively minor adjustments.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Shah pour son introduction du Programme de travail et budget 1994-95. La procédure qui a été suivie pour en arriver à l'examen du Programme de travail et budget auquel nous procédons actuellement est passée par plusieurs étapes qui avaient pour but essentiellement de permettre que des débats ouverts et fructueux puissent avoir lieu de manière à arriver à l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget, si possible à l'unanimité, par tous les Etats Membres.

J'aimerais insister particulièrement sur le document C 93/LIM/11 qui reprend les conclusions et les recommandations des Comités restreints du Conseil et de la dernière session du Conseil elle-même. Compte tenu du fait que cette question a été débattue assez longuement pendant tout le biennium actuel, je souhaiterais que vous interveniez en mettant l'accent sur des points particuliers, sans peut-être revenir nécessairement sur des questions qui ont déjà fait l'objet d'un large consensus tout au long du processus. Sur ma liste, j'ai déjà les pays suivants: Bangladesh, Mexique, Canada, Autriche, Liban, Norvège, République de Corée, Espagne, Maroc, Syrie, Angola, Portugal, Belgique, France, Tunisie, Chine, Egypte, et Indonésie. La liste reste ouverte, nous la clôturerons au cours de la journée.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh) : Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the first speaker on the 1994 Programme of Work and Budget. First, I should like to thank Mr Shah for such a succinct and comprehensive introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Any discussion on budgets invariably raises questions of value for money and efficiency. It is therefore important for Member Nations to make their own assessments as to whether they are getting good value from the investment in FAO programming. From the point of view of Bangladesh the answer is that good value has indeed been received.

The Conference has in the past raised questions as to whether it would be possible to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's operations, and it was appropriate that reviews be undertaken to look at this question. As a result of this, changes have been made and improvements have been realized. For example, we have now received the Programme Evaluation Report which provides certain opportunities to see which approaches have worked and which have not, and to make the necessary changes so that our programme can be more effective.

Also, over the years we have seen financial resources transferred from administration to programming, primarily as a means of making the budget go further, thereby improving efficiency.

Mr Chairman, the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1994-95 biennium is in keeping with the general policy orientations, Programme Priorities and Objectives contained in the Medium-Term Plan 1994-99, which was broadly endorsed by the FAO Council at its 103rd Session in June 1993. The preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO is indeed a formidable task, particularly at a time when the demands placed on the Organization have substantially increased without a corresponding availability of adequate resources. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget which was considered by the 103rd Council Session is essentially the basis of the present document. The level of the proposed Programme of Work for 1994-95, which represents no real net programme growth, is based on a realistic assessment of the needs of the Organization taking into consideration various constraining factors.

The level of US\$676.9 million for 1992-93 was built on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, which also represented no net programme growth. In other words, there has been no programme increase in the 1991-93 biennia and no net growth is also proposed for the 1994-95 biennium, in spite of the fact that FAO's mandatory responsibilities have increased considerably over the years and it will have to play a key role in the implementation of various important aspects of Agenda 21 of UNCED and the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Nutrition. Unless the Programme of Work is maintained at at least the level of the current biennium, it will significantly limit the capacity of the Organization to respond to its priority functions.

When the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was discussed in the last FAO Council Session in June of this year, concern was expressed about the reduced allocation for a number of important technical activities, particularly in TCP, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Council called for higher allocations in these areas. The revised proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget have incorporated some readjustments leading to some increase in allocations to Fisheries and Forestry, but still less than the actual need.

As mentioned by the Director-General in his introduction, the revised allocation for TCP is, disappointingly, still insignificant. We feel the allocation should at least reach the previous level of 14 percent. We are happy to note that it has been possible for the FAO Secretariat to further lower the provision of cost increases by another US\$5 million to US\$76 million. We hope efforts will continue to be made by FAO to keep this matter under constant review.

The Programme of Work and Budget in general reflects the priorities of the promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, in which active FAO involvement is crucial.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de la clarté de votre intervention. Je crois que nous pouvons considérer que nous appuyons tous les activités contenues dans le Programme de travail et budget.

Avant de donner la parole au Représentant du Mexique, je vous informe que le Représentant de la Hongrie a souhaité insérer dans le procès-verbal sa déclaration relative au point 12 de l'ordre du jour. S'il n'y a pas d'objection particulière, je considérerai qu'il en est ainsi décidé.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Señor Presidente, como es la primera vez que hago uso de la palabra, deseo felicitarle a usted por la atinada elección al cargo de la presidencia. Igualmente, agradecer al Dr. Shah por sus claras explicaciones.

Nuestra Organización, bajo el atinado liderazgo del Dr. Saouma, ha transitado por un importante proceso de reforma interna. Dicha reforma ha buscado hacer de la FAO una Organización más eficiente, más transparente y más efectiva en el cumplimiento de sus principios constitucionales. Con ello se han confirmado las ventajas comparativas de nuestra Organización para cumplir con el compromiso de combatir el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria, ajustar sus programas a la conservación del medio ambiente, del logro de un desarrollo sostenible y de la utilización de los recursos naturales y genéticos para beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Tras un período de crisis financiera, la FAO ha recobrado gradualmente la capacidad de ejecución de sus programas. El Programa de Labores y Presupuestos 1994-95 ha sido formulado sobre la base de múltiples equilibrios entre las demandas crecientes de la humanidad y los arreglos que han definido sus aún limitadas posibilidades. El Programa de Labores 1994-95 es, por tanto, de compromiso y también de consolidación. Por ello, México aprueba el proyecto de Programa presentado por el Director General por un monto de 676.9 millones de dólares, e insta a los Estados Miembros de la Organización a aprobar dicho proyecto de resolución sobre consignaciones presupuestarias 1994-95 por unanimidad.

México aprecia que, a pesar de la limitada situación financiera de la Organización, se haya podido fortalecer el Programa Principal Montes, el de Pesca y algunas actividades dentro del Programa de Agricultura. Asimismo, apreciamos la cantidad adicional de un millón de dólares para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y que su proporción aumente de 11.7 a 12.3 por ciento del presupuesto; aunque lamentamos que no se pueda cumplir aún con los objetivos señalados en la Resolución 9/89 de nuestra Conferencia. En este sentido, Señor Presidente, México le da todo el apoyo y la importancia

al PCT. México negocia actualmente, dentro de este rubro en temas como sericultura, conservación de suelos y nutrición de plantas y plaguicidas; y consideramos que este tipo de acciones pueden tener un efecto multiplicador, ya que México es muy dinámico también en el plano de la Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo.

Nos satisface que la cuantía de aumentos de costos se haya reducido de 85 millones de dólares a menos de 76 millones de dólares en este presupuesto completo.

Asimismo nos complace que el impacto entre la lira y el dólar tenga un efecto positivo en las cuotas aplicables a los Estados Miembros, así como el empleo de parte de los pagos previstos por atrasos para financiar consignaciones presupuestarias. Nos ha complacido mucho lo que nos ha dicho hace un momento el doctor Shah de que el nivel de cuotas bajará de 633,5 millones a 623,7 millones de dólares.

Confirmamos nuestro apoyo para que los pagos atrasados se acrediten al fondo general; apoyamos la propuesta del Director General de adeudar a la cuenta especial de reserva una cantidad de hasta 18 millones de dólares referente a gastos de personal no presupuestados que no se pueden cubrir con los recursos del Presupuesto Ordinario. Lo aprobamos conscientes de que esto permitirá reducir el déficit acumulado de la Organización.

Por otra parte rechazamos la vinculación entre el coeficiente de descuento por vacantes y las tasas efectivas de vacantes que en el pasado fueron superiores al coeficiente, debido a la necesidad de enfrentar las dificultades financieras de los últimos bienios. No obstante, hoy la FAO entra en un período de estabilidad de su plantilla, en contraste con épocas pasadas, y debemos garantizarle al nuevo Director General, señor Jacques Diouf, el que pueda ejecutar sus programas y consolidar su plantilla en esta etapa en que la tasa actual de coeficiente debe reflejar la incidencia de las vacantes no previstas y fortuitas. Apoyamos, por tanto, el porcentaje del descuento actual del coeficiente de descuento del tres por ciento. No obstante, también coincidimos en que, como ha señalado el doctor Shah, sería conveniente que el Auditor Externo estudie este problema; y quedamos a la espera también del estudio de la Dependencia Común de Inspección para todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Recordamos a todas las delegaciones que una tasa de coeficiente mayor llevaría a una ejecución inferior del Programa; en este sentido, nuestra decisión adquiere un cariz político.

Permítame, señor Presidente, unas palabras respecto a las prioridades y programas propuestos. México elogia, en primer lugar, la forma clara y comprensiva en que se ha presentado el Programa 94-95, sus cuadros y gráficos y su visión integral que facilita el análisis y la ubicación de este esfuerzo en el contexto del mediano plazo.

Asimismo, confirmamos las dos nuevas prioridades que cruzan casi todas las actividades de la FAO y que son complementarias entre sí, el CNÜMAD y la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición, enfatizando también la importancia de la seguridad alimentaria, la cooperación técnica y económica entre todos los países y el manejo integrado de plagas, el asesoramiento sobre políticas y el apoyo que se debe dar, en las actuales circunstancias, a los países de Europa del este, de forma que puedan transitar hacia economías de mercado.

Asimismo subrayamos la importancia de la participación de la población, en particular de la mujer, en el desarrollo, y la conservación y utilización de los Recursos Genéticos para beneficio de todos.

En este último sentido, consideramos que las actividades en materia de Recursos Fitogenéticos y Zoogenéticos deben elevar su visibilidad y aumentar la disponibilidad de recursos presupuestarios para dichas acciones.

De manera especial consideramos que no se ha dado cumplimiento aún a la recomendación de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, del Comité del Programa y del Consejo de la FAO, en el sentido de elevar la visibilidad de la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos; tampoco se han aumentado los recursos financieros y humanos para dicha Secretaría. Un examen minucioso revela que el Secretario de la Comisión se encuentra aún prácticamente solo. Insistimos, por tanto, en que se corrija a la brevedad esta situación.

Igualmente, enfatizamos la necesidad de aplicar el calendario previsto de las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Sobre el Programa Especial de Acción sobre Recursos Zoogenéticos sería necesario aplicar también más recursos.

Apoyamos las actividades de Conservación de Suelos y Ordenación de Cuencas Hidrográficas en África.

Agris y Caris, lo hemos señalado en varias ocasiones, y los importantes sistemas de información de la FAO, son fundamentales como referencia para mejorar las relaciones de investigación.

La función de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo ha sido un programa que México ha apoyado prioritariamente desde el principio. Hoy debe defenderse, además, el fomento de la mujer en el medio ambiente y para el desarrollo sostenible. La compatibilidad de aspectos ecológicos y la viabilidad de políticas comerciales son también una parte fundamental del Programa de Políticas Alimentarias y Agrarias, así como el apoyo técnico de la FAO para el buen éxito de la Ronda Uruguay y para la implantación de sus positivos resultados.

Señor Presidente, nosotros, desde hace muchos años, hemos señalado la conveniencia de estudiar la posible constitución de un Comité de Ganadería en el marco de la FAO, dadas las implicaciones que la ganadería tiene no sólo para la alimentación y la nutrición, sino también para las actividades productivas del empleo y del arraigo rural. Creemos que es tiempo de que esta Conferencia dé un mandato en sentido de que se estudie la conveniencia de establecer dicho Comité.

En el Programa Principal Pesca, México ha mantenido una muy activa participación, sobre todo en la preparación del proyecto de Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable y el acuerdo sobre el abanderamiento de buques pesqueros en alta mar; así como también en la labor para el rescate de los recursos genéticos para la agricultura.

Consideramos que, conforme a la propuesta del Párrafo tercero y el Apéndice del documento C LIM 23, esta Conferencia debería otorgarle el mandato al Director General para que movilice recursos, ya sea por la vía presupuestaria o sufragándolos a través del Programa de labores y

Presupuesto 1994-95, para convocar las consultas técnicas relativas al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

En Montes, nos complace la asignación de recursos adicionales, pero debe de hacerse un esfuerzo mayor por atraer recursos extrapresupuestarios a este renglón. Asimismo, consideramos que esta actividad de atracción de recursos extrapresupuestarios es necesaria, en general para toda la Organización; y la FAO y los Estados Miembros deberemos desplegar una activa participación en ese sentido.

Nos preocupa la continuada incertidumbre en la aplicación de los gastos de apoyo del PNUD, en vista de sus nuevas disposiciones y el trabajo adicional en relación con los servicios de apoyo técnico a nivel de programas y de proyectos. La FAO debe hacer un esfuerzo mayor en este sentido y para esclarecer su posición.

La FAO debe, igualmente, reforzar el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que debe aumentar su proporción del presupuesto.

Para finalizar, Señor Presidente, México reitera que el Programa Labores y Presupuesto 94-95 permitirá consolidar el proceso de reforma y revisión de la FAO y sentar las bases para que, bajo el liderazgo del nuevo Director General, se proyecte esta Organización ante los retos del siglo XXI.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre intervention. J'ai pris note du fait que vous soutenez le Programme travail et budget. J'ai également pris note de la proposition que vous avez faite de créer un comité de l'élevage. Je crois que c'est une bonne proposition compte tenu de ce que l'élevage dans les pays en développement, et surtout l'organisation des zones de parcours, dans les régions arides et semi-arides, peuvent contribuer au développement agricole dans certaines régions. Vous avez parlé de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques en disant qu'il convenait d'accroître son Secrétariat. Je crois que c'est un point important; nous avons tous assisté aux travaux de cette Commission et nous pensons qu'il faut effectivement renforcer le Secrétariat de cette Commission compte tenu de son mandat important.

Charles C. STOLL (Canada): Like colleagues from Bangladesh and Mexico I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his comprehensive and yet concise summary of the principle issues surrounding this Programme of Work and Budget during his introduction to the subject.

Together with other Members we have participated extensively in the work of the Technical Committees of Council, in the Programme Committee and in the Council itself as we debated these specific details of this Programme of Work and Budget. Accordingly we shall refrain from replicating all of the various analyses and observations registered in those forums respecting the programme priorities and orientations. Rather we shall at this final stage confine our comments to some key issues and concerns that we feel warrant emphasis. Any entity functioning in a period of continuous transformation characterized by financial stringency must be innovative, flexible and realistic in its approaches. Economy, efficiency and adaptability must be its guiding principles. Success in the competition for limited resources requires that the targeting and management of activities must be efficient and must be seen to be so. Resources used must be constantly assessed with a view to their optimal deployment by a transfer from low to high

priorities and containment of non-discretionary cost increases. In this respect this budget does not entirely convince in terms of its efforts to do more and better with less. Very little is detailed therein about the persistent search for economies in management systems in the unrelenting reviewing of priorities and in the search for strategic alliances with other organizations. There is little sense of innovation conveyed within its 400 or so pages, even where substantive resource shifts would imply its operation.

We have no doubt of the Organization's potential for change, for adaptation and for efficiencies but these are not publicly and proudly displayed. Thus, for example, we need to search in the document aimed at detailing resource short-falls and not universally distributed, that the Organization was fully capable of realizing at least 11 million dollars worth of economies in the current biennium when forced to so respond. Thus we are left wondering at its real capacity for transformation and adaptation and ask why it is not trumpeted more boldly.

Our delegation is pleased with the fact that this Programme of Work and Budget responds to expressed concerns of the memberships respecting certain financial issues identified in the outline Programme of Work and Budget. This is an important expression of the link between consultation and actions which is the foundation for success in multilateral institutions. Specifically we acknowledge and appreciate that a number of Canada's concerns have been reflected in the document before us notably in respect to the rescinding of the cuts originally proposed to the Forestry and Fisheries programme.

In the agricultural area we await further details about work on plant genetics aimed at ensuring the Programme of Work agreed to by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and approved by the 103rd Council will be fully implemented.

Of specific interest are the status of preparation for the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, and of work on the international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

Canada is also very interested in and supportive of FAO's work in animal genetic resources. Although one of the reasons for the special action programme in animal genetics is to generate outside funding, we would urge the FAO to identify sufficient core resources to ensure that this important programme is also appropriately funded from within. Unless the resource levels provided for in this PWB are improved we fear there exists considerable risk that the important animal genetic work of the FAO may fail to progress to the pilot stage, let alone attain critical mass. We would note, in this respect, the potential for strategic alliances and burden-sharing with regional organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), which, we believe, could be a productive and complementary collaborator in this programme.

Canada is pleased to note that its own efforts and those of the members of COFO and of the Council, respecting the need to rebalance the priorities and budgets of the FAO, particularly as regards the Forestry Programme, have yielded results.

We consider that the partial re-establishment of the forestry budget represents a useful first step. However, the disparity between that portion of the regular budget dedicated to this activity, and its centrality within

the mandate of the FAO remain inexplicable. While within the present fiscal climate we can understand FAO's limited margin for manoeuvre, we would recall the unanimous recommendations of the 103rd Council, among which was that Member Nations must give consideration to increasing the forestry budget in future biennia. This is a point for continued action, and it is for this Conference to convey unequivocally that action we must have. What is at stake, is no less than FAO's status and effectiveness as a lead agent in promoting, world-wide, the conservation, management and sustainability of forests, thus preserving a healthy environment for our generation and for those to come.

Accordingly we are proposing that the Conference act by passing a resolution which affirms the vital importance of this sector within FAO's mandate, reiterates the priority to be accorded, forestry in any eventual revision of budgetary allocations, and suggests future action to establish a more appropriate balance in future resources allocations. We have transmitted the text of such a draft resolution to you Mr Chairman, of this commission for appropriate action.

We are, of course, supportive of the work of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and indeed, have agreed to host a meeting relating to the fisheries management sub-element of the code. We can also agree in principle with the proposal to put work on the general principles of the code on a fast track. However, in so doing we underscore the need to ensure that it compliments and does not compete with work being conducted elsewhere in the UN system. This is critical if we are to operationize the concept of efficiency and avoidance of duplication. As well we should like some elaboration of the modalities, intended time-frames and on the items to be considered under this project. We also would urge interested parties to come forward with extra-budgetary resources to help minimize the load on an already strained Fisheries Department budget.

With regard to the programme and budget framework we would highlight a number of issues of continuing concern.

The question of arrears is a hardy perennial which remains unresolved. This document offers little optimism in its suggestions, in paragraph 16, that receipts against contributions may have peaked in the 90 percent range. In order for any organization to plan and function effectively there needs to be greater transparency and coherence between the cost of formal, planned or budgeted activity and the actual level of activity based on revenue or, in this case, receipt of assessed contributions. I would underline the critical importance for members to honour their obligations by giving material substance to declarations of support for the FAO. We share the need, as do other member countries, for the FAO to implement its programme as fully as possible without compromise.

The absorption of support cost posts also is a concern, and particularly so in the context of zero real programme growth, a projected reduction of 24 percent in extra-budgetary activities, and a vacancy rate for Professional staff almost six times that of the provision for the lapse factor. In this context, we frankly have difficulties in accepting the operational justification for this proposed transfer. Equally unpalatable in a period of severe financial restraints, are the associated opportunity costs of US\$9 million, and the net increase in the total establishment that is requested to accommodate this absorption of posts. Thus we would reiterate the expectation, as was articulated by the Programme Committee, that such a situation should not occur.

The lapse factor was the subject of a detailed exchange in the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees as Mr Shah has indicated in his introduction. These discussions did not, in the view of several participants, yield expectations sufficient to eliminate the concerns they had expressed. Those concerns related to the large divergence between the vacancy rate and the lapse factor and the ensuing budgetary and operational consequences. Accordingly, we strongly endorse the proposal that the external auditor review this matter in the next biennium and report to the Finance Committee. We do so mindful of the fact that all decisions -including those of a political nature - are best taken with full and objective knowledge of the underlying facts. In this respect, we welcome the intention of the joint inspection unit to study the lapse factor issue on a system-wide basis. This will add comparative analysis to the more specific and expeditious treatment of the subject which we think is needed and expected from our own external auditor.

The budget level is a thorny issue on which we have commented at past meetings. At this point, we would merely reiterate our view which places particular stress on the need for a decision on the budget level which leaves no room for interpretation as to the intentions of the Conference.

On this topic, we need to temper the optimism contained in the Programme of Work and Budget respecting the actual expected level of assessments in the coming biennium. This is attributable to projected windfalls in respect to recovery of arrears and to exchange rate effects. The result is to reduce a bill of US\$752.7 million - at the exchange rate current at the time the 1992-93 budget was set - by about US\$120 million.

However, what is currently financially benign, may well turn worrisome -and with interest - in future biennia. This is because exchange rate gains are very reversible - the budget rate has fluctuated from a low of 592 in 1974-75 to a high of 1 760 in 1986-87 - and recovery of arrears is not repeatable. Thus, as we take heart in the relative stability and even possible reduction of our current assessed contributions we should not under-represent the true underlying contingent liabilities. The FAO's experience with the problem of sustainable development should make all of us aware of our responsibilities to future generations of assessments, and prevent our being seduced into relaxing our search for economies and efficiencies.

This PWB document does provide considerable detail. However it does not justify a very large transfer of resources within the technical programmes. This makes it difficult for the membership to reach informed judgements and provide direction in respect to the choices that are being suggested, and we would underline the need for this important omission to be addressed in future versions.

As well we would like to see much greater use of targets and benchmarks in future reports.

Finally, this document should be a critical link in the comprehensive accountability exercise which we advocate for the FAO and in that regard we would simply recall remarks contained in our interventions on the Programme Evaluation Report and Programme Implementation Report.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, I should like to return to a matter introduced at the 103rd Council and which I mentioned yesterday at the Plenary Session -namely, Canada's invitation that the FAO celebrate its 50th Anniversary at

the place where it was born. We spoke on this at that Council, and the Canadian proposal received the kind support of numerous Members of the Council. Our proposal is to host commemorative events in Quebec city which would include a special World Food Day observance on 16 October 1995 at the Chateau Frontenac, in Quebec City. A draft declaration to be proclaimed at Quebec City, and focusing on the challenges, the FAO will face as it enters the 21st century, is suggested as part of this process, and would be prepared subject to discussion by all regional conferences. Accordingly, we would propose conference action on this Canadian invitation in the form of a resolution which endorses this proposed celebration. To this end, we have tabled a Draft Resolution which we would ask the Chairman of Commission II to action in the usual way. We would ask, fellow delegates, for your support for this Resolution to celebrate an important milestone in the life of our Organization.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie M. le Représentant du Canada pour votre intervention.

Je voudrais réagir sur vos propositions concernant les deux projets de résolutions, et je commencerai par le dernier relatif à la célébration du 50ème anniversaire de la création de la FAO.

Comme vous l'avez dit, le Conseil avait largement apprécié l'invitation faite par le Canada pour commémorer cet anniversaire. Simplement, sur le plan de la forme, puisque cette Commission est supposée traiter les propositions et résolutions qui ont une incidence financière sur le Programme de travail et budget, j'aimerais vous proposer, ainsi qu'à l'ensemble des Membres de la Commission - et si vous êtes d'accord - de transmettre le projet de résolution - car je crois qu'il s'agit là d'une question de politique - directement au Comité général de la Conférence pour qu'il soit discuté par l'assemblée plénière de la Conférence qui est le cadre le plus approprié pour ce faire.

Charles C. STOLL (Canada): Just very briefly to respond, Mr Chairman, that is fine with us. We had been advised by the Secretariat that this would be the appropriate forum within which to introduce the Resolution, but I am quite prepared to accept your decision and that of the Secretariat in terms of what is the most appropriate route to follow with this Resolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Je confirme donc la proposition que j'avais faite, c'est-à-dire que ce projet de résolution soit transmis au Secrétariat général pour examen et soumis ensuite à l'assemblée plénière de la Conférence.

S'il n'y a pas d'objection, il en sera ainsi décidé.

S'agissant du premier projet de résolution concernant un accroissement de ressources pour les forêts, la pratique voudrait qu'effectivement nous le transmettions au Comité des résolutions pour qu'il puisse s'exprimer sur la forme de ce projet, et cela reviendrait à l'examen de notre Commission. Comme la prochaine réunion du Comité de résolutions est à midi et que, techniquement, il faut que ce projet fasse l'objet d'un document LIM traduit dans toutes les langues, je ne crois pas, malheureusement, que le Secrétariat puisse être en mesure de présenter ce projet au Comité des résolutions pour la séance d'aujourd'hui. Cependant, ce même Comité tenant

une seconde séance lundi, je pense qu'il pourra examiner ce projet sur la forme. Même si nous avons entre-temps achevé tous les débats sur le point 12, je vous proposerais de laisser la question en suspens jusqu'à ce que nous soyons saisis du rapport du Comité des résolutions et nous le réexaminerons ensuite sur le fond. Si tout le monde est d'accord, cette procédure est arrêtée. Il en est ainsi décidé.

Ms Gertraud PICHLER (Austria) (Original language German): Since we take the floor for the first time in this Commission, we would like to thank you for giving us the floor to put forward our comments. First of all, on behalf of the Delegation, we would like to thank the Deputy Director-General Mr Shah in particular, for a very clear and informative introduction of this Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95.

Already in June 1993 at the Council Session which took place at that time, the FAO Council, as we know, analysed in depth the first draft of the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget which the Director-General submitted to the Council for the next biennium 1994-95 and, in supporting this, Austria welcomes the priorities set out in this document C 93/3, that is to say, the priorities for the budget for 1994-95. In supporting the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for that period means that Austria in future, as in the past and as specified in the constitution of FAO, intends to go on meeting its financial commitments to the Organization according to schedule and in good time.

The proposed budget for 1994 is based on zero growth. This is obviously something that all of us cannot think is very satisfactory if we look at the problems that the world has to face but it is realistic and in the view of the Austrian Delegation, of course, the Programme of Work and Budget for FAO for the next biennium must be seen in close connection with the whole picture of the Medium-Term Plan.

At the International Conference on Nutrition which was jointly organized by FAO and WHO last year, world declaration was adopted which presented a statement of political will on the part of all participating Member Nations to undertake a determined struggle against hunger and malnutrition in the world. In this connection, I would like to stress that programmes should be given priority for implementation which aim to make it possible for the poor of this world to develop ways and means and helping themselves and the efforts of the poorer developing countries should be given greater support by the international community.

The ICN also agreed on a global plan of action, as is well known, which is intended to provide guidelines for governments to cooperate with non-governmental organizations and with the whole international community whilst also taking into account the specific requirements of every country. We are happy to see that a whole number of recommendations produced by the International Conference on Nutrition have found a place in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for this coming biennium.

We must also pay attention not only to the results of the International Conference on Nutrition but most particularly we must bear in mind the need for follow-up to the Rio Summit, UNCED. They deserve particular attention. I go too far in the present context of discussing our budget if I go into the details of the particular importance of agriculture. We do hope, however, that in this area very close cooperation can be developed with

other international organizations, and in particular here we are thinking of OECD.

I would now like to offer some comments on major forestry programmes. The latest results of FAO surveys on world forestry sources show that in the last ten years, there has been an annual rate of deforestation in the tropics of the order of 15.5 million hectares. Because forest ecosystems are very sensitive to climate changes as each species of tree has very specific requirements as regards climate and can only adapt to changes in climate within a comparatively narrow range it needs quite a lot of time to adapt. At the World Forestry Congress, held in September 1991 in Paris, tropical forestry problems were discussed in detail and participating countries committed themselves to the greening of the world through the planting of new forests, reforestation and sustainable management of forests. They also committed themselves to provide more funds on an international scale in order to meet the requirements of countries that have to look after the forests they have on their soil on a sustainable basis.

At the United Conference on Environmental Development in Rio, basic principles were agreed for a world-wide consensus on the management conservation and sustainable development of all types of trees and all types of forests, and this requires strengthening international cooperation in forestry. At the June session of the Council of FAO, a number of Members of the Council already did regret that their share of forestry in the total budget of FAO has been increased by only 0.1 percent. The final budget before us now again shows that FAO is giving a low priority to forestry problems in spite of the fact that forests, and in particular tropical forests, are at very considerable risk at the present time and we feel that in the Medium-Term Plan of FAO, special attention must be given to the major programme of forestry and we feel also that in forestry too we need to accept common responsibility for the management of forests and we must help countries in transition to meeting the requirements.

Allow me, Sir, since I am speaking for a European country, to make some comments on the work of FAO in the European region. We support the European activities as set out in the Programme of Work of FAO and here, in this connection, I would like to stress the importance of the area concerning cooperation with European countries in the process of transition and, in the future work in the European region, Austria feels that particular attention must be paid to the needs of those States which are in the process of transition. In this connection, I would like to recall the ministerial consultation on agricultural policies, development and harmonization in central, east and eastern Europe which was held at Godlòllò, Budapest in August this year.

There, the conclusions of that ministerial consultation give us a clear picture of the needs and of the possibilities for future cooperation. We support the conclusions of that ministerial consultation as regards the priorities that were set out therein and we would be very happy if, in particular, the European Committee on Agriculture of FAO could incorporate those conclusions in their future Programme of Work.

In addition to the activities of international organizations, and in order to complete what that can be done at that level, individual countries should undertake bilateral programmes with those countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

We are also glad to know that there has been fruitful cooperation with the ECE in Geneva in recent years, and we hope and believe that this cooperation will become ever closer. This concerns not only agriculture, but also the area of forestry. In this connection I would like to draw attention to the most recent meeting of the ECE Timber Committee, which was held jointly with the European Committee on Forestry of FAO.

The whole area of education and training, both initial and continuing, is of great importance for both forestry and agriculture, and deserves our fullest support. In speaking of work in Europe and these particular aspects, we must never forget the work of the FAO/WHO/Codex Alimentarius Commission which does excellent work. In this connection would stress the importance of the Coordinating Committee for Europe of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, and also the work of FAO/WHO/Codex Alimentarius, which of course embraces the whole world, not just Europe. This work will in the future have to deal further, I hope, with GATT activities which will acquire ever greater importance. There was the worldwide meeting on the FAO/WHO/Codex Alimentarius Commission last July in Geneva, and that meeting dealt in detail with this matter. We support all relative activities.

Regarding the work of the Committee of Fertilizers of FAO, I would like to point out that my country attaches great importance to the work of that Committee, and we feel that its work deserves our full support because their activities are of particular relevance and significance for developing countries.

Permit me, in closing, to speak, not only as a member of the Austrian delegation, but also myself as Chairman of the FAO working party on Women in Forestry and Agriculture, which is a body of the European Region of FAO. Our working party pursues the purpose of enforcing the socio-economic development of women, and of improving the position of women and of the family in rural areas. This improvement can only take place if there is education and training available to women, and advisory services, so that women and families can obtain some additional income. Our working party has been carrying out intensive training seminars and workshops, and dealing with a number of issues such as the development of agro-tourism as a source of income, the establishment of small rural businesses, project management, development of advisory services and programmes, and other similar activities.

A special point of interest, in our view, lies in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, which need to be helped in their restructuring by giving them training programmes which are tailored to their needs. This deserves full support from FAO and we welcome the fact that in the Medium-term Plan FAO does very much take it into account in the development of human resources in rural areas, and in particular the development of women, because women have a great role to play in these areas and in agriculture. This significance can be seen in the Plan of Action for Women in Development by FAO. This was again stressed by many delegations yesterday.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur Le Président, pour votre élection à la direction des travaux de cette deuxième Commission puisque je n'ai pas eu l'occasion de le faire précédemment. Je suis certain que vous avez été nommé à ce poste pour vos compétences et pour vos mérites reconnus. Je voudrais également remercier M. Shah pour la présentation des documents relatifs au

Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium, présentation comme toujours claire et excellente.

En ma qualité de membre du Comité financier, j'ai eu l'occasion, au cours des trois dernières sessions conjointes du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier de protester contre la croissance zéro du budget, me fondant sur le fait qu'il serait intolérable à l'heure actuelle de maintenir le budget d'une organisation comme la FAO sans aucune augmentation car il faut pouvoir répondre à toutes les nécessités d'une telle organisation.

J'ai également dit que les affectations étaient trop limitées pour certains Programmes tels que le PCT, le Programme des pêches et le Programme des forêts. J'avais également indiqué au Comité financier que je n'étais pas d'accord sur le niveau du budget, je l'ai dit en tant que Représentant du Liban au Conseil au mois de juin et lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil qui a eu lieu il y a quelques jours, toujours en avançant les mêmes arguments. J'ai donc été amené à ne pas accepter ce budget car j'ai le sentiment que le travail et les activités de la FAO souffriront d'une régression, ce que personne ne souhaite et surtout pas la FAO elle-même.

Auparavant, j'avais protesté sur ce principe tel qu'il avait été présenté par le Directeur général. Fort de mes convictions, j'estime qu'il serait souhaitable d'arriver à un consensus, en espérant que certains pays changent un jour leur politique et puissent à l'avenir accepter l'augmentation des affectations de façon que l'Organisation puisse mener à bien ses activités.

Aujourd'hui, une fois encore, je réitère la position de mon pays; après avoir constaté l'augmentation d'un million de dollars du PCT, nous sommes prêts à accepter ce budget tel qu'il nous est présenté, mais je réaffirme la position de mon pays en faveur du maintien du coefficient d'abattement à 3 pour cent. J'espère que le Programme de travail et budget sera accepté non seulement par mon pays mais par l'ensemble des participants.

Je terminerai en appelant l'attention de l'assemblée sur le fait que nous ne pouvons plus demander à l'Organisation de revenir sur certaines questions qui relèvent de la routine et qui n'ont aucune incidence sur ses travaux et sur tout ce qu'elle réalise. L'Organisation travaille de manière excellente, comme cela a été confirmé par le Rapport relatif à son réexamen, il y a quatre ans, réexamen qui faisait suite à une résolution de la Conférence. Cet examen a démontré que la transparence était totale, que les activités étaient menées de façon remarquable et qu'il n'y avait nulle critique à formuler à cet égard. De toute manière, nos commentaires sont toujours objectifs.

LE PRESIDENT: Je prends note que nous approuvons le Programme de travail et budget. Nous allons suspendre la séance pendant quinze minutes et nous reprendrons à onze heures quarante.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway) : First, I should like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction this morning. I have the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

I would also like to commend the Secretariat for improvements in the format and presentation of the document, although there is room for further

progress regarding the readability and transparency. Shifting of programme elements may make real reorientations difficult to discern from mere "window-dressing". It is also quite difficult to see how the priorities in the Medium-term Plan have been reflected in the budget proposal.

We realize that the number of issues and problems of an international character in the food and agriculture sector are still considerable, and we are particularly concerned about the persisting difficulties in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, the protracted global recession and severe budget restrictions in many countries make it obvious that the times of ever-increasing budgets for international organizations are over. Therefore, priority-setting, together with cost-efficiency in all operations, is more important than ever before. Although there is probably no activity within the Organization without member countries' support, choices will have to be made.

Turning to some more detailed comments regarding the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, the Nordic delegations find the reorientation from the technical programmes to administrative programmes regrettable. It is difficult to join in the approval of a budget for FAO comprising an addition of 56 administrative posts on the budget. We can, however, understand that some posts earlier financed outside the regular budget may now need to be transferred to the regular budget. Some of these posts are, as pointed out in the document, crucial for the daily operation of the Organization. It is high time that some of these important posts be included in the budget, to increase the transparency and better reflect the real administrative costs of the Organization. The fact, however, that these posts were originally financed outside the regular budget indicates that the administrative costs of the Organization have been higher than reflected in the budgets presented to earlier Conferences. This is regrettable and, along with other unclear elements and lack of transparency, calls for a careful independent review of the entire administration of the Organization.

The Nordic countries take a keen interest in the relationship between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme. While it seems like the field activities to an important degree use resources of the Regular Programme, the latter may benefit from experience gained in field activities. The Nordic countries will return to these issues in individual statements under agenda item 23, Support Cost Reimbursement for Trust Funds.

The budget proposal is put forward at a time when most Member States are struggling with domestic budget constraint. The financial situation of FAO is a clear reflection of this situation, and it is a harsh reality that the majority of the Member States in this Organization are not able to keep up to date with their assessed contributions. In this context, we would like to emphasize that all Members should pay their contribution in full and on time. The Nordic countries would like to support the basic idea behind the budget proposal, that there is at present no room for budget increases. This does not mean that the Nordic countries would advocate zero growth as a matter of principle, but at the moment realism and strict priority setting is called for in all international organizations.

Even if realism is said to be a basic principle in the budget proposal, the Secretariat's estimates for cost increases are set to 11.2 percent or more than US\$75 million for the biennium. This is to our best judgement not a realistic figure and a budget including such cost increases must be

characterized as expansive. The Nordic countries find it difficult to support a budget containing such cost increases.

The question of what is technically the most correct method of estimating cost increases has been subject to discussion on several occasions in this Organization, as mentioned by Mr Shah. Without entering into technical details, the Nordic delegations want to point to the need to constantly work on increasing efficiency and reducing the cost increases in all organizations.

Turning to the question of financing the budget, the Secretariat proposes to use US\$38 million dollars from payments of arrears. This seems to be a very tempting way of proposing an expansive budget without having to present the member countries with the price tag. We are afraid of moving in a direction where a deliberate gap is established between the work programme and the assessments. Sooner or later such a gap will have to be closed, and that can prove to be a painful exercise. We would prefer to see the payments of arrears used for building up reserves as a protection against, inter alia, future currency fluctuations. Such reserves have proved to be needed, and on several occasions the member countries have had to meet the associated costs. This time the currency fluctuations seem to indicate reduced assessments from member countries, but this should not lead us to approve a too expansive budget.

Mr Chairman, turning to the priorities in the Programme of Work, the Nordic delegations can agree to the emphasis given to the follow-up of UNCED, as well as the International Conference on Nutrition. We will have the possibility to comment on FAO's work in relation to environment in Commission I next week. Some of us have also made our detailed comments to FAO's work in relation to nutrition under Agenda item 6.2. We therefore refrain from making detailed comments here.

The Nordic countries have called for increased priority to policy advice connected to agriculture, forestry and fisheries for a long time. This is also an important part of the follow-up of the UN General Assembly decisions on operational activities. This work includes supporting member countries in policy formulation, planning and strengthening of national institutions and capacity. FAO's role should be to encourage, support and recommend activities rather than to implement them. The changes in the UNDP support cost scheme, implemented a couple of years ago, also stimulates such redirection. We have supported this shift, and would have liked to see more attention given to this shift in the present Programme of Work.

The Nordic countries attach high priority to FAO's work in relation to plant and animal genetic resources. We therefore support the inclusion of parts of the costs related to the 1995 Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in the budget proposal. The Nordic countries have been able to support the preparation for the Conference by extra-budgetary resources. Yet we find it important that this significant task is included in the Programme of Work.

A progress report from FAO's Plan of Action for integration of women in agriculture and rural development will be discussed in more detail at this Conference": The Nordic countries want to underline that FAO still has a long way to go before the goals in these areas of development are achieved. This was also underlined by my Minister in her speech in Plenary. Their priority therefore needs to be maintained.

The Nordic concern regarding the share of Forestry in the PWB has already been mentioned in the COFO and Council meetings earlier this year. Even if we note that there has been an increase in the Major Programme on forestry since the Budget Summary was presented to the Council in June, the shift is far from sufficient to rebuild FAO's position as the leading world agency in forestry development. From a substantive point of view, however, our concern is not only the share of the forestry sector in the PWB. As both agriculture and forestry belong to FAO's mandate, the Organization should utilize its multi-disciplinary strength to analyse how agricultural and forestry activities could best interact.

The Nordic delegations are not pleased to see a proposed reduction in the allocation to the fisheries sector in the Programme of Work. We would have liked to see the present budget level at least maintained.

The political changes in Eastern and Central Europe make it necessary for FAO to re-examine its work in this region. The Nordic countries feel that FAO, in cooperation with other organizations, has an important role to play in Europe in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We therefore support the increased attention granted to the area in the Programme of Work.

The Nordic countries recognize the importance of the TCP Programme for developing countries. On the other hand, the increased allocation to TCP of US\$5 million is difficult. We have on several earlier occasions expressed doubt regarding the quality of the programme.

A stricter priority setting implies giving lower priority to certain fields. The Nordic countries would like to support the decreased priority given to regional offices, administration and certain programmes as proposed in the Programme of Work. We would, however, also have liked to see further decreases in some areas. If a budget is to be realistic, increases in some programmes will have to be balanced by corresponding decreases in other programmes. We have already pointed to the need for a careful review of the entire administrative cost of the Organization. We feel convinced that significant savings could have been made here, to the benefit of the Technical Programmes. On earlier occasions we have pointed to the need to carefully review the number of field representations needed to run the Organization. We believe that considerable savings can be made in this area, without harming the technical quality of FAO's work.

Won-Gil BAE (Korea, Republic of): First of all, on behalf of the Korean Government, I would like to express my support for the Secretariat's decision to freeze the budget and to hold off on increasing the contributions of member countries. I agree it is appropriate to increase the 1994-95 budget in the area of UNCED-related activities and of nutritional improvement. These increases will certainly help bring about a solution to some of the outstanding problems confronting the international community today.

Mr Chairman, as the Major Programmes in Chapter 2, Technical and Economic Programmes, that is, those under Section 2.1 Agriculture, and Section 2.2 Fisheries, have seen a budget reduction, I would like to urge everyone to make the utmost efforts to minimize any adverse effects through such measures as reduction of manpower and office automation.

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): Queremos felicitar a la Secretaría por la presentación de este excelente documento, el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, para el bienio 1994-95. Las mejoras progresivas que se han ido realizando en la presentación y en el contenido de este documento esencial, facilitan el análisis de la consulta del mismo, y aligeran, por tanto, la labor de las delegaciones; razón por la que felicitamos a los servicios correspondientes por sus reiterados esfuerzos en este sentido.

En las circunstancias de recesión económica y dificultades presupuestarias del sector público que atraviesan muchos países, debemos felicitar al Director General por el esfuerzo realizado para presentar un presupuesto sin crecimiento. Nuestra delegación se felicita asimismo por el reajuste de las partidas asignadas a los Programas de Pesca y Montes.

Estamos de acuerdo con los países que han manifestado su deseo de que se acomode el coeficiente de descuento por vacantes a la realidad estimada para el período que contempla el presupuesto.

Con relación al presupuesto presentado para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, mostramos nuestro acuerdo con el mismo, tanto por su dotación como por los criterios establecidos por los órganos rectores de la FAO, para el examen de las solicitudes de asistencia presentadas en el marco de este programa. Entendemos el PCT como un elemento de enlace y de apoyo mutuo entre los programas de campo y el Programa Ordinario, y debería así constituir también una ayuda excepcional en los momentos que se necesite.

En el programa 2.1.5 - Desarrollo Rural - lamentamos ver la disminución de los recursos asignados al programa 2.1.5.1.1, elemento 02, dedicado al extensionismo y capacitación agraria, tema éste tan importante para la formación de las poblaciones rurales en cuestiones agrarias. En el mismo programa, lamentamos asimismo, la disminución de los recursos destinados al sub-programa 2.1.5.3, elemento 03, dedicado a la participación popular y que incluye las cooperativas agrarias. En el marco de la prioridad acordada en el plan a medio plazo, en el concepto de la Población en Desarrollo, esperamos que estas actividades, que para España reflejan de forma especialmente adecuada la importancia de la formación, de la participación popular y de la creación de empresas cooperativas agrarias viables, puedan en el futuro verse reforzadas.

Nos causa también una cierta preocupación, ver la ligera pérdida de recursos del sub-programa 2.2.3.2, elemento 02, dedicado a la Coordinación de la Pesca Regional, que incluye la prestación, por parte de la FAO, de apoyo de secretaría y administrativo a diversos órganos regionales de pesca. Como ya hemos mencionado en otras intervenciones, durante el 104º período de sesiones del Consejo y en el debate del plan a medio plazo en esta Comisión, España subraya el apoyo del Consejo en su 103º período de sesiones, en el sentido de dotar al Consejo General de Pesca del Mediterráneo de los medios necesarios para llevar a cabo sus cometidos. En consecuencia, reiteramos que en el sub-programa 2.2.3.2, elemento 02, se hagan los ajustes necesarios con el fin de tener en cuenta la decisión del Consejo.

Esperamos asimismo, que la estabilización de los recursos asignados al sub-programa 2.2.3.1, elemento 05, dedicado a los Problemas y Opciones de la Ordenación de la Pesca, tendrá, asimismo, en cuenta el apoyo unánime del Consejo a la utilización de la "vía rápida" en la elaboración de los principios generales del código de conducta para la pesca responsable.

Nos felicitamos, y así lo hemos reiterado otras veces, por el magnífico trabajo que está realizando la FAO en el apartado de los Recursos Fitogenéticos, y en ese sentido, apoyamos plenamente el aumento ama 2.1.2.1, Conservación y Ordenación de los Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Los comentarios de detalle de la Delegación española, señor Presidente, son el fruto del deseo de contribuir a una óptima utilización del presupuesto de nuestra Organización, así como a que queden recogidas en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1994-95 las prioridades definidas por el Consejo en su 104º Período de Sesiones.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant de l'Espagne et je pense avec lui que tous les membres de la Commission tiendront dûment compte des recommandations du Conseil pour les questions qui ont fait l'objet d'un consensus.

Jilali HASSOUNE (Maroc) : Je remercie et félicite M. Shah pour le document important qu'il nous a présenté qui s'ajoute aux autres exposés auxquels il nous a habitués. Le point concernant le Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 est très important et c'est pourquoi ma délégation y a consacré tout un paragraphe dans la déclaration qui a été lue hier lors de la plénière. Il est dit dans ce paragraphe: "la délégation du Maroc soutient le Programme de travail et budget de 1994-95, et cela pour rejoindre le consensus qui s'est dégagé sur les décisions et recommandations émanant de cette Conférence".

Ma délégation considère que le budget tel qu'il est proposé ne permet pas à l'Organisation de jouer pleinement son rôle dans le sens du développement de l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire dans les pays en voie de développement, notamment en Afrique où la situation se détériore année après année.

La délégation du Maroc voudrait souligner le rôle important du Programme de coopération technique mis en oeuvre par l'Organisation. Notre délégation souhaite que ce Programme jouisse d'un intérêt particulier. En effet, le budget tel qu'il a été préparé par le Secrétariat de l'Organisation en tenant compte de la limite des ressources - et les experts savent bien qu'il est difficile de préparer un budget quand les ressources sont limitées -, budget dont le niveau est en deçà des aspirations de la communauté internationale, ne peut pas faire face à la famine et protéger les ressources naturelles. Nous avons exprimé cette volonté à maintes reprises dans le cadre de cette Commission à l'occasion de l'examen des points 9, 10 et 11 qui concernent l'application et l'évaluation des programmes pour la période 1992-93 ainsi que le Plan à moyen terme 1994-95.

Oui, ce budget est en deçà des aspirations que nous avons exprimées car il est basé sur la croissance zéro, soit une croissance légère du développement, je dirais même un recul devant les défis. Je citerai à cet égard ce que le Directeur général a déclaré dans le document C 93/3, document qui nous a dévoilé de manière claire et franche les différents aspects de la réalité. Ce document qui analysait la situation d'une manière judicieuse ne pouvait être fait que par un homme ayant une grande expérience du système des Nations Unies.

La délégation du Maroc accueille avec satisfaction les crédits réservés au suivi des travaux de la CNUED, comme souligné aux paragraphes 24 et 25 du document C 93/3.

Nous nous félicitons également des crédits consacrés au renforcement des ressources consacrées à l'alimentation, comme souligné aux paragraphes 26 et 27 du document susmentionné.

Le Maroc se félicite de l'intérêt, souligné dans ce même document, de cette augmentation, même modeste, de ces ressources. Cependant, le Maroc regrette la diminution des ressources consacrées au domaine phytogénétique, comme souligné aux paragraphes 33, 34 et 35 du document C 93/3. Lors de nombreuses conférences telles que la Conférence de Rio et la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, des voix se sont élevées et des propositions et recommandations ont été soumises afin de parer à la famine, à la malnutrition et aux facteurs de destruction des ressources naturelles. Où en sommes-nous aujourd'hui? Avons-nous pris toutes les mesures nécessaires pour appliquer ces recommandations? Nous craignons que ces dernières ne restent lettre morte.

Nous devons faire des sacrifices pour soutenir cette Organisation, pour qu'elle puisse accomplir ses devoirs de la manière la plus parfaite et relever les différents défis auxquels elle est confrontée.

Hassan AL-AHMAD (Syria) (Original language Arabie): I would like to thank Mr Shah for his very clear introduction. We certainly feel that budget-based levels of US\$676.9 million is the absolutely essential basis for the 1994-95 budget and any drop below that level would be very worrisome. We are glad to note that FAO has had a certain increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme which is one of the most important programmes of the Organization but this increase still leaves us below the level that developing countries would hope for and does not reach the 17 percent level which was decided upon in Resolution 9/89 four years ago. It is therefore important and necessary to increase the resources allocated to TCP as it plays a major role in development.

We are also grateful to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the efforts they have made to reduce cost increases so that now we only have US\$76 million cost increases. Chairman, we hope that the Organization will be able to develop its activities so as to meet the essential needs of Member Nations, in particular the developing countries, and as soon as possible. For this reason we give our support to the priorities indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget, in particular the follow-up to UNCED which has paved the way toward sustainable development.

In this connection it is important to take into account that environment degradation is caused by poverty in rural societies in developing countries; therefore it is necessary to achieve rural development in these countries and help them preserve their natural resources which are the basis of development.

We also support the follow-up activities to the recommendations of the International Conference on Nutrition, in particular so as to ensure that families get balanced nutrition and that there is increased food security throughout the world. We urge the Organization to develop its activities and efforts in plant protection in all its aspects and we also hope that special attention will be paid to activities in biological pest control. In

this connection we would like to point out that Syria has been able to control pests by using biological methods rather than chemical methods. Many farmers in fact in our country are asking for greater dissemination of these biological methods because they have discovered they cost less money and can replace pesticides. They involve a tremendous saving and yet they are, of course, far less harmful to the environment. As a result, we have been intensifying our efforts in biological pest control and we are developing new means of coping with the pests that destroy our crops and our trees. We are hoping we can really take great steps forward in biological pest control we will need the assistance of the Organization in applying these newly introduced methods in our country.

We also hope that this Organization and other intergovernmental organizations as well will give technical and financial support to developing countries in the preservation and conservation of genetic resources so that they can use them in their local scientific programmes.

Finally, Sir, it is necessary to promote industrial research and promote agricultural research in developing countries so that these countries may be able to meet the challenges that they are facing because of increasing pressure on their available natural resources such as soil, plant and water. In particular in the Near East Region. Consideration must be given also to these and we need to develop techniques which make it possible to increase productivity and production, of course, without harming the environment. Intensive agriculture today involves more complex techniques. We cannot just take the easy options. We have to develop, and we must develop, new and diversified techniques which developing countries can use with the help of this Organization and of international and regional research centres so as to achieve appropriate results. International research centres are making only a very limited contribution to the national research centres in developing countries at the present time but we hope the strategies of these centres can be adjusted in the future so as to meet the needs of those countries in a more adequate manner.

LE PRESIDENT (langue originale arabe): Je remercie le Représentant de la Syrie et je le félicite pour l'expérience de son pays dans le domaine agricole.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola): En premier lieu, nous adressons nos félicitations au Secrétariat pour la remarquable qualité du document qui nous est soumis. Comme M. Shah a l'habitude de le faire dans de nombreuses occasions, sa présentation a été très claire, concise, satisfaisante et convaincante. Nous le félicitons de sa transparence et des importants changements qui ont été introduits dans le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour tenir compte des vues exprimées et recommandations des divers organes de la FAO. L'approche adoptée pour la formulation du Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95 ne prévoit aucun accroissement net du Programme. A ce titre, nous continuons à exprimer des regrets face à l'absence d'une augmentation réelle du Programme au moment où l'on enregistre de plus en plus de demandes des Etats Membres.

La solution adoptée pour l'exercice 1992-93 ne devrait pas constituer un précédent pour les futurs Programmes de travail et budget. Pour notre délégation, la base logique à utiliser pour l'établissement du budget de l'exercice 1994-95 est le montant de 676,9 millions de dollars approuvé à l'unanimité par la dernière Conférence. En ce qui concerne la fixation des priorités, nous approuvons les deux priorités fondamentales sur le suivi de

la CNUED et de la CIN, sans oublier d'autres priorités telles que les avis de politique générale, les ressources génétiques végétales et animales, l'appui aux programmes de lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs, aux plans d'action forestiers, l'appui de la FAO au développement des ressources humaines, etc.

Mais à la suite des besoins identifiés à la fin de ces deux grands événements de 1992 et des situations d'urgence auxquelles la FAO doit faire face, nous sommes convaincus que le budget du Programme ordinaire ne suffira pas pour couvrir toutes les activités identifiées. Il s'avère donc indispensable de mobiliser des ressources extrabudgétaires.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de la coopération technique, point n'est besoin de rappeler le rôle important et efficace qu'il joue pour répondre aux multiples demandes de nombreux pays en développement. Mais nous regrettons que malgré les efforts déployés, qui ont permis une maigre augmentation de 11,7 pour cent à plus de 12,3 pour cent, le niveau décidé par la Conférence de 1989 soit encore loin d'être atteint. A cet égard, nous souhaitons que dans le futur Programme de travail et budget soit renforcé le PCT, conformément aux objectifs énoncés dans la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence.

S'agissant du cadre du budget, nous nous félicitons des estimations des accroissements des coûts, ramenés à 76 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis au taux de change budgétaire actuel.

Au titre du Grand Programme Agriculture, ma délégation approuve les principaux domaines et se félicite de l'allocation de ressources supplémentaires aux avis en matière de politiques et à la lutte contre les ravageurs.

S'agissant du Grand Programme Pêche, nous appuyons les priorités proposées et nous ne pouvons que manifester notre satisfaction que les ressources budgétaires de ce Grand Programme aient été ramenées au niveau initial.

S'agissant du code international de conduite pour une pêche responsable, ma délégation approuve la nécessité de son élaboration, en accord évidemment avec les organisations internationales appropriées, pour éviter tout double emploi. Vu les ressources limitées de l'Organisation, nous sommes d'avis aussi que la mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires est indispensable pour convoquer les consultations techniques.

Nous nous félicitons particulièrement de l'accroissement des crédits alloués au Grand Programme Forêts, ceci permettra un renforcement des activités forestières de la FAO. Vu les innombrables sollicitations des Pays Membres dans ce domaine, nous pensons que les ressources extrabudgétaires sont indispensables.

Le Centre d'investissement est toujours pour nous très important, nous pensons que le maintien des services d'investissement à leur niveau actuel est indispensable car il mobilise de grandes ressources financières pour investir dans le secteur agricole des pays en développement.

S'agissant du coefficient d'abattement pour les mouvements du personnel, élaboré sur la base de 3 pour cent, ma délégation souscrit pleinement à cette approche et nous sommes d'avis que cette question soit reprise à l'avenir et soit également examinée par le Commissaire aux comptes. Il est

vrai qu'un coefficient réduirait l'efficacité de l'exécution des programmes par l'Organisation.

Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie le projet de résolution sur les ouvertures de crédits pour 1994-95, avec les ajustements nécessaires suite aux variations du taux de change dollar/lire.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci pour votre intervention et pour votre soutien au Programme de travail et budget ainsi qu'au projet de résolution qui sera soumis à la Plénière.

António MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Le document C 93/3 que le Secrétariat a préparé à notre endroit pour ce débat afin que nous donnions notre appréciation et prenions une décision est très complet et profond et contient aussi de vastes informations.

Le Secrétariat a jugé bon d'élaborer un programme de travail et budget, qui réunit toutes les conditions, de façon à obtenir un consensus.

Nous constatons que ce document veille à subordonner le programme à des orientations générales et aux priorités du Plan à moyen terme de 1994-99, envisagées par les organismes directeurs et consultatifs de la FAO, en incluant les Conférences régionales de la FAO et prête une plus grande attention aux avis de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUCED) et à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN), pour les plans d'actions qui nécessiteront la mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires.

Nous constatons aussi que les observations relevées par quelques pays lors du Conseil de juin ont été prises en considération afin de renforcer la dotation aux secteurs des pêches et des forêts.

En ce qui concerne le dernier secteur, nous tenons à faire remarquer, encore une fois que, parallèlement à la grande importance de la forêt tropicale, nous ne devons pas oublier les zones tempérées si ravagées par les incendies et les pluies acides, les régions de savane et de forêts où se déroule la plupart des activités agricoles de subsistance et aussi les zones arides et sous arides, où les phénomènes de désertification se manifestent d'une façon très notable.

Ma délégation appuie l'élaboration du code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, le plus tôt possible, en accord avec la décision de la cent quatrième session du Conseil.

Nous considérons que les moyens destinés à la représentation régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe devront être convenablement ajustés à la nouvelle réalité afin qu'elle puisse faire face, en ce qui la concerne, aux demandes d'assistance pendant cette période de transition pour les systèmes d'économie de marché, faites par de nombreux pays d'Europe centrale et orientale.

La délégation portugaise donne son avis favorable aux considérations faites par le Directeur général dans l'introduction du document et considère que la proposition du budget est réaliste, sur une base de 676,9 millions de dollars, invariable depuis 1990-91, étant donné que le niveau de 645,6 millions de dollars fixé pour les années 1992-93 résulte d'un compromis

considéré comme exceptionnel. Ce ne doit pas être un précédent et, par conséquent, ma délégation donne son appui au Programme de travail et budget proposé pour 1994-95 en approuvant le projet de résolution respectif.

Mme Colette TAQUET (Belgique): La Belgique souhaiterait faire part de sa position sur les divers problèmes que regroupe ce point de l'ordre du jour. Suivant votre conseil, Monsieur le Président, nous nous bornerons à soulever quelques aspects du programme d'activités pour aborder ensuite certains aspects budgétaires.

Nous notons avec beaucoup de satisfaction que le Secrétariat a pu tenir compte des recommandations des Etats Membres pour limiter les réductions de ressources dans les grands programmes forêt, pêche et agriculture.

Nous apprécions également que le Programme technique ait reçu des ressources additionnelles qui valoriseront les activités opérationnelles de cette Organisation. Toutes ces modifications, opérées au bénéfice de tous les membres, nous encouragent à continuer le dialogue avec le Secrétariat dans un esprit constructif.

A cet égard, nous nous interrogeons avec inquiétude sur le sort futur du Centre d'investissement de la FAO, au vu des réductions drastiques de ressources qui sont envisagées. L'argumentaire présenté au par. 37 et suivants du Programme et budget de travail ne nous a pas convaincu. Nous craignons que les services offerts aux Etats Membres ne souffrent de cette rationalisation un peu sévère à notre goût.

Nous avons pris connaissance du document d'information C 93/LIM/23, consacré au code de conduite pour une pêche responsable. Nous réitérons notre appui à la décision prise par le comité et approuvée par le Conseil de la cent troisième session, d'accélérer l'élaboration de ce code. Cette tâche doit être traitée de manière prioritaire avec des ressources suffisantes.

Cette Commission doit également examiner d'importantes questions budgétaires. Pour commencer, je voudrais réaffirmer au nom de mon gouvernement notre ferme conviction que seule la base de 676 millions de dollars peut servir de référence pour la fixation du budget pour le prochain biennium. Cette position se fonde sur des arguments juridiques que nous avons déjà eu l'occasion d'exposer. Ils sont d'ailleurs acceptés par une très large majorité de membres. C'est pour nous la seule manière de respecter la décision prise à l'unanimité lors de la vingt-sixième Conférence en 1991 qui avait adopté un programme de travail estimé à 676 millions de dollars.

Le montant de 676 millions de dollars représente à notre avis un compromis acceptable entre les demandes croissantes que les membres adressent à l'Organisation et les difficultés budgétaires que traverse un grand nombre d'entre eux.

Ce contexte difficile justifie à nos yeux le respect d'une croissance réelle nulle qui doit garantir à l'Organisation une relative stabilité de ses ressources. En aucun cas, nous ne sommes partisans d'une amputation des ressources de la FAO. Nous espérons que ce niveau budgétaire pourra être adopté par consensus, ce qui donnerait à notre nouveau Directeur général un témoignage concret du soutien unanime des membres de cette Organisation.

En tout cas, la Belgique s'opposerait à ce que le budget du Programme de travail pour le prochain biennium ne soit pas assorti d'une ouverture de crédits d'un niveau identique.

Certains points particuliers du Rapport du Comité financier appellent des commentaires de notre part. Tout d'abord, nous saluons les efforts du Secrétariat qui a répondu positivement à diverses demandes de modification du document C 93/3, notamment celle qui concerne la réduction des hausses de coûts.

Lorsqu'il est question du règlement des arriérés au par. 1.8 du document CL 104/4, nous prenons acte de l'annonce par un membre du paiement d'une somme importante comme partie de versements attendus. Nous nous réjouissons de cette bonne nouvelle et espérons que d'autres membres feront des annonces similaires.

D'aucuns pensent que le versement subit de ces arriérés pourrait déstabiliser les finances de l'Organisation. Nous voudrions savoir si le Secrétariat partage ces craintes. Si tel est le cas, nous pensons que les Etats défaillants, les grands débiteurs en premier lieu, devraient convenir avec le Secrétariat d'un calendrier de versement de manière à amortir les effets de ces secousses budgétaires, le cas échéant.

Si l'on envisage le problème à plus long terme, on peut effectivement redouter que le financement du budget de l'Organisation soit plus difficile, une fois que la source du remboursement des arriérés de contribution se sera tarie. Notre délégation n'a pas de solution magique à proposer face à ce problème complexe. Mais il nous semble que ces circonstances incertaines justifient d'autant plus la base budgétaire de 676 millions de dollars. Toute réduction de ce montant ne risque-t-il pas d'accentuer l'écart entre les contributions à payer aujourd'hui et celles à venir?

En ce qui concerne l'utilisation des arriérés, nous souhaitons que l'on s'en tienne strictement au respect du Règlement financier et de son article 6 la.

Toute somme constitutive d'arriérés doit être versée au Fonds général. Il y va des fondements mêmes de notre Organisation. Aucun membre, lorsqu'il paye sa contribution ponctuellement n'est en droit d'exiger qu'elle soit affectée à telle ou telle dépense. Il nous est dès lors très difficile d'accepter qu'une prérogative de ce genre soit reconnue à un Etat qui doit des sommes considérables à l'Organisation.

Le Directeur général a proposé dans l'introduction du document C 93/3 d'utiliser les versements d'arriérés comme une ristourne aux contributions dues par les membres pour le prochain biennium. Cette proposition nous laisse un peu perplexes. Il serait plus prudent, selon nous, de ne pas affecter les sommes attendues, mais de redistribuer aux Etats Membres les reliquats éventuels au terme de l'exercice 1994-95.

On a déjà beaucoup discuté du coefficient d'abattement. Nous dirons simplement qu'il existe selon nous un lien logique entre le taux de vacance effective et ledit coefficient. Nous nous réjouissons que ce problème soit soumis à une vérification externe et au Commissaire aux comptes. Pour le prochain biennium nous pensons qu'un taux voisin de 5 pour cent serait approprié.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, les quelques considérations que nous livrons à l'attention de tous les membres en réitérant notre soutien au Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre contribution extrêmement positive à nos débats.

Je vous remercie également d'avoir si justement évoqué la résolution qui a été adoptée par la Conférence en 1991 sur le niveau de la base budgétaire.

Mme Fatma LARBI (Tunisie) : Je tiens à féliciter Monsieur Shah pour l'excellente présentation qu'il a donnée du Programme de travail et budget et je voudrais confirmer également que le Chef de la délégation de mon pays, lors de la plénière mardi dernier, a insisté sur l'importance des objectifs de programme et sur le fait que ceux-ci sont en parfait accord avec les objectifs de l'Organisation tels qu'ils figurent dans son acte constitutif.

Je tiens à attirer votre attention sur l'augmentation des requêtes émanant des pays membres, ce qui nous amène à nous demander si la présentation de la constellation budgétaire permettrait à cette Organisation de satisfaire toutes les demandes qui augmentent et ce, quelles que soient les améliorations qui peuvent être apportées à la qualité des activités. Nous voyons qu'il serait important à l'avenir que les budgets tiennent compte de l'accroissement de la démographie afin que l'Organisation puisse assigner suffisamment de ressources et activités de programmes à tous les habitants de la planète.

Ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion de dire à la réunion du Comité de programme, que ce budget n'est pas à la hauteur des aspirations et des attentes des pays, surtout à la suite de la recommandation de deux conférences internationales sur l'environnement et le développement, d'une part, et sur la nutrition, d'autre part. Ces deux conférences ont présenté des recommandations qui constituent une responsabilité historique pour cette Organisation, de façon à pouvoir garantir un développement durable et un avenir meilleur pour notre planète, afin de lutter contre la faim qui restera un fléau pour l'humanité à la fin de ce siècle. Ce siècle a connu de grandes conquêtes, telle que la conquête de l'espace, alors qu'ici sur terre nous ne parvenons pas à nourrir plus de 600 millions d'êtres humains.

Nous acceptons malgré nous un budget de 676,9 millions de dollars pour les motifs qui ont déjà été présentés antérieurement par ma délégation mais je crois que nous devons appeler l'attention de tous sur le fait qu'il est nécessaire de revoir cela à l'avenir de façon à ce que nous n'ayons pas à affronter de nouveaux défis encore plus difficiles. Nous appuyons les propositions présentées pour renforcer le Programme de coopération technique, mais ce programme n'est pas suffisamment bien doté dans ce budget. Cela ne répond pas aux attentes de la Conférence de 1989 et nous insistons donc pour dire que ce programme doit recevoir un traitement spécial pendant les années à venir car un grand nombre de pays membres en développement qui ont des problèmes techniques dans le secteur agricole doivent pouvoir bénéficier de l'aide de cette Organisation et doivent lui trouver le soutien dont elle a besoin pour réaliser les objectifs fondamentaux de notre Organisation tels qu'ils figurent dans son acte constitutif.

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve ce qui a été dit par le délégué du Mexique à propos de la constitution d'une commission sur l'élevage et c'est là une question qui occupe une grande majorité de pays de l'Organisation. Quant au coefficient d'abattement pour les mouvements de personnel dans les années à venir, nous souhaitons voir s'améliorer dans une large mesure la situation de ce personnel.

XU NANSHAN (China) (Original language Chinese) : I should like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared document C 93/3. We should also like to thank Mr Shah for preparing the Programme of Work and Budget. We should like to make some comments on this item of the agenda.

First, with regard to the budget level, we have noted that, on the one hand, as the world population increases and environmental resources dwindle, the FAO is grappling with increasingly difficult challenges, and on the other hand for various reasons the FAO will have to deal with very serious financial problems.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 submitted by the Director-General calls for a zero growth budget. This stems from the Director-General's effort in trying to reconcile various positions. We feel that it is acceptable to take the budget level for 1992-93, that is to say US\$676.9 million as the budget base level for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. We hope that the Conference can adopt this with a consensus.

Secondly, with regard to the lapse factor, included in the growth increases, we agree with the 3 percent used by the Director-General in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget but, given that the lapse factor is not just a technical question when preparing the budget but is also a determining factor if the budget level corresponds to reality, we suggest that we should examine this question and call in the External Auditor to make the issue more transparent.

Thirdly, with regard to which priorities and budget allocations should be increased, we agree with the Director-General. We feel that this should meet the needs of the UNCED activities.

With regard to the strategic objectives and aims of FAO, we feel they should be in keeping with the changing situation in agriculture and nutrition, but we have also noted that the total appropriations for the major programmes such as Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as well as TCP, have increased in relation to the sketch of the budget programme we have for 1995 which was examined by the Council in June. This points to a rather substantial decrease vis à vis the last budget period. We are concerned about this, and hope that the Director-General will adjust insofar as possible the programmes to ensure that there are some savings, particularly with regard to the TCP. Since the TCP was set up it has played a very substantial role in terms of training, advice, emergency assistance, preparation of projects and the TCDC has also been looked at. Member States have borne in mind FAO's work, and TCP has been given great importance by the developing countries. We have noted that the amount earmarked for TCP in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 has increased when compared to the summary sketch. Also, bearing in mind some of the changes that have taken place in the exchange rate, we note that the share of TCP in the Regular Programme will be 12.3 percent, but we are very sorry that this percentage is far from the goal of 70 percent established by

Resolution 89/9 of the Conference. This does not tally with the current reality or with the growing needs of developing countries.

When readjusting the programmes and activities, we would like the Director-General further to increase productivity and inject more efficiency with a view to cutting back on administrative costs and increasing the amount earmarked for the TCP.

Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary): Mr Chairman! My delegation wishes to express its appreciation on the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. It is rightly felt that his energetic leadership has been vital to achieving a zero real growth. We would like to emphasize that zero growth in the document before us programme priorities such as sustainable development, genetic resources, policy advice and assistance to fisheries and forestry and so forth have been adhered to.

Every other year the debate on the Programmes of Work and Budget are showing what an immense load of work the Organization is doing and what an even more immense and rightly claimed activity it fails to cope with. It is therefore that programmes and subprogrammes can hardly be discussed without a simultaneous reference to financial and resource implications.

My delegation is satisfied with the main thrust of FAO activities planned for the forthcoming biennium. We feel that the PWB is increasingly walking on a tight-rope trying to reconcile growing demands with - optimistically spoken - stagnating resources. The present international economic and financial environment is eminently unsuitable to reconsider the resource side of the Programme taking the growing number of uncertainties into consideration. I am not only referring to long-debated issues such as the lapse factor or support costs but also to the increasing shakiness of the ERM (Exchange Rate Mechanism) and the Lira rate adopted by the Conference and the implications to derive thereof.

Mr Chairman! My delegation can go along with the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General and it is our desire to have it adopted by consensus.

Hungary is just now trying to overcome a not too happy economic period, though we have always strictly observed our scheduled payments. My delegation would like to call Member Nations' attention to pay arrears enabling thus the Organization to proceed with the operations as planned.

There are two comments I would like to make on the Programme of Work and Budget. One is taking due note that in the regional breakdown of the proposed activities Europe's share has slightly increased. The increase was slight indeed, for example from 1.77 in the 1992-93 biennium to 2.5 percent in the present one, though showing the realization of FAO priorities mentioned many times and at many documents before us. We would appreciate FAO having an open mind should the justified amount of requests from the Region exceed that reckoned with in the Programme.

The other point I would like to bring forward concerns the Technical Cooperation Programme and I am sure that many - perhaps most - delegates will agree with me. TCP being the only unprogrammed and urgent project possibility giving practical assistance to countries and objectives qualifying is widely appreciated as a cost-efficient though extremely liked and useful tool in FAO's hand. We feel a pity the relatively low priority

TCP is getting in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. If I may be permitted to make a cross reference to other agenda items I would like to mention the reports on programme evaluation and implementation where the efficiency of TCP projects are ranked pretty good. This delegation would like FAO to use up possible savings and other windfall proceeds to strengthen Technical Cooperation Programme.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes arrivés au terme de la séance de la matinée. Nous avons débordé le temps imparti et je m'en excuse auprès des interprètes.

J'aimerais compléter la liste des orateurs qui souhaitent intervenir cet après-midi. Pour le moment, sont inscrits sur la liste les pays suivants: Egypte, France, Cameroun, Indonésie, Royaume-Unie, Chili, Kenya, Roumanie, Inde, Iran, Pologne, Suisse, Nigeria, Libye. Je m'arrêterai là mais je tiens à vous informer que la liste sera close au cours de la séance de l'après-midi.

Nous nous retrouverons à 14 heures 30. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 12.55 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 55.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/8

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

**EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION**

(12 November 1993)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95 (continued)

12. Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 (suite)

12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95 (continuación)

Mrs. Wafaa Mohamed YOUSSEF (Egypt) : We would like to thank Mr Shah for his brief and succinct introduction of the budget. We would also like to commend the Secretariat for the efforts it has expended in the preparation of this detailed document of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1994-95. My delegation supports the efforts to increase the allocations for the major agricultural programme. We find it of importance to accord priority to FAO work in the field of plant and animal genetic resources, as well as the assistance extended to the integrated pest management.

We would like to stress the need for the development of country capabilities and the preparation of national CADRES in the development countries to show the responsibility of project execution.

My delegation welcomes the additional one million dollars earmarked for the partial compensations for the decrease in the Technical Cooperation Programme of the FAO and stress the importance of strengthening this programme to cope with the target figures in the Conference Resolution 9/79. The TCP is one of the programmes that have positive impact on the development in the developing countries.

We support the programme of Work of US\$676.9 million as a base for the biennium 1994-95 and we agree that with the positive development related to the basic financial criteria and in the Programme of Work and Budget. We welcome the reduction of the allocations for the cost increase of 76 million dollars.

In conclusion we wish the Organization all success in facing all the challenges ahead.

I.G.K. SWASTIKA (Indonesia): My delegation commends the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1994-95 biennium. We appreciate Mr Shah for his clear and substantive presentation in introducing this very important document. My delegation is fully aware of the difficult situation faced by the Organization in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium due to the considerable challenges that limit availability of funding resources and the increasing demands among member countries to strengthen the Organization to continue to play its role in developing the world's food and agriculture.

The Indonesian delegation considers that the proposed biennial Programme of Work and Budget now presented before us is a reflection of a compromised way-out within the difficult situation. It gives as a clear picture of the incorporation of the recent internationally agreed priorities such as the follow-up of UNCED and ICN into the various major programmes and subprogrammes without significantly restricting the existing programme priorities.

We welcome the additional resources provided to technical and economic programmes. Although not as significant as would be desirable but could help enhancing sustainability and nutritional issues. We also welcome the additional allocation of resources to TCP as this will enhance the prompt response in meeting the immediate needs of developing countries in combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

We would like to share the view of the Representative of Canada that in future years and with balanced and appropriate allocations forestry programmes should be increased as this will greatly strengthen the Organization's efforts in saving and maintaining life on earth.

We also appreciate the efforts of the Director-General in increasing the regional appropriations for the benefits of strengthening of regional, technical and economic cooperation.

Let me reiterate our delegation statement at the Plenary Session that this is the realistic Programme of Work and Budget that can be presented within the constraints and in line with the advice of various FAO technical bodies as well as the Programme and Work and Budget that can be presented within the constraints and in line with the advice of various FAO technical bodies as well as the Programme and Finance Committees, and it therefore deserves our full support.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I would first like to thank Mr Shah for his very detailed and informative introduction, and also to thank the Secretariat as a whole for the production of this document. Clearly a great deal of work and effort has gone into its production.

We have already had the opportunity to comment on the Summary Budget at the June Council and also gave an outline of the United Kingdom's position on this very much fuller and revised document at the Council session last week.

I would now like to elaborate on some of those comments we made last week.

I would also like to preface my comments today by saying that my delegation is acutely aware of the difficult choices that have had to be made in arriving at the recommendations. In his address to the Plenary on Tuesday the Director-General referred to the need for compromise.

In his introduction to the document the Director-General has pointed out that the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1994-95 biennium required reconciling greater external demands on the Organization with a realistic assessment of the limiting factors, and that the expectation of budgetary restraint is a fact which must be squarely addressed. He also mentions the need to contain the burden of assessed contributions on Member Nations. Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom delegation wholeheartedly supports these comments. It is with these very comments to the fore that we make this intervention today and we sincerely hope that it will be viewed in the constructive way in which it is intended.

We are very pleased to see that the full Programme of Work and Budget has taken account of some of the concerns expressed by a number of delegations regarding the level of resources directed to the Technical Programmes - in particular the Forestry Programme. These were first in the technical

committees, COAG, COFO and COFI, and again at the June Council and I think it is a vindication of the system of governance in FAO that these views are taken into account in the Programme of Work and Budget presented to the Conference for approval. We must, however, strive to make more information available to these early Committees if we are to succeed in taking the technical experts' opinions fully into account. It is our view that these technical meetings play a key role in setting the direction of the Programmes.

While, as I said a moment ago, we are acutely aware of the difficult choices that must be made, we nonetheless think that a more robust approach could and should have been taken to priority setting. The Organization must review what it can hope to achieve given budgetary constraints, increased demands on the services it provides and the international financial climate.

The document lays heavy emphasis on the additional responsibilities occasioned by the aftermath of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Nutrition and by the demands of countries in economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe. However, nowhere do we see a clear indication of FAO's precise role and comparative advantage. FAO does not have a major coordinating role in Agenda 21. The philosophy underpinning Agenda 21 should be a common theme running through all FAO's programmes. Of the activities on pages 28 and 29 of the document, only subprogrammes 2.1.21 (Conservation and Management of Plant Genetic Resources) and 2.1.33 (Animal Genetic Resources) are obvious candidates for increased expenditure by FAO, post UNCED. While the remainder are important areas, they have been essential components of a coherent food and agriculture strategy for some time.

We welcome the emphasis on protection of the environment, minimization of pesticide use and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. We also welcome the commitment to ensure that standards set by the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS Commission continue to receive high priority. This is particularly important if the role envisaged for Codex Standards under the GATT SPS measures is to be fulfilled.

With regard to Integrated Pest Management, the United Kingdom welcomes the establishment of a Special Action Programme which is to be guided by the FAO/UNEP Panel on Integrated Pest Management. There are a number of international institutions working in the Integrated Pest Management field, and FAO is well-placed to advise Member Nations of promising developments as they arise.

The reallocation of funds for Feed Resources Utilization and Sustainable Feeding Systems and Environment is strongly supported. The utilization of locally available and on-farm animal feedstuffs is now of great importance as land becomes scarce and livestock stall-feeding systems expand. FAO may wish to consider increased funding for animal nutrition programmes at the expense of the animal health programmes.

Under programme 2.1.4, the provision of direct and specific assistance to developing countries, upon request, to strengthen their national and regional agricultural documentation services is particularly supported. FAO has a unique role in the provision of unbiased advice to government policy and planning units in the formulation of their own development programmes.

The increased participation by rural organizations and non-governmental organizations in field project design, implementation and monitoring, is welcome. The sharing of experiences by Member Nations, attending regional meetings planned for 1994 is also supported.

Regarding the Common Fund for Commodities, it is important to remember that the resources of the Fund are finite and that only projects of the highest quality are submitted and that co-financing is obtained.

The Delegation of Belgium expressed concern for the cuts made in the Investment Centre. We too would like to have some clarification of what the future might hold for the Centre.

Regarding the forestry programme, the United Kingdom were particularly pleased to see that this document has restored some of the cuts proposed in the earlier Summary document. That said, we consider that programmes should not be expanded but narrowed to a sharper focus. Where new priorities have arisen, energies and funds should be redirected to focus on these priorities. We would like to see FAO concentrate on politically important areas such as the follow-up to the UNCED Forest Principles. This follow-up process should link with the work being done by national forestry administrations.

FAO Committees and working groups dealing with topics that are no longer a high priority must be suppressed before new groups can be set up to deal with subject areas of higher priority and more recent provenance. We are concerned at the inclusion of items in FAO's work programmes which apparently have no fixed timetable. FAO seminars and working groups should work to a fixed timetable in order to reach specific conclusions and make recommendations to their parent bodies.

Turning to the Fisheries programme: at the 1993 COFI meeting, FAO Fisheries Department announced withdrawal of support to the commercial publication of Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts. The draft Report of COFI indicates at paragraph 22 the intention to replace this with a new, wider-based fisheries information network. This would be more accessible to institutions and individuals in developing countries than has proved to be the case with ASFA. This is a key area of service to its members for which FAO is uniquely qualified and in which it often excels.

However, at paragraph 607 of document C 93/3, the programme of work indicates that funds saved by withdrawal from direct support for ASFA and I quote, "will be redirected to ensuring participation of more developing countries in the system". Mr Chairman, the statement could be a little clearer. It might be interpreted as meaning the provision of subsidies for improving access to ASFA. Such subsidies would be unsustainable and no substitute for the new, wider-based fisheries information network highlighted at COFI. I would be grateful for some clarification of intentions towards the improvement of fisheries science and technology information services to developing countries, together with the anticipated date on which a new system is expected to be fully operational.

Regarding the emerging demands for intensification of FAO action in support of management of high seas fisheries, sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources, responsible fishing and environmental interactions must be carefully assessed against the traditional strengths of FAO and those of other agencies. FAO should develop transparent relationships with other

appropriately orientated agencies particularly in addressing environmental issues. In this respect it is somewhat alarming to note the decline in technical support to regional fisheries bodies, an area of particular strength for which FAO is uniquely qualified, in favour of new and substantial initiatives in research and environmental impacts which appear to risk duplicating the strengths of several other international agencies. We would caution FAO against jumping on the band waggon - which might already be quite full.

Mr Chairman, I would now like to turn to the Budget itself.

The document claims to show a zero real growth budget. This, of course, depends on the base figure that one is working from. Not everyone is in agreement that US\$676.9 million is the base from which we should be working. My delegation has difficulty accepting the assertion in the document that at the 1991 Conference, approval for the 1992/93 Budget was based on an understanding that there was expected to be a substantial payment of arrears. This implies that Member Nations sanctioned the use of arrears to fund the US\$32 million gap between the level of the programme and the assessments on Member Nations. In our view, this was not the case. We have looked again at the verbatim records of the debate in 1991 and there appeared to be a great deal of confusion with a number of delegations querying how this gap was to be funded. While the response does mention arrears, there was certainly no clear message that that was how the gap would be filled.

We are very pleased to see the reductions in the cost increases and urge that these cost increases continue to be absorbed to the maximum extent possible.

We do not consider that real absorption has taken place: currency fluctuations have masked the picture. I would like at this time to support the comments made by the Delegation of Norway.

At the Council meeting last week, we, along with a number of others, asked that in future years the document be refined to include expenditure details. Our rationale for this was that the inclusion of expenditure details would assist us in making comparisons. A detailed picture of what actually happened alongside what is being planned would, in our view, go a long way towards seeing planning against implementation and assist the Member Nations to make policy decisions accordingly. A number of reasons were cited as to why this would not be possible. With all due respect, Mr Chairman, we believe that ways can be found around these difficulties. We are also told that expenditure figures can be found in the Audited Accounts. While this may, to some degree, be true, they are not in a format that enables comparisons to be made.

Regarding the absorption of posts into the Regular Programme from extra-budgetary funds: again, I can fully support comments made by the Norwegian delegation on behalf of the five Nordic countries, and I fully support the call for a review of administration.

I would now like to turn to the thorny question of the lapse factor. We have continually and consistently argued that the lapse factor should be adjusted upwards to more accurately reflect the real position in the Organization. I will not attempt to re-open the debate on this issue, but simply note that in their report the Finance Committee report on the fact

that the Joint Inspection Unit intends to carry out a system-wide study on lapse factor practices, and that the Committee themselves agreed that there would be merit in further examination of this issue at their future sessions. We very much welcome these comments, and also fully support the suggestion in this report, and as mentioned by Dr Shah in his introduction, that the external auditor reviews this aspect and reports back to the Finance Committee.

In his introduction the Director-General stated that "the expectation of budgetary restraint is a fact which must be squarely addressed" . He goes on to stress "the burden of assessed contributions on Member Nations". Again, my delegation fully concurs with these sentiments BUT we have been forced to conclude from the document that neither the budgetary restraint nor the burden on Member Nations has, in reality, been "squarely addressed". What we have in this document are solutions based simply on expediency. The assessments on Member Nations are kept down - but for this biennium only. The proposals in this document merely delay the fateful day when every member of this Organization will be faced with a massive increase in their assessed contributions. We for one would certainly not find that attractive. The proposals currently before us are an attempt to avoid having to increase Members' Assessed Contributions, by relying instead on the windfalls from currency fluctuations and the use of expected arrears to fund the gap between the level of the programme set and the assessed contributions requested from Member Nations.

"So what is wrong with this?" you may ask.

First, there is an assumption that arrears will be paid in the quantities suggested in the document. I fully appreciate that this Organization has every right to expect that these arrears will be paid. But what happens if they do not materialize? Will the Organization draw on the Working Capital Fund or the Special Reserve Account to plug the gap? If so, will this entail further assessments on Member Nations to reinstate these Accounts in later biennia?

Second, the windfall in currency fluctuations. What we have at the moment is really quite unique. We have seen a drastic weakening of the lire against the dollar. This level of currency movement is not likely to happen again - at least not in the near future.

There is a circle here that has to be squared. The new Director-General, when and if arrears are paid up, will have absolutely no alternative but in future biennia to either drastically cut the programme or substantially increase assessments on Member Nations. However we choose to dress this up, these are the only choices. This will happen even with the zero real growth in budgets for future biennia. It would be compounded were we to see any growth whatsoever.

The issue for us is essentially one of sound financial planning. Short-term remedies can be risky and tend to rely on uncertainties. As in our own national budgets, where tough decisions have to be faced, we want FAO to adopt a similar approach to its budgetary difficulties. We are disappointed that the budgetary proposals before us today do not address fully these major concerns.

Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany) (Original language German): What should, and what can, FAO do to meet the manifold needs of its mandate and to satisfy the many justified requests from Member Nations? This is a very complex question. Once again, we are facing it here at this 27th Conference of the FAO in dealing with the Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years.

The premises are of course clear priority setting and utmost economy in planning and in the use of financial and staff resources, and my delegation wishes to stress that this is indeed the essential approach. Looking from this point of view at the result of the work of the Secretariat, the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Council Members States since the 103rd and 104th Council Sessions, I think we can say that in general terms we can be satisfied with the results. Many proposals from Member Nations have been taken into account. The strengthening of the Major Programmes on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in a number of key areas clearly reflects the unanimous wish of Members Nations and the endeavours of the Organization to ensure that there is proper follow-up to the decisions of UNCED and of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN).

The proportion of 44.7 percent of the proposed budget for global-type activities, which we can see from Annex 1/3 in C 93/3, makes this thrust quite clear.

FAO's role in policy advice and coordination in connection with essential tasks relating to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources, the increase in sustainable food production of deficit countries, the promotion of rural development to overcome poverty, hunger and malnutrition, is something that has been given sufficient attention in the view of my delegation. In this connection I would like to support the initiative of the Canadian delegation, to the effect that the 27th Conference Session should adopt a resolution requesting the Director-General to provide adequate funds from the budget for the leading role of FAO in the forestry area.

We also welcome the fact that in the budget resources have been taken into account to provide for the report on the world situation and for the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources, which are in fact a substantive input for the planned Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. In connection with this, we hope that efforts will soon be successful to make progress with this programme.

Document C 93/LIM/23 calls upon us to speed up work on an international code of conduct for responsible fishing. My delegation would express support for the Secretariat's efforts in this field.

Taken altogether, it seems to us that the Programme of Work is now quite adequately balanced. This judgment is due to the transparency and accuracy of the figures that we find in document C 93/3. I must express gratitude and recognition to the Secretariat for this work. Despite its volume the document is suitable to support the desired transparency of the work of FAO.

We are aware of the narrow limits set by the proposed budget. You can only spend the money that you have.

Over the last two planning periods FAO had to overcome quite a number of acute financial problems. We hope that the 1994-95 biennium will no longer suffer from gaps in financing. Favourable developments, in particular the often requested settlement of arrears by a number of Member Nations, and gains due to the dollar/lire exchange rate have contributed to making it possible that the present volume of activities can be kept up.

We believe that in adopting the 1994-95 budget we should have an exact correspondence between the programme volume and budget appropriations so that there is no gap between them. In view of the serious national budget problems, also in my own country, many Member Nations are convinced of the need for zero growth in real terms. Indeed, the budget level proposed to us is a zero growth budget. But the proposed volume of programme activities should be covered through payment of arrears and hopefully a favourable dollar/lire exchange rate. In the understanding of the Secretariat this is, the basis for the 1994-95 budget level; but of course - and I must say "of course" - this is not free from certain ambiguities.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for a detailed presentation of the historical development of the lapse factor.

We feel that the justification for keeping the lower lapse factor of 3 percent instead of 5.5 percent, which would reflect the actual vacancies more realistically, is not convincing. The budget savings which will happen in 1994-95 if we have a "normal" vacancy rate - in other words, without any "planned" vacancies because of the restrained financial situation - should be reflected in a realistic level of the lapse factor. This would mean that, without cutting back on the overall scope of the Programme of Work, the budget to be financed from the contributions of members could be relieved through a higher lapse factor. Like other delegations who have spoken before, my delegation supports Dr Shah's proposal that this whole question of lapse factor should be submitted to the external auditor for examination. Perhaps it would then be possible to reach an agreement at last between Member Nations and the Secretariat on the question, which has been much debated in the past.

The budget proposed for 1994-95 provides for expenditure to the tune of US\$752 729 000 million and, this includes a cost increase of 11.2 percent as compared with 1992-93. The Nordic States, and the United Kingdom just now, have said - and we think rightly - that this figure for cost increase is too high. If we are going to finance the budget there is one essential precondition there. The promised income of arrears, amounting altogether to US\$38 million, must be assured. The total contributions for 1994-95 should be reduced by this amount according to the Budget Appropriations Resolution.

It depends a lot on whether countries in arrears pay their arrears, whether the Programme of Work can in fact be fully funded or not.

Allow me to close with a basic statement of principle. Already at the 103rd Session of the Council my delegation expressed doubts about the budget base level, which through the explanations of the Secretariat could not yet fully be removed. We realise that the Appropriations Resolution for 1992-93 was a unique one, and we support FAO's efforts to draw up its programme activities, wherever possible, for the greatest benefit of Member Nations at this time when there are tremendous global challenges in connection with food, agriculture and the environment. At the same time, we are, however,

convinced of the fact that pragmatic action comes to limits if you do not respect existing valid provisions. Even if we try to interpret financial regulations and the Appropriations Resolution 1992-93 in the fullest possible way, we still doubt whether something else than the appropriations for the current budget should be the basis for the new budget 1994-95. For this reason we look forward with interest to the response from Mr Shah on this very important issue. In spite of these doubts my delegation will hopefully be able to ultimately join a consensus on the budget carried by a broad majority.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation prenant la parole pour la première fois, permettez-moi de vous adresser nos vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de cette importante Commission de la Conférence.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter M. Shah pour l'introduction qu'il nous a faite de cet important document et nous voudrions précisément adresser, à lui-même et à son équipe, nos sincères félicitations pour les améliorations qualitatives qui ont été apportées à ce document du Programme de travail et budget qui est plus volumineux et plus détaillé. Nous espérons que ces améliorations vont dans les sens d'une réponse aux exigences de nombreux Etats Membres et qu'elles contribueront aussi à rassembler le consensus tant souhaité sur ce Programme de travail et budget.

Cela dit, pour aborder quelques questions spécifiques soulevées dans le document C 93/3, ma délégation voudrait exprimer d'abord son appui au principe de la croissance zéro qui a servi de base à l'élaboration de ce programme de travail. Toutefois, nous tenons à préciser que cet appui, qui est valable pour le moment, ne veut pas dire que ce devrait être la base pour les prochains budgets à venir ni que nous sommes d'accord sur ce principe de la croissance zéro ou que nous souhaiterions avoir un budget à croissance négative.

C'est pourquoi nous appuyons le Directeur général pour la base qu'il a utilisée afin d'élaborer les propositions budgétaires.

Sur la question du coefficient d'abattement, nous constatons que le taux qui a été utilisé relève d'une décision souveraine de la Conférence en 1989 et sachant que cette question a souvent, pour ne pas dire presque toujours, fait l'objet de débats ou de divergences entre les Etats Membres, nous souhaitons que des mesures soient envisagées par les instances appropriées, en l'occurrence le Comité financier et le Conseil, pour soumettre ou pour chercher une solution si possible définitive à cette question, et nous nous félicitons du fait que le Corps commun d'inspection des Nations-Unies soit en train d'étudier la question. Le rapport de cet organisme extérieur à l'Organisation pourrait servir de base à une réflexion future sur ce problème du taux d'abattement.

Au sujet de l'estimation des coûts, il s'agit là encore d'un autre sujet de discordance entre les Etats Membres et notre expérience, notamment au sein du Comité financier et des autres organes de l'Organisation, nous montre que tout en contestant parfois les chiffres qui sont avancés par le Secrétariat, il y a je crois une certaine unanimité pour reconnaître qu'il n'existe pas de méthode infaillible et parfaite pour les estimer, donc nous appuyons la méthodologie qui a été proposée et les coûts qui ont été avancés dans le document.

Nous nous félicitons par ailleurs du fait que le Directeur général ait économisé, depuis le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, un montant significatif de l'ordre de 5 millions de dollars sur ces coûts.

La délégation du Cameroun prend note des dispositions prévues pour l'application des décisions relevant des conférences internationales qui se sont tenues en 1992, à savoir la CNUED et la CIN. Toutefois, nous pensons d'une part que le secteur des forêts, qui a bénéficié d'un accroissement des allocations budgétaires, ne reçoit pas toute l'attention nécessaire et suffisante et, d'autre part, nous constatons depuis un certain temps que la FAO est progressivement un peu marginalisée dans l'examen des questions forestières dans les enceintes internationales.

Nous pensons et souhaitons que le Département des forêts pourra prendre les dispositions nécessaires pour non seulement bénéficier des allocations de budget plus importantes, mais aussi pour permettre à la FAO d'occuper et de jouer pleinement le rôle de chef de file dans ce secteur que lui confère sa Constitution.

Sur les questions de nutrition, nous nous félicitons des efforts fournis et de ceux qui sont prévus par l'Organisation pour aider les pays à mettre en oeuvre leurs plans d'action nationaux. Cela dit, nous pensons qu'une plus grande attention devrait être accordée, dans l'objectif d'une plus grande sécurité alimentaire, aux cultures autres que les céréales. A notre avis, l'Organisation attache une trop grande importance aux céréales. Nous pensons que celles-ci sont importantes, mais nous souhaitons que la même attention soit accordée aux autres cultures et ici je me réfère par exemple aux tubercules et aux plantains.

De même, une plus grande attention devrait être accordée à l'apport des produits d'élevage dans la sécurité alimentaire et dans la solution des problèmes nutritionnels que rencontrent nos pays. C'est pourquoi nous serons d'avis d'appuyer la proposition du Mexique sur la création d'un comité d'élevage.

Avec ces quelques remarques qui sont d'ordre général, nous appuyons le projet de résolution figurant à la page 21 du rapport C 93/3.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat à propos de ce document et dire que celui-ci est aussi bien fait que celui concernant l'exécution du budget actuel; je tiens à souligner l'interrelation entre ces deux documents et, évidemment, le troisième qui est la Planification à moyen terme que nous avons analysé hier.

Je tiens d'emblée à défendre la base budgétaire prise en compte par le Secrétariat dans ce document car son niveau déterminera toutes les activités futures de l'Organisation.

La base de 676,9 millions de dollars est, tant pour des raisons juridiques qu'opérationnelles, la base dont il faut partir.

Souvenons-nous, en effet, qu'en 1991, la Conférence avait, à titre de compromis, approuvé un programme de travail de 676,9 millions de dollars et ouvert un crédit de base limité à 645,5 millions de dollars. Cette mesure "exceptionnelle", c'était bien précisé, ne devait pas constituer un précédent pour de futurs programmes de travail et de budget.

En revanche, adopter la base de 645,5 millions aboutirait à ce type de précédent que la Conférence avait rejeté puisque le budget marquerait en réalité une croissance négative et entraînerait une réduction par rapport au programme voté lors de la Conférence de 1991, en vertu même du Règlement financier.

J'en appelle donc solennellement à la compréhension de tous les membres de la Conférence et à leur sens des responsabilités. C'est aussi l'occasion pour ma délégation de redire son inquiétude concernant l'accumulation d'arriérés de contributions puisque 27 pays ont encore des arriérés supérieurs à deux années de contribution ordinaire et qu'il faut trouver une solution à ce grave problème.

Bien entendu, comme la Belgique, nous pourrions nous inquiéter toutefois que le financement du budget de l'Organisation devienne plus difficile une fois tarie la source de remboursement que constituent les arriérés. Mais précisément si tout le monde paye à temps sa contribution, nous rattraperez très largement le montant de la base budgétaire actuelle et c'est donc là que se situe le problème. Il faut voir celui-ci d'une manière dynamique et non pas négative.

Je réitère également une mise en garde contre toute dérive vers une utilisation spécifique de certains de ces arriérés, ce qui serait, comme l'a rappelé ma collègue belge, contraire aux textes de base de la FAO et à la déontologie du système des Nations Unies, dérive qui pénaliserait le Budget ordinaire de notre Organisation.

Ma délégation interviendra en Commission III sur un point qu'elle considère comme très sensible, qui est la question du remboursement des dépenses d'appui et des modifications éventuelles des modalités de versement des contributions, lorsque ces points de l'ordre du jour seront examinés.

Je souhaite maintenant faire quelques brèves remarques sur certains points particuliers du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation.

Comme l'avait demandé le 103ème Conseil en juin dernier, les priorités affichées pour 1994-1995 en faveur de la CNUED, de la nutrition et des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale ne se traduisent heureusement plus désormais par un recul au niveau des deux grands programmes Forêts et Pêches. Nous constatons que des ressources ont été dégagées au bénéfice des sous-priorités que sont les ressources phytogénétiques et zoogénétiques dans le grand programme agriculture. A ce propos, ma délégation estime, suite à une remarque faite par un autre délégué, que les questions relatives à l'agriculture et à l'élevage sont indissociables et intégrées et qu'il convient de continuer à les traiter dans le cadre du seul Comité de l'Agriculture.

Je fais une brève parenthèse: pour des questions techniques comme l'aménagement intégré, l'expérience que j'ai eue moi-même dans ce genre de pays indique que lorsqu'on isole les problèmes d'élevage du reste de l'environnement, on aboutit à une dégradation de ce dernier.

Nous félicitons le Secrétariat d'avoir mené à bien cet exercice difficile et d'avoir trouvé les ressources supplémentaires qui corrigeaient, en quelque sorte par l'annulation d'autres programmes, l'orientation générale du prochain budget.

Cela étant, peut-être peut-on examiner plus en profondeur les programmes et sous-programmes pour voir s'il n'y a pas d'autres actions à annuler, ce qui dégagerait des moyens supplémentaires pour les priorités définies en matière d'agriculture, de forêts et de pêches.

Nous appuyons totalement la proposition de résolution faite par le Canada pour mettre parmi les priorités le problème des forêts.

Le Secrétariat est parvenu à un équilibre budgétaire notamment en proposant une réduction des moyens mis à la disposition du Centre d'investissement, à hauteur de six millions de dollars; or le Centre d'investissement est une unité technique dont les partenaires apprécient la multidisciplinarité et je crois pouvoir affirmer que la Direction du développement a beaucoup servi l'image de l'Organisation par la qualité de ses expertises, c'est là notre régiment d'élite. Il faut préserver cet outil et sa compétitivité auprès des institutions de financement.

Nous souhaiterions donc que le Secrétariat nous fasse part de l'impact attendu de ces mesures sur les activités futures du Centre d'investissement.

En conclusion, Monsieur le Président, nous pensons que le plan à moyen terme a montré les efforts de l'Organisation pour mieux cerner ses priorités. Ces efforts pourraient être encore plus productifs si les résultats de l'Evaluation étaient mieux valorisés et utilisés pour éclairer les choix futurs.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'Ambassadeur Laureau de son intervention claire et extrêmement positive. Usant de mon privilège de membre du Comité financier, il me souvient, à propos du rappel que vous avez fait sur la question de l'interprétation, que nous avons eu une discussion assez ouverte et qu'il avait été dit à l'époque que l'on considérait que la base des 645,5 millions ne correspondait pas à la possibilité de recouvrement des arriérés. C'est là une chose, mais je ne crois pas nécessaire de s'attarder longuement sur l'interprétation de la décision de la Conférence de 1991. D'ailleurs, je rappelle que nous avons eu recours aux services du Conseil juridique pour cette interprétation. Encore une fois, merci, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur.

Antonio BAYAS (Chile): Mi Delegación quisiera unirse a la felicitación al Sr. Shah por su excelente y concisa presentación del tema que nos ocupa, y deseamos sumarnos a lo expresado por otros países en varios aspectos del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, especialmente en lo relativo a los temas sobre pesca responsable, asuntos forestales y desarrollo rural. Particularmente queremos apoyar lo mencionado hace un momento por la distinguida Delegación de España y otras delegaciones en cuanto a los acuerdos pesqueros.

En esta oportunidad no nos vamos a referir a observaciones ya mencionadas por Chile en instancias anteriores, tal como se hizo en el último Consejo, donde expresamente apoyamos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el señor Director General.

Mi Delegación quiere hacer algunos comentarios respecto a la reducción presupuestaria propuesta por el Programa de Apoyo a la inversión, del

Centro de Inversiones. Queremos unirnos a la preocupación manifestada por varios países en el Comité del Programa, donde se esperaba mantener los servicios de preparación de proyectos, tal como se expresa en el Documento CL 104/4, párrafo 2.28.

No nos parece oportuno introducir cambios en una División de la FAO que funciona satisfactoriamente, en un momento en que está por asumir un nuevo Director General de la Organización. Creemos que sería mejor reestudiar la materia hasta que la nueva autoridad haya tenido tiempo de elaborar su programa de trabajo. La Conferencia podría recomendar al nuevo Director General que presente una propuesta, respecto a los programas futuros del Centro de Inversiones, a la próxima reunión del Consejo.

Dado que la devaluación que ha sufrido la lira ha significado un importante ahorro para la Organización, creemos que se podría adoptar cierta flexibilidad en esta materia.

James Owade OTIENO (Kenya) : Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving my delegation this opportunity and my comments will be very brief. I would like to convey through you our appreciation of the fact that some of the questions I asked yesterday seem to have been answered. I have the Director of Fisheries here with me, and he has pointed out that, following consultation between Dr Shah and his Group, there will be a Fisheries Liaison Officer stationed in East Africa to look after the affairs of Lake Victoria. We would like to put on record our appreciation of that. We would also like to put on record our appreciation of the fact that Dr Shah has agreed that some of the points we raised yesterday on the Medium-term Plan may also be discussed, and we look forward to having that opportunity.

My delegation would like to join with other delegations in congratulating you on the hard work you have done on the Programme of Work and Budget. We very much appreciate those efforts and we believe the Programme Budget is in line with the principles in the Medium-term Plan. However, we should mention one perplexing aspect of this Programme, which has been echoed by the distinguished delegates of both Canada and the UK. In the words of the distinguished delegate of Canada, the idea is for FAO to do more with less. I am inclined to believe that FAO has tried. It is not an easy thing. When you have to tighten your belt, a lot of problems arise. I am satisfied that FAO has made the effort to do better with less. I am also reminded by my colleague from the United Kingdom of the realities facing us. If I remember correctly what he said, it was that the new Director-General will have to deal with either a reduced budget or ask Member Nations to increase their pledges and assessments. This is the challenge for the delegations here. It is probably not a challenge for the Secretariat but it is something that the Secretariat should think about.

I have two other brief comments. The strategies FAO is going to adopt in this biennium with regard to capacity building do not appear clear to us, as we mentioned yesterday. They are scattered all over the Programme under different headings: at one point it is Human Resources Development, at another time it is called something else, but there needs to be a way in which capacity building can be made a distinct activity. This is particularly critical for the developing countries and we would like to see it given more emphasis.

The second comment I would like to make is that along with capacity-building goes the need to use modern methods of data acquisition and processing. I have been to FAO several times, and this time I picked up a brochure dealing with the Agrostat Programme, and on looking at it we find certain information which is not even known in Kenya but which exists in FAO. One wonders how this facility could be made accessible to other countries. I understand we have to pay a fee for it, but would it not be possible for the Secretariat to facilitate access to such a sophisticated system of data acquisition to enable us to do proper planning?

Hand in hand with that, this morning I happened to make a small request to the Secretariat, and I would like to repeat it to Dr Shah, that if there is computerized information to which some delegations can have access, please let us know so that we can take it away with us.

There are three things which I do not seem to see FAO giving emphasis to in the context of Agenda 21. One, in Agenda 21 it was emphasized that each country must prepare a National Environmental Action Plan upon which donor financing and other forms of collaboration would be based. We have started that process in Kenya and, with due respect to Dr Shah and his colleagues in FAO, we do not seem to have any FAO input in this process. The reason for this is obvious. FAO has been in the field much longer than some of the UN agencies now becoming involved in the preparation of Environmental Action Plans. Secondly, it does not appear to us from this text that resources are being given to improving and enhancing the capabilities of countries in the area of environmental assessment processes and monitoring and evaluation of activities which input negatively on sustainable agriculture. We feel FAO is uniquely placed to work along with other agencies of the UN to develop appropriate indicators. After all, in our view, it is only FAO which can tell us the threshold above which developmental activities become unsustainable. We would like to see FAO involved in this particular activity.

Lastly, in the same vein, we have been informed that the United Nations Statistical Office is currently working on a statistical framework so that the national accounts can be modified to reflect sustainable development concepts. Once again, we believe FAO is much better qualified to do this and we would like to see FAO become involved in this exercise. Part of the Technical Corporation Assistance FAO can give countries like ours is to begin to think about how this can be done.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais insister sur un point qui me paraît important. Comme tout le monde l'aura compris, il convient de situer nos discussions sur deux voies: le cadre du programme et le cadre budgétaire. Il convient de s'exprimer sur le cadre budgétaire également, d'abord pour faciliter la tâche au Secrétariat, et ensuite pour nous permettre de parvenir à une décision consensuelle.

J'aimerais savoir si d'autres délégués souhaitent intervenir. J'ajoute à ma liste les Pays-Bas, Cuba, la Croatie et l'Ethiopie.

Shri Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): I would like to begin by thanking you for your guidance, your guidance that the delegates, the Members expressed very clear views about the relevant issues pertaining to this Programme of Work

and Budget and you mentioned about the level, about the lapse factor and the line.

I would like to begin by the level of budget. This whole exercise assumes a no real programme growth budget. That means that we stick to the same level which was approved by the Conference in 1991 and this has been stated over again, that the level of budget approved by the Conference, I mean the 26th Conference, was US\$676 million. My delegation supports that level and that too for this time not to become a precedent because we believe that this is a realistic level to be suggested keeping in view the stringent financial conditions facing the member countries. So this is where we are and I think we should have a level which is equivalent to the last biennium and that is the level of US\$676.9 million.

Coming to the related issue of lapse factor, this document assumes a figure of 3%. This also we have discussed many a time in the Council, in the Programme Committee, in the Finance Committee and for the last two bienniums this is the figure which has been adopted. My delegation supports this figure. However, there are doubts, there are reservations about this factor and my delegation has said it earlier and I have no hesitation in reiterating it again that as proposed by some delegations, by some Member States, this may be looked into by the External Auditor of the Organization and we can take a decision for the next biennium that is 1996-97 based on the information received from the External Auditor but for the time being we can accept this figure of 3 percent.

My delegation is very pleased to note the decrease in cost increases and we congratulate the Secretariat for their efforts because the cost increases, the figure has come down from 85 to 81 and now it is projected to be US\$76.7 million, which is 11.7 percent of the total. I should however like to add that the Secretariat has to make efforts to increase the efficiency, to be on the look out for increasing the efficiency and decreasing the costs. As the Kenyan delegate, just now, just before me pointed out, to do more with less. We cannot lose sight of that and we have constantly to review and keep a watch on this so that we are able to deliver more with less resources.

My delegation also welcome the increased allocations to the forestry, fishery and TCP. I am very happy to note that they have reframed the proposals keeping in view the desire expressed by the COFO, COFI and the membership in general in the Council. The level of TCP increases only marginally and this is far less than the target fixed by the Conference Resolution in 1989. I would also like to mention that the TCDC share in the TCP should increase. Right now it is at a very very low level of about 1.6 to 2 percent and keeping the possibilities the potential of this programme, I think we should strive to increase the TCDC allocations out of the TCP Programmes.

My delegation also supports the priorities in the areas of agriculture, forestry and fishery and the follow-up action of the UNCED and ICN, the Special Action Programmes which are so clearly and elaborately illustrated in this Programme of Work and Budget.

In this connection I should also like to support the proposal from the Canadian delegation for increased allocations in forestry. If we can find more resources through savings achieved by better efficiency that will be very good.

I shall also like to mention about the Investment Support Programme. I have mentioned this earlier and I would like to reiterate it that this is a programme which is very important and even if the Organization has to find resources from the Regular Programme and increase them it is good because it attracts investment into the area of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, through various projects from the financing institutions. I gather during the Programme Committee that overall investment through this Investment Centre the figure has come down this year but the Cooperative Programme with the World Bank and the ISP with the other financing institutions has to be stagnant to attract more investment in agriculture. My delegation therefore will urge that the cuts which are indicated in this Chapter should be restored or attempted to be restored.

Finally my delegation supports this Budget and supports the Resolution on page 21 of this document.

Tiberiu VASIESCU (Romania): The Romanian delegation appreciates the introduction of the Deputy Director-General to this important document.

As regards Chapter 2, Sub-Programme 2.1.1.4 Water Development Management and Conservation, at the paragraphs 234 and 235, page 110, English version, for countries such as Cyprus, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Yemen on irrigation technology, Romania can through FAO's aegis provide consultancy, experts, studies, expertise.

In cooperation with the donors we can also undertake execution of specific projects, irrigation, land reclamation, cropping on sandy soils, etc. At the same time in its turn Romania needs FAO's assistance as regards the transfer of state-managed irrigation systems to water users' association, private ones, paragraphs 248, page 113.

As regards Sub-Programme 2.1.2.3 Seed Production and Plan Improvement, paragraph 288, seed and planting material introduction and exchange of informatic systems on seed and genetic resources. On paragraph 288 it is mentioned that main beneficiaries of these services will be national and international research centres, plan breeders and FAO field projects.

Romania has experience in seed production and planting material for wheat, maize, sunflower, potatoes, horticulture, viticulture, vegetables and can be of help with the experience of her experts for taking part in various programmes of FAO in certain countries. At the same time Romania is asking for FAO's support as regards updating a research centre in Romania; some laboratories, some equipment for the experimental plots. Our well-known experts work nowadays with obsolete and hand tools in the experimental plots, seeding, cropping, harvesting of experimental plots. We are also interested in 2.1.5. Programme of Rural Development.

The Romanian delegation also supports the proposal entered by the delegates of Austria and Portugal on today's meeting as regards the actions of FAO directed to assist the Eastern European Countries.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : In the name of God, I wish to start my statement by expressing my warm appreciation to Mr Shah, Deputy Director-General, for his as usual very clear and excellent introduction to the subject under our present discussion.

In general, we support the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 and we believe that this programme could provide that the Director-General be granted the authority to suggest new plans for transferring credits between chapters.

As I stated in my intervention on several occasions, including the 12th Session of COAG and 103rd Session of FAO's Council, due to several economic and environmental reasons the management and conservation of Arid and Semi-Arid Grazing Resources is vitally important in developing countries, particularly in those countries which are located in arid and semi-arid parts of the world. In this regard, we fully support the programme element, Integrated Management of Arid and Semi-Arid Grazing Resources, and we also believe that more attention should be given to this programme element in the Programme of Work and Budget in the next biennium.

Although we are not satisfied with the amount of budget increase for the Forestry Major Programme, we fully support the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 on this issue, and we also believe that more attention should be given to this programme in the next biennium.

In our view, Programme 2.3.1. Forest Resources and Environment, particularly the Sub-programme, Development and Management of Forests, Tree Planting and Forest Reproductive Material and Conservation and Wildlife and Programme 2.2.3., Forest Investment and Institutions, could play the most important role in conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources in developing countries.

Concerning the programme element, Arid Zone Forestry and Desertification Control, it is imperative that FAO should get benefit from the output of the International Convention on Combatting Desertification which is going to be finalized by June 1994 under General Assembly Resolution 47/188, and from the other follow-up measures of UNCED and its Agenda 21.

The Technical Cooperation Programme, which is defined in Chapter 4 of the document before us, plays a considerable role in response to the needs of developing countries. I would like to express our full support to this programme and ask for elimination of any reduction of its real budget.

TCDC also creates very significant areas of collaboration among developing countries. This collaboration leads to the achievement of communal self-sufficiency. Strengthening of regional cooperation as a vehicle to counter difficulties that have arisen from current world economy can be employed to expand national and regional development. In this regard, we propose allocation of some appropriated amount of funds to be used by Regional Offices of FAO for the initiating and expanding of this activity, and when it is necessary to establish a type of arrangement for exchange of experts for short-term consultancy, with providing only travel expenses including air ticket and pocket money.

Marian PIOTROWSKA (Poland): First of all the Polish delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent quality of Document C 93/3 and compliment the Director-General on presenting us with budget proposals for the 1994-95 biennium which is without net budget increase over the present biennium.

We also welcome the modest internal shifts which have been made in order to emphasize some high-priority areas.

While we agree with the priority given to follow-up activities to UNCED and ICN, we want to emphasize that FAO's role in policy advice and as a source of vital food and agricultural statistics must not be neglected.

We regret that a number of technical and economic programmes under Chapter 2 have suffered some cutbacks to accommodate the priority areas and that the reduction in support costs has caused some problems. However, we are pleased that the budget proposals for Chapter 2, contained in this document, are more favourable than those which were presented in the earlier summary, particularly for fisheries and forestry, as well as for work on plant and animal genetic resources.

We are pleased to see the new Special Action Programme on Sustainable Development for Rural Households and the increases for work on natural resources and crop protection. We also welcome the increased support given to women's role in environment and sustainable development.

Of particular interest to my Government is the increased emphasis given to Global Perspective Studies and assistance to agricultural and fisheries planning and policy developments.

Aside from sustainability issues, we support the increased attention being given to the role of nutrition following the highly successful International Conference on Nutrition in 1992.

My Government particularly welcomes the added support given to the Regional Office for Europe, and especially the very important role this Office will play in meeting requests from the countries in transition, including my own. We are grateful for the initiative already taken by FAO in this respect and look forward to cooperating in the increased activities planned.

I should like to recall in this context the agreement reached during the 103rd Session of the Council that because of the Organization's universality and the impact of countries of Central and Eastern Europe on policy concerns of global significance FAO should be prepared to respond to future requests for assistance stemming from these countries.

The Organization should, in our view, develop a coherent approach to countries in transition and a much more tangible contribution to transformations in their respective economies. I should like to point out that the new sub-regional policy for Central and Eastern Europe should help identify their growing potential to assist the developing countries, starting from better use of expertise and research capacities already available in the sub-region. We in Poland readily place at the disposal of the Organization these largely untapped opportunities.

It is important for FAO to maintain also its world leadership as a technical organization in agriculture. The great success in combating such emergencies as screw-worm, locust, foot and mouth disease and rinderpest in Africa has shown the technical capabilities of the Organization.

It is unfortunate that funds could not be increased at this time for strengthening the technical capability to assist developing countries in

applying modern biotechnologies and nuclear techniques in their efforts to increase food supplies and meet the challenge of feeding an additional two billion people in the next 20 years.

With those comments, my government approves the Programme and Budget proposals for 1994 and 1995.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Monsieur le Président, je n'ai pas encore parlé sous votre présidence, aussi j'aimerais vous féliciter et vous remercier pour l'éloquence et la bonne conduite des travaux dont vous faites preuve.

Je remercie d'abord Monsieur Shah de son introduction au point 12, excellente comme toujours.

Comme ma délégation a déjà eu la possibilité d'examiner le document devant nous dans le Comité financier, je pourrai limiter mon intervention à trois points.

Premièrement, ma délégation votera pour le budget proposé, malgré certaines critiques que nous avons à l'égard de quelques aspects concernant la technique budgétaire. J'y reviendrai dans mon troisième point.

Ma délégation note que le Secrétariat a fait un effort en direction d'un budget de croissance réelle zéro. Selon les dires de Monsieur Shah, nous avons devant nous une proposition pour un Programme sans croissance. C'est exact en ce qui concerne le Programme. Si nous considérons cependant le niveau du crédit proposé, nous nous rendons compte qu'on nous propose une croissance de quelque 30 millions de dollars par rapport aux crédits votés à la dernière Conférence au niveau de 645 millions de dollars. Le délégué de l'Allemagne a soulevé tout à l'heure le problème.

Ceci dit, nous souhaitons participer à un consensus sur le budget.

Je viens à mon deuxième point: de l'avis de ma délégation, malgré les efforts déployés pour concentrer les ressources sur des priorités, le programme proposé est trop vaste, trop dispersé pour permettre une utilisation efficace des ressources. Le programme cherche à donner une réponse à presque toutes les demandes qui sont adressées à notre Organisation, un programme qui cherche à couvrir la totalité de son mandat. C'est difficile de faire plus avec des ressources limitées, d'augmenter l'efficacité de l'utilisation des ressources si on doit couvrir un programme trop vaste.

Je donne raison aux délégués du Kenya et de l'Inde sur ce point.

Si la FAO était la seule organisation internationale dont nous disposons pour faire face aux défis qui nous sont posés: c'est-à-dire l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté, ainsi que la réalisation d'un développement durable, d'une agriculture durable, ce serait peut-être la seule approche possible. Heureusement notre organisation n'est pas seule aujourd'hui face à ces défis. Depuis sa création, d'autres organisations importantes ont vu le jour: la Banque mondiale, les banques régionales, le FIDA, les centres internationaux de recherche agricole, le PNUD et les autres membres de la famille onusienne; et puis il y a aussi l'assistance bilatérale, l'action des organisations non gouvernementales et surtout les efforts propres des gouvernements concernés. Aujourd'hui, la FAO doit

définir son rôle dans le contexte des actions des autres. Sur cet aspect, nous n'apprenons rien de significatif dans le document proposé. Ma délégation a déjà soulevé ce point dans son intervention d'hier sur le plan à moyen terme. Une information brève et concise sur les domaines d'action et sur les ressources engagés par les acteurs mentionnés plus haut dans les domaines du mandat de la FAO nous permettrait de mieux saisir la contribution qui doit être assurée par notre organisation, de mieux comprendre les possibilités et les limites pour une coopération et division de travail avec les autres acteurs.

J'ai une autre remarque concernant le programme. Ma délégation propose que l'on procède à une évaluation de l'utilisation des différentes publications de la FAO comme nous l'avons déjà dit dans un autre contexte, un exercice similaire a été fait dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe, avec des résultats très intéressants.

Quant à mes autres remarques concernant le programme, permettez-moi de rappeler les interventions de ma délégation sur les trois précédents points de l'ordre du jour. Je n'ai pas besoin de les répéter.

J'en viens à mon troisième point: les aspects techniques du budget. J'aimerais limiter mes commentaires à trois d'entre eux. Premièrement, le taux d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel et délais de recrutement, abaissé il y a 4 ans contre toute logique à 3 pour cent, est beaucoup trop bas, vu les taux de vacance réels qui se situent aux alentours de 10 à 15 pour cent, suivant la catégorie du personnel. Le délégué du Canada et d'autres ont déjà attiré notre attention sur ce problème. Il a aussi mentionné la contradiction qui existe entre le niveau de vacances de postes d'une part et la demande de transferts de postes financés par des dépenses d'appui aux programmes réguliers.

Mon deuxième commentaire concerne les augmentations des coûts. Nous estimons que le chiffre proposé est élevé et nous pouvons l'accepter.

Nous aimerions cependant faire remarquer qu'on ne peut pas parler d'augmentation de coûts sans parler également de baisse de coûts grâce aux améliorations de productivité surtout quand nous cherchons à améliorer l'efficacité.

Mon troisième commentaire concerne le financement du budget. Il est proposé que 14,3 millions de dollars proviennent de recettes accessoires, que 38 millions de dollars soient pris sur des paiements d'arriérés de contribution, le reste étant à financer par les contributions des Etats Membres.

Permettez-moi une première observation qui concerne les arriérés. Ma délégation aimerait rappeler que chaque pays membre a l'obligation de payer sa contribution dans les temps prévus. Nous avons cette obligation vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. Nous l'avons aussi vis-à-vis des autres pays membres. La Suisse a toujours honoré son obligation de payer sa contribution et elle continue à le faire, ceci malgré les grandes difficultés budgétaires que nous connaissons actuellement. Mon pays attend la même attitude de tous les autres pays membres. Il n'est pas normal qu'une organisation qui a pour mission de combattre la faim et la pauvreté ait des arriérés importants et que la moitié de ses membre ait des arriérés. Ma délégation n'est pas favorable à l'affectation des arriérés au financement du budget. On nous dit que cette affectation permet de

maintenir les contributions des Etats Membres au même niveau en valeur nominale que pour le biennium en cours. C'est vrai au niveau actuel du taux de change dollar/lire. Mais comment allons-nous financer le budget dans deux ans, quand cette source supplémentaire de financement sera épuisée et quand il faudra faire face à de nouvelles augmentations des coûts. A l'instar du délégué du Royaume-Uni et d'autres, ma délégation se demande s'il ne serait pas plus judicieux de financer le budget de manière traditionnelle, solide et transparente. C'est-à-dire par les contributions des Etats Membres, déduction faite seulement des recettes accessoires. Cela aurait l'avantage d'envoyer aux pays membres les signaux nécessaires pour l'inclusion de la contribution à la FAO dans leurs budgets nationaux. Qu'est-ce que cela change? Les paiements d'arriérés de contributions, une fois effectivement arrivés, nous seraient retournés sous forme d'excédent des exercices passés. Comme il y a eu des coupures d'activités dans le passé, en raison des contributions déficitaires l'effet net pour les pays membres pourrait être plus ou moins le même qu'avec la proposition du Directeur général, ceci bien sûr à condition que le paiement des arriérés atteigne ou dépasse les 38 millions de dollars dont il est question.

J'aimerais que Monsieur Shah nous dise quelles seraient, selon ses calculs, les conséquences d'une telle approche pour les contributions nettes des pays membres.

Pour finir, ma délégation a trouvé l'intervention de la Norvège, au nom des pays nordiques, très intéressante et aimerait exprimer son soutien à la plupart des points soulevés par sa délégation.

Ma délégation soutient l'idée d'une résolution proposée par le Canada.

Alhaji Alhassan FAWU (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, as Nigeria is taking the floor for the first time during the deliberations of this Commission, may I first congratulate you on your well-deserved appointment as Chairman, on behalf of the Nigerian delegation. We also wish to thank the Secretariat for the efforts they have put into producing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95. Mr Shah particularly deserves our sincere appreciation for his . brief but clear and concise comments in the presentation of the document.

We have noted and are happy that, as expected, this document preparation was considered together with the views of the Programme and Finance Committees.

We have noted and appreciate the various demands of other countries as made in their interventions. Certainly the priorities of all member countries can never be the same. This is what makes FAO's job very complex, very challenging and sometimes uneasy. We are happy to note that FAO staff are equal to the task.

It is very important to observe that some member countries, and indeed continents, have natural disadvantages as compared to others. The African continent certainly has a number of natural disadvantages. Previous speakers from similar areas, like Nigeria, have highlighted how disadvantaged the African continent is in comparison with other places. I am sure you are aware of this. You are aware that most African countries are either covered by desert, where irrigational facilities are needed, or are areas of high rainfall, equatorial in nature, and are consequently torn by various forms of soil erosion, and most of the top soil is washed away.

You may wonder why I am giving you this background. It leads me to the main item on the Agenda. This delegation supports those budgetary programmes which are supportive in nature and those with a view to limiting or alleviating poverty and hunger. We therefore support the budget proposals which strengthen technical and economic programmes. We support the TCP Programmes and the Major Programmes highlighted in Chapter 2 and those Support Programmes in Chapter 3. Any programmes under forest and any afforestation actions to prevent desert encroachment of the limited agricultural land are strongly supported and need to be given more weight in the budget.

I do not say this without appreciating the mammoth effort already made by FAO and donor countries. It is more because the world is one big macro-ecosystem and we therefore need to fight all the ills of the world together, because if one part of the world body is sick, the entire world is sick. In conclusion, therefore, Mr Chairman, we strongly associate ourselves with the Budget, which is well done, and as for increased agriculture activities, we support all the programmes in Chapters 2 and 3.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his sterling presentation of this excellent document.

During the course of the last few years FAO has worked very hard and has achieved a lot, and many Member States have been inspired by these achievements. All the work done in Economic and Social Planning Policies and Agricultural Programmes should be consolidated. We must create a favourable climate to help our new Director-General guide our Organization. This can only be done with the help of a well-balanced Programme which fosters international cooperation and satisfies everyone.

The document that we are discussing, C 93/3, the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95, contains most acceptable guidelines. They are effective and in keeping with the decisions and recommendations of the decision-making bodies of FAO. Nevertheless, we have some concern about the new tasks entrusted to us in the wake of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and the International Conference on Nutrition. I am talking about new tasks or duties which are, in our opinion, vital. These are included in the efforts which the international community will have to make to protect resources and help countries develop.

This is why we feel it is absolutely essential to improve the Programmes and Budget as well as the aims of the Organization in order to have a well-balanced approach to our Regular Programme and these new tasks. We feel that the Technical Cooperation Programme should be strengthened and consolidated because the appropriation we have estimated in its budget was approved only because of a favourable exchange rate. We should adopt the very important Resolution 9/89 and we must implement it. The draft Programme should include the criteria and methodology that FAO would like to use for efficient and effective action with a higher level of cooperation so that we can improve the quality of the Budget. We should undertake thorough evaluations and make all the necessary reforms. We could do this through a review so that our decisions can be realistic and our Programmes fruitful and efficient.

As for the Programme of Work and Budget, we note some important changes on the international scene which will require of us some crystal ball gazing in everything we have to decide in this Organization so that our work and activities will bear fruit.

C. KIEMTÖRE (Burkina Faso): Le Burkina Faso apporte son appui au projet de Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95. d'un montant de 676 millions de dollars.

Nous notons avec satisfaction que la proposition du Directeur général a dûment pris en compte, et de manière équilibrée, les préoccupations majeures des Etats Membres qui, à maintes occasions, se sont exprimés clairement sur cette question.

Cette recherche d'équilibre est une nécessité constante pour notre Organisation qui a l'instar de bien d'autres agences spécialisées des Nations Unies, est confrontée à un manque crucial de ressources financières.

La FAO vit cette période de pénurie avec beaucoup de contradiction dans la mesure où elle doit faire face à des besoins alimentaires sans cesse croissants. 780 millions de personnes se trouvent dans une situation de dénuement total. Elle assiste, de manière impuissante à l'un des défis les plus colossal du XXIème siècle et attend que les Etats Membres lui fournissent les moyens adéquats pour réaliser son mandat.

La délégation burkina-be se félicite que les activités essentielles de la FAO aient été préservées, malgré tout, grâce à une redistribution interne entre les Grands Programmes Agriculture, Forêt et Pêche. Nous appuyons le niveau d'activités consacrées au Programme de coopération technique, à la lutte contre les ravageurs, à l'élaboration d'informations statistiques, au développement des ressources humaines, aux programmes de terrain.

Concernant le programme de terrain, ma délégation voudrait affirmer que ce programme constitue la substance du rôle de la FAO et un résultat concret de l'efficacité du Programme ordinaire. Il nous semble que c'est seulement à travers une bonne exécution du programme de terrain que les pays en développement apprécient la vitalité de l'Organisation.

Il est clairement établi qu'un nombre important de pays développés, principaux contributeurs, reconnaissent à la FAO des avantages comparatifs certains dans l'exécution des projets de terrain, si nous en jugeons par le nombre de pays qui utilisent les services de la FAO pour mettre en oeuvre des financements bilatéraux dans le cadre des Fonds fiduciaires. Cette initiative devrait être encouragée. Toutefois, il convient d'accélérer le processus de révision des taux de remboursement des dépenses d'appui pour permettre à la FAO d'être plus performante.

A l'avenir, la FAO devra aborder courageusement le problème majeur de la réorganisation administrative dans l'optique de l'application de la résolution 47/199 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. A ce sujet, ma délégation voudrait insister sur le renforcement de l'exécution nationale et sur la formation de cadres nationaux.

Les augmentations de coûts font l'objet de controverses de la part de certains Etats Membres. Il convient, à cet effet, de noter les conséquences

négligentes qui pourraient découler d'une réduction trop importante de ces dépenses, notamment sur les niveaux de qualification et la motivation du personnel.

En ce qui concerne l'utilisation des arriérés pour financer le budget, il nous semble juste que ces fonds soient utilisés pour financer les activités pour lesquelles ils étaient destinés au départ, c'est-à-dire pour financer les programmes de travail de l'Organisation. Si, comme le disent certains délégués, la totalité des arriérés est recouvrée au cours de ce biennium et s'il n'y a plus d'arriérés dans le futur, nous serons d'accord pour revoir les bases de financement du budget de manière à ce que les contributions des Etats Membres soient maintenues à un niveau acceptable. Toutefois, et de toute évidence, la situation des arriérés pourrait se poursuivre au-delà de ce biennium. C'est pourquoi ma délégation soutient la proposition du Secrétariat visant à utiliser les arriérés pour financer le budget.

Mme Sabria BOUKADOUM (Algérie): Etant donné que lors de notre intervention, hier, vous n'étiez pas présent, permettez-moi de vous réitérer mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection méritée à la présidence de notre Commission et de vous assurer de l'appui de mon pays pour la réussite de ses travaux.

Le Programme de travail et budget pour 1994-95 est un document réaliste et nous en remercions le Directeur général et le Secrétariat. J'adresse également mes vifs remerciements à M. Shah pour son introduction pertinente sur ce point.

Les propositions que contient ce document reflètent de manière générale les priorités retenues au plan multilatéral, notamment le suivi de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Nous nous réjouissons particulièrement que certaines de nos préoccupations aient été prises en compte par le Secrétariat, se reflétant par les changements apportés à la répartition des ressources par rapport à ce qui a été proposé dans le sommaire, notamment la suppression des mesures de réduction des crédits alloués aux programmes pêches et forêts, et certaines activités importantes du Grand Programme Agriculture.

Par contre, l'augmentation relative au PCT, si elle est la bienvenue, reste en deçà de l'objectif de 17 pour cent fixé par la Résolution 1/89 de la Conférence, et nous recommandons une augmentation conséquente dans le futur programme.

Passant aux mesures prises par l'Organisation pour accroître le pourcentage des femmes dans les fonctions supérieures et dans les domaines techniques, ma délégation insiste sur l'importance de ces mesures pour permettre une large participation des femmes aux activités de l'Organisation, notamment celles issues des pays en développement qui, comme nous le savons, sont sous-représentées au sein de la FAO.

De même, ma délégation accorde une importance particulière au Programme 2.1.5. relatif au développement rural et à l'intégration des femmes dans ce cadre et souhaite qu'à l'avenir, ce programme se concentre sur la formation des femmes des pays en développement dont les besoins sont les plus pressants.

S'agissant de la collecte et de la diffusion des statistiques et des données agricoles, nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire d'encourager la création de banques de données au niveau régional pour permettre un accès rapide et facile aux données.

Pour ce qui concerne la question du coefficient d'abattement, ma délégation s'en tient à la proposition contenue dans le document, mais suggère qu'à l'avenir elle devrait faire l'objet d'un examen plus détaillé et à la lumière des avis exprimés par le Commissaire aux comptes et le Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies.

Ce matin, la délégation mexicaine a proposé la création d'un Comité sur l'élevage. Mon pays appuie cette proposition qui offre un cadre adéquat pour la prise de mesures visant la promotion de l'élevage particulièrement dans les régions pastorales.

Ma délégation a laissé en dernier la question de la base budgétaire proposée pour conclure son propos. La base budgétaire de 676,9 millions de dollars représente une solution de compromis consistant dans le maintien d'un niveau des ressources presque identique à celui de l'exercice précédent, l'augmentation prévue n'étant en fait que le résultat de l'inflation.

Tout en appuyant cette solution de compromis, ma délégation se préoccupe de la capacité de l'Organisation à faire face au nouveau défi, alors qu'elle dispose de moyens financiers qui, paradoxalement, au lieu de s'accroître, se trouvent de plus en plus réduits. C'est pourquoi nous espérons que dans le futur programme de travail et budget, une nouvelle approche soit adoptée tenant compte des principes d'interdépendance, de solidarité et d'équité. Seule une telle approche permet à notre Organisation de relever son plus grand et exaltant défi qui est celui de contribuer à l'édification d'un monde où chacun mangera à sa faim et jouira d'un niveau de vie digne et décent.

Kenji SHIMIZU (Japan) : I shall be very brief at this juncture because the time is running out and also because my delegation has made clear already in a general way its positions at the Plenary and at the last two meetings of the Council.

This time we have several comments on the programme and the budget. First about the programme I would like to speak to the proposal made by the Japanese Government. The proposal is about the International Conference on Sustainable Contributions on Fisheries for Food Security which was already proposed at the 4th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in October 1993. Also the proposal was taken up at the 104th Session of the Council and got broad support, as recorded in paragraph 13 of the Report of the Council CL 104 REV. 2. Based on the progress of the issue the head of my delegation again proposed the idea in the Plenary of this Conference. My delegation does not wish to repeat the details but believes that the Conference can be linked to the exercise of the International Code of Conduct for Responsive Fishing and will provide opportunities to identify necessary adjustments and changes to the strategy of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference to reflect changing world relations with a view to the sustainable contribution of fisheries to food security. My delegation would appreciate it if the Conference would take note of that proposal.

Now I turn to the budget: my delegation has a few comments. My delegation welcomes the Director-General directive to formulate the Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95 on the basis of zero growth but is still concerned about the payment of increased assessment which seems to us is based on rather an illusion on the availability of resources. In this regard my delegation needs sufficient information about the expenditure of the last biennium if we are to be convinced that the expenditure and the understanding of the proposed budget 1994-95 will be different from the one otherwise.

Secondly, on the transfer of the posts under the support programme costs to regular posts, as a result of the transfer, the ratio of personnel costs in the regular budget increases from 54 percent in the 1988-89 budget to 67 percent in the budget 1994-95 if my calculation is correct. The ratio has reached an historical high which gives rise to the loss of flexibility of the budget and results in the costs increase adding further financial burden on Member States in a rigid manner. My delegation feels that we must take some action to stop the increased trend as such. Desirably the Secretariat should identify the reasonable or appropriate level of personnel costs in the regular budget with the external help. If this is not the case my delegation wishes that we may be able to consider the proposal of the increased regular posts in the context of a fixed-term basis as a temporary measure or in a context of the lapse factor review; a matter which is the issue which I would like to address as my next comment, the lapse factor, my delegation supports the issue should be disposed to the external auditors review.

Yun SU CHANG (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of): Mr Chairman, it is the first time for me to take the floor. However, first of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission II, and also I would like to thank Mr Shah for his very clear and brief introduction on the item under discussion.

At the same time I would express my deep appreciation of the work of the Director-General and the Secretariat of the FAO for the preparation and presentation of the comprehensive document on the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1994-95 biennium.

I would like now to make a few brief comments on the above-mentioned document. Firstly, I think that the proposal of zero growth of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 of FAO, contained in the document, is not satisfactory and is unacceptable to us from the point of view of its major leading role in the world of agriculture and its mandate, as well as the many challenges faced by the Member Nations, particularly the developing countries, today. I fully understand that the Director-General and his staff have made every effort to make this a realistic package, as well as balanced proposals, taking into account the interests of all Member Nations on the basis of comprehensive analysis of the requirements of member countries as well as the current world food and agricultural situation.

However, I am in favour of the level of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 of US\$676.9 million proposed by the Director-General. I can accept the submitted budget levels for the sake of facilitating consensus. Secondly, Mr Chairman, for more than 15 years achievements and experiences with TCPs of FAO in the developing countries have shown that these are a very valuable and highly effective means of cooperation activities between

FAO and member countries. TCPs play a broad catalytic role in the development programme of many fields.

With regard to the allocation of the budget for TCPs, I think it is regrettable that the TCP allocation rate has not approached the 17 percent level according to Resolution 9/89 adopted at the 1989 25th Conference of FAO. However, I would invite the Director-General to make every effort and to use every possibility at his disposal to restore the resources available to at least approach the 14 percent level for TCPs in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

Thirdly, Mr Chairman, I think that the TCDC is a very important element and plays a significant role in the activities of FAO which enables developing countries to build and strengthen their national capability in agricultural development. In this regard I think that the allocation in the budget for TCDC is at a very low level. However, my delegation invites the Director-General to take every step to obtain additional funds to encourage and inspire the TCDC in the next biennium.

Franco F.G. GINOCCHIO (Italy): The Italian delegation approves the document of C 93/3, the Programme and Work and Budget for 1994-95 in which it is specified that the level of the programme for the next biennium is US\$676.9 million.

Secondly, the Italian delegation approves the draft resolution for adoption by the Conference in the text indicated at page 19 of the above-mentioned document. We think the proposal of the lower base of the budget would mean a negative rate of growth of the Programme of Work and Budget and would not allow FAO to reach its objective for the next biennium. We hope that a consensus will be reached for the level of US\$676.9 million.

Enrique ROSSL LINK (Perú): La Delegación de Perú reconoce el gran esfuerzo realizado en la elaboración de un presupuesto conciliable con la situación financiera por la que pasa la Institución. Por ello no queremos hacer mayor mención ni discutir el presupuesto, que consideramos satisfactorio. Sin embargo, es necesario que se tomen determinadas medidas precisas para la utilización de parte de los recursos que se asignen a la ordenación de la pesca, concretamente al Subprograma 2.2.3.1, en su elemento 05, teniendo en consideración el apoyo que el Consejo otorgó a la toma de medidas urgentes para la elaboración de los principios generales en el Código de Conducta en Pesca responsable. También en el Subprograma 2.3.9: Montes, se deberá tener en cuenta lo acordado en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo y en la 11ª Reunión del Comité de Montes para lograr el fortalecimiento del liderazgo de la Organización en el aspecto forestal mediante la priorización de sus actividades.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): My delegation's views on the Programme of Work and Budget have already been given at the June Session of the Council and at the Council last week and are contained in the verbatim reports of those meetings. There are some points, however, made in the Canadian intervention which we would wish to support. The first relates to the comments on C 93/LIM/23 concerning the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

We agreed that the proposals contained in this document do not preempt or conflict with similar work being carried out in other UN fora. We support a review of the lapse factor by the External Auditor and increased future allocations for forestry programmes. We also find the Canadian suggestion regarding the celebrations for the 50 years anniversary of FAO being held in Quebec an attractive one. My delegation is still awaiting our Capital's response to the suggestion but feel confident that it will receive very positive consideration.

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): The United States delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Mr Shah for his cogent introduction of FAO's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 at this Conference. Much work went into the Secretariat preparation of this voluminous, basic framework for FAO's programmes in the next biennium.

Before we discuss the programmatic content of the budget, we would like to make a few general comments. The United States recognizes the efforts of Director-General Saouma to address positively a number of concerns members raised at the 103rd Session of the FAO Council about the lack of increased resources devoted to key programme areas. The shifts, while positive, are marginal.

We also believe, as noted by others, that expenditure data provided in a format that permits comparison with budget planning figures would strengthen the budget preparation process.

The approved budget, however, must offer a base for new leadership in FAO. In order to allow for any changes that may be proposed by the next Director-General, maximum flexibility is required. Moreover, the new Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, may, after due consideration, want to further refine budget priorities, in accord with his vision, while emphasizing FAO's predominant roles in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.

Turning to the proposed programme thrusts for the 1994-95 biennium, we highlighted a number of areas at the June Council Session of critical importance to the International Community as well as to the United States. We will mention only a few here.

We welcome efforts to transfer resources to strengthen priority FAO programmes such as Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) that undoubtedly require additional Regular Budget support. The United States attaches great importance to FAO implementation of Agenda 21. SARD-based activities, through focused programming, exploit FAO's comparative advantage and directly contribute to addressing high-priority post-UNCED needs. More Regular Budget support for SARD will advance this crucial agenda more rapidly.

As the UK and other delegations have mentioned, we have also noted the cuts in the Investment Centre, and we would welcome hearing the Secretariat's views on the Centre's future. The United States has long urged greater collaboration between FAO and the regional and international institutions, including IFAD and IBRD. The Centre remains the focal point for such collaboration. Short cuts could reduce these interactions. We note further that the new Director-General has placed high priority on strengthening FAO

and international financial institution collaboration. Again, cuts impact negatively on that agenda.

We also are encouraged by the allocation of increased resources for the Global Information and Early Warning System. As we have stated on many occasions, FAO's work in standard-setting, data collection and dissemination of information related to food security, agriculture, fisheries and forestry is vital to its other tasks and, to the extent possible, should be accelerated.

As noted by Deputy Secretary Rominger in his Plenary address, FAO's role in trade related activities is very important and will need to expand if a successful GATT accord is concluded. We particularly support expansion of Codex Alimentarius and activities related to the International Plant Protection Convention.

We value highly FAO's technical expertise in plant and animal genetic resources. In this respect, our comments made during the recently concluded Council session bear repeating: Efforts made today to conserve genetic resources for future utilization will pay dividends in the next century; investments not made today will yield nothing - and even, negative returns - at great risk to future food security. FAO's programmes in this area are at a stage where sufficient resources deployed now can pay big future dividends. These activities need more regular budget support.

The Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources planned for 1995 or 1996 affords us an important opportunity to sharpen the focus of FAO's programmes in this area. We look forward to close collaboration and cooperation with other Member Nations and the FAO Secretariat to ensure that the Conference pays more than just lip service to plant genetic resources and achieves tangible results.

As we noted during the Medium-term Plan discussion, a Centre for Domestic Animal Diversity, with its accompanying Advisory Board, will be an essential component of UNCED follow-up requirements in animal/plant genetics. If FAO is to carry out its mandate in animal genetic resources, sufficient programme resources must be directed to developing and sustaining this urgently needed global programme.

Turning to forestry, we note FAO's positive efforts to provide for a relatively modest increase in resources for this important programme. We would hope that, in the future, consistent with FAO's pivotal role in global forest assessments - an UNCED follow-up activity - even greater Regular Programme resources are devoted to forestry. Far too much reliance on extra-budgetary support for forestry could have adverse consequences on the programme, as we have indicated before.

Turning to fisheries, we strongly urge this Conference to adopt the draft Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels which we believe will serve as a fundamental building block for implementation of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), financial information on the TCP pipeline is made available to the Finance Committee long after project expenditures have been incurred, rather than on a more current basis. The unprogrammed structure of TCP, as a whole, may not be

the best way to address the needs of many countries requesting FAO's assistance. While we appreciate the fact that many TCP activities cannot be programmed, a substantial portion of it could be programmed to support activities that complement FAO's post-UNCED agenda. We look forward to meaningful and constructive exchanges with Member Nations and FAO on the best way to structure and manage this highly regarded FAO activity.

On the overall budget level, in these times of budgetary constraints confronting most if not all Member Nations, FAO must redirect its limited resources to meet emerging needs and priorities. Flexibility and a willingness to make difficult decisions in the overall interests of the membership are essential and we appreciate efforts made by FAO in this regard.

Increasing pressures to provide more resources to pursue domestic agendas cannot be overlooked by international organizations, such as FAO. For this reason, the United States believes that any final decision on the budget level should be realistic, sustainable, and supported by the entire membership.

With respect to cost increases, we are pleased to see that downward adjustments of US\$5.3 million in cost increases have been made in the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) as compared to cost increases in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget (SPWB). We note that further refinements and updating of cost increase estimates allowed for such reductions. We believe there is scope for even further containment of cost increases in such budget components as personnel, official travel, meetings and general operating expenses. In this regard, we note many delegates have urged Conference and Council sessions be shortened and FAO's meeting schedule streamlined wherever possible. In the course of this year, all Member States have commented through the sectoral conferences of COFO, COFI, and COAG at least once before on every agenda item. States that participate in Council discuss the various agenda items even more extensively. Agendas can be streamlined, rapporteurs can be used to a greater extent, and statements summarized and submitted for the record. We urge the new Director-General to take these Member Nations' ideas into account in planning for the next biennium.

While extensive, the explanatory comments on the use of the lapse factor remain unpersuasive. Moreover, there is no evidence that a shift of the lapse factor to 5.5 percent would seriously damage FAO's programme. Perhaps a better approach would be to change the methodology used in applying the lapse factor. A comprehensive, early report by the newly appointed external auditor, which could include options for dealing with this budgetary concept, would provide a useful first step toward resolving this question. We would expect such a report to be reviewed thoroughly by the members of the Finance Committee.

With respect to administrative expenses, we strongly support the Nordics' call for an entire review of FAO's administrative expenses. We have noted an alarming recent trend, whereby requirements under general policy and direction, programme management, support and common services have increased significantly at the expense of FAO's programme in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. In this connection, support services, common services, and general policy direction are projected to increase in the 1994-95 biennium from the current biennium, by 19 percent, 17.3 percent, and 12 percent, respectively. Similarly, programme management under development support

programmes will nearly triple its budgeted expenditures due to the absorption of posts previously funded from support costs. This budget moves in the wrong direction. Rather than a blueprint for change it offers the status quo. More creativity, imagination, and innovation is required if FAO is to meet its 21st century challenges.

In the United States, through the President's major initiative of reinventing government, we are measuring performance against outcomes rather than inputs; focusing on goals, rather than rules and regulations. We are restructuring the entire federal government to better manage public resources. Over a five-year period, we are eliminating 250 000 federal jobs, about one-tenth of the workforce. In the Department of Agriculture, alone, we are: reducing the number of agencies from 43 to 32; consolidating regional and field offices; reducing agency budgets by as much as 25 percent over the next few years; and we are holding the overall nominal increase in the USDA budget to just over 1 percent - a figure below the inflation rate that includes cost increases. This FAO budget, by contrast, has cost increases exceeding 11 percent.

Despite these cutbacks, the Department of Agriculture is substantially increasing the resources it devotes to food assistance and nutrition to better reach the hungry and the poor. This is but one illustration of how funds can be redirected from administration and lower priority activities yielding real benefits to vulnerable groups.

Since the November 1992 Council, my delegation has urged FAO to take a conservative approach and exercise caution in proposing a programme plan that depends on exceptional revenue flows, such as arrears. The flow of arrears from Member States will undoubtedly be unpredictable. The Clinton Administration is committed to eliminating arrears to the UN system and the Fiscal 1994 budget included a request of US\$22.7 million for FAO arrears. The Congress, however, virtually eliminated any funding for UN system arrears in this fiscal year. Thus, we must seek additional appropriations for arrears in the next budget cycle.

By the end of the 1992-93 budget cycle the United States will have contributed a total of US\$201 million to FAO, more than half of which was virtually assured by a US budget agreement worked out prior to the 1991 conference. These flows contributed substantially to the resources of nearly US\$700 million available to FAO during this cycle. The resource outlook for the 1994-95 programme, however, is not as assured, although the US remains committed to seek appropriations for full funding for our assessments and arrears in the fiscal 1995 budget.

If substantial arrears payments do not materialize, programme cutbacks are a virtual certainty in the next biennium: cutbacks that will impact on FAO's critical agenda, and create an unfortunate environment for the beginning of the new Director-General's term of office.

In sum, we continue to have many reservations about both the structure and the foundation of this budget. We are considering very carefully, however, how best to assure the new Director-General of our support for his programme in the next biennium.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie la Représentante des Etats-Unis pour son intervention très riche en informations, surtout s'agissant de l'avenir et

du montant des contributions que le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis sera en mesure de payer à notre Organisation.

Shahid RASHID (Pakistan) : Mr Chairman, let me first of all say that I am very pleased to see you chairing Commission II.

The delegation of Pakistan would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for presenting a Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 which seeks to meet as closely as possible the aspirations of the vast membership. It is a programme that, during its formulation and preparation, has been responsive to the various suggestions of the membership. With all these valuable inputs the proposal has been refined, and we now believe that the programme that we have before us is an appropriate one.

Of course, we do not wish to state complacently that it is a perfect programme. Obviously, we would have been even more pleased to see a programme of real increase, an increase that would have been amply justified not only in the context of the approaching 50th Anniversary of this Organization but also on account of the enhanced role of FAO in its follow-up of landmark decisions reached at UNCED and ICN.

These increasing demands on the Organization have regrettably not been met by a Commensurate Commitment in financial terms and the exhortations to pursue new agendas have not been backed by material support. Given this situation, we can only commend the Secretariat for presenting a Programme of Work and Budget which is realistic and quite balanced. Therefore, we extend our full support to the Programme of Work and Budget at the proposed level of US\$676.9 million.

It is also particularly gratifying to note that a serious effort has been made to limit the burden of assessed contributions on Member Nations. This would certainly have a salutary effect on a large number of Member Nations whose economies are going through difficult times. While we are grateful to the Secretariat for taking measures to limit the burden on Member Nations, we would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge the important role of both the host currency as well as the payment of arrears by the largest contributors. We would like to stress that arrears payments, however belated they may be, can be considered quite timely, coming at a crucial juncture to provide necessary sustenance to this Organization.

We believe that this amount should be utilized to fund the Programme of Work and Budget according to the financial rules of the Organization, and no special prescription would be in order, and any such move may create a dangerous precedent. We are therefore of the firm view that the proposed method of funding is most logical and consistent with the financial regulations of the Organization.

We would also like to extend our endorsement to the priority thrusts of the programme, and we are in agreement with the allocations for technical and economic programmes. We are also in agreement with the revised allocations for TCP, even if these are still below the desired levels. We would also like to state that we are in agreement with the proposals to strengthen the administrative infrastructure of the Organization.

Before concluding, I should like to stress that we owe it to the new Director-General that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95 be

approved unanimously so that he can commence his term with the unqualified support of the entire membership. For our part, we do not hesitate to extend this support.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): I do not propose to take too much time on this issue. In fact, some of my views have been aired by speakers before me.

On the question of the level of the base, New Zealand is aware of the differences that have been around in this Conference, but having considered the issues we are prepared to accept the higher base.

On the question of the lapse factor, on a number of occasions we have expressed our views, and we do not propose to repeat them, but we are pleased to note that the matter is going to be referred to the External Auditor for further examination.

On the question of cost increases, I should just like to mention that we are supportive of the points made by the United States delegate. As an aside, in New Zealand we have for some time not had the luxury of being compensated for cost increases. Our current inflation rate is extremely low and the disciplines that are imposed on government departments have actually resulted in a net reduction in government departmental budgets, and managers are really faced with having to make up for cost increases through efficiency gains and productivity and innovative management practices. I am not suggesting that all these practices are available to FAO, but it is nice to reflect on this point.

Finally, I should like to point out that we share the views expressed by Canada on the question of fisheries. Again, in the Plenary statement this morning we pointed out that New Zealand has been an active participant in international fisheries discussions, both in this forum and elsewhere. From the start we have been a supporter of the concept of a Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries. We congratulate the FAO Secretariat on its work in this area, and we are happy with the timetable currently in place. We would also wish to emphasize that any initiatives in this forum are consistent and compatible with the initiatives and discussions that are taking place in other fora.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours.

Le séance est levée à 18 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 93/II/PV/9

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(15 November 1993)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la novena sesión a las 09.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 12. Programme of Work and Budget 1994-95 (continued)
- 12. Programme de travail et budget 1994-95 (suite)
- 12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je déclare ouverte la neuvième séance de notre Commission. J'espère que vous avez tous passé un bon week-end et que vous êtes frais et dispos pour que nous puissions aller de l'avant.

Je crois savoir que le Comité de rédaction a bien travaillé vendredi soir. Il a pu se pencher sur la partie de rapport relative, au Plan à moyen terme, et ce dans de bonnes conditions puisqu'il n'a pas eu à veiller trop tard.

Ms Turid KONGSVIK (Norway): Thank you very much for giving the floor to this delegation again. We have had occasion to address the Programme of Work and Budget on behalf of the Nordic countries, and I have asked for the floor now just to comment very briefly on the issue of the timeframe for elaboration of a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

We shared the concern expressed by number of speakers that an acceleration of the process for the elaboration of such a Code of Conduct might preempt the results of negotiations in other international fora where some of the issues proposed for inclusion in the Code of Conduct are also dealt with. I am particularly referring here to the UN Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Species.

While the results of the reflagging procedure might lead us to believe that this procedure is a valid and right one for all the issues, we would like to strike a warning note here and perhaps suggest that this might be, if I may so put it, "une fausse bonne idée".

We believe that the process in the FAO should be parallel to the process in the United Nations. That is the best way to ensure that we reach optimal results in both fora. Therefore, we are in total agreement with those delegations who have proposed that we stick to the current timetable, that is to say the suggested draft Code of Conduct should be ready for the next COFI meeting for discussion there in 1995.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (The Netherlands): Mr Chairman, thank you for your consideration in allowing me to do my homework over the weekend. As requested, I will deal first of all with the budget, and then I will embark on the issue of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95.

My country endorses the principle of a dynamic real zero growth. This means a zero growth principle which does not frustrate the requirements of United Nations organizations to respond effectively to new areas of activity. The proposed budget level is based on the approved level for the work programme of two years ago. My delegation thinks that this is the appropriate level at which to calculate the budget level for the coming biennium - this without taking into account the income from arrears. I strongly endorse the United Kingdom's statement regarding this matter.

With regard to the lapse factor of 3 percent, my delegation did not approve this decline four years ago. The cost increases are considerable. However, discussions about cost increases and the lapse factor are both of a technical nature and should not be dealt with in this forum. My delegation strongly supports the Norwegian proposal for an external investigation and the avoidance of further discussion of these issues in this Commission. Having said that, my delegation can approve the proposed budget level.

I turn now to the work programme for 1994-95. First, I have a few remarks of a more general nature.

Our discussions have arrived now at the fourth part of the quartet. In a quartet each part is supposed to be more or less the same. This is not the case in our quartet. My delegation would have preferred to see more similarity between the format of the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. The Medium-Term Plan sets the trend for FAO's policy in the medium term, whilst the Programme of Work and Budget sets this for the forthcoming biennium. A similar format should considerably improve the transparency.

During the meetings of COAG, COFO and COFI and the June Council, we had the opportunity to comment on the major programmes for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the summary of work and budget. The outcome of these discussions has been taken into account, but in my country's view only to a minor extent. The increase for forestry amounts to US\$300 000 which, although considerable, is only 0.1 percent. The general concern for the second decline in succession for rural development has barely been reflected.

FAO's role in the follow-up of UNCED and ICN are cornerstones in the next Programme of Work and Budget. The work programme pays attention to both the horizontal implementation internally within FAO and externally at regional level. The Netherlands endorses this approach. However, we are of the opinion that the implementation of Agenda 21 relies too much on extra-budgetary resources. Budgets for bio-diversity and desertification are limited. With regard to ICPS/SARD more clarity is required. It is being presented as a Special Action Programme, but its position within the Organization is not clear. My delegation does not think that this warrants the implementation of UNCED. This underlines the impression that the Programme of Work and Budget shows marginal shifts only and does not respond to international development. In this respect, what is FAO's position as a global organization for agriculture and food in collecting and disseminating information, and where does FAO stand in the increased tendency towards national execution of projects?

In this respect my delegation welcomes the way the Programme of Work and Budget goes along with the concept of upstream activities as set out in the Medium-term Plan. Not only does prioritization make choices as to areas of attention but it should also include the way in which FAO develops activities in such areas, and its position among other international organizations. Often FAO's role will be intermediate.

Let me now comment on the individual programmes and sub-programmes. As has already been mentioned, my delegation is concerned about the second considerable reduction for the sub-programme on rural development. Earlier this year COAG agreed on the importance of capacity building in the scope of national execution of projects. The sub-programme for rural development is of vital importance for the pillars of capacity building, human resource

development and institution building. Here lie the roots for the socio-economic aspects of the follow-up of UNCED and ICN. Developments regarding rural development since 1989 are hardly analysed. Participation and the strengthening of local institutions are frequently mentioned, but their application is restricted to a few sub-programmes. Farmers' and women's organizations are insufficiently recognized as full actors and partners in the socio-economic development process.

The document does not clarify how and which instruments are used to incorporate women in development and gender issues in all activities. The sub-programme for rural development shows that FAO is still working too much along a concept whereby a technical approach is preferred at the expense of socio-economic aspects. The Netherlands delegation is of the opinion that attention to technically-directed sub-programmes should be reduced to make room for those aspects of FAO's work to achieve the maximum sustainability.

FAO has to take the UNCED results as a starting-point for this policy. However, UNCED is not an isolated issue but a framework for FAO's policy. Although this issue gets a lot of attention, in terms of budget allocations again a decline has to be registered.

Cooperation with other UN organizations and NGOs is frequently mentioned, but the document does not give shape to these issues. In particular, cooperation with other organizations in the field of capacity building requires further explanation. In this respect, I should like to ask when the progress report of the Action Plan for People's Participation will be released.

The shift of activities from the public to the private sector is a global one and is of influence on FAO's activities as well. More attention should be paid to this development. In this regard, the relatively minor attention to marketing should be mentioned, considering the emphasis put on this issue by the Medium-term Plan, particularly in the field of agriculture, there should be more focus on this matter. My delegation would like to know how FAO is going to deal with this important issue which has been identified by the Medium-term Plan.

My delegation welcomes the way the Programme of Work and Budget deals with a number of regional themes and the regional approach of development. Many activities are carefully worked out at regional level. The same applies to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

The developments regarding the Investment Centre are a cause for concern for the Netherlands. The Investment Centre plays an extremely important role in the Organization, both internally and externally. It builds a bridge to other - in particular banking - organizations and is therefore a fruitful instrument for inter-agency cooperation for which it delivers the technical expertise. This is a good example of how FAO can play its role as a centre of excellence. In the area of TCP, the Investment Centre often plays a crucial and catalytic role also. Therefore, I strongly endorse the concern of many delegations with regard to the development of the Investment Support Programme.

Finally, there is concern in the delegation regarding forestry, not only in terms of budgeting. The policy development and implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme is an important area in the follow-up of Agenda 21. My delegation is of the opinion that the relative importance of

this activity is insufficiently elucidated in the Medium-term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget, and we should like to know what can be expected in this field, particularly regarding the following issues: the donor-financed coordinating unit in the Regular Programme; the consultative group for TFAP; the position and participation of NGOs; and the provisions in the Regular Programme for the financing of the consultative groups.

Sra. Maria E. JIMENEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): La delegación de El Salvador desea expresar en primer lugar su apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1994-95 presentado en esta oportunidad por el Director General, y el cual asciende a 676,9 millones de dólares.

El exhaustivo documento que en forma excelente nos ha presentado el señor Shah, nos hace ver los esfuerzos que se han llevado a cabo para tomar en cuenta las exigencias tanto de los países menos favorecidos, como la de los que por diferentes razones se encuentran en dificultad para aportar mayores recursos a la Organización.

Debemos reconocer, señor Presidente, al Director General el haber acogido favorablemente las recomendaciones que le hicieron los diferentes comités técnicos del consejo y el consejo mismo, en el sentido de fortalecer los programas principales pesca y montes, así como algunas actividades de particular importancia en el programa principal agricultura.

El Salvador, señor Presidente, siempre ha expresado su total aprecio y apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, por lo que, aun lamentando que estemos todavía lejos de alcanzar el objetivo propuesto en la resolución 89/89, debemos reconocer que el Director General ha hecho todo lo posible para incrementar sus recursos. En ese sentido apoyamos el aumento propuesto de un millón de dólares en el PCT, pasando, de esa forma, del 11,7 al 12,3 por ciento. Estamos seguros que el Dr. Diouf, nuevo Director General de la FAO, continuará apoyando plenamente este importante programa.

Nuestra delegación apoya el coeficiente de descuento por vacantes establecido por la conferencia de la FAO en 1989. Consideramos que el mismo es adecuado ya que un aumento redundaría en una reducción de los recursos para la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Sin embargo, estamos de acuerdo en que el auditor externo estudie esta cuestión y presente al Comité respectivo un informe al respecto.

Compartimos los planteamientos hechos en el documento relativos a las esferas con mayores recursos y apoyamos la prioridad dada tanto a las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia sobre medio ambiente y desarrollo sostenible, así como a la intensificación de las actividades relacionadas con la nutrición.

En ese sentido, apoyamos el Subprograma 2.1.4.5: Medio Ambiente, Energía y Desarrollo Sostenible, particularmente lo indicado en el párrafo 428 del documento, relativo al apoyo que se dará a la región de América Latina y el Caribe para la aplicación del Plan de Acción regional en materia de energía para promover un desarrollo rural sostenible

Reiteramos nuestro apoyo a las actividades que realiza la FAO bajo el Subprograma 2.1.5.4, La Mujer en la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las políticas y planificación para integrar a la mujer en el desarrollo.

Instamos a aplicar las recomendaciones contenidas en el Programa 21 de la CNUMAD, en particular, las del Capítulo 24, indicadas en Párrafo 453 del documento.

Agradecería, señor Presidente, información sobre la reunión que se convocará en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, con el propósito de evaluar las novedades relativas a la integración de las mujeres de las zonas rurales y la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la FAO, que se señala en el Párrafo 480.

Compartimos los puntos de vista expresados por el delegado de México el viernes pasado, con relación a la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Es fundamental, señor Presidente, que se cumplan las recomendaciones que hicieron tanto esa Comisión como el Consejo mismo, en el sentido de darle apoyo financiero y humano a esta Secretaría.

Aprovechamos para felicitar a la FAO por el excelente trabajo que está realizando en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. Asimismo, creemos que debe estudiarse detenidamente la propuesta que hiciera, siempre el delegado de México, con relación a la constitución de un Comité de Ganadería.

Con relación a las actividades del Programa Principal Montes, creemos que el Director General en su propuesta ha atendido nuestras solicitudes de darle mayores recursos al mismo y apoyamos esta decisión.

Desearíamos que los recursos destinados al mismo sería conveniente que al menos pudiéramos contar con una asignación equivalente a la del bienio 1992-93.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, en relación al documento C/LIM/23, mi delegación dese apoyar la utilización de la vía rápida en la elaboración de los principios generales del Código de conducta para la pesca responsable, que se señala en el Párrafo 3 del documento C/LIM/23.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMÍREZ DE LÓPEZ (Honduras) : Ante todo vayan mis felicitaciones a usted, en ocasión de su acertado nombramiento. Asimismo, deseo expresar mi agradecimiento al Dr. Shah por la presentación excelente del documento C 93/3. Mi delegación considera como una base sólida para su apoyo, la introducción del Director General de las propuestas para el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos de 1994-95, considerando el papel fundamental de la FAO.

Permítame señor Presidente, apoyar la intervención de la delegación mexicana en su totalidad.

Honduras ratifica las prioridades mundiales y las esferas previstas en el aumento de recursos, haciendo énfasis en:

- La importancia de reforzar las representaciones regionales como la de América Latina y el Caribe para prestar asistencia a los gobiernos de los Estado Miembros en diferentes materias y programas, ya que nuestra presencia en Roma no es suficiente para completarse con la de la FAO sobre el terreno.
- En virtud del creciente apoyo e importancia de la conservación, utilización y acceso a los recursos genéticos, vegetales, animales, marinos, forestales y ecosistema, mi delegación presentará una

resolución a fin de que se asignen más recursos a las actividades y consultas de programas relativos.

- Confirmamos la importancia de las actividades regionales en las esferas prioritarias del PAFT, especialmente las subregiones que están estudiando los planes de acción, como las de Centroamérica.
- Esperamos asimismo, que la estabilización de los recursos asignados a los problemas y opciones de la Ordenación de la Pesca, tenga en cuenta el apoyo unánime del Consejo o la utilización de la "vía rápida" en la elaboración de los principios generales del código de conducta para la pesca responsable.

Honduras, a pesar de su situación económica, como consecuencia del desequilibrio de las finanzas públicas, de la aguda escasez de divisas, del ajuste en los gravámenes arancelarios y de los cambios en las expectativas de precios de los agentes productivos, ha pagado puntual su consignación. Hacemos un llamado a los países que no lo han hecho, que mantienen sus cuotas atrasadas, que hagan todo lo posible, ya que contando con esta base, la FAO podrá recuperar toda su capacidad de hacer frente a las exigencias que se le planteen y ha hacer frente a futuros desafíos.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia) : Mr Chairman, as this is the first time I take the floor, permit me to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this important Commission of the Conference. I would also like to thank Dr Shah for his clear introduction to this item. At this stage of the discussion most of the relevant points have already been raised and in order to save time and avoid repetition I will not raise them again. I will limit my intervention to two general observations and three specific points related to the Programme of Work and Budget.

My first remark relates to the freezing of the Budget, which goes against the growth of the services being sought from the Organization. Since there has been zero growth in the Budget, the population of the world has grown by eight hundred million and membership of the Organization has increased by about fifteen. Thus, the work that needs to be done has increased accordingly. Bearing in mind that the value of the Budget has depreciated, the proposed Budget is less than that of the 1987 Budget in real terms. This situation is difficult to accept because it means the objectives of adequate food production cannot be achieved.

Another matter is the transitional period we now find ourselves in. The Programme of Work and Budget now under consideration will be implemented by the newly elected Director-General. We feel that he should be given time to find his feet, and a reduced budget will only make the transition more difficult and hinder him. We believe additional resources are required during this transitional period and a zero growth budget is not appropriate; it is not a good sign of welcome to the newly-appointed Director-General, who is expected to implement this Programme of Work and Budget.

I understand the rationale behind zero growth is the budgetary constraints prevailing "in the member countries as a result of the recession, but there are already signs of recovery. Even in these circumstances one must understand the economic situation in the developing world, which has always been in recession and where the ever-increasing population needs to be provided with food and other essentials. As we approach the year 2000,

there is a growing need to increase food production. The Organization will need all the support it can get during these critical years, and adequate budgetary resources are essential. We therefore feel that the present Budget and Programme of Work should be agreed by consensus, though it is not adequate for the work that is required.

Listening to the statements made in Plenary, it is easy to see that each member country is pointing out issues that need to be addressed to overcome the challenges of food and agricultural production in their respective countries. Obviously, FAO plays a major role in addressing issues in this sector. We therefore see a need to provide the Organization with a guaranteed level and flow of adequate resources. We believe the base level of US\$676.9 million proposed by the Director-General and endorsed by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee falls short of what is needed to meet the many varied demands. In the prevailing circumstances of resource constraints, however, Members are forced to accept whatever can be secured. It is in this context that we accept and support the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget now before Conference. In this connection, the proposed thrust in the Programme of Work and Budget and the proposed changes in resource allocation for Forestry, Fishery and Agriculture are in line with the concerns expressed during the last Session of the Council. We would therefore like to reiterate our acceptance of these changes and developments. We also welcome and support the activities related to protection of the environment and sustainable development, even though the resources allocated fall far short of what is needed.

Here it is important to note that resource requirement for sustainable development and environmental concern is beyond the capabilities of those available in the developing countries and would require a separate consideration and flow of resources. Resources allocated for the Technical Cooperation Programme is around 11.7 percent of the total budget. Conference decisions of the past was to reach a minimum of 17 percent. The gap between what has been allocated and the conference decision is large enough to cause serious concern. We are not satisfied with this stagnating situation, when the need for such a resource is acute and plays a major role in emergency situations and filling gaps of an anticipated nature during the process of food production.

The lapse factor was one of the items that was extensively discussed during the review process. It was after this extensive discussion that the present level was set. We believe that the setting of the lapse factor to a budgetary process creates pressure that will delay employment processes because of its existence. In any case changes will need to be examined before they are implemented. We therefore agree with the views of the Finance Committee that there is a merit in further examining of the issue. As for the present, we are forced to accept the present level of 3 percent as proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget. The cost increase, a factor which is beyond the control of the Organization, as long as the cost increase is in line with the cost increase projected by the respective country there should be no room for discussion. We are pleased to note that the reduction, the cost increase indicated in the document is in line with those projected by the member countries. We are pleased to note the reduction from the original consideration and would like to express our support for the present increase indicated in the document.

The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing we feel is an area that needs to be addressed. Its preparation will definitely require additional resources. We will have no objection to the inclusion of resources or

provisions for this important area. If there are sure sources of extra-budgetary allocations therefore we will have no objection if such consideration of resources outside the Regular Programme of Work and Budget is considered.

With these comments let me also add my reaction of expressing the support of our delegation for the proposed budget and in endorsing the pertinent resolution for our programme by the Conference.

Bamanga ABBAS MALLOUM (Tchad): Mon intervention sera brève puisque l'essentiel a été dit par les délégations qui m'ont précédé.

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour la façon dont vous dirigez les travaux de votre Commission. Je tiens à féliciter et à remercier M. Shah pour la clarté et la précision de la présentation du projet de budget.

La délégation se félicite de l'attention donnée aux problèmes de la lutte contre la désertification. Ce phénomène constitue un grand fléau pour mon pays et nous insistons pour que la FAO puisse aider les pays membres à créer des centres nationaux de production de semences comme il est indiqué au paragraphe 729. Le projet de budget qui nous est soumis est réaliste et pragmatique puisqu'il a tenu compte des suggestions et observations faites par les Etats Membres. Nous exhortons les pays membres à approuver à l'unanimité le projet de budget pour permettre à notre nouveau Directeur général de débiter son mandat dans la sérénité et la confiance des Etats Membres.

Sra. Ileana DI GIOVAN BATTISTA (Argentina) : La delegación de Argentina, Señor Presidente, no desea sobreabundar, pero sí asociarse a lo que han dicho las delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95 y, especialmente asociarse a los apoyos manifestados con respecto a dos aspectos específicos: el Programa Principal de Montes y el Programa de Pesca.

Efectivamente, señor Presidente, hemos constatado a lo largo de las reuniones de los Comités específicos y de los últimos Consejos, que crecen significativamente los requerimientos en estos dos ámbitos, en Montes y Pesca.

En el primer ámbito, a raíz de la incorporación de las recomendaciones de la Conferencia de Río de Janeiro, a la cual la FAO deberá hacer frente. En el ámbito de pesca, a las múltiples actividades de apoyo técnico que se están pidiendo en el ámbito de la pesca responsable.

No queremos dejar de señalar nuestra satisfacción por el aumento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica; sin embargo, creemos que deben redoblarse los esfuerzos para lograr el objetivo del 17 por ciento del presupuesto adoptado por las Conferencias anteriores.

Permítame, señor Presidente, señalar un punto específico que ya ha sido propuesto por las delegaciones de México, España, Canadá, Honduras, El Salvador y otras delegaciones de América Latina; es la necesidad de utilizar la vía rápida en la elaboración de los principios generales del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable. Nos adherimos a la necesidad de llevar adelante el Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable y comenzar

por una discusión de los principios generales siguiendo el método de la vía rápida, que tan buenos resultados dio en el proceso del acuerdo sobre abanderamiento de buques. En este sentido, creemos que, en primer lugar, debe reconocerse que es imprescindible un reforzamiento de la asignación de recursos al Departamento de Pesca que debe proveer los estudios técnicos y documentación básica para este ejercicio. Pero, además, quisiéramos hacer algunas sugerencias, por instrucciones de nuestro Gobierno, en el sentido de que la discusión de los principios generales del Código de Conducta Responsable no debe prejuzgar, y no debería interferir en la discusión de la Conferencia de Pesca en Alta Mar en Nueva York. La justificación y la eficacia de nuestro acuerdo sobre abanderamiento residió en que se mantuvo la debida compatibilización con las discusiones que se llevan a cabo en Nueva York. Sugerimos que se mantenga este temperamento, que ambas actividades, la desarrollada por la FAO y la que se desarrolla en Nueva York, sean complementarias, que la FAO provea todas las actividades de apoyo y la documentación de apoyo que ello pueda requerir.

Finalmente, desearía sugerir también que si se creara el grupo de expertos o el grupo abierto, tal como se ha utilizado en el proyecto de abanderamiento de buques, el Presidente de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Pesca en Alta Mar fuera invitado a participar de este grupo.

Con estas sugerencias quiero destacar una vez más el apoyo de la delegación Argentina al Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1994-95.

Mrs Vera TADIC (Croatia): Since this is the first time to take the floor in this Commission, on behalf of the Croatian delegation, let me congratulate you Sir, on your election to chair this Commission. In the same time, let me thank you Dr Shah for your very comprehensive introduction.

Becoming a new member of FAO, Croatia is very interested in and supportive of the Programme of Work and Budget. Croatia supports this Programme in all of its major aspects. It is regrettable, however, that zero growth is foreseen for the biennium 1994-95. This might significantly limit the possibilities of FAO to provide its assistance to many outstanding problems of Member Nations.

Hopefully, in the next biennium, FAO is going to maintain its stability both financially and as far as its technical capabilities are concerned.

As a Central European country in transition, Croatia faces tremendous problems related to the transformation of its agriculture from the "socialistic" to the market - oriented. It is a slow and painful process indeed.

The Croatian delegation is pleased to know that, in the biennium 1994-95, FAO is going to provide its assistance to the European countries in transition, which has been confirmed by the 103rd Session of the Council held in June this year.

The Croatian delegation would like to point out a very specific problem, which is of considerable importance to our country: a need for an overall reconstruction of our agriculture in the post-war period. In his address to the Conference last Friday, our Minister described briefly the direct damages Croatia suffered by this war. Though direct damages are very extensive, according to expert estimates the indirect damages will be much

higher. The Minister pointed out that reconstruction of Croatian agriculture as our top priority task.

We would like to stress that Croatia is not the only country suffering from the war conditions and consequences. After the end of World War II, the war deterioration and damages unfortunately have happened in many parts of the world, and even today, many countries are going through the same painful experience.

The Croatian delegation suggests to this Commission to take into consideration the idea of including the assistance of FAO in modelling reconstruction of agriculture damaged by the war or wars. Many countries, including Croatia, can't cope with such enormous and demanding tasks. The help of FAO in such a situation could be valuable. Being the centre of excellence, we are aware that FAO has enough strength and knowledge to help our country with its expertise.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Mi delegación le agradece, señor Presidente, el habernos concedido la palabra en esta discusión de la mañana. Tendremos presente la brevedad del tiempo con que disponemos.

Agradecemos al señor Shah la excelente presentación del tema que, como expresa el Director General en la introducción al PLP, ocupa el lugar de honor en la documentación de la Conferencia.

La delegación cubana se suma a la mayoría de las delegaciones que han solicitado se apruebe este PLP por unanimidad. Nos animan en esta posición dos razones básicas. La primera es que tal aprobación reiteraría la confianza que durante 18 años los Estados Miembros han depositado en el señor Edouard Saouma y en su equipo de colaboradores, entre los que merece destacar al señor Shah por su competencia, claridad y transparencia en la preparación y presentación de temas tan delicados como son el PLP y el resto de los documentos que examinamos en esta Comisión.

La segunda razón básica es que acabamos de elegir un nuevo Director General, el señor Jacques Diouf, en quien debemos depositar toda nuestra confianza, por su sabiduría, experiencia y capacidad para dirigir eficazmente los destinos de la Organización.

Al señor Jacques Diouf le pediríamos muy respetuosamente que maneje el PLP con flexibilidad, tratando en todo lo posible, como han expresado otras delegaciones, de hacer más con menos, pero sobre todo atendiendo a las necesidades prioritarias de los segmentos de la población mundial más pobre y más necesitada con un sentido de equidad y equilibrio.

Dicho esto, señor Presidente, me referiré a ciertos aspectos específicos del PLP. Nuestra delegación se lamenta de que, desde hace varios bienios, se mantenga el criterio de crecimiento cero. Reconocemos que se está produciendo una recuperación gradual de la situación financiera de la Organización, pero todavía es insuficiente para enfrentar los nuevos desafíos, especialmente en materia de protección del medioambiente y desarrollo sostenible como consecución de la CNUMAD, a lo cual, señor Presidente", se le debería prestar una máxima prioridad. Asimismo, al Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, que requerirá una alta prioridad.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica, cuyas bondades y ventajas en otros períodos de sesiones de la Conferencia se han puesto de relieve, debería alcanzar el nivel solicitado por la resolución 9/89 de la Conferencia, llegando a un nivel del 17 por ciento del presupuesto total.

Nos complace saber que se está promoviendo una resolución para establecer el premio Edouard Saouma que se concedería a aquellos proyectos del PCT ejecutados con particular eficacia, como corresponde a un reconocimiento adecuado a quien tanto ha impulsado este programa.

Observamos con satisfacción una mejoría en el concepto de aumento de costos, y ello es estimulante en el sentido de que los recursos disponibles tengan un mayor rendimiento.

A nuestro modo de ver, el coeficiente por vacantes se encuentra en un nivel razonable y merece nuestro respaldo.

Apreciamos con agrado los esfuerzos realizados por asignar más recursos al Programa Principal 2.3 Montes, respondiendo a las solicitudes del Comité respectivo y del Consejo. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, deberían mobilizarse más recursos extrapresupuestarios en apoyo del Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos, al cual ya se han adherido más de 90 países y, si fuera necesario, respaldar las actividades de la unión internacional de coordinación del PAF con recursos del Programa Ordinario, habida cuenta del importante papel asistencial de esta unidad a los países en desarrollo en materia de política y planificación forestal, sirviendo además de puente entre los países beneficiarios y los donantes.

En materia de ganadería, pediríamos al Director General se estudie el establecimiento de un comité de ganadería atendiendo al volumen e importancia de las actividades que en este Subprograma se generan y que eventualmente no pudiera constituir un aumento significativo de los costos. Hay que mencionar que ya en la Región de América Latina existe la Comisión de Ganadería y está funcionando con eficacia.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, diré que mi país concede una gran importancia al Programa Pesca y a la necesidad de preparar y poner en práctica, lo antes posible, utilizando el mecanismo de la vía rápida, el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, e insta al Director General a que movilice los recursos necesarios, sea de fuentes extrapresupuestarias o en multinstancias del Programa Regular para atender a estas prioridades. Asimismo, solicitamos que se trate, en lo posible, de mantener el presupuesto del próximo bienio para el Programa Principal Pesca en un nivel similar al del bienio presente.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, M. le Représentant de Cuba, pour votre intervention. Vous évoquez cette proposition de la création d'un Comité de l'élevage, proposition qui revient de plus en plus dans le débat. Peut-être faudrait-il avoir une approche intégrée du problème, ainsi que je l'ai dit vendredi dernier et comme le rappelait l'Ambassadeur de France, c'est à dire qu'il ne faut pas considérer ce Comité de l'élevage au sens strict uniquement, mais surtout dans l'optique de l'amélioration des zones de parcours, et de l'organisation des agriculteurs.

Nedilson RICARDO JORGE (Brazil): Mr Chairman, first, allow me to thank once again Dr Shah for his clear and comprehensive introduction on this item, as he usually does.

The format of the document C 93/3 is adequate. There is, however, room for improvements that, I am sure, FAO Secretariat will continue to pursue.

In general, Brazil supports the priorities set out in the present proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95, particularly in what concerns activities deriving from the resources to the follow-up of UNCED and to the strengthening of nutrition activities. We also support the strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System and remote sensing activities in the Research and Technology Department Division.

The Brazilian Government is gratified to see the changes made in resources allocations over those indicated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget discussed last June. At that time, my country regretted the decrease of resources available to Major Programme 2.3 - Forestry, and stated that, in our opinion, there should have been no reduction on the overall level of resources to that programme. Further, we asked for an increase in resources to forestry in the short and in the medium terms, in order to allow FAO to strengthen its leading role in that field. Therefore, we have to commend FAO Secretariat for the changes made. We are glad that, in the present version, the PWB meets this pressing request to the maximum extent possible and Programme 2.3 now shows a small net increase of resources. It is our belief that this trend will continue in the future.

The Brazilian Delegation associates itself with the Programme Committee in stressing the importance of FAO technical cooperation activities and in underlining the need to ensure the sustainability of results. In spite of the fact FAO has an excellent standard as a whole in terms of technical cooperation, Brazil believes that it is very important to continue trying to improve the quality of projects. Towards this end, we think that every project should have, if possible, a multidisciplinary approach and a methodology of participative planning in order to increase the sustainability of the project on the institutional level. Besides, Programme Approach should always be a key element in the criteria for eligibility of projects that are supported by FAO.

Brazil believes that it is very important to stimulate the participation of national experts through national execution of projects. This will certainly lead to an improvement in FAO's comparative advantage in providing Technical Cooperation.

We also think that, whenever possible, aspects and activities of TCDC should be included on all projects in order to ensure an effective transfer and exchange of techniques and technologies to and between developing countries. For instance, Brazil presently has a considerable developed technology in some agricultural fields, such as integrated pest control, that could, with FAO's help and support, be transferred to other developing countries in need.

I would like also to support what was said by previous delegates about giving priority towards the acceleration of the overall work on the Code of Conduct for Responsible fishing. I am sure FAO Secretariat will be able to mobilize resources in order to achieve this important priority.

In fact, although priorities ought to be discussed and established on the basis of the needs and points of view of Member Nations, Brazil believes that, above all, every country should strive in favour of avoiding any reductions in actual resources allocated to Chapter 2. We advocate that any cuts or reallocation of resources should not mean a reduction on the share of the budget allocated towards operational activities, as these are the main trust of FAO in the struggle against hunger and underdevelopment.

We think that any further need of reallocation of resources should affect primarily other areas. Instead of reducing operational programmes, I am certain that FAO will continue, whenever possible, to favour reduction of administrative and personnel costs without negatively affecting the efficiency of related services.

Brazil is pleased to note that the level of cost increases has been reduced to under US\$ 76 million presently. I commend FAO Secretariat efforts to reduce cost increases with no harmful effects on the Programme of Work.

Concerning the lapse factor, Brazil is aware of the fact that the debate on it contains political facets as well as technical aspects. Instead of expressing our final point of view at this stage of the debate, my country would prefer first to have a review on the issue made by the external auditor. Besides, it would be profitable for future debates if the Joint Inspection Unit makes a study on the lapse factor in the UN system, as we would then have the advantage of comparison with the current practice of other international organizations.

In regard to the budget level, Brazil supports the proposed base level for the Programme of Work. We think that this level, although insufficient to attend the needs of developing countries, is compatible with the current economic situation of most member countries and is, therefore, adequate. We are then ready to join a consensus on the proposed level of the budget.

Finally, I would like to have one point cleared up. In the Director-General's introduction, he mentions that, at the rate of Lire 1 550 to US\$1, assessed contributions on Member Nations would only increase by US\$3.5 million, that is, a 0.6 percent increase over the Present biennium. We would like to have, if possible, from FAO's Secretariat, similar information regarding the effects of the present Lire/Dollar exchange rate on assessments for the next biennium.

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):

I would first of all like to express the thanks of my delegation to the Director-General and his collaborators, especially Mr Shah, for the excellent preparation and presentation of these excellent documents, which are transparent and clear. This has made our examination and understanding of them far easier.

My delegation has already stated its support for a budget for the 1994-95 biennium of US\$676.9, based on the present lire/dollar exchange. We have also supported this during the last two sessions of Council, and in Plenary by way of Head of Delegation. Nevertheless, I would like to make the following comments :

First, we are happy to see priorities laid down in the Programme of Work and Budget, and the changes made in resource allocation.

Secondly, in so far as the Technical Cooperation Programme is concerned, we do support the increase proposed which has resulted from the saving of US\$1 million due to efforts made by the administration.

Third, so far as the lapse factor is concerned, at a rate of 3 percent, and in view of the debate that this has given rise to concerning the amount and appropriateness of this level, we would like to support the proposal that the External Auditor should examine the issue and send his report later to the Finance Division. We would also like to ask for a DCI on this, to see what the repercussions of the lapse factor are within the UN system as a whole.

We would like to express our thanks to the Director-General for all the measures taken to absorb the need for increased contributions. We hope that these measures will be sustainable, and permanent. We hope also that this will be discussed in the Finance Committee, so that countries are not taken by surprise by a very rapid increase in their assessment contribution in the near future.

Finally, we would request unanimous approval of the Programme of Work and Budget as a demonstration of support and confidence in the Director-General.

Francis MONTANARO MIFSUD (Malta): As this is the first time I have taken the floor in this Commission, I would like to say how pleased we are to see you in the Chair. I would also like to thank you for giving me the floor at short notice in view of another commitment I have in a few moments. On behalf of my delegation I would like to declare our support for the Programme of Work and Budget at the level proposed.

Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to associate ourselves with the proposal of the Chairman of the Committee of Fisheries, which is set out in the Appendix to C LIM/23 and which has been supported by various delegations, to the effect that the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing should be put on a fast track. The work to prepare, at very short notice, the procedure for a draft agreement on the flagging has demonstrated not only the cost-efficiency of FAO, but also its comparative advantage in this field. We see no reason for fearing that adopting this procedure would risk any kind of conflict of jurisdiction with other fora which are dealing with certain aspects of responsible fishing.

When we considered the proposals for the draft agreement on reflagging, we had understood that this agreement would be part of the International Code of Conduct and we looked at it in that context. I would not like to see that, having approved the reflagging agreement, the rest of the Code of Conduct is left behind. We believe that unless the programme for arriving at an International Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing is put on a fast track, unless the Code of Conduct is elaborated on a fast track, it will not be possible to conclude this programme, this objective, by the time of the second Conference. The momentum which has been built up in connection with the reflagging agreement should be maintained, so that we can go ahead with a general International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): My delegation's views on the Programme of Work and Budget have been expressed during the June Session of the Council and also during the Session of the Council preceding this Conference.

Taking also into consideration the late stage of the discussion I can be brief. To address however, as you have requested, the relevant points associated with the Programme of Work and Budget, I wish to note:

First: the absence of a net programme growth, understanding that the base level for 1994-95 biennium is US\$676.9 million. This absence of net programme growth is considered under the circumstances to be the only-feasible solution.

Second: the reduction of the cost increase to US\$76 million, which we welcome.

Third: the continuation of the lapse factor at 3 percent, which we support.

Regarding the allocation of resources, we are pleased that it was possible to increase provisions for Forestry and Fishery activities and also welcome the additional US\$1 million for the TCP. We view this increase only as a small step toward what all developing countries desire, which is a future strengthening of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

With these observations, we support the relevant resolution for the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1994-95.

Before concluding, I wish to support the proposal of the delegate of Mexico for more emphasis on animal production. I believe that his suggestion, which has been supported by many delegations, for the establishment of a Committee on animal production should be exploited.

Regarding the use of arrears for the financing of part of the budget, we believe that it is quite reasonable to expect that arrears should be treated as income of the Organization. If we doubt that arrears will be paid then we should also seriously doubt as to whether assessed contributions will be paid. We therefore support the proposed use of the arrears for financing part of the budget, which we consider to be fair and logical. We hope that all Member Nations, like mine, will honour their obligations toward this Organization, in order to enable the full implementation of the Programme of Work.

In concluding, I wish to register my delegation's satisfaction for the informative documents of the Secretariat and the excellent introduction to the subject by Mr Shah

KYAW TINT (Myanmar): I have not much to say, except to touch on a few points in the forestry sector.

At the outset, our delegation would like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretariat for its excellent work

As every forester is aware, forest management has to serve two conflicting purposes, of conservation and exploitation. To maintain a sound balance between the two conflicting issues is not a simple task.

While developing countries need to export forest products for national economic development, due to lateral expansion of agriculture and acute fuelwood problems resulting from increased demographic pressure, tropical forests have been both degrading and depleting at an alarming rate. On the other hand, unsustainable patterns of the resource use threaten the very

survival of mankind. It is in this context that we welcome FAO's commitments and support to afforestation, reforestation, sustainable forest management, conservation of genetic resources and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Support to TFAP and TCDC is also highly appreciated. Developing countries benefit a lot from the TCDC networks.

However, we wish that FAO would assist Member Nations better through TCPs and follow-up projects in strengthening their educational and research institutions.

Food security is closely related to agricultural production, which depends to a large extent on the availability of a sustained and sufficient supply of clean water. Consequently, watershed management in the tropical countries, in particular, needs to be given more attention than is envisaged in the Programme.

We welcome the budget increase under programme element Arid Zone Forestry and Desertification Control. People living in the arid zones and deserts are usually the poorest of poor because they cannot produce what they need as the soil is infertile and the climate unfavourable. That is why in Myanmar we are launching a special project to green the dry zones, starting from this year. The project will cover the nine driest districts of the country and run for three years. The Government has planned to spend the sum of 63 million kyats, equivalent to US\$10 million, to establish 21 000 hectares of fuelwood plantations, with the participation of the people. The project is expected to help solve the acute fuelwood problem facing the local population, reverse environmental degradation, -and make the dry zone green and pleasant.

FAO's technical and financial support for such projects will be invaluable.

Humberto CARRIÓN McDONOUGH (Nicaragua) : Ante todo, deseo sumarme a las palabras de presentación por su elección para dirigir esta Comisión tan importante para los trabajos de nuestra Conferencia.

No cabe duda de que analizar el documento C 93/3 es tarea ardua; sin embargo, hemos hecho el esfuerzo de hacerlo y lo hemos encontrado claro y coherente.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que el Director General nos propone para el próximo bienio ha sido debidamente discutido en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas así como en el Consejo de la Organización. Las recientes modificaciones que se le hicieron al Resumen del Programa y Presupuesto que se presentó en el 103° período de sesiones del Consejo demuestra que ha habido una gran interacción entre los miembros de esos Comités, los miembros del Consejo y el Director General para afinar un programa de trabajo y un nivel de presupuesto que ahora debería ser aceptable para todos los países miembros de la FAO.

Las actividades de competencia de nuestra Organización son hoy tan relevantes como en las décadas pasadas para combatir el hambre y la desnutrición; no obstante el nivel del presupuesto que se nos propone es igual al del bienio anterior, con la salvedad del aumento en los costos, es decir, 75,8 millones de dólares que servirán para mantener aproximadamente

el mismo volumen de operaciones de asistencia técnica y de asesoría en comparación con el bienio 1992-93.

Además la FAO cuenta, a partir de esta Conferencia, con nuevos miembros que seguramente requerirán los servicios y la asistencia técnica de la Organización, así como los países de Europa Central y Oriental la necesitan en su transición hacia un modelo económico distinto. Igualmente, en muchos de los países en vías de desarrollo, se están realizando ajustes estructurales y necesitan el apoyo de la Organización para realizarlos de la manera más eficiente posible en las áreas que son competencia de la FAO. El desempleo a corto plazo y el impacto social que producen dichos ajustes son conocidos por todos nosotros, lo mismo que su repercusión en la estabilidad política y en la lenta consolidación de las instituciones nacionales.

Tampoco podemos olvidar que la FAO ha programado actividades complementarias de la Conferencia sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo y de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición. Esto debería bastar para comprender que la falta de crecimiento neto del presupuesto de labores es anómala.

Por otro lado, siendo realistas, no podemos pretender un aumento real en las partidas presupuestarias del Programa de Labores de la Organización para el próximo bienio y aprobamos el plan de financiación sugerido por el Director General, que con la adición de un tipo de cambio dólar-lira más adecuado al valor actual del dólar, nuestros Gobiernos tendrían que hacer una contribución global de sólo 3,5 millones de dólares más que en el bienio pasado.

Lo anterior significa que estamos de acuerdo con el análisis financiero hecho por el señor Shah, que incluye el cálculo del aumento de los costos a través de la bionalización y de la compensación por la inflación, así como la aplicación del 3 por ciento como coeficiente de descuento por vacantes.

Reconocemos que el Programa de Labores para 1994-95 se basa en las prioridades del Plan a Plazo Medio y reconocemos aún más los esfuerzos hechos por el Director General para revertir o para mitigar, según el caso, los recortes que se contemplaron inicialmente en los programas técnicos y económicos en el Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, según consta, entre otros, en los párrafos 19, 20, 21 y 22 del documento en referencia, y en los párrafos 3, 4 y 5 del documento C 93/LIM/11 que se refiere al extracto del informe del 104º período de sesiones del Consejo.

Hablamos específicamente del pequeño aumento neto de 330 000 dólares en el programa principal 2.3: Montes; de la reducción de 145 000 dólares en el programa principal 2.2: Pesca; y de la reducción de 1,1 millones de dólares en el programa principal 2.1: Agricultura.

Por lo que concierne al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, continuamos apoyándolo y lamentamos que no se haya logrado el porcentaje del total del presupuesto que fue establecido en la Resolución 9/89 de la Conferencia.

Lamentamos también el descenso general del volumen de las actividades del Programa de Campo y la reducción de los recursos destinados a su apoyo técnico. Es de suponer que el descenso en la tasa de ejecución de proyectos financiados por el PNUD se deba al estancamiento o más bien a la reducción de las cifras indicativas por país, limitando aún más las perspectivas de ingresos a la FAO en concepto de gastos de apoyo.

Esperamos que ni las medidas de ahora ni el congelamiento de los recursos a dedicarse al programa principal 3.4: Representantes de la FAO, tengan repercusiones negativas en el desempeño de sus funciones. Como se indica en los párrafos 827 a 831 del documento C 93/3, los representantes de la FAO contribuyen de forma decisiva a que los países en que están acreditados participen y se beneficien en mayor medida de las actividades de los Programas Ordinario y de Campo.

Su contribución al Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta en momentos de emergencia es particularmente notable, dotando a la FAO de una evaluación sobre el terreno de la situación y de las necesidades de asistencia de urgencia y de rehabilitación.

En síntesis, en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1994-95 se establece un delicado equilibrio entre los programas técnicos y económicos y los de apoyo a los mismos. Unos y otros se complementan, pero notamos con preocupación una reducción porcentual en los recursos destinados a los programas técnicos en comparación con el bienio anterior.

Señor Presidente, en mi capacidad de Presidente del Grupo de los 77, permítame recordar que la Declaración Ministerial de los Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores del Grupo de los 77 en la presente Asamblea General ha dedicado un lugar muy importante a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Esto se encuentra en consonancia con decisiones anteriores de la Conferencia de la FAO y con el programa principal 3.9: Administración de Programas.

En el párrafo 842 del documento C 93/3 se menciona que el centro consolidado de coordinación de la CTPD continuará promoviendo su integración con las actividades normales de las dependencias técnicas y operativas de la Sede, de las oficinas regionales y en los países.

Solicitamos entonces que en el próximo bienio se asignen recursos para que la FAO asista a los países en vías de desarrollo interesados en la elaboración de inventarios nacionales, sobre las posibilidades de prestar cooperación técnica, así como las propias limitaciones. Una actividad de esta naturaleza se podría realizar con recursos modestos, pero la utilidad para la promoción de la CTPD sería sin duda considerable. Nos gustaría también que la FAO pudiera documentar experiencias en materia de cooperación técnica y económica Sur-Sur y que del Programa de Cooperación Técnica se incrementen considerablemente los proyectos del CTPD.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie pour votre intervention très détaillée Monsieur l'Ambassadeur.

Permettez-moi de faire une petite observation. Vous avez dit que s'agissant du niveau de contributions, il y aurait probablement une hausse de deux à trois millions de dollars. Cela était exact quant à l'appréciation du Programme de travail et budget sur la base d'un taux de change dollar/lire de 1.550. Or, nous sommes actuellement aux alentours de 1.650, voire même plus, et je pense qu'il y aura plutôt une baisse par rapport au biennium précédent qu'une hausse.

Je donne maintenant la parole au Représentant du Cap-Vert.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, j'aimerais vous renouveler nos vives condoléances pour la disparition tragique de votre père et je suis très heureux de vous voir parmi nous, malgré ce deuil.

Aguinaldo LISBOA RAMOS (Cap-Vert): Je vous remercie de vos aimables paroles et de votre sympathie à mon égard. Je voudrais également vous dire notre satisfaction de vous voir présider notre Commission. Je voudrais aussi adresser mes remerciements à M. Shah et au Secrétariat pour la qualité et la clarté du document qui nous a été soumis.

Par cette intervention, je voudrais réitérer les positions déjà défendues au Conseil par la délégation du Cap-Vert et signaler que tout doit être fait pour renforcer cette Organisation et le rôle irremplaçable qu'elle joue dans l'amélioration des conditions de vie des paysans et des pêcheurs, surtout dans les pays en développement.

Ceci dit, il devient évident que nous ne devons pas épargner les efforts pour éviter la diminution des ressources qui lui sont octroyées par les Etats Membres et qui lui permettent de réaliser le programme qu'elle soumet tous les deux ans à l'approbation de la Conférence.

Ma délégation donne son accord à la base budgétaire de 676,9 millions de dollars proposés par le Directeur général avec les augmentations de coût de 76 millions de dollars, et aux mécanismes adoptés pour son financement, y compris le recours au remboursement des arriérés de contributions. Nous donnons également notre accord au Programme de travail qui est proposé.

Cependant, nous nous réjouissons du fait que la majorité des Etats Membres partagent la même position. Cependant, nous espérons qu'au prochain exercice nous n'aurons pas à adopter un budget sans croissance mais, au contraire, que nous serons en mesure de donner à la FAO les moyens nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins croissants de l'humanité.

Nous sommes satisfaits des solutions finalement apportées aux grands programmes techniques et économiques, au PCT, en attendant que celui-ci atteigne le niveau de 17 pour cent décidé par la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. La priorité accordée au suivi de la CNUED et de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition mérite aussi notre appui sans réserve.

Ma délégation approuve aussi l'intérêt porté au rôle des femmes dans la transformation des économies des pays en développement et à l'importance des communautés locales dans l'agriculture durable et le développement rural.

Nous considérons avec très grand intérêt la coopération économique, la coopération technique entre les pays en développement et nous estimons que les mécanismes pour la mise en oeuvre doivent être améliorés. Nous espérons que les fonds extrabudgétaires destinés à financer les programmes de terrain continueront à valoriser les activités du Programme ordinaire augmentant ainsi l'interpénétration et la synergie qui existent déjà entre eux.

Ms Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): The United States would like to underscore its support for completion of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing as envisaged in the Declaration of Cancun

in Mexico. In scheduling meetings to discuss the Code we would join with those delegations who have expressed the view that FAO's work on the Code complement and not compete with related activities of other United Nations bodies.

Ricardo VELÁZQUEZ HUERTA (México) : La delegación de México agradece que se le dé por segunda ocasión la palabra con dos puntos que queríamos tratar. El primero de ellos se refiere a un proyecto de resolución que vamos a presentar a la Mesa en unos momentos más, y que trata de la preparación, implementación y seguimiento de un Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable. Como es del conocimiento de todos ustedes, México ha estado permanentemente interesado e insistiendo en el establecimiento de este Código Internacional de Pesca Responsable, y ha contado con el apoyo de muchos países. Esto, como todos saben, es el resultado de la Conferencia Internacional de Pesca Responsable celebrada en Cancún, y cuyo resultado fue la propuesta de traer al seno de la FAO este proyecto para que continuara su trámite y su implementación futura.

En el proyecto de resolución que estamos presentando hacemos una serie de consideraciones relativas a la necesidad de la contribución de la pesca a la seguridad alimentaria. Por una parte, nos referimos a los estatutos jurídicos que ya están convenidos en el ámbito de las Naciones Unidas, como es la Convención del Mar

También hacemos referencia a nuestra propia declaración de Cancún y quisiéramos, señor Presidente, que este proyecto de resolución se llevara al pleno de la Conferencia con dos puntos fundamentales.

Primero, que se pida al Director General de la FAO que ejecute o que tome las medidas necesarias para la implementación, el seguimiento y la preparación de un código de conducta de pesca responsable.

Y seguidamente, la resolución que se busquen los recursos adicionales, suficientes y necesarios para la preparación, implementación y seguimiento de este código de pesca responsable al que todos los países le han dado su apoyo.

Este es el primer punto. El segundo punto, señor Presidente, se refiere a que quisiéramos en esta ocasión apoyar con mucha fuerza el planteamiento hecho por la delegación de Honduras, de también un proyecto de resolución que presentará también a la Mesa más tarde, y que se refiere a todas las actividades dirigidas a la conservación, utilización y acceso de recursos genéticos vegetales, animales, marinos, forestales y ecosistema. Apoyamos, señor Presidente, esta propuesta de Honduras.

LE PRESIDENT: Mon désir n'est pas d'ouvrir un débat sur cette question, mais je pense qu'une telle initiative rejoindra le souhait de plusieurs des membres sur cette question du Code de conduite, à savoir que le processus soit maintenu, et peut-être même accéléré.

J'apprécie également votre soutien à la proposition du Honduras. J'ai eu l'occasion de parler avec la délégation du Honduras et je dois dire que lorsqu'elle s'était exprimée, je n'avais pas saisi qu'elle avait proposé de soumettre un projet de résolution. Vous venez d'apporter des précisions et j'aimerais donc confirmer aux membres de la Commission que le délégué du Honduras souhaite présenter un projet de résolution sur la conservation des

ressources phytogénétiques, zoogénétiques et des écosystèmes. Malheureusement, le Comité des résolutions est déjà réuni actuellement, et il n'est donc pas possible de le saisir de ces deux projets de résolution. Je pense cependant que nous pourrions demander au Comité de se réunir à nouveau demain matin pour que nous puissions discuter des trois projets dans l'après-midi, avant l'adoption du rapport: le projet présenté par le Canada - qui est en cours de discussion - et les deux projets dont je viens de parler. C'est la raison pour laquelle j'avais dit que le point 12 resterait en suspens jusqu'à la discussion sur le fond de ces trois projets.

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): Seré breve, tal como le anuncié y como usted me ha solicitado, pero la importancia de los dos temas anunciados recientemente en esta Comisión, me obliga a prestar mi apoyo, breve, pero mi apoyo.

En primer lugar, quisiéramos darlo a la iniciativa expresada en esta Comisión durante este debate de labores y presupuesto con relación a la resolución anunciada por el delegado de México, sobre la propuesta que permita al departamento de Pesca de la FAO contar con los recursos suficientes durante el próximo bienio y que, a su vez, le permita llevar a buen puerto el código de conducta para la pesca responsable.

En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, y con relación a los recursos fitogenéticos, apoyar la iniciativa de la delegada de Honduras que, como nos ha anunciado recientemente, va a presentar una resolución sobre este tema que permita, a su vez, aumentar la visibilidad de todas las actividades de los recursos fitogenéticos y que a su vez, permita también reforzar el Secretariado de la Comisión, que lo creemos imprescindible para llevar también a buen puerto todas cuanto hacen referencia a recursos fitogenéticos.

LE PRESIDENT: Encore une fois, j'aimerais demander aux délégués du Honduras et du Mexique de transmettre copie de ces projets de résolution à Mme Forthomme de manière qu'elle puisse les adresser par la voie administrative au Comité des résolutions.

Nous arrivons au terme de notre débat qui a été très animé, cinquante-sept délégués se sont exprimés sur ce point 12 et quatre d'entre eux ont repris la parole.

Je vois que le Représentant de l'Allemagne demande la parole. Je la lui donne en lui demandant d'être bref parce qu'il nous reste cinquante-cinq minutes et que nous devons écouter les réponses du Secrétariat et que j'aurai moi-même à faire le résumé des débats.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): There were a number of questions on the basis of the last comments from Mexico and other countries on the draft Resolution on Plant and Animal Genetic Resources. What exactly is the intention? Is this just for plant genetic resources or for living genetic resources in general, forestry, agriculture? Is it the broader approach? Finally, in the end, I was not too clear and I wonder if I can have a clarification on that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le délégué. Je n'ai moi-même pas encore sous les yeux copie de cette résolution, donc je ne serai pas en mesure de vous répondre précisément. Mais sur le plan de la forme, comme vous le savez, les règlements permettent à chaque Etat Membre d'introduire un projet de résolution, projet qui n'est discuté sur le fond qu'après avoir été traité sur la forme par le Comité des résolutions comme le prévoit la procédure. J'aimerais donc vous proposer d'attendre la séance de demain après-midi, lorsque ce projet de résolution, avec les remarques, sur la forme, du Comité des résolutions, nous sera transmis, traduit dans toutes les langues et faisant l'objet d'un document LIM. Vous pourrez alors, Monsieur le délégué, formuler toutes observations et remarques pertinentes qui vous paraîtront importantes.

Si vous en êtes d'accord, je vais donner la parole à M. Shah qui va répondre aux nombreuses questions et demandes d'information qui ont émané des délégués qui se sont exprimés sur ce point.

Je voudrais ajouter que les représentants des délégations de Colombie, Venezuela, Haïti et Guinée ont demandé que l'on insère leurs interventions dans le procès-verbal. Il en est ainsi décidé.

Ivan MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea hacer dos observaciones puntuales sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1994-95:

Primero, tal como lo afirmamos en el seno del Consejo, somos partidarios de que se le dé preeminencia en la ejecución del Presupuesto, a los trabajos de elaboración del Código de Conducta para la pesca responsable en alta mar y se continúe así con el exitoso trabajo que se ha venido desarrollando mediante una vía rápida en la elaboración del Acuerdo sobre Abanderamiento que llega para la aprobación de esta Conferencia. Consideramos que el Código de Conducta debe complementarse cuanto antes con los aspectos fundamentales que aún quedan pendientes, y que para ello debe buscarse la coordinación y la cooperación de otras instancias de Naciones Unidas que tienen ingerencia en el tema.

Segundo, nuestra delegación apoya la idea de que se cree un Comité de Ganadería en la FAO.¹

Sra. Virginia PÉREZ PÉREZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, por ser esta nuestra primera intervención, permítame felicitarlo y manifestarle nuestra satisfacción por su elección y actuación al frente de esta Comisión.

Señor Presidente, las enormes dificultades financieras que enfrentan los países en desarrollo, la recesión económica internacional y, en general, la insuficiencia de recursos económicos, justifican ampliamente la adopción de un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1994-95, que no conlleve ningún aumento con relación al ejercicio precedente, tal como lo ha propuesto el Director General de la Organización.

Me permito recordar algunas ideas expresadas por el Director General, señor Edouard Sauma, en su declaración a la Conferencia, en el sentido de no haberse convertido al dogma del crecimiento cero sino que su decisión fue tomada basándose en varias consideraciones, entre las cuales mencionaré: el

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

deseo de no imponer una carga excesiva a los países pobres; el no dejar a su sucesor una situación difícil que pudiera provocar una ruptura entre el monto del programa aprobado y el de créditos abiertos y, la voluntad de evitar una batalla presupuestaria.

Mi delegación apoya el llamado del Director General en el sentido de adoptar el presupuesto por unanimidad para que el nuevo Director General, señor Jacques Diouf, pueda iniciar sus funciones con el apoyo de todos los Estados Miembros.

Señor Presidente, en relación con el atraso que algunos países tienen en sus cuotas, nuestra delegación desea resaltar que a pesar de ser una situación preocupante, digna de merecer una atención especial, no podemos desconocer que muchos países (como es el caso de Venezuela), han tenido problemas como consecuencia de la gigantesca caída de los ingresos de exportación y la administración de sus economías.

En este sentido se espera que en la nueva gestión, la FAO pueda brindar más atención al estudio y solución de los problemas creados con las políticas de estabilización y ajuste estructural en el sector agrícola y a su repercusión en las políticas alimentarias y nutricionales con el objeto de enfrentar eficazmente este momento de transición que deja una secuela de marginalidad y pobreza rural y urbana.

Señor Presidente, nos unimos a lo expresado por otras delegaciones para que continúen los esfuerzos en fortalecer, desde el punto de vista técnico y preupuestario, los temas relativos a los recursos fitogenéticos, a los programas de cooperación técnica y a los asuntos pesqueros.

Subrayamos la importancia que nuestro país concede a la elaboración del Código de Conducta de Pesca Responsable. Solicitamos que sea considerado el apoyo unánime dado por el Consejo a la aplicación de una vía rápida en la elaboración de los principios generales del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable, pues el compromiso para integrar este código es urgente e impostergable.

Señor Presidente, para finalizar, la delegación venezolana cree que es posible reducir costos sin necesidad de tocar programas prioritarios de la Organización. De aquí la necesidad de revisar algunos gastos (viajes, duración de las reuniones del Consejo y de los Comités, y de personal, entre otros).

Estamos conscientes que esto podría tomar cierto tiempo pues implicaría un cambio de la metodología y de la mejora de las prácticas de gestión, que redundarían en la mejor utilización de los recursos y por ende en la optimización de los programas y actividades de la Organización. Gracias, señor Presidente.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): Monsieur le Président, nous remercions en premier lieu le Secrétariat pour les efforts déployés à l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget soumis au document C 93/3.

La délégation haïtienne estime que ce Programme devrait être approuvé à l'unanimité, comme l'ont proposé d'autres délégations avant nous.

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Nous appuyons toutes les remarques émises par la Belgique concernant le Programme travail et budget et reconnaissons également que les commentaires et propositions énoncés par le Mexique doivent être retenus pour une bonne analyse du Programme de travail et budget.

Cependant, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation vous soumet les réflexions suivantes :

- Au niveau du budget, il représente une option attendue et déjà acceptée lors de la session précédente.

Cependant, ma délégation se pose des questions lorsque les difficultés financières des pays membres sont citées. Certes, mais ne serait-il pas plutôt question des difficultés financières de l'Organisation vis-à-vis des pays membres. Ma délégation est aussi d'avis qu'il faut mobiliser davantage de ressources extrabudgétaires, notamment pour le programme Forêts.

Nous apprécions, en outre, la reprise progressive de la situation financière.

Monsieur le Président, comment sans cesse revoir le fait de "faire davantage avec moins de moyens"? Non, la FAO n'a pas fait d'erreurs dans le passé. Non à ces remises en question successives alors que les résultats sont positifs dans tous les programmes en cours dans les pays en développement.

Pour ce qui a trait au PCT, nous sommes d'avis que la FAO n'a pas pu encore arriver au niveau arrêté en 1989 et estimons que, ce programme étant indispensable aux PVD, les moyens budgétaires doivent lui être alloués de façon prioritaire. Il faut conserver cet outil indispensable, mais lui demander plus de flexibilité dans les questions d'identification.

En final, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation tient à apporter son appui à la proposition faite par le Canada concernant une résolution sur les manifestations à l'occasion du cinquantième anniversaire de la FAO. Ce sera une autre occasion pour attirer l'attention sur les besoins des PVD, du monde rural en général et du rôle important que la FAO joue et doit continuer à jouer.

Souhaib Deen BANGOURA (Guinée): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation est heureuse de vous voir présider les travaux de cette Commission de la vingt-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Permettez à la délégation guinéenne de vous adresser ses chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec une attention soutenue que notre délégation a procédé à l'analyse du document C 93/3 à savoir le Programme de travail et budget 1994-95, document qui vient d'être présenté brillamment par M. Shah à qui vont nos remerciements.

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve le contenu du document C 93/3.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès verbal.

Nous serons brefs d'autant plus que nous appuyons les commentaires assez détaillés faits par un grand nombre de délégués.

A l'analyse de ce document nous avons abouti aux conclusions que nous aimerions partager avec nos collègues ici présents.

Je vous remercie.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme/ Budget and Evaluation): In wishing to do justice to the very thoughtful and important policy debate you have had on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, I would be inclined to request that the Commission accord me several hours in order to do justice and to try and satisfy all the members who raised issues and questions but clearly this is out of the question. I will do my best therefore to address, in as direct and as concentrated a way, the issues which have been raised, with apologies in advance to those members who would have wished to obtain detailed clarification and which time would not permit me to do.

One word as a preamble: I have been very interested to see the reaction of the Conference to the symbol that I suggested to the four items which you have just considered - the analogy to a quartet. I owe an apology because the analogy of a quartet after all is only relevant to one part of the musical heritage of this world. I apologize to all Member Nations of other cultures with very rich musical heritages such as that of my own heritage of India, of China, of Japan and of every other musical culture in all continents of the world.

The Secretariat should strive to respond universally to you, the Member Nations, of all this globe and I do apologize for using a restrictive analogy. I hope that the reactions do indicate that the analogy was generally accepted. There are two aspects which I would like to clarify in my response. There are some who suggested that the four documents, the Programme Implementation Report, the Programme Evaluation Report, the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget, if they were a real quartet, should be totally synonymous, should fit into each other, should be mirror images of each other. That was never my intention and that is not the purpose of the analogy.

A quartet in Western music, as I understand it, consists of four musical instruments. These musical instruments do play together. They fuse the notes of the four instruments into a common theme, a common theme which has developed in a piece of music. This does not mean that every instrument plays the same notes at the same time. A quartet in Western music also, as I understand it, consists of several movements.

If you take the analogy of each of these subjects being one movement of the piece of music, without being flippant, I would say that the Programme Implementation Report is the first movement which is *molto allegro, molto attivo*. The second movement, the Programme Evaluation Report, is an *andante, riflessivo*. The third movement, the Medium-Term Plan, is *maestoso*. The fourth movement, the Programme of Work for the next biennium, is a *molto allegro, molto attivo, and molto responsivo*.

Having dealt with that preamble, Mr Chairman, let me deal with the responses in term of nine issues. I have tried to limit my thoughts in order to cover as much as possible within these responses. The first issue

I would take up is the question of the approved Programme of Work for this biennium and the budget base which has been used by the Director-General. In the last Conference you, Mr Chairman, approved the Programme of Work of US\$676.9 million. The Resolution for 1991 which you adopted unanimously approved this Programme of Work and gave the amounts by budgetary chapter.

Your debate has made it abundantly clear that you expected this Programme of Work to be implemented at this level and that is precisely what the Director-General has strived to do and is determined to do until the last day of office. This is no surprise. This is no surprise because you had requested that he submit a progress report on the implementation of the programme budget, which he did last year through the Programme and Finance Committees to the 102nd Session of the Council in November of last year.

What did that progress report say? It set out clearly his determination to implement the full Programme of Work and this was applauded and endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the Council. The Council Report - I will not read huge chunks of it - but the Council commended the Director-General for his response to the Conference's directives in a prudent and pragmatic manner. In particular the Council was satisfied that all pertinent factors, positive as well as negative, had been addressed thoroughly in the determination of allotments for the year 1992.

It goes on to say that it concurred with the basic approach, including -and I quote again - "periodically reviewing the developments as they effectively materialized, e.g., the payments of arrears, in order to progressively commit the full implementation of the approved Programme". At the conclusion of this debate on this issue the Council urged the Director-General to continue his efforts to achieve maximum implementation of the approved Programme of Work.

In this connection a question was raised as to whether it was appropriate for the Director-General to have used part of the payment of arrears of one Member Nation, and I want to again recall that the use of arrears has been conducted strictly according to the regulations of this Organization. In particular, the use of the payment of arrears which was received last year was proposed to; and cleared with, the Programme and Finance Committees at its September session, and reported to Council again at its Session in November last year. These matters were again reported to these same bodies in the Progress Report on Budgetary Performance for the year 1992. Once again, the Programme and Finance Committees were extremely satisfied with what was done. I quote from the Report of the Finance Committee in May 1993: "The Committee took note of the Annual Report of Budgetary Performance to Member Nations, commended the Director-General on the cautious approach taken, and endorsed in principle the strategy for the management of the Organization's resources for the remainder of the biennium."

The Council, at its 103rd Session in June, received the same Report on Budgetary Performance with the views of the Finance Committee, and I quote from the Council Report: "The Council noted the comments of the Finance Committee and approved the Annual Report on the Budgetary Performance to the Member Nations for the year 1992".

This leads me to the question from the distinguished representative from Japan, who enquired what the expenditure forecast was going to be for this biennium. I can confirm, in the light of what I have said, that we forecast

the budgetary expenditures for 1992-93 at the full level of US\$676.9 million.

This leads then to the issue of the budget base. Here I do not need to give any further response. The Conference has given its very clear expression of views on this subject, the vast majority of Member Nations considering that in their view the level of the approved Programme of Work for this biennium is an appropriate base for the next Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General. At the same time, there have been a number of Member Nations who have indicated what their view is.

Point No. 2: If I may now take up the programme issues that have been raised:

The first of these in terms of number of references and strength of your expression is of course the Technical Cooperation Programme. There is not very much that I have been asked to provide by way of information, but I must say categorically that we have taken very careful note of the response of all those Member Nations who have expressed regret that the next Programme of Work and Budget proposals do not foresee a larger appropriation for the Technical Cooperation Programme, and who have reminded us of Conference Resolution 9/89. We have also taken note of those comments made by those who wish to have more information on the management and operation of the TCP.

The second programme issue is forestry. It is perhaps second only to the TCP in terms of the number of interventions which were made on this subject.

As always, we are very attentive to the views that you express, and in response to the request to give increasing resources to forestry, I would only share some information in order to share a perspective. Over the last ten years forestry has attracted an increasingly large share of the Technical Budget and of the total Programme of Work and Budget. In 1984-85 the share of forestry in the total approved Budget was 3.9 percent. For 1994-95 the proposals increased it progressively to 4.6 percent. If you take the share of forestry in budgetary Chapter 2, the Technical and Economic Programmes, over the same period it has increased from 8.8 to 9.5 percent.

I well understand that those who wish to give greater priority to forestry and to see more resources allocated to forestry are really speaking in terms of augmenting these percentages. Accepted, but it is very difficult to determine what would be the appropriate level, or the appropriate share, particularly when the priority attached to forestry is one among other very important priorities which are also indicated.

Let me give you an example. How do you expect us to - or how would you -determine in quantitative terms the priority attached to policy advice, which you all say is important, we recognize that - policy advice versus the priority and the resources for work on genetic resources? - that again in relation to coastal fisheries management, that again in relation to TCP?

In the case of forestry there is no question that you seek a greater share of the resources in favour of forestry. I can only indicate in the information that I have given that we have not been deaf or blind to these wishes: we have tried to respond, and clearly you wish us to respond more.

The Major Programme 2.3, Forestry, has increased its share of total resources by just under 18 percent over the last ten years.

The third issue in Programme subjects brought up was in relation to the Investment Centre, and I paid very careful attention to the concerns which were expressed.

First of all, let me reconfirm that the proposals of the Director-General are to maintain the work of the Investment Centre in terms of the assistance it gives to Member Nations in investment project preparation and appraisal, in cooperation with the funding institutions involved. That is the basis upon which the proposals have been made. But as indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget - and I draw attention to paragraph 37 - there are four aspects of the proposals.

One is to tighten the forecast of services with the partner institutions and to improve the reimbursement arrangements. This is not to reduce the work - it is to improve the budgetary planning and reimbursement practices. Surely, this is all part of the improvements in administrative areas and financial areas that we all seek, and which some of you have emphasized.

The second aspect is to recognize the income receivable from financing institutions and to translate this into improved billing and accounting practices. I have the same comment as on the first: surely we all seek it.

The third aspect is the transfer of some staff and some resources from the Investment Centre to the technical Departments and Divisions which are called upon to collaborate. This, again, you all seek - so do the financing institutions, and so do we. None of us want the Investment Centre to work in a vacuum or an ivory tower. We have all - you, and we, and the World Bank and the Regional Development Banks and IFAD - all sought a closer integration in the work of the Investment Centre with the technical Departments and Divisions of FAO. It is not a reduction of our total resources: it is a transfer of some resources from the Investment Centre to the technical Divisions.

The fourth aspect of the proposals is to show to you the gains in efficiency generated by automation and other economy measures. I do not think that any of you can object, or has objected to that - in fact, you constantly encourage us to do so.

Another aspect of these proposals was a remark that the consultation with the World Bank on the future of the World Bank/FAO Cooperative Programme be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that optimum services be continued and that these consultations have the benefit of the contribution of the Director-General whom you have recently elected.

Let me respond positively on both points. First of all, to point out that in our discussions with the World Bank, the World Bank has been kept fully informed of these proposals. They have been pleased to note, and they have confirmed to us, that the level of the proposals will facilitate the continuation of services to our member countries. On the second aspect, the Director-General has not wished to rush into finalizing these consultations. These consultations are deliberately being pursued with due temperance, care, moderation, and due regard to timing, so that the Director-General who will assume his duties on 1 January 1994 will have ample opportunity to shape and determine the final results that he wishes to see come out of these consultations.

The next programme issue is the question of a Commission on Livestock. At this stage I can only, and I need only, say that we have taken careful note of the proposal advanced by the delegation of Mexico, supported by a large number of other speakers in the debate - Algeria, El Salvador, Cuba, Cyprus and others - many others.

What has been asked of us is that we study the possibility of establishing a separate commission on livestock. That is certainly something that we shall have to do in the light of your conclusion.

The second request was to give the Commission of Plant Genetic Resources a higher profile. In this connection, a number of questions were asked. May I indicate that I had given a reply in the Council debate that I shall not repeat in the same detail, but since the question was raised here I owe it to you to give a reply now.

The two parts of the Plant Genetic Resources Programme, which are the revision of the International Undertaking and Progress on the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer, will be discussed shortly in Commission I under Items 7.1 and 7.2. I will restrict myself therefore to saying that, as regards the Plant Genetic Resources global system the project manager of the multi-donor Trust Fund Project is already working under Regular Programme funding. A project document has been prepared and is being submitted to the donor community. The first phase of this project is a stand-alone project which is country-driven and which will evaluate and assess the national plant diversity, identify the needs for in situ and ex situ conservation and the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The analysis of this information will result in the issuance of the first report on the state of the world's plant genetic resources. This will also lead on to the essential inputs for national plans of action.

The second phase of the project document will concentrate on the preparations of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. I should also repeat that FAO does collaborate with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Convention on Biodiversity. At the Committee's recent meeting in Geneva which was organized by UNEP, FAO's role in technical matters relating to plant genetic resources has been recognized.

Then there is the very active debate that has taken place on the subject of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Since you will be considering this matter in terms of the draft resolution which you will consider, my response need only be fairly concise. We have noted carefully the debate. We have also noted the concerns that any work on the Code should not preempt discussions taking place in other fora.

The Secretariat has already explained that some chapters of the Code, including the general principles, are in an advanced stage of drafting and that it would be possible to start consultations with experts and institutions in early 1994. We could therefore envisage a meeting of a small informal group of experts early next year to have a first exchange of views, it being understood that these informal discussions would not preempt the outcome of the March session of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. In fact, it could usefully contribute to these discussions in New York and vice versa. The United Nations Conference might give further orientation on some of the general principles of the draft Code. This is our understanding.

As to the budgetary implications, it would be possible to accommodate a small group within the proposed budgetary provisions, but any larger meeting would require extrabudgetary funding.

I might point out that it is not only sub-programme 2.2.3.2 which deals with the Code, as was mentioned by some delegations. It is an overall exercise under the major Programme: Fisheries and it includes virtually all the sub-programmes that are under that major programme. Other chapters will also be subject to review by experts, the chapter on Fishing Operations by a technical consultation that will be hosted by Canada, as mentioned by the Canadian delegation, and there will be further opportunities to review sections of the Code, for example in the preparations of the International Conference on Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security which was mentioned by the delegate of Japan.

Our general timeframe for the adoption of the Code could therefore be that agreed to by the Committee on Fisheries and approved by the Council in June, namely to have the draft text submitted to the next session of COFI in the spring of 1995 and approved by the Council and Conference in the same year. We believe that we are on a fairly fast track, although we will not quite match the record achieved of the Flagging Agreement, but of course the Code covers a much wider technical area.

In Fisheries there were also questions raised regarding the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. I have detailed information, but this question was raised by one Member Nation only, the United Kingdom, if I am not mistaken. We will certainly give this information in detail if the representative would accept that directly. For the moment, I would only like to respond that the national partner of the UK in ASFA is one of the team involved in the negotiations of the new contract to publish the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts. This assistance is greatly appreciated, and I should like to assure the delegation of the United Kingdom that with a reduced budget level the service, in order to meet its commitments to collect and disseminate high seas catches and to maintain a database on vessels authorized to fish on the high seas, has readdressed its priorities and reallocated the staff and budget. More details are ready to be provided directly to the delegation concerned.

Now may I turn to the subject of the environment and sustainable development. One remark which surprised me a little was a comment made by the delegate of the United Kingdom that he did not quite see the role of FAO in the follow-up to UNCED. Perhaps this was a question of the degree of role ascribed to FAO. First, I would point out that the substance of this follow-up will be discussed shortly in Commission I under Item 7, and it is that document and those discussions which may provide the United Kingdom with many aspects of the substantive follow-up of FAO. Therefore, I will not try to prejudge that. However, I need to point out that the role of FAO has not been defined by itself on its own; there were and are two bases for the development of FAO's role. One is the inter-Secretariat arrangements pursued under the ACC, which have been reported to your Council in June. The second aspect is the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in New York. It is perfectly in conformity with all these developments that the proposals for our role and our activities have been put forward in the Programme of Work and Budget.

The representative of Kenya asked for information on environmental action plans. I should like to respond that these are generally conducted by the Ministries of Environment and the major international institutions which

support these, notably UNDP and the World Bank. FAO does contribute to some of these plans at the request of the country or the institutions involved. With regard to Kenya, we have assisted Kenya by organizing a workshop on environmental impact assessment. This was a workshop conducted for district officers. We are assisting through a TCP funding project. I have the terminal statement of this project, which I will be happy to convey to the Kenyan delegation in view of their interest in the subject.

We come to programme issues and statistics. You all attach importance to FAO's statistical work. Only one clarification was requested, again by the representative of Kenya, regarding access to statistics. Diskettes containing AGROSTAT data, the diskettes covering much more than published in the Yearbooks, have been sent to all member countries, and additional copies are available at reduced rates. WAICENT will give on-line access to all databases through the public networks such as INTERNET.

As regards environmental accounts and accounts on national resources which are not yet incorporated in the system of national accounts adopted in February this year by the UN Statistical Commission, FAO is cooperating with UNSTAT, OECD, World Bank and Eurostat in solving the outstanding methodological problems in order to incorporate these accounts in the next version of the core accounts.

In the debate this morning some programme issues were raised. While I have had less time to consult my colleagues and reflect on the responses, let me give you some preliminary information as requested.

First, there was a query by the representative of the Netherlands regarding the Plan of Action on People's Participation and when reporting on that could be expected. The Plan of Action on People's Participation as adopted by you at your last session provided for reporting to be combined with that on WCARRD, the WCARRD's progress reports. The next WCARRD progress report will come to the next Session of the Conference in 1995.

Work on interim assessment is under way and we shall try to indicate to all Member Nations interested when that could be available, but the formal report will be in conjunction with the next progress report on WCARRD.

There were a number of questions from the distinguished delegate from the Netherlands regarding the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, the Coordinating Unit and the Consultative Group. The TFAP Coordinating Unit is funded from the Regular Programme - up to US\$3.7 million - and it is proposed that it be funded in 1994-95 at approximately the same level as during this biennium. Funding for the Coordinating Unit for eighteen months was requested from Trust Fund donors for an amount of US\$2.6 million and I am informed that, of this amount, US\$1.6 million has been received. The 1994-95 proposals foresee decentralizing the Regional Advisors to the Regions, keeping the core of the Unit at headquarters. As for the Consultative Group of the TFAP, we have provided a note on the status. As the Council decided there is no Regular Programme funding involved and extrabudgetary funding is being sought.

The distinguished representative of El Salvador asked for information on the Regional Meeting mentioned in paragraph 480. This is being organized jointly by the Regional Office and the Human Resources Division. The meeting will take place in Tegucigalpa. This is a follow-up of the Workshop held in El Salvador in 1991. The meeting will discuss the integration of NGOs, farmers' organizations and institutions at the national level. It

will constitute the Sub-Regional Coordination Network in support of rural women in Central America.

Turning now to some other issues, the third issue which I have been asked to respond to is that of cost increases. Many of you have expressed satisfaction at the fact that the estimate of cost increases has been reduced from the first estimate of US\$85 million to the present estimate of US\$76 million. These cost increases have been estimated according to the fixed, established methodology. They have been reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee. I quote from its report in September: "Following extensive questioning and provision of full replies, the Committee was satisfied with the level of cost increases being sought."

It is a little surprising for the Secretariat if any member of the Finance Committee now says, "We think they are too high". Mr Chairman, these cost increases have been accepted not only by the Finance Committee but the Report and judgement of the Finance Committee were reviewed by the Council, and the Council has commended these to you.

Let me now turn to the aspect of cost increases which was referred to by a number of speakers, who felt that an 11.2 percent increase in the cost increases was rather high. Some of these Members said they find it unacceptable. There may be some misunderstanding. First, in looking at the figure of 11.2 percent, this is the gross biennial rate. It covers two years and it also includes the restatement of the budget for biennialization. That is, the cost increases which have already occurred in this biennium, which are carried forward for the full 24 months of the next biennium. So it is not a question of an 11.2 percent annual increase for the next biennium. In fact, if we take out the biennialization and look at the annual rate allowed for cost increases, the annual rate for the next biennium, it is 5.1 percent.

Is this too high? Unfortunately, none of the distinguished speakers who found the cost increases too high gave the measure against which these cost increases should be compared. For our part, Mr Chairman, we have not assumed this ourselves on the basis of any competence of our own. We have used completely independent data. The latest forecast of The Economic Intelligence Unit for Italy is as follows. Consumer Price Index 1994, 5.5 percent, and for 1995, 5.2 percent. Average hourly earnings for 1994, 5.8 percent, and for 1995, 5.4 percent. It would seem that our use of a figure of 5.1 percent is overly modest. At the same time, if you compare our cost increase estimates with those which have been accepted in some other organizations of the UN System for which budgets have already been approved, in the ILO the biennial figure is 10.2 percent and in WHO 15.46 percent.

Mr Chairman, suggestions have been made to the effect that there are specific areas of cost increases which could be subject to cost containment. Other Members feel that productivity improvements should be reflected against these cost increases. Mr Chairman, I am ready to go on for a long time on this subject but I know you want me to stop, so let me say in brief that, on the issue of productivity improvement being reflected in cost increases, there are good reasons for addressing both issues but there are good reasons for not confusing them.

On the subject of cost containment, I can only say that the cost increases have all been carefully documented and the assumptions have been stated. Cost containment in this context either means that the assumptions are

over-stated - and there is no-one who has made that assertion - or that some of them should be further absorbed. This is the same point as comes up also under productivity improvements. Mr Chairman, on cost increase I can only repeat very respectfully our basic position in light of a comment made by a few Member Nations on budget presentation and transparencies. The distinguished Representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the presentation of the cost increases lacked transparency because of currency effects not being taken into account. I may have misunderstood the point, but it is for this reason that the presentation is stated at the budget rate of 1 210 lira to the dollar, so that direct comparison of the vast majority of the costs is possible.

Turning to the issue of transfer of support cost posts, this has caused some comment and I owe you a fairly full response. Firstly, I repeat that the 56 posts it is proposed to transfer from the support cost funding of the past to the Regular Programme have been carefully determined on the basis of the functions of each post, the work carried out under each post and satisfying ourselves and you that this is work which needs to continue under the Regular Budget. It is a function properly under the Regular Programme, and that is the reason. The document also draws your attention to the large number of support cost posts which have been eliminated. It has been suggested that there has been a lack of transparency. In fact, I think the distinguished delegate of Norway used the phrase that the practice in the past and the present proposal involve a lack of transparency.

I respond to this not only in serving our Director-General, Mr Saouma, but also in having served the late Director-General, Mr Adeke H. Boerma. I must draw your attention to Annex 5 of the Programme of Work and Budget. The organigrams show every established professional post by title and, in the case of support cost posts, the source of funding. That shows the current transparency. We had the same transparency in the past under Mr Boerma, and I draw your attention to Conference document C 75/3, Mr Boerma's last budget, and I give this as an example only. The Annex of that document shows the posts funded under support costs. The DDF Director, D-2, was shown as a UNDP Support Cost Funded post. On page 592, you see the Director of the Administrative Services Division also as a UNDP Support Funded post. Mr Chairman, these posts have been shown with their funding in every Programme of Work and Budget document, and I have never been questioned on those in the past. I therefore conclude that both the current Director-General and his predecessor have disclosed the necessary information to apprise and keep Member Nations fully informed on this score.

Mr Chairman, the solutions and the reasons for the transfer have been commented upon in the document and in the explanations given in earlier debates and, if you had the time, I would go into them again but I refrain from doing so. Just let me say that here again it is the dynamics of the situation which lead to proposals being made, the dynamics of the situation being the nature of the decisions relating to the Field Programme which are taken, for example, in the fora of the UNDP and which have repercussions on us, and the nature of the development of the Trust Fund Programme, which we will be considering and which I will be responding to in the Item in Commission "III on the proposed arrangements for the Trust Funds.

Mr Chairman, the fifth issue I have to address is that of Administrative Services and Costs.

The Representative of Norway suggested that there needs to be a review of the whole administrative structure and services of FAO. In the following interventions there was reference to this suggestion but in a slightly different form, as I understood it. Many of the delegates who addressed this issue in subsequent interventions referred not to the administrative structure or services but to the administrative costs. I would like to address both aspects of this.

Firstly, as regards the administrative services: this was, as you may recall, an important part of the FAO Review conducted in 1988-89. The results of the FAO Review were reported to the Conference in 1989. The review of administrative services was based on the extensive use of management consultants and outside experts. It covered a wide area, if not the totality of the area of administrative services, personnel management, accounts, financial procedures, administrative services, printing, etc. The Conference not only expressed its satisfaction at this review but since 1989, as requested by it, we submit progress reports to the Finance Committee each year, of which you are aware personally, Mr Chairman, on the implementation of the recommendations. We continue to do so and the Finance Committee is fully appraised and has this matter under control.

Secondly on the administrative costs: all of us, all of us without exception always look to reduce administrative costs and I would suggest that this is something that has surely been recognized as also the determination of the Director-General throughout his term of office. In past years he reduced budgetary provision for administrative services to the extent that the Conference urged caution. It urged caution that the reduction of budgetary resources was too extreme and had gone to the extent where it might need to be reversed. But the search continues.

The Programme of Work and Budget mentions the intention to introduce departmental Management Support Services. Now the decentralized Management Support Services which are mentioned in the document and which we are pursuing is in fact an evidence of the continued search for simplification of procedures, for increased delegation, for increased efficiency and lower costs. Another example, under the Trust Fund reimbursement proposals which you will consider, I will not go into the detail now because of the lack of time, but I will emphasize in Commission III at that time, how these proposals are based and directed to encouraging the search for reduced administrative costs.

The sixth issue, lapse factor: I will not go into the substance of the matter but only to respond that the debate has very clearly shown that while there are still differing use on the ideal lapse factor to be used, the use of 3 percent has been accepted for the coming biennium on the understanding that the Finance Committee will pursue this matter with the advice of the External Auditor and that the JIU Report in a wider context will also be useful.

The seventh issue, there were some Members who asked for expenditure data to be included in future Programmes of Work and Budget. In the interests of time may I respectfully draw attention to the response I gave to the Council just before the Conference started on this issue. I stand by what I said then with an addendum and the addendum is that after my response in the Council some claimed to have the impression that "Mr Shah is obstreperous, that he refuses to give information". That is not so. I have never wanted to give that impression and I have never behaved that way. The second addendum is to say that one delegation referred to the expenditure

data which had been provided to the Conference in 1989 in a document C89/LIM/33, presumably expressing satisfaction with those data. Now, if that is the case I have little problem. If that is the level of the information which is sought we will pursue the matter in consultation with the Finance Committee in the coming biennium. Let me finally just say on expenditure data, just because something is not included in a Programme of Work and Budget document, surely that cannot be interpreted as a lack of transparency. Expenditure data are given to every session of the Finance Committee and these data are then reflected in the reports of the Finance Committee which the Council gets twice a year. The expenditure data for every year are reported in every budgetary performance report. So I hope it is not implied that the Secretariat has a lack of transparency or has any unwillingness to give information.

The eighth issue, and this is an important one, regards the question of arrears and here again may I take the words of the Ambassador of France, one of the first to intervene on this issue, who said that the matter has to be seen dynamically and not negatively. That is very important. The Representative of Canada expressed surprise where we see in the document that it is some satisfaction that over 90 percent of the current assessed contributions are received in any one year, over 90 percent, implying the question what happens with the rest? How can you be satisfied that only 90 percent are received? The Secretariat can only respect those of you, all of you who say that Member Nations have a commitment to this Organization, a commitment to each other to pay their assessed contributions fully and promptly. The ideal, and there is no other ideal, the ideal would be for all contributions to be paid promptly within 30 days of the call letter. This is what would give your Organization and your Secretariat the solidity, the means to implement your Programme of Work and Budget, at the same time increasing the miscellaneous income which in turn would be of benefit to you in permitting reduced assessments. There is no other ideal. But what we refer to as assessed contributions received in one year is the fact that in that same year, even if 8 percent or 10 percent of the current assessed contributions are not received, there are receipts of arrears. It is a rolling event and as I have always pointed out in any one year while there is a shortfall against the current assessment there are payments of arrears and in some years the payments of arrears are less than the shortfall of current assessed contribution; in other years they are more. For example, in 1983 the shortfall against current contributions was 11 million but the receipt of arrears was more, US\$15.1 million. In 1985 the shortfall against current assessment was US\$14.8 million but the receipts of arrears was US\$18.9 million. In 1986 and 1987 - well then we have a new ball game, the shortfall in assessments were much greater and we all know the reason why.

So on the arrears all of you have been very clear in pointing out that the procedures for the handling of arrears are established and have to be observed and we do that. Then the question is raised in looking at the proposed funding for the next biennium, is it wise to consider using US\$38 million of arrears? Having pointed out that arrears have been used and have always been used in the funding of implementation every year let me point out that if it is proposed by the Director-General to use US\$38 million or US\$40 million you may well ask is this not risky? But what is the current level of arrears? The current level of arrears is about US\$105 million of which from one Member Nation alone is US\$86 million. Now, when you are thinking of that magnitude I would maintain, as have the majority of you, that it is perfectly realistic and perfectly reasonable on planning to use 3 8 million, perfectly, particularly when every Member

Nation who has arrears has recommitted and reaffirmed that they will honourably acquit themselves of their obligation. The question has been raised "What if these arrears were not paid" but I was very interested to hear the comment of the delegate of Cyprus this morning, that this same question could be raised about "What if the assessed contributions for each year were not paid?" This is a matter of honour among all Member Nations and the Director-General does not question the honourable intentions of Member Nations.

A question was raised "If the arrears are not paid surely this will lead to drawing on the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account and this will lead to collapse." The use of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account in meeting the needs of the General Fund pending receipts of contributions is clearly given in all our Regulations and Texts. The proposals before you give the effective level of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. It does not mean that in implementing the proposed Programme of Work and Budget in full, if the assessed contributions and the arrear payments are not received to the required amount the gap can be permanently filled from the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. In fact in this connection I have noted with very great care the desire of a large number, if not the majority of Member Nations, who do not wish to see any gap between the Programme of Work approved and the level of funding which had occurred exceptionally two years ago.

The final aspect I would address was a specific question from the Representative of Switzerland where he asked would it not be conceivable, would it not be wise to consider that with the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, which he accepted, the Director-General should ask for the total funding from assessed contributions. So the assessed contribution should be US\$38 million higher than proposed and when arrears are received and when there is a cash surplus that can be returned to Member Nations. I respect that question, I take it very seriously, and I will give you the reason why the Director-General did not consider that.

This would have meant, Mr Chairman, that instead of reducing the level of assessed contributions for the next two years which you have noted, Member Nations would have to pay US\$38 million more. Certainly we would have greater assurance assuming that everyone pays but what would this mean? This would mean increasing the burden of Member Nations, because the cash surplus would not be identified until the end of the biennium at the end of 1995. It would not be certified until the accounts are certified in 1996 and could not be credited to Member Nations until 1997.

That would mean imposing a higher burden for the next two years in order to reduce the burden three years hence. This is the judgment that was used in framing the proposals before you.

The ninth and final issue, Mr Chairman, is the support for the proposals and for the draft Resolution which is before you. We have well heard the range, the éventail, of views of Member Nations, but if I may use the words of the Council, the Council commended the proposals of the Director-General for the approval of the Conference with the conviction that you Member Nations would find unanimity in approving them. If I reiterate this appeal of the Council I do so for three reasons: firstly, I do so because that is the dearest wish of the Director-General, your Director-General, who has submitted his proposals to you. Secondly, because this Programme of Work and Budget will be the Programme of Work and Budget of the Director-General

you have elected and the Secretariat and I will do everything to serve him in the way he wishes. Thirdly, and above all, because it is your Programme of Work, Mr Chairman, and I cannot believe that you would wish any less for your Organization. I thank you, Sir.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur Shah, pour les réponses que vous avez apportées de manière très large comme à votre habitude. L'avantage avec vous, Monsieur Shah, c'est que vous essayez de répondre dans la mesure du possible à l'ensemble des questions, mais l'inconvénient c'est que vous ne laissez pas beaucoup de temps au Président pour faire son résumé. Il est déjà treize heures, je pense que l'ensemble des membres de la Commission peuvent s'estimer satisfaits des réponses apportées par Monsieur Shah. Si tel est le cas, je vais tout suite essayer de vous dire quel a été mon sentiment sur les discussions relatives au point 12 de l'ordre du jour.

Je ne crois pas qu'il soit besoin que je m'attarde longuement sur l'importance du débat qui s'est déroulé entre les membres de la Commission. Cinquante-sept pays se sont exprimés. Pour ma part, j'aurais aimé que l'on égale ou que l'on dépasse le nombre des pays qui s'étaient exprimés sur la question en 1991, qui étaient au nombre de soixante-quatre, mais je crois que la richesse des débats, le nombre de points qui ont été soulevés font que nous sommes dans des proportions normales d'interventions au sein de la Commission II.

J'ai beaucoup apprécié personnellement l'ouverture qui a été faite par Monsieur Shah, avec cette petite note musicale et le sens de l'humour qui lui est habituel. Pour ma part, j'utiliserais une autre image en disant que le Programme de travail et budget est le pouls de l'Organisation. Je crois que c'est la base de travail du Secrétariat pour une période de deux ans et également de l'engagement des Etats Membres à le soutenir par leurs contributions. Enfin, je pense que c'est l'expression de ce que les Etats Membres peuvent attendre en retour de l'Organisation.

Nous avons eu un débat riche et fructueux. Bien sûr, il est difficile que tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation, puisque nous sommes désormais cent soixante-neuf, puissent se mettre d'accord sur tous les points qui ont été discutés, donc différents points de vue ont été exprimés tant sur les aspects importants des propositions qui ont été soumises à notre examen que parfois sur certains points de détail.

Je n'ai pas l'ambition de résumer de manière exacte les débats qui ont eu lieu, mais je crois qu'il faudrait que je traduise brièvement quel a été le sentiment général des membres lorsqu'ils se sont exprimés sur cette importante question et que je m'arrête quelquefois sur des nuances qui ont été apportées par quelques membres sur des points plus délicats. Je pense que cela pourra aider Monsieur Marsh, Président du Comité de rédaction, ainsi que les membres qui composent ce Comité lorsqu'ils auront à discuter du projet de rapport à nous présenter pour demain.

Avant de vous céder la parole, je vous avais moi-même invités à intervenir dans deux sens: d'abord dans le cadre du Programme en évoquant les activités qui vous paraissaient le plus prioritaires et ensuite en abordant les questions financières en parlant du cadre budgétaire, c'est pourquoi je calquerais mon exposé sur ce même plan, en m'arrêtant d'abord sur les considérations d'ordre général pour en venir ensuite au cadre budgétaire lui-même.

S'agissant du document, je crois que l'on peut considérer qu'il y a eu satisfaction quant à sa présentation, à sa clarté, à la richesse des informations contenues dans ce PTB (Programme de travail et budget). Quelques membres ont néanmoins exprimé des suggestions et des souhaits pour qu'à l'avenir, ce document soit amélioré dans les futures versions, en apportant par exemple plus d'informations concernant l'introduction d'objectifs plus clairs ou l'inclusion d'informations sur les dépenses effectives de l'exercice en cours. C'est là un aspect sur lequel vous avez répondu tout à l'heure, Monsieur Shah.

Je crois qu'il devrait être reflété dans notre rapport qu'à l'avenir, il faudra peut-être enrichir la version du PTB.

Je crois que l'on peut dire également qu'il y a eu satisfaction sur le fait que les propositions contenues dans le PTB ont fait l'objet d'un long processus de consultation depuis le stade du schéma, comme je vous l'avais dit à l'ouverture, vendredi dernier, jusqu'à cette proposition de Programme de travail et budget, en passant par l'étude du Sommaire. Ce processus a permis, du moins visait à permettre, d'affiner les propositions en tenant compte des différents commentaires et soucis exprimés par les Etats Membres dans certains Comités du Conseil ou au sein du Conseil lui-même.

S'agissant de l'approche générale, je crois qu'un certain nombre de délégués ont donné leur point de vue, et en tout premier lieu, sur la notion que l'on a toujours utilisée en l'absence d'augmentation nette de programmes, et qui est celle de la croissance zéro, bien qu'elle fasse encore l'objet de controverses entre les pays membres. Je me rappelle que certains délégués ont même fait allusion à l'expression de croissance zéro dynamique qui doit tenir compte aussi bien des besoins croissants qui sont exprimés par les pays membres que des contraintes budgétaires que ces mêmes pays rencontrent au niveau national.

Je disais donc que l'absence d'augmentation nette de programmes sur la base budgétaire qui nous est proposée de 676,9 millions de dollars est un élément qui a retenu l'attention de beaucoup de délégués. La grande majorité des délégués a confirmé que le chiffre de 676,9 millions de dollars devrait constituer la base budgétaire car il avait été adopté à l'unanimité lors de la dernière Conférence en 1991 et dans des conditions exceptionnelles que nous connaissons tous et sur lesquelles je n'ai pas besoin de m'attarder.

Par ailleurs, quelques délégués ont cependant exprimé clairement leur préférence pour une base budgétaire de 645,6 millions de dollars. Je crois que nous avons rencontré cette divergence de vues à différents niveaux du processus et, personnellement, j'avais pensé que l'on aurait pu parvenir, au cours des débats, à dissiper cette divergence. De toutes manières, je crois que nous pouvons tous considérer que l'absence d'augmentation nette de programmes reflète en fait le désir du Secrétariat de prendre en compte les difficultés financières rencontrées par de nombreux Etats Membres et je pense que l'on peut également considérer que cela représente un compromis intéressant afin de réconcilier les points de vue divergents sur ces questions. Sur le même sujet, il convient de retenir que beaucoup de délégués ont dit qu'ils acceptaient ce compromis à contrecoeur et ils ont attiré notre attention sur les défis auxquels notre Organisation doit faire face, les pressions formidables qui pèsent sur les ressources naturelles, la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition persistante et sur leur attente d'une action vigoureuse de la FAO dans ces domaines. Ils ont également rappelé les difficultés financières de ces dernières années et exprimé leur

conviction que l'Organisation devrait donc devoir disposer d'une base de ressources plus importantes à l'avenir.

D'autres délégués ont par contre invité l'Organisation à poursuivre des efforts plus vigoureux dans le choix des priorités. Ils ont demandé également que l'Organisation fasse preuve d'une plus grande imagination dans la recherche d'économies et inclue la question qui avait été soulevée par l'ensemble des pays nordiques et reprise par d'autres délégués, à savoir le réexamen des dépenses liées aux services administratifs en général. Ces mêmes délégués ont attiré l'attention sur les mesures d'austérité auxquelles sont soumis leurs propres pays et leurs propres finances publiques et ces mêmes délégués ont souligné que cette Organisation internationale ne devait pas échapper à ce train d'austérité que connaissent leurs propres pays.

Un autre aspect important du PTB qui a été repris dans les interventions des délégués a trait aux difficultés rencontrées par la FAO au niveau des dépenses de soutien que l'on appelle "support costs". M. Shah a répondu longuement à ce propos et nous pourrions par la suite parler plus longuement de ces difficultés qui impliquent un besoin de transférer au budget ordinaire un nombre croissant de postes qui, auparavant, étaient soutenus par les frais de soutien. Quelques délégués ont exprimé leur réserve à ce sujet et je crois que M. Shah vient de nous dire à l'instant que ces postes auraient dû être intégrés dans le programme régulier il y a déjà quelques temps. C'est donc une régularisation que l'on vous propose.

Il y a un autre aspect sur lequel j'aimerais m'arrêter et qui a fait l'objet de nombreuses interventions. On a beaucoup insisté sur l'augmentation de ressources dont doit bénéficier le Bureau régional pour l'Europe et ceci pour venir en aide aux pays d'Europe centrale et d'Europe orientale dans cette période de transition qu'ils traversent pour passer de l'économie dirigée vers l'économie de marché. Mais je crois que d'autres délégués ont insisté sur la nécessité de développer les actions des bureaux régionaux en général.

S'agissant des priorités sur lesquelles les délégués se sont plus particulièrement exprimés, et nous avons pu constater cela tout au long du processus, au cours des deux dernières sessions du Conseil et au sein des comités restreints, je relèverai le soutien actif qui doit être apporté au suivi de la CNUED et de la CIN. Je crois être en mesure de dire que l'ensemble des délégués a apporté un éclairage particulier au suivi de la CNUED, ce qui ne veut pas dire que l'on se désintéresse de la CIN.

Je crois que l'on peut dire que l'on a accueilli à l'unanimité les transferts qui ont été effectués et qui sont une réponse donnée par le Secrétariat aux recommandations des Etats Membres dans des réunions techniques, telles que celles du COFO, du COFI ou au sein du Conseil, de réaffecter des ressources vers le secteur des pêches, des forêts et de l'agriculture. Je crois que l'on reconnaît également qu'il conviendra de faire davantage à l'avenir. On a pu noter que ces redressements ont été possibles grâce à une réduction importante de la provision budgétaire dans le chapitre du Centre d'investissements, mais je crois que cela a soulevé des inquiétudes de la part des Etats Membres qui craignaient que le niveau de travail du Centre d'investissements en souffre. Mais nous avons entendu M. Shah nous donner l'assurance que tous les efforts seront déployés afin que le niveau des services rendus par le Centre d'investissements aux supports d'investissements dans les pays bénéficiaires de prêts reste toujours le même.

Je crois qu'il convient également d'évoquer une question sur laquelle l'ensemble des délégués a apporté un éclairage particulier et qui concerne les ressources phytogénétiques et zoogénétiques d'une manière générale, et nous aurons peut-être l'occasion d'y revenir, lorsque nous aurons examiné le projet de résolution introduit par le Honduras. Sur ce même plan, je rappellerai une question qui a été soulevée par un certain nombre de délégués qui est de voir le Secrétariat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques être renforcé à l'avenir. On a également souhaité qu'il y ait un suivi dans la préparation de la Conférence qui sera organisée par l'Allemagne en 1995.

Parmi les autres points qui ont retenu l'attention des délégués, on peut citer le soutien apporté à la recherche, à la conservation des sols et des eaux, la lutte contre la désertification, le soutien aux activités du Codex Alimentarius, les statistiques, le soutien de programme de lutte contre les ravageurs, la formation des agriculteurs et peut-être ai-je omis certains autres points que quelques délégués pourront considérer comme étant très importants.

Une idée a été proposée par le Mexique, et elle a reçu le soutien de nombreux délégués, je veux parler de la possibilité de créer un Comité de l'élevage, et comme je l'ai dit déjà à deux reprises, c'est une question que je considère très importante. Il conviendrait d'envisager l'élevage dans un sens plus large et peut-être aussi proposer l'appellation suivante Comité de l'élevage et de l'amélioration pastorale.

Je crois que pour ce qui est des pêches, beaucoup de délégués se sont arrêtés au code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et aux propositions qui ont été formulées par le Président du Comité des pêches. Je crois que la majorité des délégués ont appuyé l'idée qui figurait dans le document C/LIM/23, selon laquelle le processus puisse être accéléré pour les consultations. Certains délégués ont estimé qu'il était nécessaire de tenir compte, dans ce processus, de ce qui avait été fait par ailleurs au niveau d'autres organisations internationales, de manière à éviter le double emploi.

Je crois également que l'offre du Gouvernement japonais d'accueillir une Conférence internationale sur la contribution durable des pêches à la sécurité alimentaire, a reçu un accueil favorable et réitéré. S'agissant de l'accroissement des ressources pour le Département des pêches, il me semble, en relation avec ce code de conduite, que nous aurons demain à nous pencher sur le projet de résolution dont nous a parlé le délégué du Mexique ce matin.

S'agissant des forêts, je crois que tous les délégués en ont parlé. On peut considérer qu'il y a un appel unanime pour renforcer le programme forêts afin de permettre à la FAO de répondre aux demandes des Etats Membres et de prendre sa part dans les efforts qui sont déployés au niveau international pour la conservation des ressources forestières.

Certains délégués ont fait des remarques intéressantes sur le PAFT, sur son avenir, et sur la nécessité de mobiliser des ressources extrabudgétaires dans un premier temps, pour mettre en place les programmes et pour assurer le fonctionnement du Secrétariat. M. Shah s'est exprimé sur les moyens qui ont été mis en oeuvre au cours de cette année et sur les prévisions pour le biennium prochain.

S'agissant du PCT, cette question retient toujours l'attention des Etats Membres. Nous pouvons considérer qu'ils sont satisfaits - le niveau du PCT représente actuellement 12,3 pour cent du budget - qu'il y ait eu un transfert d'un million de dollars vers le PCT mais qu'ils demeurent convaincus que nous sommes encore loin des dispositions de la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence qui fixait le niveau à 17 pour cent, et que dans une certaine mesure nous sommes encore loin du niveau atteint ces dernières années par le PCT qui était de 14 pour cent. Certains délégués ont regretté que l'action du PCT ne puisse pas être programmable, mais ils ont reconnu eux-mêmes que cet exercice était difficile et ont souhaité que lors des prochains exercices, on puisse approfondir un peu cette question et voir dans quelle mesure cette notion de programmation des prêts de PCT puisse être mise en place.

J'en arrive au cadre budgétaire. S'agissant de l'augmentation des coûts, je peux dire que l'ensemble des délégués qui se sont exprimés ont considéré que le Secrétariat avait fait un effort en les ramenant au niveau actuel de 76 millions de dollars. On peut dire que la méthode traditionnelle de calcul de cette augmentation, qui a été suivie dans ce cas, a été appréciée. Quelques délégués ont affirmé que cette proposition était encore trop élevée. Je crois qu'un membre a même fait allusion aux rubriques dans lesquelles des réductions pourraient être encore effectuées à l'avenir.

S'agissant du fameux "lapse factor", le coefficient d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel, je ne m'y attarderai pas car nous en avons longuement discuté et je peux considérer qu'il y a un large accord sur le fait que le Comité financier lui-même aura à en débattre sur la base d'un rapport qui sera transmis par le vérificateur aux comptes, comme cela apparaît dans les recommandations de la dernière session du Conseil. Je crois que les membres ont aussi reconnu qu'il faudra tenir compte des conclusions du rapport du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies, parce qu'il aura l'avantage d'avoir abordé cette question au niveau de tout le système et nous aurons peut-être des éléments de comparaison intéressants. D'un autre côté, je crois que la grande majorité des délégués ont insisté sur le fait qu'ils ont considéré le taux actuel de 3 pour cent parfaitement adapté et ont attiré l'attention sur le fait que l'Organisation devait disposer d'un Etat major et d'un cadre de personnel le plus complet possible pour l'exécution de ses programmes. Ils se sont opposés à l'idée de relever ce taux car cela contribuerait directement à réduire les programmes. Quelques membres ont considéré, pour leur part, que ce taux pourrait être révisé à la hausse et on a même avancé un chiffre de 5 à 5,5 pour cent, comme c'était le cas avant que la Conférence ne prenne la résolution, en 1989, d'adopter un taux de 3 pour cent. Mais on peut dire néanmoins que les points de vue ont convergé et j'aimerais revenir sur l'idée que cette question devra à nouveau être examinée au cours du prochain biennium sur la base du rapport du vérificateur aux comptes et du rapport du Corps commun d'inspection.

S'agissant du niveau du budget, si on tient compte du niveau actuel du taux de change dollar/lire - qui est de 1 660 liras pour un dollar - la proposition du Directeur général d'utiliser une partie des arriérés de contributions attendues pendant le prochain biennium pour financer le budget a été généralement bien accueillie par les membres de la Commission. Néanmoins, on peut dire que quelques membres se sont inquiétés des implications à plus long terme car les circonstances favorables actuelles pourraient bien ne plus se présenter lors de l'examen des prochains PTB. Cela pourrait conduire à un accroissement plus significatif des contributions, ce qui suscite une inquiétude qui a été mise en avant par

certaines délégués. Il faut par conséquent que cela soit reproduit dans le rapport. Certains considèrent même qu'il est peut-être risqué d'exposer l'exécution du PTB aux incertitudes liées au paiement d'arriérés. En tout état de cause, on constate que beaucoup de délégués ont insisté sur l'application rigoureuse des règles qui doivent gouverner en la matière et il a été rappelé de façon très claire que le règlement des arriérés servait directement à alimenter le fonds général comme le prévoient les dispositions pertinentes des textes fondamentaux.

En guise de conclusion, je crois vraiment que l'on peut affirmer que les propositions que nous avons examinées l'ont été avec l'intention de faciliter la tâche des Etats Membres, de manière à ce que l'on puisse approuver les propositions d'une manière unanime.

Nous pouvons considérer que ces propositions représentent un compromis cherchant, d'une part, à satisfaire les attentes pressantes d'une action toujours plus importante de notre organisation et, d'autre part, à limiter le fardeau des Etats Membres au titre de leur contribution financière. Il est important de dire qu'au taux de 1 660 livres pour un dollar, il n'y aura pas d'augmentation des contributions des Etats Membres par rapport à l'exercice précédant, mais bien plutôt une baisse de l'ordre de 1,6 ou 1,7 pour cent.

Point n'est besoin de rappeler l'importance pratique et la valeur symbolique du Programme de travail et budget, qui a d'ailleurs reçu le soutien de tous les Etats Membres. Au moment où notre Organisation va très probablement célébrer son cinquantième anniversaire en 1995, au Québec, et alors que le nouveau Directeur général entre en fonction, beaucoup de délégués ont considéré qu'il fallait lui accorder les moyens, dès le démarrage de son mandat, de mener à bien sa politique. Certains délégués ont même émis l'idée que le Directeur général souhaiterait peut-être lui-même apporter quelques réorientations dans le cadre de l'enveloppe qui sera votée par la Conférence mercredi prochain.

J'ai sûrement oublié quelques points. Cependant, je pense avoir reflété l'essentiel des débats. Nous pouvons considérer que nous sommes arrivés au terme de nos discussions sur le point 12. Nous avons largement débordé le temps qui nous était imparti et je m'en excuse de nouveau. Mais peut-être qu'à l'avenir M. Shah parlera 46 minutes au lieu de 57...

Je vous remercie encore une fois de votre collaboration active et pour le niveau technique de vos interventions. Cet après-midi, nous aurons à examiner le point 13, c'est-à-dire les procédures pour l'harmonisation mondiale des mesures phytosanitaires.

Il est 13 heures 30. Je vous propose donc de reprendre nos travaux à 15 heures.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

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TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(15 November 1993)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la décima sesión a las 15.15 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (Continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (Suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (Continuación)

- 13. Procedures for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine
- 13. Procédures pour l'harmonisation mondiale des mesures phytosanitaires
- 13. Procedimientos para la armonización mundial de la cuarentena de las plantas

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs, je déclare la dixième séance ouverte. Nous avons à l'ordre du jour de cet après-midi le point 13 qui concerne les procédures pour l'harmonisation mondiale de la quarantaine végétale. Il vous souviendra à tous qu'en 1989 la Conférence, au cours de sa vingt-sixième session, avait créé le Secrétariat de la CIPV qui est notamment chargé de l'harmonisation de la quarantaine végétale grâce à l'élaboration de normes et de directives nationales.

Le but de cette question est que les pays membres de la Commission puissent se prononcer sur les principes de quarantaine végétale qui figurent à la page 5 du document C 93/25-Rev.1, ainsi que sur la mise en place d'un groupe d'experts à composition régionale pour discuter justement de la mise en place de ces principes et de leur respect.

Sans plus tarder, je donne la parole à M. Papasolomontos, Directeur de la Division de la protection des plantes, de l'Organisation, qui va vous en dire un peu plus.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS, Director (Plant Production and Protection Division): The aim of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and their control. FAO is the depository of the Convention which entered into force in 1952. There has been one series of amendments, these coming into force in 1991. Over 100 countries are up to now parties to the Convention.

One of the major provisions of the IPPC is contained in Article VI, which addresses the quarantine requirements for imports of plants and plant products. It recognizes the right of contracting parties to regulate imports to prevent pest introduction and spread, but nevertheless requests that countries minimize adverse impact on international trade.

As you are aware, the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations has focused on the removal of unjustified obstacles to trade. The participating governments are concerned that, with the removal of tariff barriers, other mechanisms might be used to restrict the free trade of goods between countries. They recognized that the use of technically unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions could be one such mechanism. To avoid the misuse of such measures, the parties in the GATT recommended that measures be based on sound scientific evidence and that international standards and guidelines be developed. On issues relating to animal health, the OIE (International Office of Epizootics) was identified as the international organization to assist GATT. For food quality matters, GATT requested assistance from the Codex Alimentarius Commission. For plant health the international standards, guidelines and recommendations will be developed at the request of the Secretariat of the IPPC in cooperation with the regional organizations operating under the framework of the IPPC.

Members that adopt the standards would not be challengeable under GATT rules. However, measures without technical justification or more stringent than those developed by the IPPC mechanism would be subject to challenge.

The FAO Conference endorsed the establishment of an IPPC Secretariat in 1989 to address the establishment of guidelines and standards. However, due to financial constraints existing at the time, this Secretariat was not established until 1992. To start work on standards and guidelines, as an interim measure, FAO, in cooperation with the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), undertook a joint work programme.

This joint work programme has begun with the consideration of the principles of plant quarantine as embodied in the IPPC in order to clarify and harmonize them in the light of current plant quarantine and trading practices. This has been followed by an examination of the decision-making process, known as Pest Risk Analysis, which will be the cornerstone of plant quarantine decision-making in the future and the basis for the derivation of standardized operational quarantine procedures between trading partners.

A document on "Principles of Plant Quarantine as related to International Trade" was produced by an Expert Consultation in 1991, circulated to FAO member countries and Regional Plant Protection Organizations for comments and finalized by another Expert Consultation and a Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations in 1992. This document was submitted to COAG in May and to FAO Council in June this year for their consideration and they recommended the adoption of the text by this Conference. This will be the first of a series of harmonized guidelines produced by FAO in response to the GATT requirements.

In respect to the text of the Principles document, Japan has noted the definition of the term "quarantine pest" to include biotypes and strains of a pest and this clarification of the definition (which FAO supports) will be considered for addition to the Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms. With this clarification, it is understood that Japan withdraw its proposals for amendments to the Principles made to COAG.

In order to have global acceptance of the results of harmonizations, various consultation mechanisms were proposed by FAO, IPPC members and by the Regional Plant Protection Organizations, each in itself having benefits and failings, amongst these being the establishment of a Commission. Following lengthy discussions, and as an interim measure, the creation of a Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures has now been proposed. This Committee of Experts would be composed of representatives nominated by the regional organizations and a number of Non-Regional Plant Protection Organization members selected by FAO to provide an equitable global technical representation of viewpoints. The Committee would be serviced by the IPPC Secretariat. This proposal was accepted by COAG and by the Council earlier on this year and the recommendation made that the Conference authorize the Director-General to establish the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures.

Given the vital importance of establishing a body to guide the international harmonization programme, in order to provide the requested standards in plant quarantine and secure their international adoption, we seek approval of the proposal by the Conference.

There will, of course, be cost implications to be included in future FAO budgets for the operation of such a standard setting mechanism within FAO. The work programme outlined for the biennium includes the setting of standards which involves Expert Working Groups, the CEPM meetings, consultation with members and approval by COAG, by Council and Conference, etc., the arranging of information resources to support the implementation of the standards, liaison with Regional Plant Protection Organizations and members, and technical support programmes where requested.

Some of this work will be absorbed within the proposed 1994-95 budget such as the cost for the Committee of Experts meetings. However, to expedite the formation of standards, further funds, such as a Trust Fund Programme, may need to be set up. FAO has heard from many members that phytosanitary standards are required as soon as possible - we therefore trust that many may wish to take this opportunity for cooperation and support for this international programme effort.

E PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre introduction aux points de notre ordre du jour. Nous avons à nous prononcer sur les deux annexes qui figurent au document C 93/25-Rev. 1. Il s'agit d'abord du tableau qui reprend les principes généraux et ensuite des objectifs de la proposition de ce groupe d'experts.

U. KNÜEPPEL (European Economic Community): On behalf of the European Community and its Member States I would like to thank Mr Papasolomontos for his very useful introduction to this Agenda item.

The document C 93/25-Rev. 1 on the Programme for Harmonization for Plant Quarantine is, in its revised version, satisfactory and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the fruitful consultation which we had on the matter in the recent months.

Already at the Council Session we had given the list of Plant Quarantine Principles our full support. As a number of those principles are, however, directly related to provisions contained in the draft GATT Agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures we felt it important that this fact and the need for coherent interpretation and implementation be spelt out in the introduction to the list. This has now been done in a way which recognizes the broader scope of the FAO list of principles and does not prejudge the outcome of the on-going negotiations on phytosanitary measures. We are grateful to the Secretariat for this.

We also share the support of other delegations for the establishment of the Expert Committee as proposed by the Secretariat and can agree to the Secretariat's proposal as to the Committee's composition. In this context we may recall our interest in the appointment of a Community expert to the Committee and we are confident that this will be the case.

Regarding the future work of the Committee we have noted from the Organization's meeting schedule that a tentative date is already fixed for the first session in May 1994. We take this as a very positive sign for a rapid start and trust that the close cooperation and understanding between the experts in the Committee will provide us already in the near future with first results.

In conclusion the Community and its Member States supports the Secretariat's recommendation regarding the establishment of the Expert Committee and the endorsement of the principle of plant quarantine as set out in the document before us.

Takesi NISHIO (Japan): We appreciate the great efforts of the ITPC Secretariat to provide these comprehensive papers and clear explanation by Mr Papasolomontos for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine.

With regard to the principle of plant quarantine as related to international trade which has been expected to be approved at the 12th Session of COAG and at the 103rd Session of the FAO Council 1993. We have proposed some points of amendments. Among our proposals of amendments we think that the definition of Quarantine Pests was the most important. As you have already understood the definition of the Quarantine Pest in IPPC is a pest potential of national economic importance to the country endangered thereby and not yet presented there, or presented but not widely distributed and being actively controlled. However, this definition is not necessarily clear about pests. The world of pests is likely to be interpreted species in the context. There are reports on the serious damage to agricultural crops in various countries with pests of different biotypes or strains. We would not carry out plant quarantine without respect to those facts, therefore we have requested FAO to add context in the definition of Quarantine Pests, that quarantine pests includes biotypes or strains. FAO admitted the validity of our definition, consequently we formally wish that those views are clearly stated in the record of this Conference. Furthermore, we would like to suggest that our view be added to the definition of Quarantine Pests in the FAO glossary of phytosanitary terms. In this context my Government would like to withdraw our reservation on adaptation of the principle of plant quarantine as related to the international trade.

We agree to establish an Expert Committee on Phytosanitary measures and hope heartily to express our intentions to participate with this Committee as its member.

We would like to express one point regarding to the Step 5 of Attachment A. In the Step 5 in the development of the harmonization of international standards and guidelines it is said that the IPPC Secretariat will request the comments by government through our PPOs to allow for technical inputs, etc. However, there are some governments which are FAO Members but not IPP Members and there are also some governments which are IPPC Members but not all PPO Members, but we think it is necessary to prepare the channels through which the Secretariat requests comments to those governments and they submit their comments and the necessity that those channels should be clearly stated in the Step 5. We would like to suggest to add one sentence to the last part of Step 5 such as "individual governments when necessary may submit their comments to the IPPC Secretariat directly".

LE PRESIDENT: Dans un souci d'organisation, si dans les interventions qui vont suivre il n'y a pas de remarque particulière sur l'amendement du Japon à l'étape 5, je considérerai que cet amendement ne pose pas de problèmes aux membres de la Commission.

Ms Marínela R. CASTILLO (Philippines): The subject of global harmonization of plant quarantine is of particular interest to the Philippines not only within the context of the need to control and manage the spread of plant pests and diseases through trading activities but also in relation to international initiatives to achieve more open markets by reducing non-tariff trade barriers.

We support any action which will facilitate and advance the development of internationally recognized transparent and non-discriminatory phytosanitary standards and guidelines.

We believe the establishment and adoption of a harmonized set of standards and procedures is essential to the global effort to eliminate the use of restrictive quarantine measures which limit access to markets. We therefore endorse the principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade which are set out in Appendix I of document C 93/25 as revised.

We welcome in particular the general principles on minimal impact modification, transparency and dispute settlement as well as the specific principle of non-discrimination. It is important, however, that these principles be consistent with agreements arrived at on sanitary and phytosanitary measures within the framework of GATT. We also support the establishment of a committee of experts on phytosanitary measures as an interim mechanism for developing and achieving consensus on a set of globally accepted plant quarantine standards and procedures. We concur with the composition of the committee proposed by the Secretariat.

Theodor GLASER (Suisse) (Langue original allemand): Je vous remercie pour les documents qui nous ont été remis et pour leur traduction. Je vois qu'il est incontestable que la protection contre les maladies végétales représente une nécessité internationale. Toutes les mesures de protection végétale sont absolument nécessaires, surtout afin d'éviter toutes sortes d'importations d'ennemis des végétaux dans les pays où nous savons bien qu'ils peuvent servir à des mesures injustifiées pour restreindre la libre circulation des biens, et nous savons qu'au niveau du GATT ce genre de question a été longuement discutée. Nous savons que la FAO est disposée à mettre en oeuvre toute une série de mesures positives dans ce sens et ma délégation se déclare favorable aux remarques qui sont faites du document C 93/25-Rev.I. Nous espérons que les travaux pourront avancer très rapidement. Ce qui vient d'être proposé par le Japon nous semble également mériter d'être soutenu.

Carlos A.FONTES (Portugal) : Considering all the work already done by FAO on the matter, the Portuguese delegation supports the view that FAO should be the organization to carry out this important task.

Quarantines are the result of several technical consultations between regional organizations and are based on the new philosophy emerging from GATT in which international free trade should be regulated by transparent phytosanitary measures according to standard recommendations and based on risk analysis of propagation to rid us of plant pest, supported by scientific, biological, technical and economic evidence.

Concerning the setting of the Expert Committee on phytosanitary measures in accordance with Article VI.2 of the FAO International Convention for Plant Protection, we believe that the Committee is the best alternative and can

carry out the international programme for harmonization of phytosanitary measures and that it would be the best forum where international plant protection organization should discuss priority recommendations. However, concerning the composition of the committee, we believe that the RPPO regional organization, of which our country is a member, should be represented by three members instead of two because it should be taken in conjunction with the fact that it is an organization which includes almost all European and North African countries.

We also support the proposal that the European Committee should be represented by an expert.

Alan Bruce AMEY (Canada): Mr Chairman, the Canadian delegation, as indicated at the 103rd Council Session can endorse the principles of Plant Quarantine as related to international trade as set out in Appendix 1. I am pleased to see that the one Member that reserved its position has now indicated its agreement.

Furthermore, we can endorse the authorization of the Director-General to establish a committee of experts on phytosanitary measures as set out in Appendix 2.

I have two specific questions at this point; the first one concerns the procedure for amending the plant quarantine regulations and as there will be a meeting of the RPPOs in the spring of next year, I am wondering whether that might be a better place to consider amendments at this stage. My second question relates to the number of persons on the actual commission's expert committee. I think, as a general principle, we should try to keep the numbers to a minimum so as to have effective meetings but I am wondering if the Secretariat can indicate what the formula would be for that.

As far as the documents go, this programme will further the trade support work undertaken by FAO and we see this as a high priority programme. We will look forward to progress reports at future Councils and Conferences.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand) : My delegation is very pleased with the introductory statements on the subject matter by the Secretariat. You may recall that in 1991 the FAO Conference endorsed the proposal to set up the Secretariat for the International Plant Protection Convention within the framework of FAO's plant production and protection division. The major item of this unit is to facilitate trade in agricultural products. This unit will also provide expertise in cases of disagreement on the impact of plant quarantine measures in trade at the request of the contracting parties in GATT.

Today we are grateful for the progress of this unit and would like to endorse the establishment of the expert committee on phytosanitary measures to be appointed by the Director-General of FAO. The experts will be nominated by the regional plant protection organizations.

My delegation also welcomes the principles of plant quarantine as related to the international trade. I would point out that unjustified quarantine restrictions would definitely be used to limit the free flow of agricultural trade particularly from developing countries. I would therefore urge FAO to always be aware of the principles and procedures of

plant quarantine. This is necessary in order to prevent the unjustified use of quarantine as a barrier for agricultural trade.

May I request that the Secretariat clarify a few remarks? Firstly, the procedures of the regional plant protection organizations to nominate the so-called experts to CEPM; secondly, the terms of reference for the experts are written by the RPPOs or FAO; thirdly, what is the future plan of CEPM and I refer in particular to the RPPOs opening for the nominees from member countries as well as the schedule of CEPM in the months to come?

Finally, my delegation understands that the CEPM will be composed of sixteen experts and two of these will come from the APPC. I would be obliged if you could confirm my understanding is correct.

LE PRESIDENT: A la question qui a été posée par le Représentant de la Thaïlande, j'aimerais en ajouter une autre à laquelle M. Papasolomontos pourra répondre tout à l'heure, à savoir que le paragraphe i) de l'Annexe II paraît, en fait, assez limitatif puisqu'on ne tient pas compte de l'organisation qui vient d'être créée pour le Proche-Orient, mais qui n'est pas encore opérationnelle, puisqu'il est nécessaire qu'un certain nombre de pays y adhèrent. Néanmoins, il serait souhaitable de prévoir que cette organisation puisse être représentée également par un membre au Comité d'experts.

Mrs Janet F.BITEGEKO (Tanzania): My delegation would like to thank the Director for Plant Production and Protection for introducing the document, and the Secretariat for the very clear document.

My delegation notes that the 12th Session of COAG, the 5th Technical Consultation of Regional Plant Protection Organization and the 103rd Session of the FAO Council have considered and in general supported the text.

Tanzania endorses the general and specific principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade contained in Appendix 1 of document C 93/25, as revised. Tanzania welcomes the fact that these principles, apart from the control of diseases and pests, are geared towards reducing and eliminating the use of unjustifiable phytosanitary measures as barriers to trade. The principles would also be flexible to accommodate changing quarantine concepts and technology.

On the composition of the Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures my delegation would like to recommend having two members instead of one from the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, so as to accommodate the diversified agro-ecological features and resources, crops and trading commodities in Africa.

My delegation has no objection to the proposed steps in the development of harmonized international standards and guidelines.

Tanzania recognizes that in order to avert the increasing threat of new exotic pests introduction, accompanying agriculture diversification and enhanced trade, there is an urgent need to strengthen national sub-regional, regional and global quarantine capabilities, and, most important, to establish effective intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation.

In recognizing the imperatives of sub-regional food security in Eastern Africa and the present economic situation in these countries, my delegation would like to request FAO to be the prime catalyst for establishment of a sub-regional plant quarantine network and to provide active assistance to the governments of Eastern Africa to implement and sustain their quarantine services.

My delegation also requests FAO to provide through the Regional Office for Africa the technical Secretariat for the network and provide technical back-up for the network.

LE PRESIDENT: Concernant la composition, je pense que cela dépend des avis qui vont être exprimés par les autres membres, mais je retiens déjà que le délégué du Canada estimait que 16 membres, c'était déjà beaucoup. Or, avec votre proposition, nous allons passer à 22 membres. Je sou mets donc cette proposition à l'avis des membres de la Commission. Pour ma part, et je pense qu'un grand nombre de pays partagent cette opinion, je considère qu'un Comité d'experts doit avoir une composition restreinte s'il veut être efficace.

Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka) : We note with appreciation the steps taken by FAO in regard to developing procedures for global harmonization of plant quarantine. With the establishment of IPPC and thereafter with the introduction of a range of standards and guidelines, the Convention is now well established. Basically, there are two aspects.

One is dealing with in-country plant quarantine procedures which, have been developed keeping national issues in mind. These are largely influenced by internal agricultural policies and programmes, and import and export procedures.

The second aspect concerns procedures adopted by other countries in regard to restrictions imposed on trade where such restrictions would sometimes be harsh and unreasonable. It is indeed a welcome proposal, that FAO intends to harmonize these procedures by developing guidelines and standards.

We believe that individual countries are now in the process of making available in documented form these plant quarantine procedures to facilitate international understanding, most specifically, trade. We should now endeavour to assist all nations to put out these procedures for better understanding and transparency.

My delegation is happy to endorse the principles of plant quarantine as related to trade. It should of course be mentioned that these principles should not be considered as once-and-for-all and static, but constantly changing as national programmes and international trade develop.

The Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures, as recommended in the document, is indeed a good proposal. This Committee should be sensitive to both national and international issues, and should have the effective clout to resolve the major impasses that may arise in harmonizing procedures to facilitate trade, particularly removing the unjustified and unreasonable procedures which would restrict the movement of planting material.

LE PRESIDENT: Je partage tout à fait votre avis. D'ailleurs, dans le document il est indiqué que ces principes devront constamment être revus pour tenir compte de l'évolution des concepts et des technologies. Il ne s'agit nullement de principes figés et vous avez eu raison d'insister sur ce point.

Ms Guri GRONOLEN (Norway): The Norwegian delegation welcomes document C 93/25-Rev.1 and would like to commend the Secretariat for an interesting and well prepared document and Mr Papasolomontos for the useful introduction to it.

Norway attaches considerable importance to the issues raised in this agenda item. In our opinion the pursuit of global harmonization of plant quarantine through the development of international standards and guidelines is of great importance to facilitate a free flow of trade and a means to control the outbreak and spread of pests of plant and plant products.

My delegation strongly supports the work that has been carried out by FAO and the Regional Plant Protection Organizations with respect to formulating a set of general and specific principles to facilitate the process of developing international standards for plant quarantine.

Norway has with great interest studied the Principles of Plant Quarantine as Related to International Trade set out in Appendix 1 to this document. In our opinion these principles form a sound basis for facilitating the process of developing international standards for plant quarantine. Hence, we support the endorsement of these principles.

We have also considered the option suggested for establishing a standards/guidelines-setting machinery within the framework of the IPPC and we support the establishment of an Expert Committee on Phytosanitary Measures based on the composition and purpose as set out in Appendix 2 of the document.

Won-Gil BAE (Korea, Republic of): The delegation of the Republic of Korea expresses its support for the efforts of the Secretariat to develop harmonized international phytosanitary measures and standards. They cannot only prevent individual countries' limitation for free trade by the use of unjustified quarantine restrictions, but also protect against the carrying in and spreading of pests which can create loss of agricultural products.

In this view, the Republic of Korea endorses the principle of plant quarantine, and gives its authorization to the Director-General to establish an Expert Committee on Phytosanitary Measures as requested by the Secretariat.

However, allow me to point out that, as we brought up in related meetings on numerous occasions, the number of participants in the Expert Committee should be determined after giving proper consideration to the size and activities of the regional organizations. Therefore as the Secretariat has proposed in Appendix 1, in the case of the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Organization at least two members should be able to join the Expert Committee.

We also would like to stress the importance of sincere exchange of information about all serious pests. Finally, we hope that FAO and other international organizations devote more effort in the preparation of standards about pesticide residuals that may be applied in all countries, so that human beings' health can be protected greatly, more than ever, especially those in developing countries.

NI HONGXING (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, please allow me on behalf of the Chinese delegation to thank the Secretariat for preparing the highly technical document C 93/25-Rev.1, and Mr Papasolomontos for his introduction, which has provided us with a good foundation for today's discussion. I would like to make a few comments on this Agenda item.

Firstly, in order to protect countries against pest introduction and spread and subsequent crop losses, and the promotion of international agricultural commodity trades and less unfair technical barriers, it is necessary to develop a Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine. While in favour of this Programme we, China, are also willing to conduct cooperation with the international agencies concerned in this field, and to take an active part in efforts relating to this Programme, so as to make our due contribution.

Secondly, the development of a Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine should try and bring into play the role of regional plant protection organizations and make full use of their achievements, as well as strengthen internal consultations within the regions, so as to bring into harmony the international standards, guidelines and recommendations of the globally-harmonized plant quarantine programme and its development by regional cooperation organizations.

Thirdly, so far as developing the Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine is concerned, the Chinese delegation supports the idea of establishing a Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures under the related Articles of the FAO Constitution so as to guide the international harmonization programme.

Fourthly, with regard to the steps in the development of harmonized international standards and guidelines, we believe that full consideration should be given to the varied plant quarantine situations and technical levels of different countries.

An adequate amount of time should be given to member countries so as to allow them carefully to consider this technical issue.

Lastly, with regard to Plant Quarantine Principles as related to International Trade, we would like to suggest two changes to the principles of plant quarantine. Referring to General Principle Number 8, we suggest replacing the last part of the sentence which reads "further action may be undertaken by means of a multilateral settlement system" by another phrase which reads "further consultation may be undertaken by means of a multilateral settlement system towards a final solution". Secondly, referring to Specific Principle Number 10 we suggest replacing the phrase "Plant Protection Organization" by "Plant Protection and Quarantine Organization".

That is because in China the Chinese Plant Protection Organization is independent of the Plant Quarantine Organization. They are different organizations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Je suppose que tous les membres ont pris note de ces deux amendements que nous traiterons de la même manière que celui proposé par le Japon. Au fur et à mesure de vos interventions, si vous avez une objection particulière, exprimez-vous clairement sur les amendements de la Chine.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, quiero saludar al señor Papasolomontos porque nos ha hecho una excelente presentación del tema.

Cuba se adhirió a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria desde épocas muy tempranas, y siempre ha seguido un programa coherente de trabajo, aun en la activa Comisión Fitosanitaria del Caribe.

Por tanto nuestra Delegación apoya plenamente lo expuesto en el documento C 93/25-Rev.1 y considera que es el momento oportuno para introducir un proceso de armonización en materia de cuarentena vegetal. En otras oportunidades, cuando hemos tratado el tema del comercio, se ha mencionado reiteradamente el efecto negativo que producían algunas medidas cuarentenarias que realmente constituían una pantalla para evitar un comercio más abierto. Creo que este proceso de armonización, ateniéndose también a una estrecha coordinación con las deliberaciones y las normas del Codex Alimentarius, ayudaría sustancialmente a favorecer la situación del comercio internacional.

Mi Delegación, señor Presidente, desea expresar su apoyo a la composición del comité de expertos que tendrá a su cargo la preparación de este proceso de armonización. Creemos que hay una composición bastante distribuida en las diferentes regiones, y que la misma debe guardar un adecuado equilibrio.

Le agradezco, señor Presidente, el habernos dado la oportunidad de hablar en este tema y exhortamos a la Secretaría para que siga profundizando este tema tan importante para todos nosotros.

MYA MAUNG (Myanmar) : First, I should like to express our sincere thanks to the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of the excellent and comprehensive document C 93/25-Rev.1, Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine.

As we all know, every country has to produce more food, in other words to increase agricultural production to keep up with its population increase. In relation to increased agricultural production, it is very important to undertake proper plant protection procedures. Plant quarantine, one of the most important plant protection activities, will provide every country with protection against pest introduction, spread and subsequent crop losses.

In this regard every country should participate actively in the Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine. As the economy of Myanmar is based on agriculture, Myanmar enacted the Pesticide Law in May 1990 and the

Plant Quarantine Law in 1993, overruling the obsolete law, the Insect and Pest Act of Burma, the Indian Act which was enacted in 1914.

The organization of the plant quarantine unit has been strengthened according to the need of inspection points in our country. Three entry points in Yangon and four others in border areas are considered to be of sufficient importance to be equipped with trained personnel and the necessary laboratory facilities.

As a member of FAO and the Asia-Pacific Plant Commission, the Myanmar delegation is very pleased to endorse the General and Specific Principles set out in Appendix I of the document Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine. We are very pleased to follow FAO guidelines and principles regarding plant protection procedures.

Alejandro TRUEBA CARRANZA (México) : México manifiesta su acuerdo para que la Conferencia autorice el establecimiento del Comité sobre Medidas Fitosanitarias en los términos que establece el Apéndice 1 del documento C 93/25-Rev.1.

En consecuencia de lo anterior, nuestro país también manifiesta su interés para que técnicos especializados de México participen en la terna para la designación de los expertos que conformarán el citado Comité por lo que toca a la representación regional de las Organizaciones Norteamericanas de Protección de Plantas (NAPPO) y al Organismo Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria para México y Centroamérica (OIRSA).

De igual manera, se propone el desarrollo y aprobación de principios, normas y directrices armonizadas de cuarentena vegetal, en relación con el análisis de riesgos y la preservación de zonas libres de plagas específicas que las hagan claras y objetivas para la planeación y el fortalecimiento del comercio internacional de vegetales.

Finalmente, esta Delegación desea recomendar el fortalecimiento de algunos aspectos a desarrollar por la recientemente creada Secretaría de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria. Estos son los siguientes :

La actualización dinámica de bases de datos de cuarentena vegetal, la base de datos de plaguicidas, incluidas en ésta las restricciones parciales y la revisión de la normatividad de los certificados internacionales.

El fomento de los estudios de análisis de riesgo de plagas para medir el impacto de la introducción de una plaga determinada, a través de productos vegetales, a una región o país dado, y el apoyo para la organización de talleres regionales de cuarentena vegetal y la distribución de publicaciones disponibles de la FAO.

I.G.K. SWASTIKA (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation welcomes and supports the Principles of Plant Quarantine as related to International Trade which appear in Appendix I of the document C 93/25-Rev.1. We are also happy to endorse the establishment of the CEPMP as an interim standard-setting body to address harmonization of plant quarantine regulations.

We would like to suggest that to enable the Committee to operate effectively and efficiently the Committee should be small, and there should be a sufficient number of experts to achieve a consensus of a wide variety of opinions. The Committee should also reflect the just and equal representation of its membership. To achieve this objective, the number nominated from the RPPOs should be based on the size of the membership of each RPPO. We see that the membership of the CEPM as contained in Appendix II of the document already has a balanced representation.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh): We very much appreciate the brief but precise introduction by Mr Papasolomontos, which was very good. I fully agree that we must ensure that plant quarantine regulations do not become non-tariff barriers which will impede global trade. We need to harmonize plant quarantine regulations but should ensure that member countries put only real regulations into place and not ones that will keep competing products out of the country.

In the process of negotiations for finding common grounds, we should not end up with more regulations than are needed. We need the smallest number of regulations which will give us the necessary protection from plant diseases and pests.

Finally, my delegation supports the conclusion and suggested action as contained in paragraphs 16 and 17 of document C 93/25-Rev.1, the Programme for Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine.

Ramdane KELLOU (Algerie): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Secrétariat pour l'élaboration de ce document et M. Papasolomontos pour son exposé parfait à mon sens.

L'étude du document qui est entre nos mains, relatif aux procédures pour l'harmonisation de la quarantaine végétale, proposé à la discussion à notre Conférence, a retenu particulièrement notre attention eu égard à l'importance de cette question pour notre économie agricole qui connaît actuellement, comme vous le savez, des mutations profondes devant l'amener à jouer un rôle important dans les échanges de produits agricoles. Cette question de quarantaine végétale, qui est du ressort d'une institution nationale spécialisée, fait l'objet de réflexions et de travaux intenses découlant de l'adoption, en 1987, de la loi phytosanitaire algérienne, qui, par ailleurs, se réfère grandement aux principes généraux de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux à laquelle l'Algérie a souscrit.

L'expérience acquise par notre Organisation et les pays participant aux travaux du Codex alimentarius nous invite à mettre en place, pour les travaux futurs d'élaboration des normes et des directives internationales de quarantaine, une organisation opérationnelle dont les grandes lignes sont décrites dans les documents soumis à notre examen.

Toutefois, il nous semble que ces travaux à conduire au niveau des organisations régionales existantes gagneraient à prendre en charge les spécificités régionales et sous-régionales en vue d'élaborer des projets de normes appropriées et de nature à faciliter les échanges dans ces zones. Dans ce sens, l'institution d'organisations régionales dans les régions encore non couvertes concourrait certainement de manière efficace à la prise en charge d'une telle préoccupation. Enfin, mon pays appuie les

conclusions et mesures proposées à l'adoption de la Conférence, à savoir: les principes de quarantaine végétale liés au commerce international, tels que retenus par le Conseil de la FAO à sa cent troisième session, et l'établissement par le Directeur général de la FAO d'un Comité d'experts, tout en réitérant la question de la définition du nombre des membres du Comité, posée d'ailleurs par plusieurs délégués ici présents.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you to Dr Papasolomontos for his excellent remarks. The United States unequivocally supports all the recommendations contained in the document before us. Whether we will be able to agree to recommendations for change that have been made so far or are yet to come will be a matter we will have to reflect upon. We generally agree with Canada's idea that any revision of either the principles or the steps to be undertaken should be considered by the RPPOs at a later date. The United States is not in a position to accept any changes until we have conferred with our officials in Washington. We are anxious to see the IPPC Secretariat actively engaged in coordinating the recommendations of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations and helping to guide them in their future work.

The United States fully endorses the principles of plant quarantine as presented in Appendix 2. Like others, we are pleased to hear that Japan has withdrawn earlier misgivings. We find it amazing that there are still no internationally recognized Plant Quarantine Standards. We look forward to the establishment of an Expert Committee to continue the consultative progress which has already begun between the IPPC Secretariat and the RPPOs. We are somewhat uneasy about having many experts from countries not belonging to RPPOs, especially if they have an opportunity to belong and choose not to. The United States would prefer to have an Expert Committee which is somewhat smaller than the sixteen-member maximum listed in Appendix 1. In that regard, we have reservations about any proposals to increase the basic proposed listing in Appendix 1. We have every confidence that the Secretariat will put together a qualified team of experts which can make progress in this important area.

LE PRESIDENT: Je constate que vous avez des objections quant au fond sur les amendements qui ont été proposés et j'aimerais revenir sur les amendements proposés par la Chine une fois que tous les intervenants se seront prononcés.

Nedilson RICARDO JORGE (Brasil): En primer lugar, yo desearía expresar la conformidad de Brasil a la aprobación del documento C 93/25-Rev.I en sus términos generales, o sea, el establecimiento de un comité de expertos sobre medidas fitosanitarias conforme a lo previsto en el Apéndice 2, así como los principios de cuarentena fitosanitaria en relación al comercio internacional, de los cuales yo subrayaría la importancia, del número 13. El documento está en conformidad con la convención internacional de protección vegetal a la cual Brasil es adherente.

Sin embargo, creemos que en el Anéxo A es necesario dar mayor precisión al texto del párrafo que se refiere a la Fase 5, a fin de evitar interpretaciones diferentes a la acordada en la consulta técnica informal entre organismos regionales de protección vegetal realizado en París en octubre de 1992.

Brasil sugiere en consecuencia la sustitución de la frase "siempre que sea posible", incluida en el párrafo que describe la Fase 5 del Anexo, por la de "cuando ellas existan" que aclara la inequívoca alusión a los organismos regionales de protección fitosanitaria existentes y no a la disponibilidad de tiempo.

Yo me permitiría repetir el cambio sugerido en la Fase 5 del Anexo A, cambiar, siempre que sea posible, por "cuando ellas existan".

Rachid LAKHDAR (Maroc): La délégation marocaine se félicite de l'état d'avancement de l'élaboration des principes généraux de quarantaine et de la pertinence de ces principes auxquels nous adhérons.

Nous approuvons aussi le principe de la mise en place d'un Comité d'experts. Ce comité doit représenter, de manière équilibrée, les différentes régions et sous-régions de notre globe.

C'est dans ce sens qu'il nous semble utile que les pays de la région du Proche-Orient puissent être représentés au sein du Comité d'experts dès que l'organisation de la protection des végétaux pour le Proche-Orient, actuellement en cours de mise en place, verra le jour.

Il faudrait aussi que les pays puissent faire parvenir leurs commentaires au Secrétariat de la CIPV.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais porter à votre connaissance que la délégation chinoise, qui a profité de la pause pour discuter plus longuement avec le représentant du Secrétariat, considère qu'elle est en mesure de retirer les deux propositions d'amendement aux articles 8 et 10 des principes. Il n'est donc pas nécessaire que les autres membres de la Commission s'expriment sur ces amendements qui sont retirés.

Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina): Mi país forma parte del Comité Regional de Sanidad Vegetal para el Cono Sur, al igual que Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y Uruguay, países todos adherentes de la Convención Nacional de Protección Fitosanitaria. Dicho Comité, con oportunidad de su quinta reunión celebrada en octubre próximo pasado, emitió una resolución en la que - vista la pertenencia de todos sus miembros a la CIPF, y dado que el Consejo de Ministros había aprobado y adoptado para la Región los principios de cuarentena fitosanitaria en relación al comercio internacional propuesto por FAO, así como también apoyada la creación del Comité de Expertos -solicita a los Ministros de Agricultura integrantes del Consejo de Ministros de la Región que se manifestara en esta Conferencia la conformidad y se solicitara además la aprobación del documento C 93/25 en sus términos generales, con la solicitud de que se sustituyera en el anexo A fase 5 la frase "siempre que sea posible" por "cuando ellas existan".

En síntesis, señor Presidente, mi delegación, en cumplimiento de la citada resolución, apoya también el documento C 93/25-Rev. 1 incluida la composición del Comité de Expertos en él propuesto y, tal como adelantara el distinguido Representante del Brasil, solicita que en el mencionado anexo A fase 5 se sustituya la frase "siempre que sea posible" por la frase "cuando ellas existan". Esto, por las razones ya expresadas por la delegación de Brasil.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous rappelle que la proposition du Brésil est de supprimer à l'Appendice A, paragraphe 5, le membre de phrase "chaque fois que possible", et d'ajouter après ORPV, "lorsqu'elles existent".

Antonio BAYAS (Chile): Quiero, en primer lugar, agradecer la presentación del tema del señor Papasolomontos y el resumen del documento C 93/25-Rev. 1 sobre procedimientos para la armonización mundial de la cuarentena vegetal.

Chile se encuentra adherido a la Convención Internacional de la Protección Fitosanitaria de la FAO desde 1952. Posteriormente, ratificó las enmiendas de 1979, estableciéndolas como un instrumento legal. De acuerdo con lo planteado en el citado documento, mi país considera conveniente la creación de este Comité que permitirá definir un marco de procedimientos para la armonización internacional de medidas fitosanitarias.

Respecto a los principios cuarentenarios fitosanitarios relacionados con el comercio internacional, Chile no tiene objeciones a esto y ya se pronunció positivamente sobre ellos mediante comunicación oficial a la FAO durante 1992.

Además, Chile, como integrante del Comité de Sanidad Vegetal para el Cono Sur Americano (COSAVE) , también emitió un pronunciamiento similar a lo ya expresado recientemente por la distinguida delegación de Argentina. Por lo tanto, también apoyamos la sugerencia presentada inicialmente por el delegado del Brasil, apoyado por Argentina, en cuanto al cambio de la frase en el anexo 1 fase 5.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais également vous rappeler l'amendement qui était proposé par le Japon à l'Appendice 5 et qui viendrait à la fin du paragraphe 5 et dirait: "les gouvernements, individuellement, le cas échéant, peuvent soumettre directement leurs commentaires au Secrétariat de la CIPV.

Alnaji Alhassan FAWU (Nigeria) : Thank you for the opportunity given me to speak on this important topic. The Nigerian delegation welcomes the development of the globally harmonized international standards and guidelines as these will promote international cooperation aimed at restricting the movement of serious pests that could spread through the activities of international trade, which the IPPC is supposed to promote.

The terms of reference (Steps 1-9) of the Expert Committee are quite clear and detailed enough. They would certainly lead to the attainment of the set goals.

We support the general principles of plant quarantine as related to international trade but, as contained in our response on international trade in 1991 when IPPC member countries were contacted for comments, a minor adjustment is requested. Under Appendix 1, point 3, "Minimal impact", we propose that the words "and/or affordable" be inserted after the "available".

We therefore endorse the request to authorize the Director-General of FAO to establish an Expert Committee on Phytosanitary Measures to guide the programme for the international harmonization exercise. You may be aware

that the regional quarantine training centre is situated in Ibadan in Nigeria, which provides quarantine training to member countries of the African region. In view of this important decision of the Nigerian Plant Quarantine Service in Africa, Nigeria wishes to offer to represent IAPC in the Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Je demande au Représentant du Nigeria de bien vouloir être assez aimable pour nous répéter la proposition qu'il vient de faire en la situant précisément dans le texte.

Alhaji Alhassan FAWU (Nigeria): In Appendix 1, number 3, "Minimal impact", the second line, "measures available" - after "available" we are proposing that the words "and/or affordable" be inserted - that is, "measures available and/or affordable". The whole passage would then read "3. Minimal impact: Phytosanitary measures shall be consistent with the pest risk involved, and shall represent the least restrictive measures available and/or affordable which result in the minimum impediment to the international movement of people, commodities and conveyances."

This is because some of the measures may be available, but they will not be affordable.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons bien pris note de votre amendement. Simplement, je ne voudrais pas ouvrir la discussion sur le fond, mais vous inviter, comme l'a fait le Représentant de la Chine, à ne pas envisager d'amendement aux principes eux-mêmes puisque cela a fait l'objet de discussions très poussées au COAG, c'est pourquoi, avec votre accord, j'aimerais vous demander d'étudier la possibilité d'abandonner cet amendement, ce qui je pense ne vous posera pas trop de difficultés, de manière à laisser le chapitre principes intact. Nous pourrions bien sûr accepter les propositions relatives à la question des étapes successives de l'élaboration des normes. Donc acceptez-vous de renoncer à votre proposition d'amendement au paragraphe 3 des principes?

Alhaji Alhassan FAWU (Nigeria): I have no objection, but I would be grateful if you would allow me to perhaps discuss this later with Mr Papasolomontos. Thank you. I have agreed to drop it.

Abdul Jamil MOHD. ALI (Malaysia) : Malaysia has been actively involved in assisting the development of the harmonization of plant quarantine for the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) since the idea was brought up in 1988.

As Chairman of the APPPC Working Group on the Harmonization of the Plant Quarantine Procedure, my country would like to stress the need to formulate and establish international standards and guidelines for harmonization of plant quarantine in order to facilitate trade among countries.

However, a mechanism and related procedure to develop and adopt standards and guidelines must first be established, and Malaysia feels that the best option is for the establishment of the ECPM. Malaysia therefore supports the establishment of ECPM, which will determine the success of the Global Harmonization of Plant Quarantine.

On the subject of representation in ECPM, my delegation would like to request from the Secretariat the criteria used in determining the number of representatives from each RPPO and outside of RPPO.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : As this is my first intervention, I would like to welcome you to the Chair. My delegation would like to thank FAO for the document C 93/25-Rev. 1, and agree that the Conference endorse the principle of plant quarantine as related to international trade set out in Appendix 1, and gives authority to the Director-General to establish a Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures.

Regarding Appendix 2, I would like to ask that the regional Plant Protection Organization of the Near East be included in the membership, as it is in the last processes on establishment. This is Item (i) on page 7.

I would like to support the amendment suggested by the delegate of China.

LE PRESIDENT: En ce qui concerne la question que vous avez posée, je l'avais moi-même posée au préalable, mais j'ai eu l'occasion d'en discuter avec M. Papasolomontos pendant la pause. Je m'étais basé sur le texte français où l'on disait "la composition sera la suivante", ce qui limite le champ, mais en disant "la composition serait la suivante", on tient compte du fait que, dans un proche avenir, la NEPPO puisse être considérée comme une ORPV faisant partie de cette liste puisque juridiquement, on ne peut pas considérer aujourd'hui qu'il s'agit d'une Organisation fonctionnelle.

Hayim BAR-SHAI (Israel) : First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General for this document, which is a very good and great step towards more conformity and efficiency, as well as facilitating better trade, both internationally and locally, in agriculture and food products.

In spite of the fact that the wording in the Steps and Principles is very cautious, I hope that action will follow in the not too distant future. Setting up the Committees that will give Codex Alimentarius-like activities in plant production will of course very much facilitate it. I would like, without wanting to hamper the process of decision-making - I know how important it is that everyone agree on the same programme - to suggest that it should also be mentioned in some way that FAO, or the Committee, will regularly report or indicate new or changed regulations regarding plant protection management as they occur from time to time. This will of course facilitate matters.

Ruall C. HARRIS (Barbados): May I begin by expressing my appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent introduction to this document.

My delegation, and those of the Caribbean islands, support the recommendation for the establishment of a Committee of Experts on Phytosanitary Measures, as set out in the document before us. We especially support this recommendation in the light of our condition as island states with our defined ecology and fauna - and I add for good measure, flora - in consequence of our clearly defined boundaries as island states.

I would also like to support the principles enunciated in Appendix 1 in relation to national trade, and give equal support to the composition of the membership committee, since it recognizes the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission as set out in Appendix 2. Finally, I would add that I support the Brazilian amendment to Step 5.

Mrs Wafaa Mohamed YOUSSEF (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this excellent document, and also Mr Papasolomontos, who has presented this document in a very concise way.

We also support FAO in any measures on guidelines for plant protection and plant quarantine. Our country has already signed the International Plant Protection Convention.

We also support the establishment of a Committee of Experts, and we would support all of the principles contained in this document, C 93/23-Rev.1.

Sra. Graziella DUBRA (Uruguay): Mi Delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaría por la colaboración y presentación del Documento C 93/25-Rev.1, así como señalar su apoyo al contenido del mismo. Quisiera en esta oportunidad unirme a las delegaciones de Brasil, Argentina y Chile en lo que se refiere a la fase 5 del Anexo A del documento y apoyar la sustitución de la frase "siempre que sea posible" por la de "cuando ellas existan", tal como fue aprobado por el Comité Directivo del Consejo de Sanidad Vegetal, Comité integrado por Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay y mi propio país.

Tiberiu VASIESCU (Romania) : I just want to reiterate the fact that Romania, due to her position, has a particular situation as regards plant quarantine. Due to our experience, having a large number of experts in this field and an Institute of Plant Protection, we should like to take part in various FAO missions under the aegis of FAO.

U. KNÜEPPEL (European Economic Community): If I understand the situation correctly, we have no requests for modification after the withdrawal of China and Nigeria of their comments on the list of principles. We do not have a need to modify Appendix 2 regarding the composition of the Committee of Experts because, if I understand correctly - and this would also be my interpretation - the present wording "Thus the membership would be" would mean that as a logical consequence of the considerations which were established earlier that every organization is represented by at least one representative there, the list of organizations here is more illustrative than constitutive. So, if I understand correctly, there is no need for this either.

The only question which remains open is Attachment A regarding Step 5, where we are discussing the question whether the words "when possible" should be replaced by the words "where they exist" and whether there shall be an additional sentence following the Japanese proposal that comments can also be made directly to IPPC. If this is so, it would be fortunate if we could even out that point so that everything can be concluded here in this meeting. But before this can be done, I think we need a little more information from the Secretariat about what the words "when possible" are intended to mean. It could be that the words "when possible" mean exactly

the same as the words "where they exist". They may be a little broader than "where they exist" but certainly would cover the situation.

Then the question is whether the requested addition by the Japanese delegate that governments may submit their replies directly to IPPC is in conformity with the intention of the Secretariat or whether it goes contrary to those intentions. I think it is very important to know what the Secretariat suggests to us, because, if I understand correctly, the consultation of the RPPOs has, among other purposes, that of consolidating comments. Therefore, where a country is either a member of RPPO or can act through RPPO, for example in its status as an observer to a regional organization, then obviously the possibility of consolidating opinion and comments would not be served if all members of RPPOs or observers to RPPOs sent their comments in an incoordinated fashion.

If there are divergencies of opinion in RPPOs, those divergencies could be brought out by the report from RPPO to IPPC. Therefore, there must not be a feeling that certain minority opinions are completely forgotten. They could be brought out in the report by RPPOs to IPPC. Therefore, if a country is a member of RPPO, or can at least cooperate as an observer to RPPO, which should be possible to all countries where there is an RPPO in the region, there may not be a need for the additional sentence as proposed by Japan. If this is so, the question is what may then be the remaining difference between the words "when possible" and "where they exist"?

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que vous avez parfaitement résumé la situation et vous m'avez devancé par la parole. J'avais l'intention de demander à Mme Forthomme de vous lire ce paragraphe 5 des étapes successives de manière à ce que l'on saisisse exactement la pensée des propositions qui ont été faites. Je crois que nous avons tous enregistré le retrait de la proposition faite par la Chine sur la question des principes ainsi que la proposition du Nigéria.

S'agissant de la composition, je n'en ai pas parlé car je ne veux pas anticiper sur ce que pourra dire M. Papasolomontos, tout simplement parce que deux propositions un peu divergentes n'ont pas retenu l'attention des membres de la Commission. C'est pourquoi nous pouvons valablement interpréter que la proposition faite sur une base de principe de 16 membres est celle qui retient l'attention de la Commission.

Mme C. FORTHOMME (Secrétaire, Commission II): L'appendice 5 modifié se lit comme suit: "Observations des membres: le Secrétariat de la CIPV les sollicitera par l'intermédiaire des ORPV, lorsqu'elles existent de façon qu'elles bénéficient des avis techniques et des observations des pays membres et d'un consensus au niveau régional. Les gouvernements, individuellement le cas échéant, pourront soumettre directement leurs commentaires au Secrétariat de la CIPV."

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America) : When we took the floor earlier, the United States was very concerned that what appeared to be consensus marching through COAG and Council was suddenly falling apart, but now it appears that we are on the right track again. Like you, Mr Chairman, I want to commend the delegate of the EEC for basically indicating that there is really very little in the way of proposals that remain now.

I had indicated what might have been interpreted as a rather harsh stand. Given some consultations and hearing explanations of others I think that the Brazilian proposal would be acceptable to us. However, I have significant misgivings about the Japanese proposal. If that could be withdrawn perhaps we could go forward and adopt it with that one change.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous êtes d'accord je donnerai la parole à M. Papasolomontos afin qu'il puisse répondre aussi brièvement que possible. M. Denney, je crois que vous avez dit les choses correctement. Je crois que l'on pourrait envisager la première proposition parce qu'elle concerne les ORPV et elles sont en place. S'agissant de l'amendement du Japon, je crois que l'observation du délégué de la CEE est assez cohérente dans la mesure où les membres du groupe d'experts sont censés représenter les organisations régionales. Lorsqu'un point de vue divergent est émis par un membre de l'ORPV qui n'a pas le privilège de siéger dans ce groupe d'experts, cette proposition peut très bien être reflétée dans le rapport d'activités de ces organisations régionales, et cela apparaîtra au niveau de la réunion du groupe d'experts. Je donne la parole à M. Papasolomontos.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): In preparing these steps, a lot of thought and discussion has gone on with the Regional Plant Protection Organizations. The idea behind Step 5 is basically as follows. I will take the first step. The Secretariat will communicate directly with countries that are not a member of a Regional Plant Protection Organization.

As regards the other part, I will simply say that our thoughts behind the wording "when possible" as opposed to the suggestion now made of "where they exist" is basically based on the fact that the Regional Plant Protection Organization itself may wish that the International Plant Protection Convention communicate directly with the countries or that the answers will come only through the plant protection organizations. We already have instances where Regional Plant Protection Organizations have asked us to act in this way. Hence, the words "when possible" would give the Secretariat this flexibility which the Regional Plant Protection Organizations themselves wanted the Secretariat to have in handling this issue.

I hope I have answered your question, Mr Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je demanderai au délégué du Brésil de nous faire part de sa réaction après avoir écouté les propos de M. Papasolomontos.

Nedilson RICARDO JORGE (Brazil): What exactly do you expect from me now, Mr Chairman?

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le délégué du Brésil, nous avons écouté la réponse de M. Papasolomontos qui nous a dit que votre proposition "lorsqu'elles existent" semblait se référer aux observations, lorsque observations il y avait. Or, tout à l'heure un délégué a dit que "chaque fois que possible", cela pouvait sous-entendre: uniquement lorsqu'il y a des observations.

M. Papasolomontos vient de dire à l'instant que le Secrétariat de la CIPV sera en contact avec tous les Etats, même s'ils ne sont pas membres des ORPV, pour solliciter leurs commentaires.

Je voulais connaître votre sentiment sur cette appréciation et, à travers vous, celui des autres membres. Puisque nous avons entendu le délégué des Etats-Unis dire qu'il n'avait pas d'objection particulière à votre proposition, je pense que nous pourrions aller de l'avant et passer à la proposition japonaise.

Je passe la parole au Représentant du Brésil.

Nedilson RICARDO JORGE (Brazil): Having heard the Secretariat, I would first like to have the opinion of some other delegations. The intention of my proposal was, as I said, to give the text of Step 5 the same interpretation as was given in the informal Technical Consultation held in Paris in October 1992 between RPPOs. In this sense I think my proposal was supported by many delegates, and if any other delegate has difficulties, I would like to hear exactly what they are because the idea of the proposal is not to give the Secretariat problems. It is merely to provide a better text in Step 5 in accordance with what was agreed between the RPPOs.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Brésil de nous avoir fait part de ses remarques supplémentaires. Y a-t-il des objections particulières à la proposition du Brésil? S'il n'y en a pas, je considère que l'amendement proposé par le Brésil est accepté.

U. KNÜEPPEL (European Economic Community) : If we accept the modification proposed by Brazil, what was pointed out by Mr Papasolomontos could not be taken into account because then we would have to say, "request these through RPPOs, where they exist and when this is possible" because if we only had the words "where they exist" we would limit the possibility for the IPPC Secretariat to address members directly if the RPPOs so wished. So you would have to have a double conditionality if you wished to adopt Brazil 's idea on the one hand and the point made by the Secretariat on the other that RPPOs may wish the IPPC Secretariat to address the members of that particular RPPO directly. Then you could obviously question the functioning of that RPPO.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I have a suggestion, Mr Chairman. Having listened to the discussion I would propose we consider the following substitution: "Comments by members: the IPPC Secretariat will request these through RPPOs where they exist and if they so wish." Then the sentence will continue "to allow for technical inputs".

LE PRESIDENT: Cette suggestion qui vient d'être lue vous paraît-elle acceptable?

Alan Bruce AMEY (Canada): Could the suggestion be repeated, please?

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): "Comments by members: the IPPC Secretariat will request these through Regional Plant Protection Organizations where they exist and if they so wish to allow for technical inputs".

LE PRESIDENT: Puis-je considérer que cette proposition est acceptable? Il en est ainsi décidé.

Y a-t-il des objections sur l'amendement proposé par le Japon à la fin de cet appendice 5?

Takeshi NISHIO (Japan): We would like to confirm the Secretariat's explanation on Step 5; in the first sentence, "when possible". Does this wording include the meanings directly connected to Member Countries of RPPC?

LE PRESIDENT: Pourrez-vous baser votre question sur la phrase telle qu'elle a été amendée?

Alan Bruce AMEY (Canada) : During the break we were trying hard to come to some agreement on this aspect and I think our discussion was repeated in the COAG earlier this year. I am anxious that there should be agreement here but I wonder if the explanation the EEC delegate gave earlier would suffice in these circumstances. For example, the comments would be transmitted by the RPPOs and will include dissenting comments. I wonder if that would satisfy Japan.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America) : Our comments are on the same lines. We indicated before that this is more than a minor word change, in our view, and it affects the process. I hope we would always leave open the possibility of making amendments as they become necessary further down the line, but to make this adjustment at this late stage is something we would have to consult upon. We hope we do not have to make this amendment.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour ma part, je pense que les choses se précisent. Nous avons une proposition émanant du Japon contre laquelle se sont exprimés au moins deux délégués, et j'aimerais entendre à nouveau le délégué du Japon.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): Japan is satisfied with Brazil's amendment and we would like to withdraw our request. We are not formal members of the IPPC but we are currently trying to take the necessary steps to participate. However, we still have some difficulties to overcome. For the moment we would like to have the opportunity to make our comments as members of IPPC.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie M. le Représentant du Japon pour votre compréhension. Je pense que nous sommes tous d'accord sur ce paragraphe 5 de l'Appendice A.

M. Papasolomontos n'ayant rien à ajouter, il n'est pas nécessaire que je m'attarde longuement à faire un résumé. Les choses sont claires pour nous.

La Commission soutient pleinement les principes énoncés à l'Annexe I, de même que la création et la composition de ce Comité d'experts. Il faut cependant rappeler le souhait exprimé à la fois par le Représentant de la Communauté européenne, le Représentant du Japon, et par un Représentant de l'Europe de l'Est, de faire partie de ces six experts de membres non représentés par l'ORPV. Nous sommes d'accord sur ce point.

Concernant la composition, je pense avoir déjà répondu en disant que l'ensemble de la Commission s'était exprimée pour la proposition faite à l'Annexe II. S'agissant de la NEPPO, d'autre part, nous nous sommes également mis d'accord. Lorsque cette organisation sera opérationnelle, elle pourra déléguer un expert à ce Comité d'experts.

Nous sommes arrivés au terme de nos débats sur ce point 13 de l'ordre du jour. Je vous remercie de votre participation et remercie également MM. Van der Graaf et Papasolomontos de leur présence.

Demain, à la reprise de nos travaux, nous examinerons les trois projets de résolutions présentés ce matin par le Canada, le Mexique et le Honduras et qui sont soumis au Comité des résolutions, je crois savoir d'ailleurs que ledit Comité n'a pas été en mesure de se pencher sur le projet du Honduras, uniquement pour des raisons techniques car il ne disposait que du texte en langue anglaise. Il se réunira donc à nouveau demain matin.

Aussitôt après l'examen de ces projets, nous entamerons l'adoption de notre Rapport sur le point 12 de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire sur le Programme de travail et budget.

Je déclare la séance levée.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/11

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
11ª SESION

(16 November 1993)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sesión a las 15.30 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - QUATRIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4

LE PRESIDENT: Cette séance sera réservée à l'examen des projets de résolution qui ont été soumis au cours des débats sur le point 12, et à l'adoption du rapport de la Conférence également par cette Commission, sur le point 12: Programme de travail et budget, vu que ce rapport devra être approuvé demain en fin de matinée par la plénière de la Conférence.

Lorsque je me suis exprimé hier sur la conduite des travaux de cet après-midi, j'avais pensé que nous aborderions d'abord l'examen des projets de résolution pour passer ensuite à l'adoption du rapport de notre Commission. Mais je crois qu'il y a certaines contraintes techniques et vous comprendrez aisément que le service de la Publication de notre Organisation se trouve actuellement face à certaines difficultés compte tenu des demandes qui lui arrivent de toute part. Par conséquent, les projets de résolution ne sont pas prêts dans toutes les langues.

Je vais donc vous proposer de commencer par l'examen du projet de rapport puisqu'il a été mis à votre disposition à 12 h 30. Je suppose que vous avez tous pu valablement l'étudier. Si vous êtes d'accord, nous allons commencer par l'examen du REP/4 qui est le projet de rapport de la Commission II sur le Programme travail et budget, le point 12 de notre Ordre du jour.

Je crois que le Comité de rédaction a bien travaillé hier soir sous la présidence de notre ami M. Marsh, Représentant permanent des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee was greatly assisted in its work first of all by the extremely admirable drafting by members of the Secretariat, for which we were profoundly grateful, and secondly, by the very kind help of the Deputy Director-General, Mr Shah. We are grateful to him for his help in facilitating our work.

In some 24 paragraphs, the Drafting Committee aimed to recapitulate debates and discussions that had taken place on the Programme of Work and Budget and to reflect faithfully the various views expressed during that time. We submit for your consideration, therefore, a report which we think is a concise mirror as well as a useful document for the record and for the future course of the Organization.

Without further ado, Mr Chairman, may we proceed to take up the various paragraphs of the report?

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Marsh pour l'introduction de cette partie du rapport. Je crois comme vous effectivement que ce rapport est équilibré et qu'il reflète d'une manière précise les débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de cette Commission.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 5

PARAGRAPHE 5

PARRAFO 5

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Este es un informe muy conciso y recoge muy bien lo que hemos debatido. Este párrafo es una cuestión de forma, por lo menos en el texto español. Dice "Sin embargo, muchos delegados pusieron de relieve". Yo propondría utilizar la expresión tan común "la mayoría de las delegaciones", para referirse a la cantidad de delegaciones que hicieron referencia a la cuestión sustancial de este párrafo.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur Marsh, quel est votre sentiment sur cette question?

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : Throughout the text of the report we had hoped to put forward various views without labels or tags that it was "the majority" or "the minority", "many" or "few". We tried to avoid these sorts of descriptions as often as we could believing that the views should speak for themselves without the influence of a number attached to them. So you will find throughout the report that we have tried wherever we could to avoid such references, and I would urge that we keep to that format.

That said, you will see "Many" occasionally, because it seemed particularly appropriate at that point to give a special emphasis perhaps. Incidentally, the "Many" which begins paragraph 5 in effect continues throughout the paragraph, so by inference it is included throughout.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Marsh pour les informations qu'il nous a communiquées. J'aimerais avoir la réaction des autres membres de la Commission, parce qu'effectivement nous pourrions peut-être considérer cette proposition qui vient de nous être soumise par le Représentant de Cuba, simplement en déplaçant la référence à "de nombreux" à la deuxième phrase, parce que je ne pense pas que la Commission refuse de considérer que la FAO se trouve confrontée à de nouveaux défis et à d'importantes demandes d'aide émanant de toutes les régions. Ce sont des généralités qui peuvent, à mon sens, être admises par l'ensemble. Par contre, si on déplaçait "de nombreux délégués" à la deuxième phrase qui a commencé par "ils ont noté que ces demandes auraient justifié une augmentation nette de ressources", il est vrai que l'ensemble des délégués ne partageraient peut-être pas cette idée.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques, je pourrais considérer que nous pouvons retenir la première proposition du Représentant de Cuba en parlant de la Conférence au début et en reprenant "de nombreux délégués" à la place de "ils ont noté que ces demandes considérables" à la deuxième phrase.

Y a-t-il des remarques particulières?

Lansana SYLLA (Haïti): Cet aspect du problème a été discuté lors de la Commission comme au cours de la session du Comité, comme l'a fait remarquer notre Président. C'est un problème qui a été souvent évoqué et pour nous éviter de revenir chaque fois davantage sur la question de savoir si l'on doit adopter les termes "de nombreux délégués" ou "certains délégués", nous avons finalement adopté pour cette partie, l'idée de parler de majorité et c'est pourquoi Haïti soutient la proposition du Président.

LE PRESIDENT: Je respecte beaucoup votre point de vue mais j'avais pensé que vous, en tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, vous étiez solidaire du rapport et je m'adressais plutôt aux autres membres de la Commission. J'avais cru comprendre qu'ils avaient apprécié la proposition que je leur avais faite. Effectivement si on relit bien le paragraphe 5, il paraît évident que l'on peut commencer ce paragraphe comme suit: "la Conférence a souligné".

Paragraph 5, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 5, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 6

PARAGRAPHE 6

PARRAFO 6

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : In its intervention on the Programme of Work and Budget my delegation made a suggestion that in future versions of this document there could be a short chapter in the introduction recording the place of FAO's activities within the context of the activities of other international organizations. So perhaps we could add a sentence at the end of paragraph 6 reading, "The suggestion was also made to provide information in future versions of the Programme of Work and Budget to place the Programme proposals in the context of similar activities in other international organizations."

LE PRESIDENT: Voulez-vous bien reprendre votre amendement?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I think I will have to redraft the whole thing. If you allow me a second, I will make another text.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres remarques sur le paragraphe 6?

S'il n'y en a pas, je pourrais vous proposer de suspendre l'adoption de ce paragraphe.

Paragraph 6 not concluded

Le paragraphe 6 est en suspens

El párrafo 6 queda pendiente

Paragraph 7 approved

Le paragraphe 7 est approuvé

El párrafo 7 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 8

PARAGRAPHE 8

PARRAFO 8

Mme Sabría BOUKADOUM (Algérie): Je voulais juste vous faire remarquer que ma délégation considère qu'il y a une redondance dans ce paragraphe. Nous avons reconnu les besoins des pays de l'Est en transition dans le paragraphe 5. Je crois qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de le répéter dans le paragraphe 8 et c'est pourquoi ma délégation propose la suppression de ce paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons bien pris note de votre proposition. Avant de demander au Président du Comité de rédaction ce qu'il en pense, je dirai qu'au paragraphe 5, on parle en général des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale en transition, alors que le paragraphe 8 met plutôt l'accent sur le renforcement des activités du Bureau régional pour l'Europe. Il s'agit peut-être d'une précision supplémentaire. Je demande au Président du Comité de rédaction ce qu'il en pense.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The point was that this gave additional detail in the specificity that was important by mentioning the provision for the Regional Office for Europe, whereas in paragraph 5 it was more a catalogue of the various needs and requirements.

Mme Sabria BOUKADOUM (Algérie): Je suis désolée de prendre encore la parole et vous prie de m'en excuser. Si l'idée est de renforcer les bureaux régionaux, et notamment celui de l'Europe, ma délégation observe que ce n'est pas toute la Conférence qui a insisté sur la nécessité de renforcer ces bureaux, en particulier en attribuant plus de ressources à ce bureau, mais seulement une ou deux délégations. Je pense que s'il s'agit de renforcer le Bureau de l'Europe, à ce moment-là, par esprit d'équité et de justice, ma délégation demande que tous les Bureaux régionaux, notamment celui de l'Afrique, soient renforcés par une augmentation des ressources. Dans ce but, je vous proposerai une nouvelle rédaction, dont je vous donne lecture: "La Conférence a reconnu la nécessité de renforcer les Bureaux régionaux, notamment par une augmentation des ressources qui leur seront attribuées."

Je souhaiterais connaître votre sentiment à ce sujet.

LE PRESIDENT: Il me souvient qu'au cours des débats, un accent particulier a été mis en effet sur cette question du renforcement des activités du Bureau régional pour l'Europe, mais il a été fait référence également aux besoins des autres régions.

Madame la Représentante, seriez-vous satisfaite si l'on gardait le paragraphe 8 dans sa forme en lui ajoutant simplement à la fin: "en tenant dûment compte des besoins des autres régions"? C'est d'ailleurs un point

qui est revenu au Conseil, au Comité financier et au Comité du Programme. Qu'en pensez-vous, Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction? On met l'accent sur le Bureau Europe, compte tenu des circonstances particulières, mais en tenant compte également des besoins des autres régions.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This seems an admirable addition and should satisfy the requests of other delegations while retaining the essential sense of this point.

Mme Sabria BOUKADOUM (Algérie): Je ne voudrais pas compliquer votre tâche. Cette petite phrase que l'on ajoute prend en compte, en partie, ma préoccupation puisqu'elle dit: "en tenant compte des besoins", mais elle ne mentionne pas d'augmentation. Cependant, par esprit de compromis, je l'accepte.

Paragraph 8 approved

Le paragraphe 8 est approuvé

El párrafo 8 es aprobado

Mathias BIGAYA (Rwanda): Après avoir entendu l'intervention de l'Honorable Déléguée, je voudrais revenir à la charge, à mon tour, et demander que le projet d'amendement qu'elle a proposé soit libellé d'une manière légèrement différente pour donner plus ample satisfaction, non seulement à cette personne qui avait posé la question et suggéré l'amendement, mais aussi pour être un peu plus conséquent avec la réalité; qu'il soit donc demandé que les Bureaux régionaux soient renforcés, en particulier le Bureau pour l'Europe. Je considère en effet que ce qui a été suggéré ne veut pas dire grand-chose.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la Représentante de l'Algérie, qui était à l'origine de l'amendement, a accepté la proposition que j'avais introduite et nous avons considéré que le paragraphe 8 était adopté. Il me paraît difficile de rouvrir le débat sur ce paragraphe 8. D'un autre côté, permettez-moi de vous dire que durant les débats, j'ai suivi personnellement, avec une grande attention, les interventions de tous les délégués et je ne pense pas que l'accent ait été particulièrement mis sur certains Bureaux régionaux.

Or nous devons refléter ce qui a été dit dans cette Commission lors de la discussion du point 12. Je pensais que ma proposition aurait permis d'avoir un paragraphe 8 un peu plus équilibré en répondant à la demande de la Représentante de l'Algérie.

Si vous en êtes d'accord, Monsieur le Représentant du Rwanda, et pour nous permettre d'aller de l'avant étant donné que nous avons clos la discussion sur le paragraphe 8 en l'adoptant.

Paragraph 6 (continued)

Le paragraphe 6 (suite)

El párrafo 6 (continuado)

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je souhaiterais m'excuser mais j'ai eu connaissance du document il y a seulement quelques minutes. J'ai préparé une proposition en anglais que je vais vous lire: (continue en anglais)

"The suggestion was also made to recall in future versions of the Programme of Work and Budget document the place of FAO's activities and the relative share in the context of the activities of other international organizations in the fields of agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries."

William H. MARSH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): In our discussions as the paragraph indicates, we did make reference to other international organizations. This particular suggestion was not discussed and from the standpoint of practicality, for example, in the terms of the assessment of other international organizations and the relative share that FAO has in them was not something that came under discussion with us. There seem to be some difficulties. Mr Shah may wish to comment upon that and I suggest we refer to him.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de donner la parole à M. Shah, il me souvient que cela a été bien dit par votre délégation lorsque vous êtes intervenu, mais je ne pense pas que cette idée ait été reprise par d'autres délégations.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Whatever I say will be to try and help. I start by saying that we are all very fortunate, particularly you Member Nations in that there are Verbatim Records of the proceedings of your debate which also constitute the official proceedings of the Conference. Unless I am mistaken I can very well confirm what you and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said, that the point was indeed raised by the Representative of Switzerland. I recall it because we have often discussed it, but I remember he also raised this under the item on the Medium-Term Plan and in my response to that debate I indicated the difficulties of commenting on and providing information on the resources of other organizations in the manner that he desires. So the matter is, of course, in your hands. The suggestion made by the Representative of Switzerland is indeed in the Verbatims as part of the official proceedings, and you may wish to consider whether there was any debate of it so as to warrant inclusion in your report.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je voudrais demander à mon collègue suisse de nous expliquer ce qu'il a exactement à l'esprit. A-t-il à l'esprit la demande d'information, auquel cas ce serait de l'information de données chiffrées, que M. Shah, par définition, ne peut pas posséder puisqu'il s'agit des inconnues à moyen terme, ou bien s'agit-il d'une autre idée, à savoir que les programmes de la FAO doivent s'insérer dans les programmations nationales qui seront mises au point dans le cadre de la réforme des Nations Unies, puisque vous savez que toutes les organisations des Nations Unies concourent au financement de ces programmes nationaux? Cela serait alors une autre question qui serait de savoir s'il y a une harmonisation en quelque sorte, la FAO prenant sa place dans le puzzle des différentes interventions qui ont lieu sur un pays. Est-ce la première question de l'information générale ou la deuxième question?

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement, je pencherais pour la deuxième partie de votre intervention.

Je demande au Représentant de la Suisse s'il maintient son amendement, et si oui, peut-être serait-il en mesure de répondre à la question posée par le Représentant de la France.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je ne veux pas insister sur cette question et je vais certainement poursuivre dans la même direction s'il n'y a pas de soutien pour cet amendement. Je regrette simplement qu'il n'ait pas été discuté en Comité de rédaction car je pense que c'est un point qui nous permet de bien apprécier ce que peut faire la FAO, ce que peut faire le reste du système international. C'est plutôt pour répondre quand même à l'Ambassadeur de France et, sur le point 1, de l'idée qu'il vient d'énoncer. Nous pouvons nous taire à ce sujet dans notre rapport.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie vivement Monsieur Marincek pour votre collaboration et votre compréhension.

Paragraph 6 approved

Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 9

PARAGRAPHE 9

PARRAFO 9

Saleh SAHBOUN (Lybia) (Original language Arabic): I have a minor remark, indeed it is an amendment to paragraph 9, the last line, I think it would be more appropriate to reflect the debates that have taken place in the last few days as the strengthening of action mobilizing economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries, we should say the Conference has supported the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons bien pris note de votre proposition. J'avais considéré le paragraphe 9 comme étant adopté. Je ne sais pas s'il y a une observation de l'un des membres de la Commission?

Nous pourrions peut-être ajouter: "La Conférence", et cela rejoindra ce que nous disait le Président du Comité de rédaction, pour une question d'équilibre du texte.

Paragraph 9 approved

Le paragraphe 9 est approuvé

El párrafo 9 es aprobado

Paragraphs 10 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 11 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 12
PARAGRAPHE 12
PARRAFO 12

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): I do not want to delay the smooth procedure but I think in presenting the last sentence of the paragraph it is better if we insert the word "possibilities of establishing a Committee" rather than the establishment of a Committee to be studied. We study the possibility of establishing rather than we study the establishment. So I would suggest the sentence to read "The suggestion was also made that the possibility of establishing a Committee on Livestock was to be studied."

LE PRESIDENT: Dans la version française, lorsqu'il est dit: "il a également été suggéré d'envisager la création d'un Comité sur l'élevage": dans un certain sens, cela sous-entend qu'une étude sera faite par le Secrétariat. Cette question a fait l'objet de nombreuses discussions en Comité de rédaction hier, et je vais donc donner la parole à M. Marsh.

William H. MARSH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): Indeed there was discussion in fact concerning the use of the word "The possibility" and finally the Committee was of the unanimous opinion that it was not necessary to attach additional vagueness to the sentence but that in fact "Studied" would cover the ground for all of us, so we were rather precise in adopting this particular language and with all due respect to my colleague from Cyprus I would ask that we retain this language which was the result of considerable discussion.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois que Monsieur le représentant de Chypre a hoché la tête affirmativement. Je l'en remercie.

José Ramón LÓPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): La delegación mexicana quería informale lo siguiente: que hemos estado en contacto con algunas delegaciones, no con todas, pero con algunas, de las delegaciones que hemos presentado resoluciones en relación a tres aspectos que hemos considerado prioritarios dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización. Han planteado tres resoluciones, una sobre recursos fitogenéticos, otra sobre pesca, otra sobre montes.

En las discusiones preliminares hemos llegado a la conclusión, señor Presidente, de que podríamos reflejar en el informe el contenido resolutivo de dichas resoluciones y evitar a esta Plenaria el tener que revisar las mismas. Si esto se confirma por parte de todos, podríamos en ese caso, señor Presidente, pedirle a usted que se incluya en los párrafos relativos a recursos genéticos, tanto vegetales, animales, forestales, ecosistemas y marinos, así como en lo relativo a la preparación, elaboración del código de conducta para la pesca responsable y el sector forestal, que nos permita incluir en estos párrafos los aspectos resolutivos resumidos de los tres proyectos de resolución que hemos presentado.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, Monsieur le Représentant du Mexique. Je donne tout de suite la parole au Représentant du Canada qui était parrain du projet de résolution sur les forêts.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): This is simply to confirm what was said by the delegate of Mexico. On reflection, and considering the wording which was contained in the operative paragraphs, certainly on the issues of forestry and fisheries, I think we are satisfied that the contents of the draft resolutions are captured in that, thereby obviating the need for the resolution.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LÓPEZ (Honduras): Solamente para confirmar lo expuesto por los Representantes de México y Canadá.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Madame, pour votre déclaration. Avant de donner la parole à l'Ambassadeur de France, j'ai bien pris note que le Représentant du Canada considérait pour sa part que le paragraphe sur les forêts ne méritait pas que l'on y apporte des changements et pour le reste, vous savez que demain, en fin de matinée, la plénière doit adopter ce rapport, je ne pense pas que nous soyons tout de suite en mesure de discuter de cette question. Je pense que les membres de la Commission pourraient faire confiance au Secrétariat, je ne sais pas quel est votre sentiment sur la question. Je vous donne la parole, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Monsieur le Président, je crois que malheureusement, dans l'exercice auquel nous nous livrons à chaque Conférence, il y a une multiplication des résolutions. Je ne suis pas contre les résolutions par principe, mais je trouve que si nous établissons un lien, comme vous le proposez et comme l'a proposé le Comité de rédaction, entre la résolution et le texte même du rapport de la Commission, ce sera plus légitime, car il faut éviter d'avoir une floppée de résolutions venant en quelque sorte rajouter aux débats des commissions, ce qui, je crois, ne serait pas bien.

Il nous faut donc arriver à inclure en effet une référence à ces résolutions dans le texte. Cela est tout à fait fondamental, sinon nous inaugurerons une pratique terrible, chacun ayant son projet de résolution sur un sujet plus l'autre; ainsi, l'ordre des priorités manifesté par le Conseil, puis la Conférence, sera en quelque sorte bouleversé par des résolutions qui ne seront pas conformes ou cohérentes avec ce qu'auront décidé les Commissions et, par delà même, la Conférence. Je voulais attirer l'attention de tous sur ce point.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, pour votre intervention. Effectivement, une certaine confusion peut s'installer dans les esprits. Du fait que ces trois projets de résolution viennent d'être retirés, nous n'avons pas eu l'occasion d'en discuter sur le fond, c'est pourquoi peut-être il n'y a pas de références exactes à ces résolutions dans les paragraphes qui ont été étudiés hier par le Comité de rédaction.

J'aimerais vous proposer une procédure si vous en êtes d'accord ainsi que le Président du Comité de rédaction, à savoir, demander au Représentant du Mexique et à la Représentante du Honduras de nous faire une proposition de deux ou trois phrases à insérer dans l'un ou l'autre des paragraphes, de manière que l'on puisse en discuter. Sinon, je ne vois pas d'autre possibilité pour aller de l'avant. Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction, vous avez la parole.

William H. MARSH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): May I take a moment to describe the thinking of the Drafting Committee on this matter since we discussed this very point and that was to consider that resolutions had an existence which is independent of an account, in effect, of the discussion of the debate? Subsequently, resolutions might be passed, not passed, withdrawn, what have you, and that they should be dealt with separately in an integrity of their own whereas to complete the report and to meet our schedule we would be better to report the discussion and to make sure that we have done so in a comprehensive fashion. Therefore, in paragraph 12 you will see the references to the questions involved without reference to the state of resolutions which would require subsequent amendment of the report revision as things went on. Moreover, we could not pre-judge the ultimate fate of these resolutions. May I urge, therefore, that the Commission be persuaded, as was the Drafting Committee, upon the advice of the Secretariat that it is better to separate these matters and to keep them one from the other, as it were?

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction. Je crois que vous avez dit là des choses tout à fait sensées. Je ne sais pas ce qu'en pensent les autres membres de la Commission, mais avec l'accord des représentants du Mexique et du Honduras, puisque ces résolutions ont été retirées, s'ils n'ont pas de remarques particulières sur les paragraphes conséquents relatifs aux ressources phytogénétiques et à la pêche responsable, on pourrait peut-être convenir d'aller de l'avant sans plus nous attarder sur cette question.

José Ramón LÓPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Nosotros, Señor Presidente, sí creemos que, en virtud de que hemos retirado los proyectos de resolución, sería necesario reflejar en los párrafos correspondientes por lo menos los aspectos propositivos de dichas resoluciones; porque de otra manera nos veríamos obligados a presentarlos al final o quizá en la plenaria de la Conferencia. Consideramos que es necesario que esta augusta asamblea tenga, por lo menos, conocimiento en este momento de cuáles son los aspectos resolutivos de esas resoluciones que, al eliminarse, se coagularían o se concretarían en los párrafos correspondientes, en este caso el 12, el 14 y el 15, me parece.

Señor Presidente, si usted me permite, podríamos, en principio, dar lectura a uno o dos párrafos o pedirle a usted que deje estos tres párrafos todavía abiertos para que al final de la discusión del informe los podamos volver a tratar. Como usted decida.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant du Mexique. Il est 16 h 10. Vous savez que j'ai pour principe d'observer une pause café aux alentours de 16 heures; si l'Ambassadeur de France est d'accord, nous pourrions peut-être observer cette pause et reprendre dans un quart d'heure.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je crois que la démarche de mon collègue mexicain est logique. Cela rejoint tout à fait ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure: il faut éviter de multiplier les résolutions car celles-ci sont des éléments nouveaux, comme l'a dit mon ami Marsh, des éléments un peu indépendants du reste du débat, mais si ce qui a déjà été traité dans le cadre du débat peut être inclus dans le rapport, c'est beaucoup mieux, de manière à

laisser la valeur en quelque sorte additionnelle des résolutions. Donc si ceux qui ont proposé des résolutions trouvent dans le texte le moyen de refléter leurs préoccupations, nous préférons cette méthode car la multiplication des résolutions où chacun vient en quelque sorte faire son marché est chose à mon avis très négative en ce qui concerne le consensus, la manière de présenter les choses, etc.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, vous savez très bien que je n'ai jamais eu l'intention de présider avec une trop grande autorité les travaux de la Commission II. Je suis entre vos mains. La parole est au Représentant de l'Argentine.

Adrián ISSETTO (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina quisiera manifestar su apoyo a lo expresado por el Representante de México.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais vous communiquer une information: le document C 93/LIM/36, cinquième rapport du Comité des résolutions et qui comprend la résolution du Canada sur les forêts, le document C 93/LIM/38, rapport de la septième session du Comité des résolutions, qui reprend la résolution du Honduras sur les ressources phylogénétiques, le document C 93/LIM/39, huitième rapport du Comité des résolutions, qui reprend la résolution du Mexique sur le Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, ne sont plus considérés comme des documents de notre Commission II, puisque les projets de résolutions y afférents ont été retirés respectivement par le Mexique, le Canada et le Honduras.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así fue decidido

Sra. Concha Marina RAMÍREZ DE LÓPEZ (Honduras): Mi Delegación desearía agregar en este Párrafo 12, al final de la segunda oración y después de "sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos", lo siguiente: "Insta también al Director General a que se aseguren los recursos presupuestarios y extrapresupuestarios suficientes para llevar a cabo una revisión comprensiva del compromiso internacional y la ejecución completa y oportuna del proceso y del programa para la Conferencia Técnica Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos". A continuación seguiría igual.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette proposition est donc devant les membres de la Commission. Y a-t-il des observations à cette suggestion que l'on propose d'insérer au paragraphe 12?

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden) : We would be prepared to accept the formulation on the review of the International Undertaking, on condition that it is taken for granted that it includes the inter-governmental negotiations of a multilateral agreement on the terms of access to plant genetic resources. It is a most important part of the so-called revision of the International Undertaking. It is comparable to the negotiations within UNEP under the Convention on Biological Diversity and those under the General Assembly Convention on Climate, and we take it for granted that FAO under its budget

will provide the forum for such negotiations so that the matter will not be moved over to UNEP and be carried out directly under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Under those conditions, the Swedish delegation is prepared to accept the formulation as it is.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie Monsieur le Représentant. J'ai écouté votre intervention et je dois dire que c'était bien cela que l'on aurait pu craindre, c'est-à-dire qu'un débat soit ouvert sur cette question, certes importante, mais peut-être que nous allons dévier un peu du sens même de l'adoption de ce rapport.

Y a-t-il d'autres observations?

Monsieur le Représentant de la Suède, comment pourriez-vous articuler ce que vous venez de dire par rapport à la proposition d'amendement du Honduras?

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): I am prepared to accept the formulation review of the undertaking but I would have preferred to use the language that is introduced in the draft resolution that will tomorrow be before the other Committee, which was sent to the Conference by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. If we have one Resolution on substance and then one on Budget, there would have to be perfect coherence between the two Resolutions.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour notre part, nous devons décider maintenant sur ce paragraphe 12 et sur cette proposition d'amendement du Honduras.

Y a-t-il d'autres observations? ...

Cette proposition du Honduras pourrait s'insérer à la fin du paragraphe 12, avant la dernière phrase, après: "que l'on renforce encore le Secrétariat de la Commission de ressources phytogénétiques".

S'il n'y a pas de remarques particulières, il en sera ainsi décidé.

Paragraph 12, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 12, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 12, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 13

PARAGRAPHE 13

PARRAFO 13

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We have a brief proposal to make towards the end of the last sentence, to replace the words "under both the Regular and Field Programme" with "to be financed from the Regular Programme, including the Field Programmes".

Chadli LAROUSSE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Je n'ai rien à ajouter à ce que vient de dire le Représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite puisque nous appuyons sa proposition. Néanmoins, pourrait-on mieux refléter le débat qui a eu lieu en renforçant le rôle de la FAO concernant les conseils à apporter aux pays?

J'ai cependant un amendement à formuler afin que le texte arabe soit plus compréhensible puisqu'il est dit: ce qui est financé au titre du Programme ordinaire, y compris les projets de terrain et non les programmes de terrain. En effet, les programmes de terrain sont au même niveau que le Programme ordinaire et nous savons qu'il y a dans ces programmes un certain nombre de projets. Ainsi, nous aurons peut-être jeté un peu plus de lumière sur la proposition de l'Arabie Saoudite, à savoir que l'on remplacerait les programmes de terrain par les projets de terrain.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I can associate myself with the proposal of Saudi Arabia as I think it is consistent with reality and corresponds with what we are aiming for here. Unfortunately, the Arabic text is not clear, which is the reason for our reluctance here, as was the case in paragraph 12. There are certain words in the text which I do not understand at all, and that is why I am making the point.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de donner la parole à M. l'Ambassadeur de France, je voudrais faire une remarque: je crois en effet qu'il n'y a pas de parallélisme entre les différentes versions, anglaise, arabe, française ou espagnole, et votre remarque est tout à fait pertinente. Nous avons d'ailleurs déjà relevé, lors de la dernière session du Conseil ce genre de problème à propos de la version arabe. Je donne la parole à M. l'Ambassadeur de France.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Il y a en effet un problème de traduction et un problème de conception. D'après ce que j'ai compris, l'amendement saoudien veut parler du budget, alors que j'ai entendu prononcer, par la traductrice ou le traducteur, le mot "programme". Je ne vois pas comment un programme peut financer autre chose. C'est le budget qui finance. Il y a donc tout de même un problème important de traduction qu'il faudrait éclaircir rapidement. Je ne pense pas que mon collègue saoudien ait parlé de financement par le programme ou par le Programme ordinaire, cela n'a pas de sens. C'est un financement par le budget ordinaire ou par les fonds extrabudgétaires.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit de la construction du texte dans la version arabe. Nous avons bien pris note de la proposition saoudienne. Je constate que dans la version anglaise ou dans la version française, il n'y a pas de difficulté de ce genre.

Je vois que le Représentant de la Tunisie souhaite prendre la parole.

Chadli LAROUSSE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Pour éclaircir le texte arabe, peut-être pourrions-nous dire: "financé au titre du budget ordinaire et y compris les projets de terrain ..."

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne maintenant la parole à M. Shah pour un éclaircissement.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr Chairman, I wish I spoke Arabic as well but, with that great gap on my part, may I suggest a wording which may be convenient and suitable in all languages as follows: "The Conference underscored the need to strengthen further the policy advisory role of FAO across the broad spectrum of its technical programmes funded both under the regular budget and by extra-budgetary resources."

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I would not wish to get into the details of the Arabic language, but the word "regular" in English refers to what we call the "Programme Ordinaire".

Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I think the proposal is a very simple one so we need not prolong the discussion and I do not see any opposition. Perhaps we might approve what was suggested by Tunisia, under the Regular Programme. I think that is sufficient for the programmes concerned and then we could proceed further.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous sommes d'accord, Monsieur le Représentant. Je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, c'est une question de construction parce que ce que vous venez de dire à l'instant figure dans le texte original anglais, donc nous sommes parfaitement d'accord avec votre proposition, il n'y a aucune objection de quelque sorte que ce soit et s'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, le paragraphe 13 est approuvé tel qu'amendé.

Paragraph 13, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 13, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 13, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 14

PARAGRAPHE 14

PARRAFO 14

José ELÍAS LEAL (Mexico): Propuesta de enmienda que consideramos debe ir en la parte final del párrafo 14:

"La Conferencia de la FAO recomienda, teniendo en cuenta el apoyo unánime mostrado por el 104º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, que los principios generales del Código Internacional para la pesca responsable sean elaborados utilizando la vía rápida, empleada en la elaboración de acuerdos para promover el cumplimiento de las medidas internacionales de conservación y ordenación para los buques pesqueros que pescan en alta mar".

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant du Mexique. Le Représentant du Japon a demandé la parole, mais j'aimerais que l'on puisse

s'exprimer sur la proposition du Mexique avant de passer à autre chose. Y a-t-il des réactions à cette proposition d'amendement?

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): It seems to me that in a sense we are repeating here what we said in the first sentence. I think that is what we intended when we referred to the acceleration of preparations for the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing. Perhaps this thought might be taken in by incorporating into the first sentence, "Particularly the work relating to the general principles of that Code of Conduct" and then proceed as we have here, rather than including a new sentence at the end.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant du Canada. Il est vrai que la première phrase du paragraphe 14 fait mention de cela, sauf que dans ce paragraphe on parle de la proposition du Président du comité des pêches et que là, on insiste sur la décision unanime de la cent quatrième session, ce que l'on ne retrouve pas au début du paragraphe 14.

Y a-t-il d'autres réactions à cette proposition?

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): J'ai écouté les deux propositions qui ont été soumises à notre Commission, cependant, j'aurais souhaité avoir de la Présidence de la Commission ou de celle du Comité de rédaction quelques éclaircissements car le document soumis à la Commission a été réalisé ensemble, au terme de longues discussions en Comité de rédaction dont les deux protagonistes qui sont intervenus avant moi font partie comme Haïti. Bien que je comprenne leur sensibilité à cette question puisqu'il en a été discuté et que le texte a été présenté par le Président du Comité de rédaction, j'aurais souhaité avoir quelques éclaircissements avant que ma délégation se prononce.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense m'être exprimé assez clairement sur cette question avant la pause. Si l'on avait voulu respecter strictement la procédure en la matière, dès lors que les projets de résolution ont été retirés et n'ont pas été discutés sur le fond, il n'y avait plus aucun parallèle à faire entre le fond de ces projets et le projet de rapport que nous discutons. Cependant il y a eu un sentiment général que par courtoisie pour les pays derrière ces projets de résolution - qui n'ont pas eu l'opportunité de s'exprimer au cours des débats puisque nous devons le faire aujourd'hui -, nous devrions accepter de discuter des propositions d'amendement aux paragraphes pertinents du rapport. C'est la procédure que nous avons suivie et je crois qu'il y a eu un sentiment général là-dessus.

Akira NIWA (Japan): We hesitate to take the floor to make such a little amendment on this paragraph but due to the internal procedure we would like to use the same word on this report which we stated in our Commission II. Therefore on the third line from the bottom of this paragraph we would like to replace the work "host" by "hold", so I can read this line as follows, "The Government of Japan to hold an international conference" etc, etc.

LE PRESIDENT: La précision est très juste, Monsieur le Représentant du Japon, et je crois que cela a fait l'objet également de discussions au sein

du Comité de rédaction. Qu'en pensez-vous, Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction?

William H. Marsh (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): The Representative of Japan is quite correct and if "hold" is the preference let us by all means "hold" it.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'autres remarques sur le paragraphe 14, nous pouvons considérer que les amendements du Mexique et du Japon sont adoptés. Avant de donner la parole au Représentant du Canada, j'aimerais la donner à M. Marsh qui va nous dire à quel niveau du paragraphe il verrait insérer cette proposition.

William H. MARSH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): We refer to the text proposed by Mexico and I am wondering if it might not be well taken just prior to the last sentence, namely it would be the penultimate sentence of the paragraph. I think it could fit there.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I think if we look over the record of the 104th Council, I do not recall that the 104th Council endorsed unanimously a proposal that the general principles of the International Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing be fast-tracked. That was a proposal that was tabled within this particular Commission, to my recollection, and it was in this Commission that we had that debate, so I think that the statement as it currently is drafted by Mexico is incorrect in terms of its substance. Moreover by appearing where it is suggested that it be placed, it disregards completely the qualifications that several people had placed on this particular work in respect of the extent to which it must coordinate with, be complimented with and be supportive of work that is going on elsewhere in the UN system. Consequently, I think that the reformulation that I have suggested would take into account the debate that occurred in this particular Commission and it would, in fact, give the appropriate emphasis to work on the general principles pursuant to accelerated work on the Code of Conduct.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant du Canada. J'aimerais vous soumettre une proposition, Monsieur le Représentant du Mexique: au début du paragraphe 14, on pourrait peut-être dire: "en ce qui concerne les pêches, la Conférence, tout en notant la proposition du Président du Comité des pêches visant à accélérer les préparatifs du code de conduite pour une pêche responsable, recommande que les principes généraux de ce code soient élaborés...", et là, on reprendrait le reste de votre proposition: "...en utilisant la voie rapide qui a été utilisée pour l'élaboration de l'accord tendant à promouvoir la mise en oeuvre de mesures internationales de conservation et d'aménagement pour les navires de pêche en haute mer".

Ms. Turid VIONGSVIK (Norvège): Le Canada a déjà évoqué les points que je voulais soulever et je ne peux que soutenir sa proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Et celle que je viens de faire, Madame la Représentante? Je donne la parole au Représentant de l'Espagne.

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): Mi intervención es más en un sentido explicativo y aclarativo que no reivindicativo. La razón es que tengo delante el proyecto de informe del 104º período de sesiones del Consejo, que en su página 6, art. 13, dice: "se señaló asimismo que en otros exámenes del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto se estudiará la posibilidad de apoyar otras prioridades en el programa principal Pesca, tales como la celebración de los trabajos relacionados con el Código de Conducta".

Hago esta observación porque el Consejo aprobó este Proyecto de Informe por unanimidad en este punto; con lo cual es solamente dejar constancia de un hecho que sucedió hace dos semanas en este mismo foro.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant de l'Espagne. Je crois que dans la proposition du Mexique, on fait un lien entre le processus utilisé pour le code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et l'accord général pour la pêche en haute mer. C'est là le lien qui était proposé en vue de l'accélération du processus.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): I wish to express our delegation's support for the views expressed by the Canadian Delegation. We would prefer to see the sort of amendment being proposed by Canada to the paragraph.

John Bruce SHARPE (Australia): I add my support to Norway, Canada and New Zealand on this matter.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons tous entendu l'intervention du Représentant du Canada, mais je n'ai pas entendu de proposition précise. Vous avez parlé du fait que l'idée est déjà contenue dans la première phrase, mais puisque de nombreux délégués sont d'accord avec vous, j'aimerais que vous formuliez une proposition. Vous avez la parole.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Mr Chairman, I already did give such wording and I will repeat it here. That would be to add, at the end of the first sentence, a comma after "fishing" and add "particularly as regards work on the general principles of the code". If we wish we can repeat "the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing" but I do not think that is necessary.

Sra. María E. JIMENEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Nosotros quisiéramos expresar nuestra preferencia por la propuesta que hizo en principio el delegado de México, ya que ella recoge de mejor manera el contenido de la resolución que, efectivamente, ha sido retirada y queremos que quede reflejada en nuestro informe.

Sin embargo, creo que la propuesta que Usted hizo de ubicar la modificación de México, quizás sería más adecuada para darle mejor forma a nuestro párrafo, con lo cual yo estaría de acuerdo en que modificando la Conferencia, tomando nota de la propuesta del Presidente, etc., etc.,

agregar después de "Pesca Responsable", toda la propuesta que hizo el Delegado de México al principio.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): My delegation will support your proposal particularly mentioning the fast track. For our delegation that is fully compatible and even supportive of the spirit presently ruling in the intergovernmental negotiations in New York on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. There is no competition between the two exercises.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Only to try and synthesize the positive response that has been given to the various proposals. First of all I think the distinguished delegates who have intervened so far are ready to consider that amendments be made to the first sentence of this paragraph because that is the sentence which deals with the intentions of the subject. May I suggest a reading as follows: "With regard to fisheries, the Conference welcomed the proposal from the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries to develop on a fast track preparations of the general principles for the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing as had been done for the preparation of the agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by vessels fishing on the high seas". Then the next sentence follows exactly as it is: "while endorsing this proposal..." etc., and the rest of the paragraph follows.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie de votre proposition qui recueille, je crois, l'accord du Représentant du Mexique.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): May I have the accurate phrasing?

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): "With regard to fisheries, the Conference welcomed the proposal from the Chairman of the Committee on Fisheries to develop on a fast track preparations of the general principles for the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fishing as had been done for the preparation of the agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by vessels fishing on the high seas."

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): I can accept that, Mr Chairman. I think the first "preparation" should be in the singular rather than the plural as it was read. I would also make one point. There is the omission of an article in the second sentence when we talk about related initiatives "within the UN system". "The" is missing.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec vous. M. Shah a bien pris note de ces remarques. Je crois qu'il nous faut considérer que ce paragraphe 14 reprend les vues qui avaient été exprimées au départ par la délégation du Mexique.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres objections, je considère que le paragraphe 14 est adopté.

Paragraph 14 approved

Le paragraphe 14 est approuvé

El párrafo 14 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 15

PARAGRAPHE 15

PARRAFO 15

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands): In the seventh line we have the word "expectations". Perhaps we can ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to explain that word because I cannot find any relationship with that or other things mentioned in the first part of the paragraph.

William H. MARSH (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): There is nothing particularly golden about the word "expectations". It means an anticipation that something will be done and "expectations" seemed the right way to phrase it, as the Conference expect that.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands): I thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for his explanation, but in the first line we see the words "prompt attention". Perhaps it was meant to be prompt action. If that was not meant we could put instead "expectations", "actions to this effect". You may choose yourself, Mr Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant des Pays-Bas. Je pense qu'il n'y a aucune difficulté à accepter cette observation.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): I have suggestions for some additional words at the end of the paragraph. I will read it out and after (TFAP), add, "and also contributions from FAO to the preparations for the review by the Commission for Sustainable Development in 1995 of the follow-up of the UNCED Decisions on Forests". I will read it quickly again, "and also contributions from FAO to the preparations for the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 of the follow-up of the UNCED Decisions on Forests".

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant de la Suède. J'ai bien pris note de votre proposition mais il me semble qu'il faudra beaucoup de souffle pour arriver au bout de cette phrase qui sera bien longue.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction pourra-t-il nous donner son sentiment sur cet amendement? Cela a-t-il été discuté par le Comité et comment pourrait-on trouver une transition entre la dernière et cette nouvelle phrase?

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is necessary to break that sentence in order to draw breath, and I suggest the following: "... in the light of the critical pressures placed in all regions on the forestry sector. These pressures call for sustained assistance..."

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que l'on veut faire endosser cela à la Conférence. Je ne sais pas si c'est l'avis des autres membres de la Commission lorsqu'ils se sont exprimés sur la question. Je donne la parole au Représentant de l'Allemagne sur cette même proposition.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany): I have a small suggestion, which is to make the part of the sentence which relates to "such expectations" a little shorter, by saying "While welcoming the present net increase as a first step in the right direction, the Conference requested that this be fulfilled to the maximum extent possible..." This would make the Netherlands proposal even more concise.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It seems to me that there is a change of meaning with that substitution. "Actions" is quite explicit. This leaves some doubt as to what the antecedent of that might be. The immediate preceding text was about the present net increase and the reader might well think that was the subject, carried over; whereas my understanding is that the expectations concern the "further strengthening of FAO forestry activities" in the first sentence. I would therefore suggest that perhaps the Dutch suggestion should be retained. It is a little longer but I think it is clearer.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Marsh. Je pense pouvoir obtenir l'accord du Représentant de l'Allemagne.

Monsieur Shah, voulez-vous faire une suggestion à propos de l'amendement proposé par la Suède à la fin du paragraphe?

V.J.SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Thank you Mr Chairman. I am suggesting this in addressing your reaction that with the addition of the proposed amendment by the distinguished representative of Sweden, the second sentence becomes rather long and difficult to follow perhaps for most readers. I also address the comment made by yourself that the present sentence deals with the views expressed by the Conference because they were views which were very widely expressed during your debate, whereas it is for you to determine how widely views were expressed on the subject of the proposed amendments. My proposed solution would therefore be that after TFAP at the end of the paragraph a completely separate sentence be added to say: "The contribution of FAO to the preparations for review by the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995, of the follow-up to the UpNCED decisions on forests was also emphasized." Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Je crois que vous reprenez exactement ce que j'avais dit tout à l'heure. Je pense que nous pouvons compter également sur l'acceptation du Représentant de la Suède. Je pense que c'est un libellé qui peut être acceptable par tous.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic): We are not aware of "repeated appeals to Member Nations" - on the contrary there are repeated appeals to FAO. In the Arabic text it is said that there are repeated appeals to Member Nations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il faudra en tenir compte non seulement dans le rapport de cette séance mais également au niveau du Secrétariat. À l'avenir la version arabe devra être au même niveau que les autres langues de travail de l'Organisation. J'espère qu'à l'avenir tout ceci rentrera dans l'ordre.

Paragraph 15, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 15, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 15, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 16, approved

Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé

El párrafo 16 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 17

PARAGRAPH 17

PARRRAFO 17

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie): Permettez-moi d'intervenir sur le paragraphe 17 afin d'exprimer le point de vue de ma délégation à propos de la phrase qui est mentionnée à la page 7 et qui commence par "dans ce contexte de nombreux délégués ont estimé qu'il faudrait relever le niveau des ressources du PCT dans les futurs exercices biennaux". Je propose de substituer à cette phrase la formulation suivante: "Dans ce contexte, la Conférence a reconnu la nécessité de relever les ressources du PCT". C'est l'avis de la majorité - qui a, je crois, été exprimé de cette manière lors de la discussion sur ce point.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Il me semble que le texte que nous avons sous le yeux est très équilibré. Bien sûr, on peut dire que la majorité des pays qui se sont prononcés ont demandé que la part du PCT soit relevée, et si l'on veut renforcer cette phrase, on devrait plutôt dire que c'est la majorité des pays ou la Conférence dans sa majorité.

LE PRESIDENT: Ne pourrait-on pas dire: "La Conférence, en général, a recommandé la nécessité..."?

Je me tourne vers le Représentant de l'Algérie, tout en l'invitant à rejoindre le consensus.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie): Je m'excuse une troisième fois et, pour ne pas entraver les travaux de cette Commission, pour permettre également de terminer dans les meilleurs délais, je me rallie à la majorité et, par esprit de compromis, j'accepte votre proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est moi qui vous remercie, Monsieur le Représentant de l'Algérie, pour votre compréhension et votre collaboration.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is a rather ironic comment because there were requests from a number of Drafting Committee members that "many" be used, on an exceptional basis. We have again tried not to qualify matters, but to present ideas. However, at the special request of numerous members of the Committee, we used "many" as a point of special emphasis. Frankly, certain other alternative formulations do not meet the interests expressed by those members of the Drafting Committee, so I would invite the Commission to recognize the exceptional use of the word "many" as a point of special emphasis in this case.

In sum, I would like to suggest the retention of the original text, in keeping with the desire of many members of the Drafting Committee.

Pedro A. KANGA (Angola): Je partage l'avis de la délégation algérienne. En effet, lors de nos débats, 98 pour cent des membres se sont prononcés en faveur d'un relèvement des ressources du PCT. Pour nous, la proposition de la délégation algérienne est la bienvenue et nous l'appuyons.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons très souvent discuté de cette question particulière dans tous les comités restreints, et au Conseil de la FAO. Il y a toujours ce fameux dilemme qui revient: lorsque des pays ne s'expriment pas sur une proposition, cela veut-il dire qu'ils sont d'accord ou bien le contraire? Lorsque cette idée a été soulevée, il n'y a, en effet, pas eu d'avis exprimés clairement contre, et tout le monde le reconnaît, personne n'a dit être contre le relèvement. Néanmoins, cela ne veut pas dire qu'ils étaient pour ce relèvement. C'est la raison pour laquelle en disant: "la Conférence, en général", - et c'est la solution adoptée à plusieurs reprises au Comité de rédaction et au Comité financier -, je pensais que cela pourrait nous sortir de cette situation.

Madame la Représentante des Etats-Unis, vous avez la parole.

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): I was initially going to take the floor to urge that we stick with the original text. There was long discussion on how to handle this in the Drafting Committee.

I would however be prepared to accept your adjustment if you would please read the exact verbs that go with than.

LE PRESIDENT: La proposition consisterait à dire: "Dans ce contexte, la Conférence a recommandé la nécessité qu'il faudrait relever le niveau des ressources". C'est ainsi que j'avais compris la proposition d'amendement de l'Algérie. Et ma proposition consistait simplement à ajouter: "en général" pour bien montrer qu'il n'y avait pas avis unanime. Je reprends: "Dans ce contexte, la Conférence, en général, a estimé qu'il était nécessaire de relever le niveau de ressources du PCT dans les futurs exercices biennaux".

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands): I do not think that we need the words "In this light" because there is now so much light that we do not need it any more.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algerie): Sans vouloir vous déranger ni déranger les travaux de cette Commission, permettez-moi d'intervenir une deuxième fois. Mais je crois que, lors des débats concernant ce point, l'accent a été particulièrement mis sur la nécessité de relever le niveau des ressources et la majorité des orateurs ont exprimé ce point de vue. Je ne vois donc pas pourquoi on met: "en général" dans cette phrase. Si l'on garde la phrase telle qu'elle a été proposée et que l'on rajoute: "la Conférence a reconnu..." ou bien "a mis l'accent sur la nécessité de relever le niveau", cela reflète vraiment le point de vue de ma délégation. En m'excusant à nouveau, je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

LE PRESIDENT: J'avais pensé que ma proposition aurait pu vous satisfaire. Elle a d'ailleurs reçu l'assentiment plus ou moins général. Puisque vous insistez, je vais donner la parole au Royaume-Uni qui l'a demandée.

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom): I had been prepared with some difficulty to accept your compromise, Mr Chairman. I would suggest that we stick with that compromise. I have a great deal of difficulty with what the delegate of Algeria is proposing.

Mrs Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America): I second the remarks of the United Kingdom delegate. I think that your compromise, Mr Chairman, made a great effort to bridge the gap here. It recognizes the concerns of all states, and I propose that we go with this.

Jacques LAUREAU (France): Je me rallie au point de vue exprimé par la délégation américaine - ce qui n'est pas toujours le cas, mais qui sera le cas cette fois-ci - et à celui exprimé par la Grande-Bretagne. Vous aviez proposé une solution de compromis qui paraissait tout à fait convenable. On ne peut pas parler d'une majorité ou dire: "La conférence". Il est vrai qu'il y a des gens qui ne se sont pas exprimés sur ce sujet pour ne pas créer de difficultés, mais si nous avions procédé à un vote, nous ne savons pas où nous en serions !

Ms Marinela R. CASTILLO (Philippines): We would go along with the formulation you have suggested. We think it offers a good compromise.

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr Chairman, rest assured I follow your lead, but this is only to avoid any misunderstanding of the following words of the sentence that I would request to read it out. "In this light the Conference, in general, considered it necessary to increase the levels of TCP resources ...".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois, Monsieur Shah, que la proposition était: "la Conférence, en général, a estimé ...". Le délégué du Royaume-Uni est d'accord.

Paragraph 17, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 17, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 17, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 18 to 20 approved
Les paragraphes 18 à 20 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 18 a 20 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 21
PARAGRAPHE 21
PARRAFO 21

William H. HARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There is a typographical error in the fifth line, which should read "Some delegates were concerned about the proposed use" rather than "used".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons bien pris note, Monsieur Marsh. S'il n'y pas d'autres observations sur le paragraphe 21, nous pouvons le considérer comme adopté.

Paragraph 21 approved
Le paragraphe 21 est approuvé
El párrafo 21 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 22
PARAGRAPHE 22
PARRAFO 22

Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom) : I have a tiny amendment to suggest, that is that in the fourth line we replace the words "the solution" with "a solution".

LE PRESIDENT: J'allais dire: changement mineur, Monsieur le délégué du Royaume-Uni! Je donne la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, car je crois qu'il y a eu de longs débats à propos de ce paragraphe 22.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : Not on this particular point, Mr Chairman. We got into definite versus indefinite articles on more than one occasion, but I do not believe that this was one of them. I see no substantive difference in this instance between "the" and "a" on the matter. However, there may be some theologians in our midst who would prefer to go after this, but I think the suggestion to substitute the indefinite article would be perfectly acceptable without doing injustice to the text.

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, je pense que nous pouvons accepter la proposition du Royaume-Uni.

Paragraph 22, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 22, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 22, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 23 approved

Le paragraphe 23 est approuvé

El párrafo 23 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 24

PARAGRAPH 24

PARRAFO 24

LE PRESIDENT: Cela fera l'objet de l'ordre du jour de la plénière demain matin, séance au cours de laquelle nous aurons à voter la résolution sur l'ouverture des crédits pour le biennium 1994-95.

Paragraph 24 approved

Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé

El párrafo 24 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 4ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/12

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones
COMISION II

**TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE**

12ª SESION

(17 November 1993)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 17.15 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 17 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la
Commission II

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 17.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la
Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN (continuación)
- 14. UN/FAO World Food Programme Pledging Target 1995-96
- 14. Objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO 1995-96
- 14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO: Objetivo de Promesas de Contribución para 1995-96

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués, je déclare ouverte la douzième séance de la Commission. Nous allons aborder le point 14 de l'ordre du jour qui est l'objectif de contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial pour le biennium 1995-96 et je vais tout de suite, pour ceux d'entre nous qui viennent des capitales, introduire ceux qui sont à cette tribune: Monsieur Salahuddin Ahmed, Directeur exécutif adjoint, qui remplacera le Directeur exécutif, Mme Bertini qui est absente de Rome; Mme Birgitte Karlström Dorph, nouveau Directeur des ressources du Programme alimentaire et Monsieur R.J. Perkins, Directeur de la Division des produits et du commerce de la FAO.

Le document de support à ce point de l'ordre du jour, C 93/LIM/5, reprend l'extrait du rapport de la cent troisième session du Conseil qui a eu à examiner le dix-huitième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques des Programmes d'aide alimentaire ainsi que le projet de résolution qui a été adopté par le Conseil, puis le projet de résolution relatif à l'objectif de contributions au PAM pour la période 1995-96.

Je donne la parole à M. Salahuddin Ahmed, Directeur exécutif adjoint, qui va introduire ce sujet

Salahuddin AHMED (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme): The agenda concerns WFP's regular pledging target for the biennium 1995-96. The target has been recommended by governments in the CFA and endorsed by the FAO Council for approval of the Conference. Separately, the ECOSOC has endorsed the target for the approval of the UNGA.

The target of US\$1.5 billion sets the minimum level for a collective commitment. It has been retained at the level of the two preceding biennia from a purely pragmatic consideration. In an environment of economic recession, budgetary constraints and cost-cutting, especially but not exclusively, in major donor countries, the CFA considered it prudent to concentrate more on the realization of the target already accepted than on raising the level without reasonable expectation of reaching it. Since 1989-1990, there has been a slow-down in realization of the target.

At the same time, it is recognized that the need for food aid, in the foreseeable future, far outweighs the projected availability. To cite but one example, the Conference on Nutrition, here in this palazzo, starkly reminded us that despite improvements in the nutritional situation around the world, close to 15 percent of the world's population - some 700-800 million people - continues to suffer from hunger and malnutrition. According to the World Bank, close to a billion people live without access to a dollar a day. Countries that have undertaken Structural Adjustment

know too well its social impact which they find difficult to address on their own.

On the other hand, countries look up to WFP for assistance to face the challenges of food security and development. They look upon it as the largest single source in the UN system of grant assistance, and of assistance to benefit poor women. WFP accounts for about half of total grant expenditure for operational activities in Africa. It is the largest provider of grant assistance for environmental activities in developing countries; the largest purchaser of food and services from them. WFP's Logistics and Transport services are acclaimed as second to none in moving large quantities of food cheaply, efficiently, and over difficult terrain.

All this adds to the challenges faced by WFP and the high expectations of developing countries. However, we would humbly state that WFP handles normally close to a quarter of the total food aid which itself represents about 6 percent of total ODA. But this assistance provides a basis of hope, for survival, for self-reliant development and for integration of individuals and families into the community as dignified partners.

Hence our appeal to donors, current and potential, from all parts of the world, to make every effort to reach the approved target. On our part, we are taking further measures under our budget for 1994-95, recently approved by the CFA, for strengthening our financial and managerial accountability and operational support to country offices, and increasing, overall, the Programme's efficiency and effectiveness in promoting development, providing relief, and ensuring a disaster to development continuum in the interest of sustainable growth.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Directeur exécutif adjoint de cette brève introduction. Nous nous souviendrons que dans cette même salle, à l'occasion de la réunion du CPA, nous avons célébré le trentième anniversaire de la création du PAM. Pendant trente ans, cet organisme n'a cessé de soutenir les déshérités et les sinistrés à travers le monde.

Je vais tout de suite demander aux délégués qui souhaitent prendre la parole de lever leur pancarte.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Mi Delegación agradece la clara y concisa presentación del señor Ahmed, como lo ha hecho en otras oportunidades. Deseamos asimismo felicitar a la señora Catherine Bertini por la ejecutoria que está demostrando en la conducción del programa y porque ha dado muestras de impulsar cada vez más el trabajo de la mujer en el desarrollo de una manera amplia. Mi Delegación considera que la propuesta de resolución que estamos examinando debería ser aprobada por unanimidad. Cuba, señor Presidente, es un país beneficiario de la asistencia del PMA, pero al mismo tiempo es contribuyente del Programa. Mi país reitera su compromiso y expresa que hará todo lo posible por cumplir con los compromisos contraídos con el PMA a pesar de las difíciles circunstancias en que se encuentra nuestra economía en estos momentos por diversas razones, algunas de las cuales son ampliamente conocidas en el ámbito internacional.

Nuestra Delegación respalda plenamente lo expuesto en el párrafo 87 del documento C 93/LIM/5 y desea resaltar el papel que ha venido desarrollando el Programa. Aquí hay cifras muy elocuentes. Solamente en el bienio 1992-93

se estableció un nivel de compromiso de cerca de 3 000 millones de dólares, y más adelante se señala que el PMA se ha convertido en la principal fuente de asistencia multilateral para los países en desarrollo. En períodos recientes ciertas circunstancias, que no dependen propiamente del Programa sino del panorama político internacional, han obligado a que este Programa introduzca ciertos cambios en su estrategia operacional. Me refiero a que ha tenido que dar una mayor preferencia a los problemas de la asistencia de emergencia, cuando durante etapas anteriores la tendencia era cada vez más creciente hacia la asistencia al desarrollo. Esto nos preocupa en alguna manera y creo que debería quedar constancia, por parte de esta Conferencia, de que se estudie y aplique una estrategia que permita combinar adecuadamente estas dos líneas de actuación. Evidentemente, en el documento C 93/LIM/5 se recoge esta idea que ya está siendo considerada por el Programa. Eso nos demuestra que el Programa es muy dinámico, muy objetivo y que actúa con mucha sensatez en sus decisiones.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, desearía refrendar también el informe que presentó el Programa ante el Consejo, felicitar al Programa y felicitarnos todos nosotros porque el PMA haya cumplido 30 años ya de un ejercicio y de una labor muy fructífera en beneficio de toda la humanidad y, especialmente, de los más necesitados.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh) : Let me first of all congratulate Mr Salahuddin Ahmed for his very brief but eloquent presentation of the document C 93/LIM/5. The Bangladeshi delegation has very carefully examined this document. We very much commend the preferments of the World Food Programme during 1991-92 in which period the total amount pledged was nearly US\$3 000 million. It is a commendable performance that during 1992 the total expenditure has been US\$1 700 million.

We are however concerned that the developmental content of the Programme of WFP may be neglected in view of the fact that the World Food Programme is becoming increasingly involved in emergency operations. We believe that WFP should make firm efforts to increase its developmental activities. We support the Pledging Target of US\$1 500 million, of which not less than one-third should be in cash or services.

My delegation endorses the Draft Resolution contained in the document which we are considering.

Sra. María E. JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Atendiendo su solicitud, seré sumamente breve. La delegación de El Salvador desea manifestar su total apoyo al proyecto de resolución sobre el objetivo de promesas de contribución al PMA para el período 1995-96 contenido en el documento C 93/LIM/5. Respaldamos sin reservas el objetivo de contribuciones voluntarias de 1 500 millones de dólares. Solicitamos que se cumpla la proporción de una tercera parte del total de las contribuciones en efectivo y nos unimos al llamado que se hace en la resolución para que hagamos todo lo posible por alcanzar plenamente ese objetivo establecido. Creemos que la valiosa labor que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos realiza con la mayor eficiencia, como nos ha indicado hace un momento el Director Ejecutivo Adjunto en su presentación, es razón más que suficientes para apoyar ese objetivo. Solicitamos, por lo tanto, pasar este proyecto de resolución para su aprobación en la Plenaria de la Conferencia.

No queremos dejar pasar esta oportunidad para felicitar al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por sus 30 años de valiosa labor. Asimismo, queremos felicitar y agradecer el excelente trabajo que está llevando a cabo la Directora Ejecutiva, señora Bertini, al frente de esta Organización acompañada de sus excelentes colaboradores.

XU NANSHAN (China) (Original language Chinese) : First of all I would like to thank Mr Salahuddin Ahmed, the Deputy Assistant Director, for his introduction.

The Chinese delegation notes with appreciation that during the past 30 years WFP has provided large quantities of emergency relief and development assistance for developing countries, thereby making a major contribution to agricultural development and food security. It is our view that in the present international situation the provision of emergency relief is highly necessary, but at the same time we note with concern that increases in this sector have had a direct and active impact on the development assistance provided by WFP, leading to a decline in the resources available for this sector, which currently stand at only about one - third of the total WFP resources. It is our hope that in the future development assistance will be given the full importance it deserves. At the same time we believe that emergency relief should be organically linked with development assistance in the areas concerned, so as to fundamentally and substantially solve the problems of poverty and hunger in the world today.

The Chinese delegation agrees with the US\$1.5 million programme for voluntary contributions for the 1995-96 period. We consider this a realistic and feasible figure. China is a developing country, and our economy is still in the early stages of development; but during the past years, in order to support the work of WFP, we have made persistent efforts and have continually increased our contribution to the Organization. In the coming years we shall continue our efforts in supporting the WFP in carrying out its tasks.

We also hope that other countries, especially major donor countries, will make joint efforts to ensure the realization of the target set for the 1995-96 period.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): La délégation française remercie tout d'abord M. Ahmed de son introduction claire et très brève. La nôtre sera aussi brève.

Nous approuvons le projet de résolution de la Conférence figurant au paragraphe 93 du Rapport de la cent troisième session du Conseil de l'OAA, repris dans le document C 93/LIM/5 particulièrement en ce qu'il insiste sur l'importance de verser en espèces un tiers des contributions aux ressources ordinaires et fixe pour les deux années 1995 et 1996 un objectif de contributions volontaires de 1,5 milliard de dollars.

Nous ne pouvons toutefois confirmer cette approbation formelle sans redire notre préoccupation exprimée au Conseil de l'OAA comme au CPA du PAM.

L'objectif du présent exercice n'a été atteint qu'à 77 pour cent et l'on ne peut dire que, depuis, les situations financières des pays donateurs se soient notablement améliorées.

Dans ce contexte, sinon en termes de réponses aux besoins, tout au moins en termes de probabilité de réalisation, cette proposition de reconduction de l'objectif biennal 1995-96 au niveau du précédent risque encore d'apparaître comme optimiste.

Adrián ISSETTO (Argentina): La delegación argentina quiere expresar que nuestro Gobierno está reorganizando el mecanismo de ayuda alimentaria después de la supresión del órgano oficial de comercialización de cereales.

Consciente de sus obligaciones internacionales como país productor y exportador de alimentos, Argentina es parte del Convenio Internacional de Ayuda Alimentaria, del Consejo Internacional del Trigo y contribuyente del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

El objetivo actual es otorgar por lo menos diez mil toneladas de cereales a través del PMA, aparte de la asistencia acordada en términos bilaterales por circunstancias especiales a algunos países de América Latina.

Se está estableciendo un sistema nacional de cooperación alimentaria que instrumentará las compras para donación y la posibilidad de monetizar, es decir, de vender estos cereales por parte de los países recipientes y utilizar los ingresos provenientes de tales ventas en asistencia para el desarrollo de su propia producción agrícola.

Creemos que este sistema se encuadra en las directivas del Comité de políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria al complementar la ayuda en cereales con asistencia para el desarrollo agrícola.

Kanji KAWAKAMI (Japan) : With 30 years at its back as a joint programme of the United Nations and FAO, the World Food Programme has become the largest source of grant assistance to developing countries within the UN system.

Our delegation highly appreciates all the activities which the World Food Programme has carried out in the last 30 years.

Recently, the increasing number of victims of natural and man-made disasters had made it necessary that about two-thirds of all deliveries of WFP food should be allocated to relief aid.

However, development activities of WFP are still very important in order to help poor people in the developing countries to improve their socioeconomic situation and overcome the basic causes of poverty and hunger.

In this sense, our delegation would like to support the US\$1 500 million Pledging Target for development activities in the biennium 1995-96 and we also sincerely hope that such a target will be obtained.

Finally, I would like to say that the Government of Japan will continue to support WFP's efforts for the benefit of the people in need in the developing countries.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie): Je voudrais d'abord remercier M. Ahmed pour son exposé clair. Je remercie également le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé ce document.

Ma délégation approuve le document C 93/LIM/5, qui contient des points essentiels. Ma délégation considère qu'il est en effet extrêmement important d'augmenter les contributions au Programme. Ma délégation demande aux pays donateurs de déployer un effort supplémentaire pour que les objectifs soient réalisés. Ma délégation demande à l'Organisation et au Programme d'accorder un intérêt croissant pour faire face à la famine et de porter une attention plus particulière aux activités de développement. Ma délégation demande davantage d'appui dans ce domaine.

Le Programme a déployé des efforts considérables que mon pays encourage, et ce, grâce à l'accroissement des ressources et des contributions afin de faire face aux besoins alimentaires.

Nous profitons de l'occasion qui nous est offerte pour remercier le PAM ainsi que les pays membres du rôle qu'ils ont joué dans notre pays et de l'aide qu'ils ont apportée aux réfugiés. Nous leur réitérons notre soutien.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Le Niger voudrait appuyer le projet de résolution fixant les contributions du PAM pour la période 1995-96 à 1,5 milliard de dollars. Ce faisant, nous voulons souligner, en rappelant ce que vous venez de dire à l'occasion de la commémoration du trentième anniversaire du PAM, l'éloge unanime qui a été fait à cette occasion concernant l'importance des activités du Programme, importance capitale pour les pays pauvres à déficit alimentaire chronique.

Le paragraphe 87 souligne les performances du Programme, notamment au niveau des contributions pour la période 1991-92. Cela ne doit pas nous faire oublier que, notamment pour la période 1992-93, tout comme cela a été rappelé par la délégation de la France pour la période en cours, la courbe des contributions reste en deçà de l'objectif et en deçà des attentes, . notamment des pays bénéficiaires. Cependant, nous ne voulons pas considérer cela comme une raison pour être plus prudents dans la fixation de l'objectif de contributions 1995-96. Nous devrions au contraire tirer argument de cette situation, notamment en ce qui concerne l'objectif de la période en cours, pour lancer un appel aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils renforcent leur confiance et leur soutien au Programme.

Nous pensons qu'au-delà des flux bilatéraux de l'aide alimentaire, la réalisation des objectifs de contributions est la meilleure garantie du multilatéralisme de l'aide alimentaire. C'est pourquoi nous renouvelons cet appel pour que les pays donateurs, tous ensemble, puissent aller dans le sens de la réalisation de cet objectif.

Il y a un autre aspect que nous voulons également souligner, c'est qu'à travers l'analyse que nous faisons de la performance particulière pour la période 1991-92, nous aimerions pouvoir espérer que les contributions au Programme ne dépendent pas simplement des situations d'urgence mais puissent mettre également l'accent sur la fonction de développement de l'aide alimentaire. Nous sommes donc convaincus que les pays donateurs et tous ceux qui apportent leur soutien au Programme sont conscients de cette situation et renforceront la réalisation des contributions que, j'espère, la Conférence va adopter avec l'appui de l'ensemble des pays membres pour que cette dimension de l'intervention du PAM dans le domaine du développement, à travers l'assistance en aide alimentaire, puisse être renforcée au niveau de l'Organisation.

Nous allons nous limiter à cette considération, étant donné que mon pays, étant membre du CPA, a participé aux débats sur ce sujet. Nous tenons à indiquer que nous souhaitons que notre Commission, et la Conférence plus tard, pourront appuyer cette résolution en appelant également à la réalisation du tiers des contributions en espèces qui sont indispensables pour la réalisation totale, adéquate et performante des activités du Programme.

William H. MARSH (United States of America) : Mr Chairman, first I should like to apologize to you for coming in late, but I was ambushed by successive waves of candidates for election to Council which made it difficult to move through the halls. I should also like to apologize to the Deputy Executive Director, whose statements are always informative and a pleasure to listen to. I would like to say to Mr Ahmed that I shall certainly read his remarks when they are reproduced in full, as I trust they will be.

I have four brief points. First, the United States wholeheartedly supports the resolution, and we are happy to do so. Secondly, the United States has noted a very heartening trend, that is that a number of developing countries have substantially increased their contributions to the Programme. We find this a very encouraging sign of compassion and identification on the part of countries which themselves may be confronting difficulties. Thirdly, the United States has also found extremely interesting the way in which the Programme is attempting to relate development activities and alleviation of emergencies by trying to use development projects as part of the effort to counter these troubles. Fourthly, concerning the proportion of the Programme taken up by the tragic necessity presented to us by emergency situations, it seems to us that one should not lose sight of the fact that, in absolute terms if not in relative terms, the development activities of the Programme have increased, so that more money is going into development work than before, although of course the pressure upon the Organization resulting in a tripling at least of its workload has arisen due to emergency situations and to refugee operations. I think we can all take a certain amount of encouragement from these trends.

In closing, allow me to join others in wishing a happy 30th birthday to the officers and staff of the World Food Programme.

Carlos A. DA ROCHA PARANHOS (Brazil): First, I should like to thank Mr Salahuddin Ahmed for his brief but substantive introduction to this matter. I should also like to take this opportunity to commend the World Food Programme on the excellent - I stress the word "excellent" - work that it has been doing over the last 30 years, and I join other colleagues in complimenting them on their 30th anniversary.

I should also like to say that Brazil welcomes the idea of having a Pledging Conference in order to attain the US \$1.5 billion target for voluntary contributions for the two years 1995-96. We obviously hope that the major donor countries will be in a position to help the World Food Programme fulfil its huge task of ensuring food aid to the most needy countries and situations. Therefore, we are in a position to support the Draft resolution.

Moses MBUGUA (Kenya) : We wish to convey our most sincere gratitude to the World Food Programme for their work and for their response to the disastrous situation of hunger in Kenya, which was caused by the continuous drought, and to the many other African countries that adjoin Kenya.

In congratulating the programme officers for the outstanding work they have done in Africa in the present and past years, those of us involved in relief work have the following observations to make to the World Food Programme.

First, we realize that an emergency situation is a real emergency which calls for food aid. This should be treated as an emergency and as soon as possible the World Food Programme should identify the nearest regions from which to purchase food. We have found that the transportation of food from distant places sometimes takes too long on the high seas.

Secondly, a recovery programme during and after such drought situations is essential in order not to keep the recipients dependent on emergency relief. A recovery programme should be designed to run side by side with relief programmes.

We have also observed that it is very important to have cash-for-work and food-for-work programmes identified. They should be encouraged in order that the recipients do not think that they will be fed for ever but that when they are involved in this kind of work they know they are contributing to their own development and can grow their own food for the future.

Fourthly, storage facilities for food should be encouraged both at country level and household level. This is very important because sometimes there are excesses of food which become lost because of lack of facilities to store the food, and food should be used for these purposes.

Finally, we wish to thank all of those who have supported the World Food Programme in any way possible. We look forward to the Pledging Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in 1994, with the hope that the pledges will be met.

We support the Draft Resolution for the Conference for the period 1995-96, and we wish a very happy 30th anniversary to the World Food Programme.

Ms Marínela R. CASTILLO (Philippines): The Philippines has frequently been a beneficiary of food aid from the World Food Programme, especially following the series of natural disasters which have befallen our country in recent years. Therefore, we are anxious that the World Food Programme continues to be provided with the resources it needs to continue doing its commendable work.

Like other delegations, we view with concern the increasingly larger proportion of resources which the Programme has had to devote to emergency relief along with the corresponding decline in the share going to development activities. We hope that this situation can be rectified and that more resources and attention can be allocated to development activities-with a larger scale of contributions from donors.

We have been encouraged by the actions which the World Food Programme's Executive Director, Mrs Bertini, has been taking to make the Programme's operations even more efficient and more quickly able to respond

to emergencies. We also commend the steps she has taken to give women broader opportunities to participate not only in the management of World Food Programme's Work here at the Rome Headquarters but also in its development activities in the field.

Finally, my delegation endorses the resolution establishing a pledging target of US\$1.5 billion for 1995-96.

Hassan AL-AHMAD (Syria) (Original language Arabic): First of all, my delegation feels every gratitude to the World Food Programme for offering help and assistance to my country. Our special gratitude goes to the Executive Director, Mrs Catherine Bertini, Mr Salahuddin Ahmed and all their collaborators who work on the Programme. We would obviously like to see the WFP with a larger share of development activities but at the same time we approve the programme targeted for the period 1995-96, which amounts to US\$1.5 billion. We also welcome the adoption of this Draft Resolution contained in C 93/LIM/5. We wish everybody in the Programme a happy birthday and many happy returns.

Ms Hannelore A.H. BENJAMIN (Dominica) : I would like to thank Mr Ahmed for his very precise introduction to the document under discussion. My delegation fully supports the Draft Resolution before us and hopes it will be adopted en bloc in Plenary because of the fine work carried out by WFP, whether in providing emergency food aid or helping developing countries with projects which encourage those in need in their struggle for economic development. My congratulations also go to Mrs Bertini, who, with her staff, has led WFP into its 30th Anniversary, helping all present here at FAO and WFP, the developed and developing countries, to work hand in hand and in harmony. Let us hope we can do the same for the next thirty years. I would also like to thank the Chairman for leading such a wonderful Committee. He is doing an excellent job.

I.G.K. SWASTIKA (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation wishes to express its thanks to Mr Ahmed for his introduction to the document before us. We would like to join other delegations in commending WFP for the excellent work it has done during the last thirty years. We recognize the necessity to continue WFP activities in assisting the neediest sector of the population. We appreciate the sincere intention of WFP in looking at ways to release food aid for relief and development purposes. The Indonesian delegation therefore fully supports the Draft Resolution.

Joseph TURKSON (Ghana): When one attains the age of thirty one is seen to be mature. The WFP is now more than mature and has done much for the developing countries in terms of mitigating the effects of disaster. My delegation recognizes the good work being done by WFP in Africa and elsewhere, for which we express our gratitude. My delegation, like previous speakers, endorses the Draft Resolution before Conference in respect of the target for WFP Pledges for the period 1995-96. I trust all of us here will support the target of US\$1.5 billion, the amount proposed for the 1995-96 voluntary contributions. My delegation further supports that one-third of the contributions be in cash.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): We would like to thank Mr Ahmed for his introduction, although we did not have a chance to listen to it because of the other responsibilities we had to fulfil. Ethiopia, as you know, has been a major beneficiary of the Food Aid Programme of the WFP, be it for emergency aid, development purposes or the refugee feeding programme, because Ethiopia has hosted a large number of refugees. We therefore fully understand the need to support the Organization in fulfilling the pledging targets and would like to join with the appeal made by a number of countries this afternoon. We therefore fully support the endorsement of the Draft Resolution. I would also commend the World Food Programme for its important work and I would like to add my words of encouragement that it should continue as it has in the past.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): The Deputy Executive Director of the WFP, Mr Ahmed, mentioned in his introduction some very impressive figures, which highlight how significant the performance of the WFP has been over the past thirty years. He has also demonstrated the importance of the contributions of donors for the achievement of the aims of WFP. Germany is a traditional donor and participates actively and quite considerably in bilateral and multilateral food aid. We also do this in the framework of the European Community.

As an aside, may I say that this year's World Food Day on 16 October was used, as it is every year, to increase the awareness of the public of the dire straits of the millions who are malnourished. We do this through publicity work of different kinds and it contributes to the activities of non-governmental organizations such as the German World Food Aid Organization in giving help and encouraging self-help in the implementation of their programmes.

My delegation regrets the fact that, because of recent outside circumstances, the share of development oriented aid has gone down because of the increased amount of urgently required emergency aid. Nonetheless, everything must be done to ensure that development oriented measures in food aid be strengthened, and we must find suitable ways to ensure that emergency aid can be combined with development-oriented aid. This means that self-help must be promoted. My delegation has already expressed its support in the 103rd Council Session for the Draft Resolution with respect to the target for WFP Pledges for the 1995-96 period, and we are in favour of the adoption of this Resolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Après avoir écouté les intervenants, je serais pour ma part assez tenté de ne pas déranger Monsieur le Directeur exécutif adjoint vu qu'il n'y a pas eu de questions précises qui lui ont été adressées et que, je crois, il y a unanimité autour de l'action du PAM. Cependant par respect et par courtoisie pour lui, je lui cède quand même la parole pour qu'il puisse donner son sentiment.

Salahuddin AHMED (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme): My thanks to the distinguished Members of the Committee and to you, Mr Chairman, for all your words of appreciation, support and encouragement. We value them tremendously and I will convey your congratulations to the Executive Director. I am indeed very grateful too for your kind words to me

There are two or three points to which I would like to respond. Something has happened to the overall resources made available to WFP, which we call our turnover, that is, the totality of all the resources made available to us for all our operations between 1986, when the turnover was US\$ 800 million and which has now gone up to US\$ 1 700 million in 1993. However, in that process there has been an overwhelming swing towards humanitarian emergencies, which perforce have to be met, and therefore there is an apparent imbalance in the growth pattern of the development projects and the Regular Budget. This is a concern shared by us all, and we are determined to maintain the development thrust of the Programme with a view to creating assets and sustaining development through employment and otherwise. This is a point I mention because it is very close to our hearts and we feel very encouraged by your comments.

The questions began with the distinguished delegate of France, but I think the answers were provided by the distinguished delegates of Japan and the United States of America. Japan said it firmly believed the targets should be realized and was very positive. The distinguished delegate of the United States referred to the increased contribution coming from many developing countries. These are very encouraging signs and, for our part, we assure you there will be no let-up in our efforts to realize more and more resources.

On the continuum, I have only referred to one figure and that will give an indication of what we are trying to achieve. While in 1991 it was US\$ 1.4 billion on the regular resources managed by the World Food Programme, exactly US\$ 1.4 billion was managed in 1992 on the IEFR alone.

This demonstrates the swing that is taking place, but we are aware of it and, in common with governments, the WFP is determined to see that it does not all disappear into the humanitarian operation, however necessary and worthy it is. Therefore, we are trying to build assets which will last, which will mitigate future disasters, and hopefully prevent disasters occurring in some places, and leave some assets behind. That is the effort that is going on and we call it the "disaster to development continuum".

One point on the cash contribution: cash is very much needed to move the food, and unless we have adequate cash, we will find it difficult to manage the food that you give us. That component of cash to get the operation going is very important and I am glad this has been stressed on the record.

Mr Chairman, one other point was made by Argentina but that is a point I will discuss separately with the Argentinian delegation.

We thank you enormously for your wholehearted support of the target and we hope that together we shall be able to achieve the target.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur Salahuddin Ahmed, pour votre intervention. Je suppose qu'il vous paraît nécessaire que je résume, bien que nous ayons tous le même sentiment sur les questions qui ont été abordées, mais il est 18 h 15 et, si nous observons une pause comme à l'accoutumée, nous disposerons encore de deux heures d'interprétation. Profitant de la présence de Mme Killingsworth et de notre Vice-Président qui doit animer ce thème, je serais tenté de vous proposer de passer tout de suite après au point 15.1, "Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies" afin d'aller de l'avant. Je pense que, même si nous ne terminons pas ce soir, cela présentera au moins l'avantage de clore ce

point en fin de matinée demain de manière à laisser aux délégués l'après-midi de jeudi libre et au Secrétariat le temps de préparer les documents pour le Comité de rédaction pour sa réunion de l'après-midi.

Puis-je considérer que vous êtes d'accord pour que, tout de suite après mon résumé, nous observions une brève pause et qu'ensuite nous passions directement au point 15.1?

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas d'objection particulière, nous allons procéder de la sorte et j'aimerais tout de suite clore ce point 14 en exprimant la gratitude de la part de tous les membres qui se sont exprimés pour le rôle et les objectifs du PAM. Tout le monde a tenu à saluer les réalisations du PAM à l'occasion de son trentième anniversaire, et tout le monde a reconnu que c'est la seule organisation qui constitue la source principale de l'aide multilatérale.

Je crois que nous avons salué également l'action de Mme Bertini, Directeur exécutif à la tête de cette Organisation, de même que nous avons salué sa gestion du Programme.

On a noté une satisfaction face aux performances qui ont été réalisées en 1992 avec les annonces de contributions de 3 milliards de dollars et des dépenses d'1,7 milliard de dollars. On a d'autre part noté une inquiétude de la part des personnes qui se sont exprimées à propos du niveau de l'aide au développement qui est en baisse par rapport à l'aide d'urgence. M. Marsh a dit que, globalement, par rapport aux années précédentes, l'aide au développement augmente mais je crois que la plupart des intervenants avait fait cette comparaison dans le cadre de l'enveloppe globale. L'aide au développement diminue par rapport à l'aide d'urgence lorsqu'on considère une année ou un biennium. On a émis l'idée qu'il était intéressant d'avoir une stratégie afin qu'il y ait une symbiose entre ces deux types d'interventions. Le délégué du Kenya a parlé d'un programme de relance qui serait un relais entre l'aide d'urgence et l'aide au développement.

Il y a eu un appui unanime aux objectifs de contributions d'un milliard et demi de dollars pour le biennium 1995-96. Tout le monde a reconnu que les contributions étaient essentielles pour que le Programme puisse mener à bien ses activités. Le délégué de la France a fait une remarque, mais je pense qu'avec son accord, elle n'apparaîtra pas dans le rapport. Il a souligné que l'objectif d'un milliard et demi était trop optimiste; pour lui au cours du biennium actuel, nous n'avons atteint que 77 pour cent de l'objectif. Cependant nous resterons dans le cadre de l'unanimité qui a été exprimée par tous les membres de cette Commission, à savoir le soutien de l'objectif fixé.

On a également exprimé un avis selon lequel on devait absolument respecter le fait que le tiers de ces contributions soit versé en espèces, parce que cela est indispensable pour le bon fonctionnement, et la gestion des projets. Il y a eu un appel lancé aux donateurs pour qu'ils continuent à apporter leur soutien actif et pressant au PAM. On a même noté un signe encourageant à propos de la contribution de certains pays en développement aux activités du PAM.

Finalement, je terminerai en disant qu'il y a eu un accord unanime sur le projet de résolution qui est contenu dans le document et qui sera soumis à la plénière de la Conférence pour approbation.

Je crois que j'ai décrit là le sentiment de cette réunion sur ce point 14. En votre nom, j'aimerais remercier M. Ahmed, Directeur exécutif adjoint, ainsi que Mme Karlstrom-Dorph, Directeur des ressources, pour avoir été présents à nos côtés, et je remercie M. Perkins pour avoir participé au débat. La discussion sur le point 14 est close. Les travaux continueront ce soir et demain matin sous la présidence de Mr Paranhos et Janus. Nous nous retrouverons vendredi pour l'adoption de notre rapport.

Pause

Pause

Pausa

Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, took the chair

Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II, ocupa la Presidencia

15. Relations with other Organizations

15. Relations avec les autres organisations

15. Relaciones con otras organizaciones

15.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

15.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO

15.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

15.2. Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations

15.2. Faits nouveaux concernant la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales

15.2. Novedades recientes en la cooperación de la FAO con organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales

CHAIRMAN: Thank you all for understanding the problem which was presented by our dear Chairman. We need to utilize the services of interpretation. We have some more time on interpretation but obviously I do want to push this session until the very possibility of interpretation. The idea is to give the floor to Mrs Killingsworth for her presentation and to have an indication of those countries which would wish to intervene. Depending on the time, we would then close the session today and resume tomorrow morning at 9.30.

We shall now deal with Item 15 on our Agenda, Relations with other Organizations, and 15.1, Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO. The basic documents for Agenda 15.1 are as indicated in document C 93/INF/1, which are C 93/9, C 93/9-Sup.1, and C 93/9/LIM/12. There is an indication in this document of documents C 93/13 and C 93/13-Sup.1, which have already been dealt with in Plenary on the first day, so we should cross these documents out and retain C 93/9, C 93/9-Sup.1, and C 93/LIM/12 for Item 15.1.

As regards Item 15.2, Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations, you have before you documents C 93/2 0 and C 93/2 0-Sup.1.

On the subject I shall now give the floor to Ms Killingsworth, Director of the Office of External Relations, for the presentation of Item 15.1.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations): With your permission, I shall start with Item 15.1 and then perhaps go on to say a few words on 15.2 separately.

For this Item, Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO, the Conference has before it, as you have mentioned, Mr Chairman, the document which has already been considered by the Council in June. The Council's Report on this discussion is contained in C 93/LIM/12, which is before you. Since the June Council, we have produced a supplement which represents some further developments, primarily the outcome of the substantive session of ECOSOC.

Before providing you with some further updated information, I would like to give a few words of explanation about this Item on your Agenda, and about the information which we provide to you for it. As you know, this is a standing Item of the Agenda not just of Conference, but also on every Council. It arises from the need to keep our Governing Bodies informed and abreast of decisions which have a bearing on the work of the Organization. Therefore, the documents submitted to you present, in as concise and factual a form as possible, the essential information on those decisions and indicate their incidence on FAO's work. We do not go into great detail on the deliberations of other bodies involved which are primarily, as you might imagine, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Commission -because you, the Member Nations, are represented in those fora as well and you have taken, or are taking, your positions there on the issues in question. Unless any particular decision is requested from FAO's Governing Bodies, which this year is not the case, we do not provide in-depth views and analysis from the Secretariat which you might expect if you were required to take any particular action. Where action is required from the Conference concerning FAO's own programme, normally you have a separate agenda item to permit the kind of adequate and focused discussion you need to arrive at your decisions.

I should also point out that, in the interests of economizing your time, we also try not to duplicate information which may be provided to you under other items on your agenda. As an example, I would cite the whole question of follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development. There is a section on it in the main document here, C 93/9, because that document was going to the Council last June. However, Commission I, as you know, has - and I believe is still having - a very detailed debate on FAO's work in the area of environmental sustainable development, and has been fully informed about developments concerning the Commission on Sustainable Development and other related inter-agency work in which FAO is involved.

I would also point out that we have given you a short update on the ECOSOC discussions on operational activities for development, but you have already had a discussion of the Programme Implementation Report and its special supplement on operational activities for development.

In view of all this, you will understand that while the documents are indicative of the broad spectrum of system-wide activities in which FAO participates, they do not tend to be reports on FAO's work per se with other organizations of the system, or certainly not on the subject of coordination in general. For good overall views of the Organizations's

work, you have the famous quartet of documents which you have already considered, which I think give a more complete picture of the range of issues on which FAO cooperates with sister-agencies, with the UN itself, and, for that matter, organizations outside the UN system.

One subject which perhaps is not covered in most of those documents, and which may be of interest to the Commission, is inter-Secretariat coordination arrangements, so I would like to say a few words about the main inter-Secretariat coordinating mechanism which exists in the UN system. That is the Administrative Committee on Coordination. This Committee, which was established by a Resolution of ECOSOC in 1946 - it goes back a long time - is chaired by the Secretary-General, and it groups the Executive Heads of the 16 major UN Agencies, with the participation also of the heads of the major UN programmes. It meets twice a year at the Executive Head level, but it is supported by what we normally refer to as a "subsidiary machinery" - a number of Committees which cover programme and operational questions, administrative questions. We have recently established an Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, we have a Committee for coordination of information system, another for public information, and some ad hoc systems which are established as needed to help ensure a coherent, system-wide input to major events such as Conferences.

Over the past year and a half a significant restructuring has taken place in this ACC machinery. Reporting lines have been changed, a number of committees have been abolished, the terms of reference of others have been brought up-to-date - but even the streamlined ACC set-up is a fairly complex one, and it represents a formidable and very important tool for the system as a whole to coordinate its activities. FAO has always participated extremely actively in the ACC and its subsidiary bodies. FAO chairs one, on a permanent basis, which is the Sub-Committee on Rural Development, which was established as a follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform in Rural Development. It chairs others on a rotation basis with sister-agencies, and contributes to the financing of jointly funded Secretariats for a number of these Committees. The October meeting of the ACC was the last one for the Director-General, to whom tribute was paid by his colleagues for his active and committed participation in the Committee's work over 18 years.

On the occasion of his departure, the Director-General pointed out to the Committee that he considered the ACC itself only the tip of this iceberg, because work is going on all year in the various Committees, both to prepare for ACC deliberations and decisions and also to implement joint or coordinated work in various areas covered by the Committees. Following his suggestion, the ACC has decided to produce a short paper for Member Nations explaining how the restructured machinery works. We will be providing to you in due course copies of this note.

Going to another ACC-related activity, the Committee for Programme and Coordination of the United Nations, which is the inter-governmental body responsible for planning, programming in the UN itself, meets periodically with the ACC. The 27th series of these meetings took place recently again, in October, to discuss the question of follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development. At that meeting FAO presented a paper describing the Organization's response to UNCED - the material, substantially, which is also before the Conference in Commission I - and that was cited by a number of delegations as an example of how programmes

are expected to be adapted to the new climate for implementation of Agenda 21.

Going on now to recent developments in the General Assembly concerning the restructuring of the central inter-governmental machinery, which is mentioned in the document before you, the General Assembly, at its resumed 47th Session, which took place during this year, adopted on 17 August a Resolution entitled "Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly". It did not however conclude its discussion on the broader question of restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN. On this, informal negotiations are still on-going in New York.

At its final Plenary Meeting on 20 September, just before the beginning of the 48th Session of the General Assembly, the Assembly adopted a Resolution on "Agenda for Peace", which is also covered in the documentation before you. On this, I would point out that in his report to the General Assembly on the work of the United Nations, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the considerable increase in expenditure for peacekeeping activities and humanitarian assistance. The UN budget for peacekeeping has more than doubled, from US\$1.4 billion in 1992 to an estimated US\$3.6 billion in 1993.

In the past five years, the share of all contributions and funds for relief assistance has grown from 18 percent to 33 percent. The growth of expenditure in these two areas is indicative of what is widely perceived as a trend towards greater funding availability for addressing problems over the short term, the immediate needs of relief and rehabilitation, with a corresponding constraint on funding for work to deal with the root causes through longer-term development. This is in spite of the recognition that development plays a key role in preventing conflicts and natural disaster, and that prevention tends to be more cost-effective and durable than post-emergency disaster relief and rehabilitation.

As you know, the 48th Session of the General Assembly opened in September, and is expected to complete the main part of its work before the end of this year. One matter before the Assembly is a proposal concerning the feasibility of establishing a diversification facility for Africa's commodities. The document which had been requested of the Secretary-General for this item was prepared at the request of the Secretary-General by FAO. I point this out because it constitutes a good example of how the expertise of FAO can be marshalled, and is marshalled, not only for its own Governing Bodies but also through good inter-Secretariat cooperation for the central Inter-governmental Bodies as well.

We were discussing the question of resources for humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian assistance and disaster management has remained an area where FAO is increasingly involved. We have continued to contribute to the preparation of reports, appeals, and to participate in missions organized by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. We have also been an active participant through the Deputy Director-General in the Interagency Standing Committee which meets periodically, and groups those agencies and programmes most closely involved in emergency relief work with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

In the meetings which took place in October, first of the Standing Committee's preparatory working group and then of the Standing Committee itself, discussion focused on humanitarian mandates in conflict situations involving peacekeeping; on the follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the

ECOSOC which are described in the documents before you and on discussions concerning the forthcoming deliberations of the General Assembly on this subject; also on the consolidated appeal process and resource mobilization strategies, a very important subject; the relief, rehabilitation and development continuum; also some attention to the question of complex emergencies; on building up an information system on humanitarian assistance; and on de-mining.

Going on from the work with DHA, FAO has also agreed to participate actively in the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction which will be held at the instigation of the Government of Japan in Yokohama from 23 to 27 May 1994. The Organization has undertaken to organize a topical session on drought management, which will also include a component on locusts. It is foreseen that the session could be organized in cooperation with WFP and IFAD, and we have already contacted both organizations in this regard.

The documents before you indicate that there are a number of international conferences currently being prepared under the auspices of the United Nations system. I should just like to bring you up to date on what we are doing in preparation for those conferences. For the Fourth World Conference on Women, which is going to be held in Beijing in 1995, FAO is currently assessing the needs of several countries for technical assistance in the preparation of country reports. In addition, we will be focusing on ensuring that Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development contribute information from the agricultural sector for inclusion in the country reports, and also work towards enhancing member countries' capacity to achieve the goals of the Conference's foreseen platform of action.

We have continued our involvement in preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development which will be held in Cairo in September of next year. In addition to participating in the second preparatory committee meeting in March and in the meeting of the ACC ad hoc task force in July, we shall also be participating in two technical round-tables.

The World Summit for Social Development, which is going to be held in Denmark in 1995, is foreseen to be a major event in the UN calendar for that year. FAO has been attending informal interagency consultations convened by the Summit's Secretariat in New York, and we expect to contribute to the first substantive meeting of the preparatory committee which will take place again in New York at the end of January and early February 1994. At the recent session of the ACC which I mentioned earlier, it was concluded that the World Summit should address issues that lie at the intersection of economic and social sectors and deal with the relationship between society and development. It is foreseen that it will have a global perspective and in some way constitute a continuation of the real summit in underlining the fact that global problems require global solutions and therefore international cooperation.

Going on to the theme of drug-abuse control, I am pleased to inform the Conference that a new Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) has now been concluded. This agreement replaces the Memorandum of Understanding which had been signed earlier between FAO and the predecessor to the UNDCP, which was the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

FAO was also represented at the last meeting of the ACC interagency meeting on Drug Abuse Control which considered the need for all UN organizations to develop agency-specific implementation plans in connection with the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. FAO has already prepared such an agency-specific plan. We envisage that the Organization's main contribution to drug abuse control will continue to be in the area of integrated rural development and sustainable agricultural production, in order to enable a multi-disciplinary approach to assisting farmers to find viable alternatives to the production of illicit drug crops.

On this subject, may I just indicate one small correction in the document C 93/9-Sup.I which quotes from a resolution adopted by ECOSOC. There was a later version of that resolution which, in the sixth line, should read "Also, it noted ACC had given due attention" rather than requesting ACC to give due attention. For the sake of the record I wanted to make that correction.

Finally, going on from drugs to tobacco, as a follow-up to the ECOSOC resolution in 1993 on multi-sectoral collaboration on tobacco and health, which has been an initiative led by WHO, UNCTAD has been designated focal point within the UN system for this subject, and FAO will continue to cooperate with UNCTAD and WHO and other UN system organizations on this matter.

Mr Chairman, if I have not abused my time too much, I will go on to say a few words about the two documents for Item 15.2, Relations with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations. I can be much briefer primarily because this document should also be seen as something which is selective rather than exhaustive. The major forms of ongoing cooperation with international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, are those foreseen in the Basic Texts and in the agreements reached with these organizations. That primarily involves exchange of information, reciprocal participation in meetings, consultations on matters of common interest. It would obviously not be possible to report on all that was done in this area over a two-year period. What we have attempted to do, as in the past, is to highlight certain activities of particular intrinsic interest and to identify trends in cooperation which are illustrative of the scope and range of the Organization's relations with the IGO and NGO sectors.

This time, however, we have made some changes in the format. The first part of the document, as two years ago, has a regional focus. This is because, as you know, the regional offices play a very important role in maintaining relations with the organizations in their regions, and recent years have seen a strengthening of many regional institutions with which FAO relates. I would point out, however, that the regional breakdown in the document is not a rigid one. Some organizations which are global in character or membership are reported on in one or the other of the regional sections simply because the activities described took place during this biennium in those regions.

In the second section, however, we have introduced a slight departure from past practice. We have wanted to focus on a few activities which we consider would be of interest to the Conference as indications of some new directions in FAO's cooperation with various types of organizations, and to cover them in enough detail and depth to give you a more complete picture of the kind of cooperation which is being promoted here.

At the beginning of the section, there is a report on some of the work in follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, coverage of some of our work at, let us say, the global level with the international nongovernmental organizations primarily those represented here in Rome. There is a little section on the cooperation which has been built up and which has been extremely productive and fruitful for all concerned in the context of the Global Information and Early Warning System; and finally some experiences from the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, one which has taken place over the past few years in Senegal, one in South Asia and one in Latin America. I will not go into any detail on them. I believe the description you have in the document is as complete as we could make it within our constraints of space.

There are two other short updates. Since the document went to press we have had a meeting in Bangkok in September 1993 which was entitled "NGOs and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia, Challenges for Policy and Practice". This was a consultation organized with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with a view to initiating, together with NGOs and government representatives, a process of shared analysis, understanding of some of the major issues concerning sustainable agricultural and rural development, and also to facilitate exchange of experience and information, and finally to try and identify some concrete areas of collaboration.

There were thirty participants from fourteen Asian countries, some governmental, some non-governmental; some participation from FAO staff, and a wide variety of experiences and approaches relevant to sustainable agricultural and rural development were discussed. Conclusions and recommendations from this tripartite consultation pertained to the need to identify qualitative and quantitative indicators of sustainability, to undertake more systematic analyses and synthesis of local agricultural practices, with which NGOs could assist greatly, and to forge links between these and public policies which affect the development process at the macro level.

Finally, Mr Chairman, you also have a document before you called C 93/INF/1, which is the Report of the Informal Meeting of International Non-Governmental Representatives attending this 27th Session of the FAO Conference as Observers. Their meeting, which is a traditional meeting, takes place at the beginning of the Conference - on this occasion on Tuesday 9th November - and thirty-eight Observers participated. It had been prepared with the active participation of the ad hoc group of representatives to FAO residing in Rome and focused on three topics which have figured on the Agenda of the Conference. Each of these items was introduced by a senior FAO staff member from the relevant Technical Unit, and the Report of the discussion has been issued in time to be considered by you during your substantive debates on the three items, which were the follow-up to the ICN Plan of Action, the follow-up to the UNCED Agenda 21, and the Plan of Action on Women in Development. The meeting provided an opportunity for the INGO Observers to bring their viewpoints to your attention in more detail than would have been possible through a series of individual interventions.

Of particular relevance to your discussion under this item are suggestions presented in paragraph 17 of the Report, which emphasized the importance of concrete, action-oriented collaboration between the Organization and NGOs, particularly at the country and regional levels.

Mr Chairman, I will conclude here but will, of course, remain at your disposal to give any further clarification you may require.

CHAIRMAN: You will all agree that we must thank Mrs Killingsworth for her extensive presentation. She told us at the outset that these are information items and she gave us complete yet brief information, because in certain items it is not necessary to have a very extensive explanation of what is going on in the UN system, but she was able to give us a very clear indication of recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO, especially in terms of cooperation with intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/13

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13^a SESION
(18 November 1993)

The Thirteenth Meeting opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 13^a sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Relations with Other Organizations (continued)

15. Relations avec les autres organisations (suite)

15. Relaciones con otras organizaciones (continuación)

15.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)

15.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO (suite)

15.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)

15.2 Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations (continued)

15.2 Faits nouveaux concernant la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales (suite)

15.2 Novedades recientes en la cooperación de la FAO con organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. For those who were not present here yesterday evening I would like to recall that we are going to proceed this morning with the debate on Item 15 of our Agenda, Relations with other Organizations. Yesterday evening Ms Killingsworth made us an adapted presentation of Item 15.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO and the documents to this item are C 93/9, C 93/9-Sup.1, C 93/LIM/12, as well as to Item 15.2, Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Intergovernmental and Non-governmental Organizations and the documents for this item are C 93/20, C 93/20-Sup.1. In this presentation, which covered both points 1 and 2 of Item 15, Ms Killingsworth stressed that she was not going to address in detail certain issues that are already being dealt with by this Commission itself, for example, operational difficulties or the follow-up of UNCED.

So after Ms Killingsworth's presentation of last night I open the floor for the requests of speakers. It is our intention to have the consideration of the two sub-items of Item 15 finished by this morning so that we can all have the afternoon free in a sense, to prepare for the meeting of the Drafting Group late this afternoon. So I will now proceed to call for the speakers and would suggest that all speakers be brief and if they wish to do so to address both Sub-items 15.1 and 15.2 in their interventions.

J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom): I shall try and follow your injunction to be brief even though, as you know, traditionally this is a very important item for my delegation. Since you have asked us to take both of the items together I will deal with the first one on the United Nations system and my colleague will address the question of NGOs.

We are grateful to Ms Kay Killingsworth for last night's introduction. She raised some very key issues in the UN system which are ongoing and in particular she mentioned the revitalization of the ACC, and indeed the

revitalization and restructuring of the UN as a whole, which is an ongoing debate and which is currently preoccupying our colleagues in New York. The latest information we have is that it is getting slightly difficult and it has to meet a deadline of the end of November if we are going to make any progress.

However, Chairman, since I commented in quite some detail at the June Council meeting on the papers we have before us, I will try and be brief and just mention the main areas to the UN delegation. I think the first one is humanitarian and emergency assistance. What I would say here is that I think we all recognize the importance of improving the system of the provision of humanitarian and emergency aid. I think this means that the system has got to work together rather better to improve, with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, these key activities of the United Nations which are costing these days, with peace-keeping, so much money.

We would particularly encourage FAO in its role in the Inter-agency Standing Committee. We believe the success of this body is absolutely vital if improved coordination is to be achieved which is the common goal.

Let me say a very brief word about international conferences. There are a lot over the next two years and FAO has again an important contribution to make to these conferences. I will not go into them in detail. Ms Killingsworth referred to them in detail and they are of course in the documentation. Perhaps I could put a postscript on this? The World Summit for Social Development is in the very early stages of preparation. A lot of countries, and indeed organizations, have yet to focus on their approaches to that summit. Our view is that the real focus direction and likely outcomes are at this stage unclear and I imagine they are not going to be very clear until after the first formal prepcom process has been put under way early next year.

I understand Ms Killingsworth mentioned a matter which, as she knows, for us is an extremely important area of FAO's activities. That is drug abuse control. I only need to reiterate as far as we are concerned it is important for FAO to continue to work closely with UNDCP and to ensure that FAO carries out its drug-related activities within the framework of a UN system-wide action plan.

I have just a couple of questions, Chairman, and I do not mind if Ms Killingsworth answers them at the end or indeed even sends me a separate note. I will be perfectly happy. They are as follows: we would be very interested to have specific details of FAO's drugs-related activities since our June Council meeting and also an outline of future plans in this area. It would be helpful to know also what measures FAO has taken to ensure that a drugs dimension will continue to feature in its programme. For example, is this going to be a continuing item on future Governing Bodies meetings?

I think I can conclude very shortly, Chairman, with just a few brief remarks on ECOSOC and other developments in the system. We thought that the Geneva session of ECOSOC was an interesting one not least as it looked to FAO and all members of the UN system to work towards the full implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution 47/199. This is absolutely key for the effective implementation of all the hard work that has gone into operational activities for development and we very much hope FAO will play its full part in all areas such as system-wide coordination, national

execution, evaluation, monitoring, the programme approach and, rather controversially I know, the role of the Resident Coordinator.

In this context I would finally like to commend to those who have not yet read it the excellent statement made last week to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Administrator of UNDP, Gus Speth. We strongly support his statement and its content and in particular his call for a UN agenda for development. This is a natural corollary to the Secretary-General's agenda for peace and it is also a key international development vehicle which FAO is very well placed to make a strong and lasting contribution.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom. There is now United Kingdom part two.

Mrs. S.L. BASSETT (United Kingdom): I would first like to confirm UK support for FAO's continuing cooperation with NGOs who are often best placed to address the needs of the poorest and most disadvantaged groups in society and are particularly supportive of consultations which lead to real action. In recent years, the UK has substantially increased its cooperation with NGOs at a variety of levels. Our total support to NGOs in areas of development, emergency, food aid, refugee relief has more than doubled in the last three years and now stands at more than £144 million, the figure for 1992-93.

We would like to make the following specific comments on regional aspects of the report :

First - Africa. We support the organization of workshops and meetings in so far as it can be demonstrated that the outcome is of practical use and that the impact can be and is measured. We would like to know more about what use has been made of the workshop activities and how they have benefited people. We favour increased cooperation with NGOs not only for the good reasons expressed in the report but also because we firmly believe NGOs are often best placed to make a contribution to good government objectives and in enhancing the democratic process. However, NGOs should not simply be seen as alternative deliverers of aid programmes on behalf of donors; they must be recognized as development agencies in their own right with whom donors may cooperate.

Secondly - Asia and Pacific. We support the participation in the preparation and implementation of projects by those who are expected to benefit from them; without that, there will be serious implications for the sustainability of those projects. We also support projects which improve income and employment generating prospects of poor communities which have reasonable chance of sustainability. We are in favour of the emphasis on gender issues, particularly the role of women in development which is given high priority in British Aid Programme as was stressed in our intervention on Monday.

And thirdly - Europe. We support FAO's cooperation with NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe where there is also great need. In the context of promotion of a civil society in this region NGOs have a particular role to play in establishing and in strengthening local institutions. The UK supports NGOs in Eastern Europe through a special fund known as charity Know How.

Britain's Know How funds for Eastern Europe are additional to its main aid programme for developing countries. Again, we would like to urge evaluation of the practical benefits from workshops and would suggest this is included in future reports.

Moving on to emergencies and humanitarian assistance, we are pleased to note the recognition of British NGOs and their partners contribution to the Global Information and Early Warning System. We believe FAO is taking a sensible approach with regard to reporting by NGOs by showing flexibility and, importantly, by seeking to avoid additional administrative costs.

Finally, drawing on the experiences from the Freedom From Hunger Campaign, we agree that NGOs have an important part to play in mitigating the effects of structural adjustment, especially among the most disadvantaged in society. Importantly in this context, we must help NGOs to coordinate action and help to share experience. In the UK we have recently helped NGOs to establish a new network "British Overseas NGOs for Development" (BOND) so that there is enhanced opportunity to share experience both among themselves and with government for the practical good of beneficiaries.

Mrs. Melinda L. KIMBLE (United States of America) : My delegation plans to give two separate interventions on this item and my colleague who is going to comment on NGOs is not in the Commission at this time. I hope we may intervene at a later stage to comment on the NGO portion of this report.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the report before us provides a brief overview of the many challenges confronting the UN system. My delegation very much appreciates Ms Killingsworth's summary on both these issues.

As we recently saw in the World Conference on Human Rights, and as we are experiencing in the preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, the multilateral organizations are now challenged to provide best possible efforts to focus with their NGO counterparts on the deeply related problems of overpopulation, migration, empowerment of women and human resource development. FAO's role is a vital one to ensure that the concerns and needs of rural populations are not overlooked.

As we speak, the UN system is under tremendous, at times devastating, strains. It faces the multiple pressures of rising expectations and accelerating demands for resources to deal with emergency assistance, peacekeeping, and sustainable development. The UN is being asked to take on the most difficult and entangled socio-political conflicts.

To address these crises, the UN system, with the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, has taken a major initiative which has great potential for strengthening coordination in emergencies. We must succeed in this effort.

Progress has recently been made in our close work with other member governments at the ECOSOC and at the UNGA this year. We hope this progress will continue to accelerate and that the DHA will be able to strengthen its collaborative efforts throughout the system. Yet peacekeeping alone must be considered a tenuous exercise.

Time and again, we have seen that the failure to act in time on the practical level of building human resources incurs steep political, economic and environmental costs. Regrettably, the will and means to conquer malnutrition and resource degradation are still too sorely stretched.

The system also faces a crisis of credibility. Insistently, average citizens have shown their distrust for large bureaucratic institutions that are removed from daily concerns. The public understandings that gave rise to the UN as a means of promoting consensus and socio-economic progress among nations are in disrepair. A common challenge we face is to build greater international awareness of the overarching role of multilateral institutions in today's global society. We need to reach the minds of the young and the sceptical, and help open their eyes.

At the same time, the UN and the UN Specialized Agencies, including FAO, must become compellingly effective partners in the development process. In a world of exhaustible resources, this means showing prudence and good husbandry. As we work to renew confidence in the UN System's mission, we need to improve governance and communication at all levels. Long meetings, cumbersome bureaucratic procedures, and privileged hierarchies drain resources needed for programmes in the field. Other UN agencies are showing worthwhile initiatives to reduce administrative bottlenecks and modernize their methodologies. We are confident that FAO can, and will, lead the way so that system-wide reform becomes a consensual, ground-up process.

As our United Kingdom colleague stated, progress on implementing UNGA Resolution 47/199 is a critical element in improving UN delivery of technical cooperation activities. Stronger efforts on system-wide cooperation is an important element in this regard.

We appreciate the inclusion in the Director-General's report of a section on drug abuse control, and encourage FAO's response to the drug problem. We would like to see FAO broaden its programme objectives in this important area and to intensify its efforts to promote rural development initiatives in key drug producing and trafficking countries. It is imperative that all recipient and donor countries cooperate with FAO in working toward the elimination of this destructive trade. The U.S. strongly supports the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, as a means to increase UN system attention to, and cooperation on, this important problem. We trust that FAO will fully implement its recommendations and continue its close and effective coordination with the UN Drug Control Programme.

With regard to the upcoming 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the current session of the UNGA, the United States agrees that FAO must play an important role in contributing to the requested report on world food production. FAO is ideally suited to report on the anticipated subject matter of this report, including agro-industrial products, agricultural trade and the food security of developing nations.

We also appreciate the update provided by the Secretariat on trade and commodity issues. We find the information and analysis to be accurate, except the statement in paragraph 9.2 which indicates that export subsidies would be cut by 36 percent over the six year period commencing in 1994. This is somewhat misleading. The average reduction will be 36 percent, but the required reduction on each tariff line for all agricultural products is 15 percent.

The Clinton Administration is committed to do its part to help spur renewal and reinvigoration of the UN system. We believe that the UNCED process is a challenge for the UN and its partners to work together as never before, in ways that will be difficult and challenging. There is an urgent need to create clear divisions of labour on the ground, to find creative, practical means for coordinating and transferring the skills and knowledge for lasting development, and for getting results in the field. To this end we rededicate ourselves, and will look to, and will expect, FAO to come up with new ideas and more energy on getting our common international priorities right where they should be.

Takafumi KOJIMA (Japan) : I thank Ms Killingsworth for her presentation of this item last evening. My delegation would commend the efforts of the Secretariat to help alleviate poverty in the context of rural development, which is one of FAO's mandates. Japan attaches great importance to this issue, and has contributed to the solution of the poverty problems through extending its economic and technical assistance, as well as participating in related UN meetings and organizing the Tokyo Conference on African development.

The efforts of the Secretariat to participate in the UN system as a leading agency on the issue should be continued, to help build, in particular, sustainable agriculture.

My delegation welcomes the fact that FAO has close and useful cooperation with DHA to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian and emergency assistance of the United Nations, and we also note with appreciation that FAO's Global

Information and Early Warning System, together with the World Food Programme, carried out a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission to Africa.

Regarding the follow-up to UNCED, my delegation fully supports FAO's active and constructive involvement in cooperation with sister agencies of the United Nations system in the UNCED follow-up.

My delegation expects that FAO will be closely involved in inter-agency preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held in Cairo in 1994.

My delegation also supports FAO's cooperation with IGOs and NGOs within the Organization's mandate.

Elías REYES BRAVO (México): Señor Presidente, mi Delegación ha examinado los documentos correspondientes al tema 15, y les atribuye un valor informativo y de referencia importante para los debates y para ubicar las actividades de la FAO en el contexto del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y de otras instancias multilaterales.

Por lo que respecta al punto 15.1, esperamos mayor información sobre el Programa para el Desarrollo que se preparara en la Secretaría General de la ONU, por considerar que constituirá en buena medida el marco de referencia para la conducción futura de las actividades de la FAO.

Sobre este mismo punto, con satisfacción, mi Delegación informa de la celebración en México este año de eventos preparatorios regionales latinoamericanos y del Caribe de las cumbres mundiales sobre pobreza y sobre población y desarrollo.

Por lo que se refiere al punto 15.2, mi Delegación reconoce la labor de la FAO con las organizaciones intergubernamentales y con las organizaciones no gubernamentales en diversos programas de esta Organización.

En lo que se refiere a las ONG, mi Delegación considera que dichas organizaciones jugarán, con seguridad, un papel cada vez más importante. Por ello consideramos que la participación de las organizaciones no gubernamentales debe estar bien encauzada; para ello es importante que la participación de las organizaciones no gubernamentales deba darse bajo la coordinación de las instancias nacionales de coordinación de la cooperación internacional en los países.

Este tema 15 nos sugiere la necesidad de que el panorama de la cooperación multilateral de la FAO esté claro, no sólo a nivel de la sede sino a nivel de las oficinas regionales y, en particular, de las representaciones regionales de la FAO. Esto permitirá seguramente una acción interagencial armónica y fructífera.

Patrick PRUVOT (France): Nous souhaitons remercier tout d'abord Mme Killingsworth pour sa présentation de ce point hier soir, qui nous a permis une mise à jour très utile. J'interviendrai très brièvement.

Je souhaiterais évoquer deux questions qui sont abordées dans le document C 93/9-Sup.1.

La première, le débat consacré aux questions de coordination de l'aide d'urgence par le Conseil économique et social, a retenu toute notre attention. Je voudrais simplement rappeler ce que la délégation française, comme de nombreuses autres, répète à l'envi: la coordination est indispensable et doit toujours être renforcée afin d'accroître l'efficacité des actions et de réduire les risques de duplication.

Cependant, je souhaiterais exprimer notre crainte face à la multiplication des intervenants telle qu'elle est évoquée en particulier au paragraphe 11 du document et à la difficulté croissante qui pourrait en découler pour réaliser une coordination efficace.

Si ces affaires n'avaient pas le plus souvent un caractère dramatique, je pourrais me permettre de dire que, bientôt, il faudra un coordinateur des coordinateurs !

En vérité, nous n'avons pas de solution miracle à proposer mais nous sommes inquiets devant cette évolution qui risque de poser quantité de difficultés sur le terrain.

Pour ce qui concerne la FAO et le PAM, dont la coordination est évoquée au paragraphe 10, ma délégation rappelle son attachement à ce que la collaboration soit permanente - elle est certes normale mais elle doit être permanente et s'applique à toutes les situations d'urgence où une évaluation des besoins alimentaires est nécessaire.

Le deuxième point concerne les conférences.

La conférence internationale sur la population qui devrait se tenir au Caire en septembre prochain. La France suit avec beaucoup d'attention la préparation de cette Conférence.

Dans ce cadre, trois convictions fortes sont à la base de la position française :

d'abord une politique de coopération dans le domaine de la population n'a d'efficacité que si elle s'inscrit dans une politique globale et est étroitement liée à tous les aspects du développement économique et humain;

la deuxième conviction est que dans un domaine qui touche d'aussi près la responsabilité personnelle des individus, la coopération doit faire appel à une grande diversité de partenaires et, en particulier, les ONG.

Enfin, une coopération doit, dans un domaine aussi important, reposer sur une base solide et fiable, qu'il s'agisse des données quantitatives, et là il y a un rôle fondamental dans le domaine des statistiques propres à chaque pays, mais aussi dans le domaine de données qualitatives.

Puisque vous nous l'aviez demandé, nous allons intervenir très brièvement sur le point 15.2 de l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire sur les faits nouveaux concernant la coopération avec les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales.

Nous avons apprécié le document C 93/20 qui nous semble donner une idée précise du niveau de collaboration entre nos organisations et les ONG, et nous prenons note de l'annonce d'un renforcement des liens avec ces organisations à l'avenir.

Dans ce contexte, nous sommes particulièrement sensibles à l'attention qui sera portée au thème de la démocratisation du développement en Afrique. Nous souhaitons vivement que les ONG africaines participent davantage au grand débat en cours. Nous appuyons largement le principe de réunions officielles des ONG telle que celle tenue le 9 novembre en marge de notre Conférence.

Je voudrais conclure en vous informant de la satisfaction exprimée par les ONG françaises qui ont eu l'occasion de participer effectivement au groupe de travail de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, et qui n'ont pas été traitées comme de simples auditeurs mais comme des participants à part entière.

Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German): The documents that we have available on this agenda item show quite clearly that the highly complex interdependency of global and regional problems has led to a worldwide network of organizations, bodies and institutions within the framework of the United Nations and even beyond the limits of the UN. Coordinated cooperation of these multifaceted organizations and inclusion of NGOs are, in our view, essential to obtain system-integrated solutions.

I should like to thank Ms Killingsworth for her clear introduction to the subject, and I should too like to thank the Secretariat for the informative

representation of working relationships of FAO with other organizations. This helps us to get a comprehensive view of the subject.

My delegation agrees with the main content of the documents and stresses once again the meaning of efficient coordination in the UN system and beyond it. This is essential, among others, for two reasons: one, because of the necessity to produce effective results in the field of food, agriculture, environment, and in order to eradicate poverty. This necessity is becoming increasingly urgent. Secondly, duplication and waste of resources must certainly be avoided. This especially applies to measures concerning aid in cases of emergency and disaster. There is often no time to implement wide coordination in such urgent cases.

After these general comments, I should like to address Item 15.2.

Document C 93/20 gives us an excellent survey of the situation of the subject that is well described in a regional manner. We welcome the explanations given under paragraph 6 and we also share the view that the expert capabilities of FAO should be used increasingly for cooperation. In the light of UNCED, especially in respect to Agenda 21, Chapter 38, it appears necessary for FAO to follow the requirements established in Chapter 38.1 to 38.6. At the same time we feel it is appropriate for FAO to encourage its working relationships to the sectoral areas of the Commission on Sustainable Development, so that in this way its active expert cooperation can be guaranteed in the subject on the multi-year working programme of the CSD. This is something that must be done in the programme of CSD that lasts until 1997.

Looking at document C 93/20, in respect of the European region we welcome the informative summary in which we see the efforts underlined to ensure that duplication is avoided. We are of the opinion that cooperation will have ever more synergetic effects, that is, possibilities to increase performance with the help of cooperation. These opportunities must be taken.

In the chapter concerning cooperation with OECD, 1.46 and other regional organizations, we were struck by the fact that the working relationship between the Joint Division for Forestry and Agriculture, between FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, was not mentioned at all. This surprises us. My Government greatly appreciates the work done in Geneva by the joint group FAO/ECE and the cooperation between FAO/ECE and OECD in respect to questions concerning agriculture and environment. We also greatly appreciate the work done by the joint FAO/IAEA division in Vienna, especially with regard to questions relating to Chernobyl and the problems due to this accident.

In conclusion, I should like to address a question and a request to the Secretariat. Would it be possible for the Secretariat to give Member States a survey in the form of a table to show us the relationships between FAO and NGOs, and also with those organizations at governmental level that are outside the UN system? It is possible that such surveys already exist, but we do not have them. I say this for the following reason. The UNCED follow-up process is monitored by non-governmental organizations in respect of the cooperation of these non-governmental institutions, but it is our responsibility to establish a link between the governmental agencies and non-governmental national agencies, and also with the very complex network

of international non-governmental organizations. I think that such a document could be very helpful for our delegation.

F.C. PRILLEVTZ (The Netherlands): We fully understand from the introduction of document C 93/9 that this agenda item is primarily for the information of Member Nations. My delegation also realizes that part of the information was produced more than half a year ago and is therefore somewhat outdated. Ms Killingsworth has tried, successfully, in her introductory statement to bring us up to date with the most recent developments in the UN system, and we are grateful for that. In this respect we would like to elaborate on two points, and we do so hoping that in such a way we may expect a reaction from the Secretariat.

Before commenting on these two subjects, I should like to make a general remark. Although it can be read at different places in the documents, my delegation is of the opinion that an even more precise description about the actual role of FAO and more particularly its cooperation with other UN organizations can enrich the relevant information, and in doing that it would make the documentation more useful for the membership.

Therefore we should like to receive under this agenda item in future a document with the title "Recent Developments in the UN System and the Consequences for FAO".

My first point relates to Chapter 2 of document C 93/9. With regard to humanitarian and emergency assistance, the documents do not provide much insight into the actual involvement and participation of FAO in missions and projects carried out in coordination with the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and other UN organizations.

As the biggest donor to OSRO we are all very much interested in this matter.

It would have been quite instructive, for example, to receive some information on the problems FAO encountered in its efforts to coordinate with other UN organizations. As a matter of fact, reporting by FAO on its humanitarian and emergency assistance activities in Somalia and Iraq, which have been co-funded by the Netherlands, has been rather incomplete and of a very general nature. Moreover, experiences with FAO Emergency Relief Operations financed by the Netherlands and Italy show the need for decentralized decision-making. The close coordination between FAO Headquarters and its country representatives mentioned in the document seems to cause delays in implementation of relief operations instead of a swift response by FAO to emergency situations, where the lives of thousands of people are literally at stake. To avoid unnecessary postponement of these life-saving operations, the Netherlands delegation would like to appeal to the Secretariat to allow for a decentralization of responsibilities especially in the field of emergency relief.

Point two, Mr Chairman, relates to Chapter 3, the "Follow-up to UNCED". The document offers a clear overview of decisions and activities following UNCED but the description of FAO's role within this context could be more explicit. FAO has been appointed as one of the task-managers of the Interagency Committee on Sustainable Development with regard to the cluster "Land, Desertification, Forestry and Biodiversity". The documents do not provide much insight into the way FAO carries out this task in relation to

the activities by other UN organizations in this field; the efforts, for example, by FAO with respect to the negotiations concerning the "International Convention to combat Desertification" remain unclear.

Personally, Mr Chairman, I consider Chapter 7 the most interesting part of document C 93/9. Supplement 1 of this document contains a report on the recent ECOSOC discussion about the operational activities of the UN, and especially about the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 47/199. This resolution is, to use FAO's own words, "a lengthy and relatively heterogeneous document, covering a wide range of subjects". It is not only of interest to the UN funds and programmes, as stated in paragraph 7.17, but is also of the utmost interest to FAO. For example, CFA has decided to form an informal working group which will work together with the Secretariat on the implementation of the resolution. I wonder if, for certain aspects of the resolution, we could do the same here in FAO.

Now I turn to Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations. The document C 93/20 gives an overview of the relationship which FAO has with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. The document gives some insight into the concrete working relations with NGOs. In this respect there is a close connection with movements of democratization in a lot of countries. FAO can play an important liaison role between governments, NGOs and donor countries in discussions about strategies on rural development. Under point 5 of the introduction of the document one gets the impression that not all programmes are well equipped for cooperation with NGOs; the technical divisions of FAO are less involved. Some of the activities with NGOs are financed from the Regular Programme, but additional extra-budgetary sources are indispensable.

We support the contracting by FAO of non-governmental organizations instead of individual consultants for the carrying out of specific studies, whenever possible. The work can then be done by a team of professionals of these organizations instead of by one person.

While discussing collaboration with NGOs, we must be clear what we are talking about. It is in particular the expertise of so-called "developmental" NGOs which is called upon for the implementation of activities. We are concerned that the collaboration and the process of consultations with traditional farmers' organizations, which represent the interests of the farmers, has become less important. The consequence of this is that the views of men and women, small farmers and rural landless people, who have expressed feelings of dissent in recent years, is hardly being reflected in the FAO documents. These groups are in particular fighting for land reform and the improvement of property and tenure rights.

Moreover, the document under consideration gives the impression that the dialogue with organizations involved in environmental questions has not yet really started. No mention is made of environment-linked subjects such as the improvement of food security, the conservation of ecosystems, biological diversity and fertility of land at local level, the decrease in use of external inputs, etc. They are treated as technical questions, distinct from one another, but not linked to questions of environment and energy.

It is our opinion FAO should better use the knowledge and experience of special interest groups. These groups are also indicating that they are

willing to take the responsibility for rural development, especially in relation to sustainability. Special reference can be made to the activities of the farmers' organizations in the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

In general, we can support the suggestions made in the report of the informal meeting of NGOs on 9 November under paragraph 17 for improving the relations of FAO with NGOs.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the Netherlands for his very substantive and detailed comments, which will obviously give some interesting material for Ms Killingsworth to comment on.

Ruall C. HARRIS (Barbados) : I would like to thank Mrs Killingsworth for the very clear and comprehensive introduction she gave to the documents last night. My delegation appreciates the initiatives undertaken in coordinating the work of international organizations and NGOs in fields in which FAO has a deep interest. This kind of coordination is necessary to ensure that rationalization is achieved and duplication eliminated.

My delegation, on behalf of Island States in the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world, especially in the South Pacific, notes the interest shown by FAO in the follow-up to the Island States Programme on Sustainable Development, which appears on page 12 of document C 93/9.

I would like to draw your attention to the Report of the Informal Meeting of Small Developing Island States, which took place here at the FAO Conference on 12 November. That Report indicated areas in which the second FAO-sponsored Conference of Small Island States, which will take place some time at the end of 1994, should focus on. It is important that these documents form the basis of and inform the kind of programme which FAO should develop for the Island States.

May I also mention in this respect that the Organization of Small Island States is a fledgling organization and FAO should keep an eye on it to see how it develops and to see what sort of relationship FAO can establish with it.

May I refer to document C 93/2 0, and in particular to page 10, which deals with the Latin American Region. May I add for the information of this Commission that FAO has observer status to the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for agriculture in all the CARICOM States and participates very actively in that organization. There is another organization in the Caribbean Sub-region called the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and although there is cooperation between CARDI and FAO, FAO does not at this point have observer status, and perhaps it might be of interest to develop a closer relationship.

Please forgive me if I repeat what I said in the debate on the Medium-Term Plan, when I mentioned that the Ministers of Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, including Ministers of Agriculture for the United States and Canada, when they met in Mexico in September, mandated the new Director-General of IICA, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, to explore the possibility of closer cooperation between FAO and IICA. In fact, mention was made in the debate that perhaps the model

developed by the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization could be looked at by FAO and IICA. Obviously what happens will depend on the kind of discussions that take place but that is a model that could be looked at. I emphasize this, Mr Chairman, because it is important to us in the Caribbean. We in the Caribbean have an eradication programme for the *Amblyomma Variegatum* or Tropical Bont Tick, and only last week there was a meeting here at FAO Headquarters of the Steering Committee of that Programme, and both IICA and FAO indicated an interest in assisting in the eradication of the Tropical Bont Tick. Consequently, it is important for us in the Caribbean that the two organizations coordinate and cooperate to ensure that they act effectively in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize a point made in paragraph 1.62 of document C 93/20 on page 12, which says that part of the reason for cooperation is to ensure that the modality of cooperation, which permits technical, financial and infrastructural resources to be mobilized as a complement to the contributions by FAO and other sources should continue. It goes on to say that "links with these other organizations permit access to a broader spectrum of human and specialized resources than would be possible through individual contracts." This is something we have to emphasize in the relationships that FAO develops with other international organizations and NGOs.

I would again like to compliment Mrs Killingsworth and her Department on the work of coordination which has been done in this area.

I thank the distinguished representative of Barbados for his very interesting remarks concerning coordination between IICA and FAO. I am sure Mrs Killingsworth will comment on this later on.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Mme Killingsworth pour son excellente présentation du document C 93/20 sur les faits nouveaux survenus dans le domaine de la coopération entre la FAO et les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales, et vous faire part de notre sentiment de satisfaction à la lecture de ce rapport en ce qui concerne les excellentes relations qui existent entre le Bureau régional pour le Proche-Orient et les organisations régionales arabes, y compris, à leur tête, la Ligue des Etats arabes.

Nous avons observé avec beaucoup de satisfaction et d'intérêt les initiatives prises par le Bureau régional pour la création de réseaux spécialisés interagences et interorganisations. Il s'agit là d'un instrument particulièrement efficace pour renforcer la coopération régionale et la consolider. A l'heure où nous appuyons cette initiative et les activités du Bureau régional, nous encourageons celui-ci à continuer de faire oeuvre utile afin d'améliorer et de renforcer les relations avec les organisations non gouvernementales et les organisations régionales.

Per AUGUSTSSON (Sweden) : Mr Chairman, Sweden welcomes the information provided on recent developments in the UN System of interest to FAO in the documentation provided by the Secretariat. We would also like to thank Ms Killingsworth for her interesting introduction of the subject.

Sweden notes that the documentation is selective and, as far as possible, avoids reporting on matters which are the subject of separate items on the Conference Agenda. It must be admitted that the documentation provided for Agenda Item 15 seems rather incomplete, but my delegation appreciates these efforts to maintain brevity and the avoidance of duplication of work.

In the view of the Swedish Government, the role of the Specialized Agencies within the UN system is a very important one. It is increasingly recognized that they should serve as centres of excellence in their respective fields. The Swedish Government feels that this important role should be further developed and strengthened in the case of FAO. It is of the utmost importance that a clear division of labour and responsibilities is brought about between different UN organizations within the UN system in order to achieve effective results and to avoid overlap and duplication. It is also necessary to focus on the mandate of each organization and strike the right balance between normative and operational activities.

Taking into account the special position of the Specialized Agencies within the UN system and the functions of the central organs of the UN, cooperation within the UN system is of fundamental importance for the outcome of their work. Such cooperation must be carried out in a spirit of mutual respect and without any jealous guarding of each body's special preserves. Particularly important of course is strengthened cooperation between the Rome-based organizations. A clear division of labour in combination with a constructive cooperation between different UN bodies is essential to enable the world community to deal with today's most acute problems, for example, environmental issues.

Sweden notes with satisfaction FAO's involvement in the follow-up to UNCED and encourages more forceful support by FAO to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

FAO certainly has a role to play in the implementation of the agreements reached during UNCED. The Swedish Government is particularly interested in FAO's continued contributions to and participation in the UN system. The developments in the UN system will continue to be of the greatest interest to FAO while FAO continues to play an important role in the UN system as a whole.

A.N.M. EUSUF (Bangladesh) : Let me first of all thank Ms Killingsworth for an excellent and clear introduction of this subject last night.

The information provided in the document is important in that the Governing Bodies of FAO are kept informed of developments in the UN system as a whole particularly FAO's active involvement with other UN agencies in various activities. FAO, as expected, has been actively participating in various initiatives of the UN system aimed at alleviating rural poverty and hunger. Its prominent role in this regard in ECOSOC, UNCTAD and ACC deserve appreciation. The UN General Assembly in a number of resolutions in its 47th Session has recognized poverty eradication as a development priority and called for increased international efforts in this direction. FAO's support and involvement in the work of the UNCTAD VIII Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and ACC Task Force on Rural Development merits special mention.

Creation of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs last year was a significant step forward in strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations. This has resulted in enhanced inter-agency collaboration. FAO's inter-action and cooperation with DHA has been extensive and has considerably helped the concerned UN agencies in effectively responding to the increasing demands for humanitarian relief assistance. The UN General Assembly Resolution 47/191 entitled "Institutional arrangements to follow up the UN Conference on Environment and Development" has important implications for FAO. It has a key role in UN system follow-up to UNCED and supporting the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Let me make a very brief reference to the UN General Assembly Resolution 47/199. This resolution is of crucial importance. We support the major thrust of the resolutions, including such elements as National capacity building, Country Strategy Note, Programme approach, Decentralization, Resident Coordinator System, Harmonization of rules and procedures. I think this would be of great importance in the days to come.

As regard Agenda Item 15.2, we strongly support FAO's initiative for inter-agency and cooperation with inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. As a matter of fact development of a country should be viewed as a mosaic in which the national government, the inter-governmental organizations and NGOs and of course the assistance of United Nations agencies like FAO have a role to play. Everything should fit properly into that mosaic. I think the activities of the NGOs should be encouraged, they can play a great role in the development effort of a government. There are many activities and initiatives in which they can play a better role, particularly in innovative activities.

I think these things deserve particular mention. We fully support FAO's initiative in this regard.

Shahid RASHID (Pakistan): My intervention is restricted to Item 15.1.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for presenting in a very concise manner useful information on developments in the UN system. We are also grateful to Mrs Killingsworth for providing latest updates and additional information on the subject.

My delegation has been closely following various developments taking place in the UN system, more particularly those which impinge upon FAO and its programmes and activities. We are also aware that certain processes are in motion which could have profound effects on our Organization. We recognize that, during recent years, the pace of history has accelerated and the continuous unfolding of new realities must be faced with dynamism and imagination rather than through stereotype responses. The terms "revitalization", "renewal" and "reform" are often being heard and we may also soon become accustomed to another term "re-inventing". However, before we get swayed by any fashionable terms we must realize that structures that have been so carefully established and institutions that have been so painstakingly nourished cannot be trifled with. FAO, our institution is an embodiment of the hopes and aspirations of millions of poor and needy around the world - this institution has matured over the years and has created a niche for itself not only in the UN family but also a permanent place on the landscape. It is a pride of a place providing a promise to

those suffering from deprivation. Anything that takes away from FAO its ability to alleviate the misery of the poor and under-nourished must be thwarted.

We are gratified to note that FAO is very actively involved in the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation under the aegis UNCTAD. The focus on sustainable rural development and poverty alleviation, though not new for FAO, is a most appropriate one and we would strongly urge that FAO should continue to play a leading role in the UN system in the pursuit of this worthy mandate. FAO over almost half a century has acquired a definite expertise and skill, a large reservoir of capability to deal competently with the peculiar problems of the rural poor. We therefore believe that it is uniquely placed to provide leadership to its other partners in this sphere. While a system-wide coordinated effort to attack the apparently intractable problems of rural development is essential we would like to stress without mentioning comparative advantage, that FAO should continue to do what it does best.

We get daily reminders of the increasing needs for humanitarian and emergency assistance. It is a strange paradox that as we approach the 21st century we talk of emergency relief before we talk of development. This situation, though obviously not desirable, is now inevitable and must be faced squarely. Many of the emergency situations are complex having several dimensions requiring various approaches, often simultaneous actions in different fields. We recognize that no single agency is geared to face this haunting task by itself alone. We are therefore gratified to see that under the aegis of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee mechanisms have been established for a coordinated response to major and complex emergencies. We are hopeful that these arrangements will facilitate quick and effective responses to emergency situations. In this regard we will like to mention only one concern: emergencies, by their very nature, require prompt and timely responses. The coordination arrangements of necessity should be system-wide and comprehensive but one must guard against proliferation of bureaucratic channels and protracted procedures which could delay mobilization of efforts.

The important role that FAO has played through its global information and early warning system and constant monitoring of the food and agriculture situation is widely acknowledged. It must continue to strengthen its inputs in the overall strategy to develop effective plans to mitigate the effect of emergencies and disasters. FAO is also well equipped to provide necessary support beyond emergency relief so as to assist affected communities to embark on rehabilitation and development. We are glad to note the emphasis on this continuum from emergency relief to rehabilitation and development. We would like to urge that due attention, backed with appropriate resources should be paid to all segments of this continuum so that countries can be helped to stand on their own feet once the fires have been put out. FAO has expertise covering the entire gamut, from predicting emergencies to delivering development and we would encourage it to play an increasingly effective role in this respect.

Before concluding I would like to touch upon one more point. My delegation also attaches great importance to drug abuse control and we feel that much more needs to be done in this sector. The problem of drug abuse has to be attacked from all directions in a concerted manner so that the war against drugs can be won. We believe FAO has a distinct role in this regard, right

from crop substitution programmes to education information and we would urge that strategies for drug abuse control must be well integrated and coordinated.

Yvan JOBIN (Canada): La délégation du Canada désire exprimer son appréciation à Mme Killingsworth et à son équipe pour les documents informatifs qui nous ont été soumis au sujet des faits nouveaux survenus dans le système onusien intéressant la FAO. Cela dit, ma délégation désire toutefois appuyer les suggestions très pertinentes des délégations des Pays-Bas et de l'Allemagne au sujet d'une présentation plus claire et dynamique, à l'avenir, de la réponse spécifique de la FAO à ces faits nouveaux.

En ce qui concerne ce point 15.1, la délégation du Canada souhaite souligner deux éléments que nous considérons comme étant d'une importance particulière pour l'avenir du système onusien.

Le premier a trait à la nouvelle Commission du développement durable. Tout comme les autres Etats ici représentés, le Canada a été activement impliqué dans la mise sur pied de la Commission, et nous attachons une très grande importance à ce que cette dernière s'acquitte avec efficacité des fonctions qui lui ont été assignées. Il est à souligner que la Commission du développement durable n'a pas été établie pour faire double emploi avec le travail des institutions spécialisées, dont la FAO. Au contraire, son rôle et celui de la FAO doivent être vus comme complémentaires. Le Canada souhaite vivement que la FAO collabore sans réserve avec la Commission.

Le second point que ma délégation aimerait souligner concerne l'Agenda, ou Programme d'action pour le développement, dont le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a entrepris la préparation. Nous espérons que ce processus de très grande portée permettra une redéfinition nécessaire du rôle du système onusien dans les domaines économique et social. Nous sommes d'avis que cette redéfinition devrait tenir compte d'une part des défis nouveaux qui sont posés au système onusien par un monde en profonde mutation, et d'autre part des avantages comparatifs des différentes organisations onusiennes entre elles et par rapport aux institutions financières internationales.

Comme le Canada l'a déjà souligné au Secrétaire général, nous estimons que cette redéfinition de la raison d'être du secteur économique et social du système onusien devrait être inspirée par une vision renouvelée du développement tenant compte de l'évolution récente de la réflexion de la communauté internationale à ce sujet. A cet égard, il nous apparaît que le concept de développement humain durable devrait servir de pivot au présent réexamen.

Le Canada espère que, suite à ce processus de réexamen qu'il a amorcé, le Secrétaire général soumettra aux Etats Membres des propositions pratiques et bien ciblées, dont la mise en oeuvre permettra d'enrayer la marginalisation qui menace, de façon de plus en plus évidente, le système onusien dans les secteurs économique et social, et, ainsi, de donner une crédibilité renouvelée aux Nations Unies. L'enjeu de cet exercice est colossal, comme l'administrateur du PNUD, entre autres, le soulignait récemment devant la deuxième Commission de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

En terminant sur le point 15.1, ma délégation aimerait rappeler les responsabilités essentielles qui échoient à la FAO dans ce renouveau nécessaire. Dans ce contexte, il nous apparaît impérieux que, tout comme le système onusien dans son ensemble, dont elle constitue un chaînon de premier plan, notre Organisation retrouve un souffle nouveau.

Or, nous sommes convaincus que la FAO ne sera une organisation forte dans l'avenir que dans la mesure où ses organes directeurs seront vigoureux et exigeants. Il nous apparaît extrêmement important que nous, les Etats Membres, nous travaillions à revitaliser les organes directeurs de la FAO, et particulièrement ses comités restreints. Une telle revitalisation est dans l'intérêt de tous les Etats Membres, et nous y serons tous gagnants.

En ce qui concerne le point 15.2, ma délégation désire appuyer les propos de la délégation du Royaume-Uni et de plusieurs autres délégations au sujet de l'importance d'une coopération accrue de la FAO avec les ONG pour les raisons qui ont déjà été expliquées. Sur un autre plan, nous avons noté qu'à de nombreuses reprises au cours de notre présente Conférence, plusieurs Etats Membres ont souligné les avantages susceptibles de résulter d'une coopération renforcée entre la FAO et d'autres organisations intergouvernementales qui traitent d'agriculture.

Dans ce contexte, il nous apparaît qu'une telle coopération renforcée de la FAO serait particulièrement souhaitable avec l'Institut inter-américain pour la coopération en agriculture (IICA), d'autant plus que nous avons l'impression qu'il existe certains chevauchements et dédoublements d'activités entre la FAO et l'IICA. Par conséquent, ma délégation aimerait s'associer à la demande de la délégation de la Barbade à l'effet que la question d'une telle coopération accrue entre la FAO et l'IICA soit examinée attentivement. Comme le Représentant de la Barbade l'a souligné, il pourrait être approprié, à cet égard, d'avoir à l'esprit le modèle de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et de l'Organisation panaméricaine de la santé (OPS), et particulièrement le fait que l'OPS joue le rôle d'agence régionale d'exécution pour l'OMS.

CHAIRMAN: The delegation of Argentina has asked that their intervention be inserted in the verbatim of this meeting and that will be done.

Sra. Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina): La delegación argentina desea señalar su apoyo a la información brindada en el documento con relación al papel que cupo y cabe a la FAO en todas aquellas acciones tendientes a lograr el alivio de la pobreza, a través de su vinculación con la UNCTAD VIII, el ECOSOC, el Grupo de la Acción de la CAC sobre desarrollo rural, y la Asamblea de la ONU en su 47° período de sesiones.

Deseamos asimismo destacar la importancia y apoyo que el Gobierno de mi país concede a la Conferencia Internacional sobre Población y Desarrollo, a la Cumbre Mundial para el Desarrollo Social, a la Cuarta Conferencia sobre la Mujer y a la Conferencia de la ONU sobre Asentamientos Humanos (Habitat II) y, consecuentemente, el compromiso que ha asumido para unir sus esfuerzos, durante los preparativos y realización de las mismas, para llegar a una exitosa concreción de sus objetivos.

Respecto de las actividades operativas, Resolución 47/199 de la Asamblea General de la ONU, mi Delegación coincide con la puesta en práctica de las

disposiciones de dicha Resolución en cuanto a: el concepto de NEP; la aplicación del enfoque programático; la ejecución nacional; la descentralización; el sistema de coordinadores residentes; la capacitación en gestión sobre el terreno y la armonización de normas y procedimientos. Exhortamos asimismo a la Secretaría general de la FAO a que maximice los esfuerzos tendientes a alentarlos.

Por último, señor Presidente, en lo que hace al capítulo del documento "Cuestiones de Comercio y Productos Básicos", la delegación argentina desea señalar la preocupación de su Gobierno por el riesgo de que la Ronda Uruguay fracase. No nos parece inútil insistir, una vez más, en que solamente se podrán lograr avances en el Grupo de Medidas Ambientales y el Comercio Internacional del GATT si los productos agrícolas y agroindustriales son incluidos en la Ronda Uruguay, de manera tal de asegurar la liberalización del comercio internacional de productos básicos.

Señor Presidente, respecto del tema 15.2 "Novedades más recientes en las relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales, y específicamente respecto a las "Novedades en la Cooperación entre Organismos", en este caso de América Latina y el Caribe, la delegación argentina apoya la solicitud efectuada por las Delegaciones de Barbados, Canadá, Estados Unidos y delegaciones de América Central, en el sentido de que, a fin de racionalizar gastos y no desperdiciar esfuerzos, la Secretaría inicie contactos con la Secretaría del Instituto Intergubernamental de Cooperación en Agricultura (IICA), a fin de evaluar las posibilidades de establecer vínculos de cooperación entre ambas organizaciones, visto que ambas dos tienen objetivos comunes en varios campos.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que sería de gran utilidad contar, en oportunidad del 106° Consejo de junio de 1994, con un primer informe de las acciones que se hubieren llevado a cabo en este sentido.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMÍREZ DE LÓPEZ (Honduras): Tengo el agrado de hacer uso de la palabra en nombre de los países del istmo centroamericano; a saber, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panamá, para referirme al tema 15.2.

Señor Presidente, el tema que nos ocupa informa de cómo la Organización cumple con la tarea de establecer vínculos de colaboración con un número creciente de organizaciones e instituciones que comparten los objetivos de la FAO, en una amplia gama de ámbitos de acciones que incluyen, desde comunidades campesinas a nivel local, hasta centros internacionales de investigación científica y tecnológica, lo cual representa en su conjunto un recurso de apoyo inestimable para los países.

Consideramos que la interacción de estas instituciones con la FAO es mutuamente enriquecedora, ya que ellas aportan y reciben conocimientos y experiencias diversas.

La experiencia indica que establecer y mantener bases fuertes de colaboración no es tarea fácil; conlleva un esfuerzo sostenido de entendimiento que demanda capacidad y voluntad. Significa mantener la visión de las tendencias generales, sin descuidar fenómenos particulares que pueden cobrar importancia en un próximo futuro. Requiere también

capacidad de análisis y síntesis y, sobre todo, una actitud de apertura hacia afuera.

Por ello deseamos manifestar nuestra satisfacción por el documento en estudio, que nos ofrece un panorama claro y variado de las experiencias de nuestra Organización con otras instituciones.

Con relación a nuestra subregión y tomando en cuenta la unidad geográfica del istmo, la existencia de una identidad centroamericana, y la necesidad de impulsar el desarrollo económico, social y agrícola de la región a través de un renovado esquema de integración, han hecho que en los últimos años se haya producido una relevante transformación en diferentes campos.

En este sentido deseamos recalcar la importancia de estrechar la relación de la FAO con el Instituto Interamericano para Cooperación en Agricultura, el IICA, y otros organismos regionales, en beneficio de la lucha contra la pobreza, el desarrollo de la agricultura, pesca y montes, en el marco del desarrollo sostenible.

Moses MBUGUA (Kenya) : We are grateful for this opportunity to make a contribution to this very vital subject of our times.

The role of NGOs in areas of national development and interventions at grass-roots-level development, and also at the level of mobilization of funds for rural development, has the praise of us all.

Document C 93/20 is very well analysed, and I should like to congratulate the Secretariat for their hard work in producing the document. I wish to refer to pages 16 and 17, specifically to paragraphs 2.8 and 2.9 on the subject of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.

When the late Dr B.R. Sen launched the Freedom from Hunger Campaign world governments were requested to launch their own chapters of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Those countries which responded positively realized the improved methodologies and principles towards people's participation in . . .their own developments.

While the entire UN system has continued to encourage the existence of NGOs, it is important to realize that it was FAO over 30 years ago which started this encouragement.

We are happy to learn that in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, Ghana, an officer by the name of Manzi Bakuro-Mutza who has had long experience with Freedom from Hunger, has been posted by FAO. We hope African NGOs will be strengthened both in financial and local human resources in order to increase their efforts towards rural development, democratization, and ensuring a world free from hunger and malnutrition.

I would request FAO to continue encouraging sustained relationships and partnerships between the northern and southern NGOs and to continue sensitizing the governments in the developing world to recognize and support the work of NGOs without suspicion. We hope that FAO will realize the necessary required funds to support NGO work which today is more important than ever.

Mme Sabria BOUKADOUM (Algérie): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Mme Killingsworth pour l'excellente présentation du point que nous examinons actuellement.

L'intervention de ma délégation sera très brève et portera sur un point précis qui concerne l'agenda relatif au développement. Véritable programme global pour promouvoir un développement durable et équilibré, cet agenda est le corollaire de l'agenda pour la paix et sera présenté prochainement par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies aux gouvernements. Nous estimons que la FAO a un rôle important à jouer dans l'élaboration et le suivi de cet agenda. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que, lors des prochaines réunions du Conseil et de la Conférence, des informations supplémentaires soient fournies sur les activités de la FAO dans ce cadre.

Ms Charlotte E. ROE (United States of America): We also wish to thank Ms Killingsworth for the excellent introduction and for the effort that was put into the document before us.

The United States is pleased to note the growth in collaborative activities among FAO, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. Cooperation with significant NGOs and IGOs has increased, particularly as international organizations have endured the contraction of resources. Cooperation makes sense. The sharing of knowledge and the division of tasks make the most of limited resources. This in turn expands the credibility of multilateral undertakings.

Document C 93/2 0 reports on significant developments in each region in FAO's working relationships with counterpart organizations. We all know of the important role model that was established by FAO's successful cooperation with many NGOs and private sector organizations in the International Conference on Nutrition.

The Report details, in a well organized and unpretentious way, efforts to achieve common global objectives and to cooperate in sector-specific fields such as land and water development. In particular, the last section gives details on a number of new and promising initiatives.

Participatory methods are essential to bring farmers, rural women and other groups into the mainstream so that they fully understand the options that are available through integrated farming approaches and are able to use their knowledge to make SARD practices profitable. This requires the closest possible collaboration with farmers' groups to get the message across. FAO has shown that this model can be effective in a number of examples, which must be extended and promoted on a larger scale. We refer to the IPM Farmers' Field Schools in South East Asia; the CET (Centro de Educación Técnico) projects in Chiloe, Chile; FAO's work with the Senegalese NGOs, known as FONGS, in cooperation with the Brazilian based AS-PTA; the Strategic Extension Campaign against the goldel snail in the Philippines; and the August Training Workshop on SARD approaches in Bangkok. The new FAO effort in cooperation with CLADES to promote and exchange ideas on SARD methodologies among farmers in marginal and resource-poor communities also merits closer attention and support.

A note of caution is in order. All of us agree that duplication and territorial battles are wasteful, but it is also possible to carry the exercise of coordination too far. Going to meetings at a high level to talk

about cooperation can become a way of life to the exclusion of real programmes. Today the demand on resources for real, piece-by-piece, on-the-ground development is tremendous. Those organizations most dedicated to making a difference need to scale down their great Councils and trim down the setting of great joint strategies. The energy thus saved could be used to establish clear divisions of labour which would make more resources available to the field. Less talk, fewer meetings and more regionalized foci for action should be on the horizon.

Mr Chairman, an important opportunity - I would say perhaps an historic opportunity - for further regional cooperation has been opened by the Governing Board of IICA, which in its September Meeting recommended that steps be initiated to advance coordination with FAO with a view to possible integration of field activities in the hemisphere. We strongly support the request that was made at this Meeting by Barbados, Argentina, Canada, Honduras and the other Central American countries to follow up on this initiative. IICA has offices in practically every country in the hemisphere. A structure already exists which could make important progress towards the rationalization of scarce resources and greater efficiency to make more resources available for the critical FAO priorities in Sustainable Development. We would like the next Council of FAO in the summer to report on what it is doing to follow up on this offer for strengthened cooperation. We would like FAO to initiate contacts with IICA at the earliest possible opportunity and to report back to the next Council meeting on the results of these discussions. We hope that the next meeting on this theme will thus illuminate the lessons learned on the results of selected cooperative endeavours.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic) : I should like to begin by expressing my thanks to Ms Killingsworth for her concise explanation of this subject yesterday evening. I am grateful to the Secretariat for the splendid way in which the documents have been prepared. We would like these documents to play a more meaningful role, to take more innovative steps and to give more details. We believe these documents are necessary, and they are only useful if fleshed out in this respect. They are very useful in our dealings with other organizations. My delegation is very interested to read about the activities of our Organization and its relations with other agencies and organizations, and we should like to encourage such interaction with other organizations and support efforts made to achieve sustainable development, to eradicate poverty and to improve the living conditions of people throughout the world. The Organization has a fundamental role to play in development, and it is important that our activities should be coordinated with those of other organizations to enhance all the efforts that are being made.

It is important for us to collaborate with other organizations. Certain efforts have not been sufficiently well coordinated in the past, for example, those dealing with development, and the policy followed for meteorology programmes with member countries. We would like to see greater coordination on all the fundamental issues to make sure that there is no overlap or duplication, or indeed competition, with other organizations.

We would like to stress the importance of the role of FAO in the preparing and drafting of international agreements such as those on desertification, with which Africa is particularly concerned. In Africa we would like to participate in the conferences being held in 1994 and 1995, and we believe

that our organizations should study the contribution it can make to these conferences. This should be done at the meetings of our Governing Bodies. This would enable member countries to get ready for their participation in these big meetings, and indeed increase their participation.

I would like to refer to paragraphs 1.63 to 1.71 of document C 93/20 concerning the Near East, the return of the Regional Office and the work being done in Cairo, and the initiatives to enhance cooperation with organizations in the Region. All this is particularly important. We believe that the activities of that Office are proving highly satisfactory. We feel FAO should step up the work that is being done by the Regional Office for the Near East because it is an area which is particularly sensitive and it is important that we protect it against desertification, for example, and other dreadful scourges which might endanger the Region.

Cooperation is therefore very important and it is essential that we collaborate with the NGOs in this context because such collaboration is of vital importance both on a regional and international level.

Ato Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): My delegation too would like to thank Ms Killingsworth for her introduction which I was not able to listen to because of a parallel meeting I had to attend. However, I have had the opportunity of listening to other introductions she has made, so I am fully aware of the quality and analytical presentation of the introductions she usually makes.

As we did not have a chance to speak on Item 15.1, we will try to make some general remarks on this item and combine them with our reactions on Item 15.2, with your permission. Document 93/9 outlines some of the recent developments in the UN system. As these matters have been discussed in various fora and we have indicated our views during those particular discussions, we will not go into detail on each and every point.

We must pay tribute to the efforts being made in the UN system to cope with drought emergencies in Southern Africa, the Special Emergency Programme in the Horn of Africa and the International Convention to combat desertification. These are some of the areas in which we would like to stress a positive reaction. The role of FAO in these operations merits our appreciation.

In the general discussions Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture indicated our interest in participating in the forthcoming international conferences relating to Population, Human Settlements, Human Rights, Social Development and the international Conference on Women, which have been mentioned in the document before us.

We hope that the international community will see to it that this participation of the members of the developing countries could be facilitated through material and information support that we need to get. We are aware that these areas have their own respective bodies for implementation of these conferences but we do feel that FAO's role in voicing these concerns in the various fora could be very useful for the member countries.

Having said this on Item 15 I will now concentrate on Item 15 specifically to the role of the NGOs in the development programmes of the developing

countries. The role of the NGOs in both emergency and development programmes has been very significant and its continuation becomes a matter that we all like to see. We would also like to voice our due regard for the wonderful humanitarian services that they provide to this support. It might be difficult to talk about each of the individual NGOs because of the time limitation and also the multitudes of NGOs that are operating in our respective countries. This being the case we would like to limit our observation to the FFHC programme of NGO-supported agricultural rehabilitation and development programmes because of its relevancy to the present discussion and relation to document C 93/20. Supports given to regional and sub-regional organizations outlined in paragraph 1.12 are of significant importance to our countries and we would like to indicate our support to such programmes.

Since 1986 Ethiopia has benefited from support for local agricultural rehabilitation initiatives and programmes. Funds have been channelled to rural communities in drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia where families struggle to remain on their land and build up their basis for a sustainable approach to agriculture. This programme has been in the vanguard of experimenting in areas which are now generally recognized of key importance. Some of these could be meeting the immediate needs of drought-stricken families in such a way that a basis is laid for sustainable long-term development. Introduction of a participatory approach and a community focus to rehabilitation planning and action, assigning maximum responsibility to the affected people's own organization: laying emphasis on the participation of women in rebuilding the productive activities of their community. We are confident that the experience of the programme in Ethiopia could make an important contribution to the formulation of the FAO/NGO cooperation programme in Africa, given the persistence of drought in many countries of the region and the need to address the problems of how present agriculture can be placed on a more sustainable basis in these difficult conditions.

CHAIRMAN: I would once again ask for the understanding on the need to be brief. We have the representative of Iran and then four observers speaking but it is my interest to try to finish the debate on Items 15.1 and 15.2 this morning so that we do not need to go into the afternoon. So if you agree to that I would ask you to be brief in future interventions.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Islamic Republic of Iran) : In the name of Iod, the Almighty, the compassionate, in respect to the recommendation I will try to be as brief as possible. At the outset I wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing such a useful and informative document and I would express my delegation's appreciation to Madame Killingsworth for her clear and comprehensive introduction to the document before us.

In line with the FAO mandate and in order to achieve its objectives we strongly believe that FAO's role is a vital one in relation to the activities of other organizations within the UN system and with the inter-governmental and non-government al organizations as well. In particular "we urge FAO for the continuation of its contribution to the UNCED follow-up action and to the implementation of the action plan concerned in Agenda 21. More specifically the FAO contribution to the elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification which is expected to be finalized and adopted by June 1994 is to be commended and

its encouragement and contribution to the implementation of this Convention must be continued and emphasized.

Regarding the subjects which are planned to be dealt with during the Commission on Sustainable Development, we also believe that FAO has a vital role to play and in terms of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, FAO's contribution to the related debate and action of this Commission could be very useful as regards the developing countries' interests.

Regarding paragraph 8.6 Resolution 47/150 of the General Assembly for restraining the UN response to world food hunger problems, I would like to inform you that the President of the World Food Council has sent a letter to all the Ministers of the World State Food Council to continue their attempt to agree on appropriate measures to be taken and to communicate the agreed conclusions to the General Assembly. Fortunately up to now, except for one Member State, all the response to the support for the continuation of WFP with adequate reforms to strengthen its effectiveness has been positive and some Member States are waiting to receive the instructions from their capitals.

Regarding the recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO, my delegation would like to congratulate the Regional Office for the Near East for its efforts in supporting and cooperating with regional and inter-governmental organizations and we also welcome its efforts for initiative in establishing an Inter-Agency Task Force grouping UN and regional organizations to coordinate activities in order to avoid duplication and to ensure harmony in the UN and regional activities.

At the end I wish to congratulate you, and the Chairman of this Commission, our dear colleague Mr Senacus for your excellent work in conducting our Commission.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago intervenes on this item firstly to endorse fully the comments of the delegate of Barbados, particularly with emphasis on the need for FAO to strengthen its effective working relationship with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture. In fact we would urge the new Director-General, as indeed the new and recently elected Director-General of the IICA to form a very strong cooperative working relationship for the wider interest of agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and particularly having regard to the importance of both organizations to the well-being of the agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries sectors in the small island states of CARICOM sub-region. We make this particular appeal because we are very much aware of the extent to which resources are becoming scarce in terms of overall development and particularly with regard to agriculture, forestry and fisheries development and we can see considerable scope for complementarity of action on the part of both these organizations in the interests of agriculture, forestry and fisheries development in our sub-region.

The second point I wish to raise on this Agenda item relates to food and agriculture as it is treated at paragraph 8.3 to 8.16 of document C 93/9. We note in particular the call that has been made at the UNGA, requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the 49th Session a report on Food Production, including the agro-industrial products, international market, agricultural and tropical products and the state of global food security,

taking into particular account the needs of all developing countries, including net food importing countries. This is an extremely important injunction and mandate, and we expect and we anticipate and we know that our Organization, FAO, will respond fully to this responsibility, to this task and indeed this particular opportunity because it puts full square on the agenda of the UNGA an opportunity to reflect critically and fully on issues of tremendous importance to this particular Organization. We within FAO are fully aware of the extent to which activities in sister and related organizations within the system impact upon condition the framework within which this Organization and its activities may prosper, develop and flourish, and therefore I would hope at some appropriate time in the course of the preparatory exercise which FAO would indeed undertake that the membership of FAO would have an opportunity to at least get an understanding of the nature of the report which is going to be sent by FAO as its contribution to the UNGA effort.

Vera TADIC (Croatia): The Croatian delegation would like to express its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing document C 93/20, which is detailed regarding FAO's cooperation with inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. We are aware that the NGOs play an important role covering all major issues relevant to food, agriculture, rural development, forestry and fisheries.

In Europe cooperation between FAO and IGOs and NGOs has been developed in the past two years. The Croatian delegation would like to point out the specific role of NGOs in Croatia during the war. Our delegation has already expressed its gratitude to all humanitarian organizations in providing the food for more than 600 000 war refugees and displaced persons. Our thanks go specially to the World Food Programme and the UNHCR. In the future Croatia expects a more active role with FAO and its cooperation with various NGOs in restructuring of war-destroyed agriculture and more than 50 000 destroyed farms in Croatia.

At the same time, after more than 50 years of socialism, Croatia is developing its own NGOs for better cooperation with world NGOs. We can assure you that Croatia will support all FAO's activities in developing a better and more effective role with FAO in this area.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands) : I have to apologize to ask for the floor for the second time but after the statement of the representative of Trinidad and Tobago I would like to support his first point, that is, the appeal on you to react on his proposal to work a closer relationship between the IICA and FAO. I had the opportunity last year during the Regional Conference to talk to Mr Pineiro, the former Director-General of the IICA and later on with Mr Moreno in Santiago and I see that we can have a lot of saving if the IICA could be the operational arm of FAO in that region. So I would like to second his statement.

William H. MARSH (United States of America) : With extreme brevity and with apologies for taking the floor once again, I should like to be helpful, I think, in pointing out the question of the World Food Council; the matter is now before the General Assembly in New York following an exhaustive examination of the matter here by a working group at which, unfortunately,

it proved impossible to reach a consensus. The point is, Chairman, that the appropriate forum is the UN's General Assembly and not this august body.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): I wish to express my delegation's satisfaction on the great number of activities which FAO is involved in. In particular I wish to note and express satisfaction for the activities of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, which has provided support to many developmental organizations in the region. Such support has been provided to the Association for Agricultural Research Institutions for the Near East and North Africa. A meeting of the RNEA was recently held in Cyprus in which FAO and its Regional Office played a significant role and paved the way for close and continuous cooperation between FAO and the RNEA. The Regional Office, by providing and hosting the secretariat, has paved the way for a great spirit of cooperation which is highly appreciated by my delegation.

Iván MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia) : Solamente para formular a la sala, a los distinguidos delegados y a usted, señor Presidente, que la declaración que he dejado por escrito se refiere al tema tratado en la última intervención por el señor Delegado de los Países Bajos y tiene por finalidad apoyar lo que se ha dicho acá reiteradamente, en el sentido de que la FAO revise sus relaciones con el IICA para profundizar esas relaciones, evitar duplicidad de actividades y aumentar la eficiencia en el trabajo de estos dos organismos.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) : Regarding WFC, as mentioned in paragraph 8.16, I would inform the Commission of recent activities in this regard. I am fully aware of what the Council is going to discuss in the UN system.

Mme Aminata MAIGA KA (Sénégal): Je voulais également m'associer aux remerciements pour le document très élaboré qui nous a été fourni ce matin et appuyer le commentaire de la distinguée Représentante des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. En effet, les ONG sont très bien représentées au Sénégal et interviennent dans tous les domaines d'activité, que ce soit dans le domaine de la santé, de l'éducation, ou de l'agriculture. Nos problèmes concernent surtout la lutte contre l'avancée du désert, la plantation d'arbres, l'amélioration du menu quotidien de la mère et de l'enfant, les cultures vivrières, la transformation, la conserve des fruits et légumes. Nous voudrions également que la FAO continue à soutenir le secteur de la pêche. Vous le savez, en effet, le Sénégal est très riche en matière de produits halieutiques.

Nous terminerons donc tout simplement en insistant pour que la FAO puisse continuer à soutenir l'activité des ONG qui sont très dynamiques dans notre pays.

CHAIRMAN: The delegations of Australia and Colombia have asked that their interventions be inserted into the verbatim of this meeting and this will be done.

Iván MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia): Nuestra Delegación apoya la iniciativa de Barbados, Argentina, Canadá, Honduras y Estados Unidos, en el sentido de solicitar a la FAO que incremente al máximo sus lazos de cooperación con el IICA para evitar la duplicación de esfuerzos y aumentar la eficiencia de las acciones de estos dos organismos. Solicitamos, también, que en la próxima reunión del Consejo de la FAO, la Secretaría presente un informe sobre esta materia¹.

Ms Rosanne Mary KAVA (Australia) : Australia would like to congratulate the Secretariat for drawing together so concisely and clearly the large volume of information on recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO. Given the range of activities covered it is important that every opportunity is taken to maximize cooperation between agencies and to avoid duplication of effort.

Conscious that some activities included in this report have been covered comprehensively under other agenda items today, we would like to confine our statement to comments on three areas :

- the Convention to Combat Desertification;
- the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and
- trade issues.

Regarding Desertification

About 70 percent of Australia is rangeland. We have therefore developed a high level of expertise in the management of arid and semi-arid regions, including expertise in land and water management, planning, identification of species for arid and saline areas, drought management, research services and alternative energy technology.

We have put in place in Australia a number of programmes designed to address resource management problems at the farm, region/catchment and national levels. Chief amongst these is our National Landcare Programme . which encourages landholders to take responsibility for identification of resource management problems and for developing and implementing solutions. This is achieved largely through community based self-help groups.

Mr Chairman, Australia is putting these skills, knowledge and experience to work by joining with other members - and FAO - in playing an active role in the development of an effective convention to combat desertification.

Conference on Small Island States

Secondly, Mr Chairman, we turn to UNCED follow-up for the small island developing States.

Australia places great importance on the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) to be held in Barbados in April/May 1994. Australia encourages Member Nations to seek high-level political attendance at the Barbados Conference.

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

Australia is playing an active role in the preparations for the Conference, including chairing the Preparatory Committee. Significant progress towards development of an action programme to address islands' needs has already been made in New York by the Preparatory Committee. But much work remains to be done to reach agreement on the implementation of the programme and the institutional outcomes of the Conference.

Mr Chairman, the Barbados Conference is a rare opportunity to bring the needs of the SIDS into the international spotlight. The benefits it can afford must be maximized. For this reason we believe we should not leave negotiation of the remaining items until the Conference. To do so may risk failing to produce the outcomes sought under UN Resolution 47/189.

In this context Australia, therefore, considers that a resumed meeting of the Preparatory Committee may provide the most effective opportunity to achieve consensus. We encourage Member States to support such a proposal if it is raised at UNGA 48.

Australia encourages FAO members to play an active and creative role in seeking for SIDS a negotiated programme of action and effective implementation consistent with Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration.

We note the FAO proposal to hold a second Inter-Regional Conference on Small Island States in September 1994. Australia believes the timing and agenda of that meeting could provide a logical and useful forum in which to progress the implementation of the outcomes of Barbados.

Australia would consider co-financing the meeting with FAO and other prospective donors.

Trade issues

Finally, Mr Chairman, we move to trade issues. Australia believes that the best development assistance package for FAO member countries is a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round.

The World Bank and OECD have estimated that a Uruguay Round outcome, based on the Draft Final Act, could provide net benefits to the world economy of as high as US\$213 billion.

Despite this, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round remains under real threat. As Australia and the Cairns Group have consistently made clear, a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round must include a genuinely trade-liberalizing outcome on agriculture.

The Cairns Group, made up of 14 non-subscribing countries have worked effectively to ensure developing country interests were heard in the negotiations. Special and differential treatment for developing countries and provisions for dealing with possible negative impacts of a Uruguay Round outcome on net food-importing countries are examples of issues the Cairns Group has pursued.

With regard to paragraphs 9.2 to 9.4 of document C 93/8, which refer to the Blair House Accord. The official Cairns Group position is that "The Draft Final Act remains the basis for concluding the negotiations. The Cairns Group is not a Party to the Blair House Accord, containing proposals which could dilute the Draft Final Act. The Group can only take a final position

on the Blair House Accord on appropriate multilateral negotiations when it has been tabled and all the market access outcomes are known and can thus be evaluated."

Australia strongly urges FAO member countries to solidly support a conclusion to the Uruguay Round¹.

Evlogui BONEV (UNDP) : The Administrator of UNDP, Mr Speth, outlined some of his thoughts about the future of the United Nations as a force for human betterment and development, inviting all concerned to join him in a continuing dialogue on this important subject. Some delegations have referred to his statement already and I am very grateful for their positive comments.

Since FAO is a major partner in this force for human betterment we thought it would be beneficial if we informed this august body of some of his visions which he shared with the Second Committee. The Administrator describes our world today as a disaster machine producing crises with distressing regularity - crises like famines, ethnic and other conflicts, floods of refugees, extreme social disintegration, environmental disasters, and even failed states; he stressed that dealing with these acute crises is expensive, sometimes bloody, and in human terms invariably late.

He pointed out that in the age of global interdependence, human crises anywhere is a human threat everywhere.

He viewed two initiatives as fundamental if we are to respond to the challenge which confronts us: first, we must seek support for a new agenda for development; and second, this agenda must find expression in a revitalized framework for international cooperation. He believed that sustainable human development provides both a new agenda and a framework. Sustainable human development sums up the vision which has been emerging from agreements reached by all Member Nations at a number of recent UN-sponsored global and regional conferences. It will be carried further forward at forthcoming events : the Population and Women's Conferences and the World Summit on Social Development.

He outlined the need for additional resources and enhanced development cooperation as two critical means for change. Making a comparison of the recent trends in expenditure of the United Nations Development Programme, the UN refugee operations and the UN peace-keeping operations, he pointed out that in 1991 expenditure on UNDP and on refugee programmes reached approximately US\$1.5 billion each, triple that of the US\$500 million cost of peace-keeping operations. The latest estimates for 1993 show a decline in the contributions to UNDP while refugee programmes rise to some US\$2 billion and the costs for peace-keeping operations may sky-rocket to an estimated US\$3.6 billion.

He stressed that it would be more humane, more effective and less expensive to act preventively to meet threats upstream rather than to have them confront us as crises downstream.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

Sustainable human development is a necessary condition for meeting this challenge. To pursue it the development cooperation itself must change. It is time, he stressed, for the UN to reclaim its original mandate on the economic and social front. This requires that the UN now strengthen itself. The UN development system is composed of a uniquely rich group of organizations and agencies and can build on this strength, forging their complementary mandates into well integrated, effective and coordinated support for countries' endeavours to realize the sustainable human development vision.

He stressed further that the UN can no longer fight the battles of tomorrow with the weapons of yesterday. It must rise fully to the challenge of revitalization, renewal and reform. Roles and responsibilities must be clear and unambiguous.

The UNDP's salient characteristics and its continuing strengths are its long-term prospectives: its emphasis on national capacity; its partnership with governments, UN system agencies, non-governmental organizations, and its cross-cutting multi-sectoral approach. Above all UNDP is a field-based organization with a global network of 131 field offices that provides a unique service to the entire United Nations operational system. Because of the grant nature of UNDP's assistance, it does not need to focus on quick pay-offs; instead, it can concentrate on building institutions and capacities which enable development to advance with the participation of and benefit for the widest number of people.

To meet these challenges the UNDP, too, needs renewal and the Administrator informed that he will be consulting with all Member Nations as well as concerned organizations in presenting to UNDP's Governing Council proposals for strengthening UNDP's capacity to be responsive to the needs of the countries we serve and to the need for the United Nations to become a more unified, less fragmented and more effective force for sustainable human development.

Working together within the family of UN programmes and agencies is a must and UNDP can be a unifying force for this family for service and partnerships.

Concluding, the Administrator appealed to the world community to address together the compelling needs that cry out for action:

firstly, the need for a powerful reassertion of the social, economic and environmental roles of the UN. The UN has a vital, indispensable role to play in international cooperation for development: one complementary to the international financial institutions and the bilateral assistance agencies;

second, the need for a UN Agenda for Development as a complement to the Agenda for Peace;

third, the need for UN programmes to come together in a more unified and integrated force for sustainable human development;

fourth, the need for new modalities of governance and financing of the economic and social programmes and stronger efforts to achieve coordination;

and fifth, the need to increase the size and strength of the UN development efforts. With each surge in the support for the UN work in peace-keeping and in coping with other crises, we must increase and strengthen the UN work in helping realize "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".

In short, we need to have stressed a powerful new commitment to preventive development and curative development - a commitment that can turn off the world's disaster machine.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

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Twenty-seventh Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session

COMMISSION II

27º período de sesiones

COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING

QUATORZIEME SEANCE

14ª SESION

(18 November 1993)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Mr Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 15.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Da Rocha Paranhos, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Relations with Other Organizations (continued)

15. Relations avec les autres organisations (suite)

15. Relaciones con otras organizaciones (continuación)

15.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO(continued)

15.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies
intéressant la FAO (suite)

15.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas
de interés para la FAO (continuación)

15.2 Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations (continued)

15.2 Faits nouveaux concernant la coopération de la FAO avec les organisations
intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales (suite)

15.2 Novedades recientes en la cooperación de la FAO con organizaciones intergubernamentales y
no gubernamentales (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order and as you will recall we have had this morning 27 countries who have taken the floor as well as the representative of the UNDP. We have now three observers who have asked for the floor and I would also like to inform the Commission that the Representative of Angola has asked us that their statement be included in the Verbatim of this meeting and that is what will be done.

Edmond HARTMANS (Caritas Internationalis) : Unfortunately I was not present when Mrs Killingsworth introduced document C 93/20 but I know that she made reference to the delegates of the NGO meeting on 9 November. The report of this meeting is available as document C 93-Sup.1 and has been referred to by several delegates. I hope the delegates can find the time to read this document, it makes a number of specific suggestions to strengthen the presently existing collaboration between FAO, the countries and NGOs and paragraph 17 was particularly mentioned by the delegate of the Netherlands.

As I have already spoken on Commission I, I will here be very brief and not repetitive. However, to illustrate how important a contribution NGOs can make I would like to take an example of my own organization, Caritas Internationalis. During the last 18 months the Caritas network of some 150 autonomous country organizations has made a financial commitment of US\$122 million 337 thousand to the war victims of former Yugoslavia, I repeat 122 million plus. For the delegates who wish to have details of this massive relief rehabilitation and development operation I am happy to share copies of a document which gives full details. Obviously there are many other obligations as regards this organization but this is the one outstanding at this moment. For the delegations who wish to have details of this massive relief rehabilitation and development operation I am happy to share copies of a document which gives full details.

As Chairman of the NGO informal meeting I wish to thank the FAO Secretariat particularly Mrs Killingsworth and her collaborators and the introductory speakers and their collaborators for the assistance it has given to the NGO Working Group in all their preparations. I wish also to thank sincerely the

many delegations which have commented on the importance of collaboration with the NGOs as a bridge to reach the most needy.

In reply to the many references to the NGOs' importance let me assure Member Governments and FAO that all the NGOs which participated at the Meeting of 9 November had one great common desire and aspiration, namely to be real partners particularly at the country level in emergency actions and in the development of natural and human resources for the benefit of the most needy people. Many NGOs have the capacity to give immediate help as they are often locally present and have the expertise to participate at very little or no extra cost.

Ms Elena LODI FE (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts): I would like to thank Ms Killingsworth for her exposé yesterday on items 15.1 and 15.2.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - 128 Member Organizations and 8.5 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, worldwide, is actively supporting the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted at the end of the FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) in Rome in December 1992. In close collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which we thank for its technical and financial help, WAGGGS is pursuing the implementation of the FAO Plan of Action.

In July, WAGGGS held its 28th World Conference in Nyborg, Denmark, at which FAO and WAGGGS organized a visual display. Printed material in English, French, Spanish and Arabic, on the ICN themes of "Household food security", "Food quality and safety", "Prevention of micronutrient deficiencies", for example, was at the disposal of WAGGGS' Delegates and guests. A similar display was set up with material provided by the World Food Programme.

Pat Dexter, FAO Nutrition Officer, was present at the Conference from 29 June to 2 July. Numerous direct contacts were established with WAGGGS' Delegates, especially from the African and Asian Regions, and further collaboration is being encouraged on a national government /FAO/WAGGGS basis in those countries where WAGGGS Member Organizations are involved in this work.

We are sorry to hear that Pat is leaving FAO and we offer our special thanks to her for her collaboration with WAGGGS.

On 16 October, World Food Day, WAGGGS' booklet "Food and Nutrition - a Choice for Life" was officially announced to the press in London. This booklet, produced with FAO support, provides information on food and nutrition issues and on the importance of a healthy diet for girls and young women. It also describes ways in which Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are working to improve food and nutrition worldwide. The booklet was distributed to all WAGGGS' Member Organizations and widely publicized to other NGOs working in similar areas or with similar constituencies.

Mr Chairman, we are only at the beginning of the implementation of the Plan of Action, but Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from Botswana, New Zealand, Ghana, Australia, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Guyana, Ireland, Fiji Islands, Swaziland and Honduras, just to mention a few, have already started working in this direction.

WAGGGS' collaboration with FAO is supported by one of the fundamental principles which inspires the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement: "Service to others". We are grateful to FAO for its help in making our commitment possible.

May I add just two more words: WAGGGS has just embarked - on 21 September - on a three-year peace initiative "Create peace worldwide". One of the first phases of the peace initiative is a joint project between WAGGGS and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Lino VISANI (Alliance coopérative internationale): Le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies a approuvé une résolution sur le rôle et l'activité de l'Association coopérative internationale en vue de concourir à la réalisation d'une politique de développement durable. Nous pensons qu'il serait très important et très utile de reconnaître le document tel qu'il a été préparé, afin de valoriser le rôle de la participation populaire dans le développement durable. Nous pensons en effet que cela serait très utile pour renforcer la collaboration entre les organisations populaires, et en particulier les associations d'agriculteurs, les coopératives, les organisations des femmes rurales, de donner un rôle essentiel à la division de la FAO qui s'occupe des ressources humaines dans le cadre du renforcement de son action intersectorielle, en vue de réaliser les plans d'action sur la participation populaire approuvés à la dernière Conférence de la FAO et qui sont, à notre avis, à la base d'une politique pour un développement durable.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, we thank the distinguished delegate from the International Cooperative Alliance and since there are no other requests from the floor I would now give the floor to Ms. Killingsworth for her comments and replies to the different interventions that were made this afternoon and this morning.

Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for External Relations): We have had over 30 speakers on these two items combined; the interventions have been so wide-ranging and varied, have covered many different topics in such a substantive way that there is no way I could do justice to the debate by commenting on all of them.

What I would like to do is address those issues which called for some reply or comment on the part of the Secretariat and to assure you that we have taken extremely careful note of all of the interventions and all of the points made and we will do our best to assist your Drafting Committee in reflecting the sense of the debate in the report.

First of all, I start by thanking all those delegations who appreciated the document and the effort we had made to be both concise and as complete as possible but at the same time to avoid duplication in the documentation for the Conference and also in your debate. This was noted by several delegations. Some of the major issues in which FAO is actively working with other organizations of the system have already been dealt with on your agenda in this Commission or in others such as Commission I. I make that point in particular because I had stressed yesterday that to the best extent possible we try to make sure that when you are addressing substantive items on your agenda you get the relative information concerning what is going on in the rest of the system, what the

consequences are for the Organization of decisions taken in other fora. In this particular case I would say the best example is the follow-up to UNCED, on which Commission I has had an extremely rich, varied and detailed debate just yesterday.

However, since the delegate of the Netherlands raised a few questions on that, I would like to draw his attention in particular to the document submitted for that item, C 93/10, in particular paragraph 18 of that document which gives a good deal of information on FAO's contribution to the preparation of a Convention on Desertification; paragraph 22 deals with FAO's cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development; and paragraph 32 deals with cooperation with NGOs on the follow-up to UNCED. That information in the document was also supplemented by Mr Mahler in his oral introduction on that agenda.

I will not make any comments concerning operational activities for development because, as I also mentioned yesterday, you here in Commission II have had a special document presented to you in the context of your discussion on the Programme Implementation Report with the full text of the Resolution 47/199, and I believe in your report on that discussion you have covered in some detail the major issues which were raised by delegates concerning that resolution.

I would go on then to some questions concerning drug abuse control.

The delegate of the United Kingdom was kind enough to say that some of the more detailed information he requested on FAO's drugs-related activities, both present and future, could be provided to him separately and we are arranging for that to be done. He asked also whether this would be a continuing item on future agendas of the Conference and Council. Certainly to the extent that this remains the priority that it is for the moment in the UN system we will continue to report to you on this subject as we have done essentially in every document for the past several years.

I could point out, by way of supplement to what I said yesterday in my introduction, that since the discussion which the document reports on, which took place at ECOSOC this summer, we have not only been represented at a meeting of the ACC Interagency Group dealing with drug abuse control but we have provided for the UNDCP, which is acting as a system-wide coordinator on this issue, the FAO Implementation Plan, and recently - just I think last week - the General Assembly also adopted a resolution on drug abuse on which we will be reporting to you next year.

Going on from that subject to some points which were raised concerning international conferences, first of all, the World Summit on Social Development which will take place in 1995. I believe it was the delegate of the United Kingdom who said the focus of this major conference is not yet completely clear and it may be much more clear after the first preparatory committee meeting at the end of January and early February. We all share the feeling that some work needs to be done to clarify the focus of the summit. At the same time that does, of course, have an impact on the kind of input which an organization like FAO can make to the preparations for it. The system-wide input to the World Summit was the subject discussed at the recent ACC in October and the related meetings of the Organizational Committee which prepares for the ACC. We are working on it but we suspect at this point the contributions of individual agencies to the first Preparatory Committee will go forward as contributions of individual agencies rather than a system-wide contribution.

Similarly, the question of the Agenda for Development was raised by a number of speakers. As you know, and as we have reported to you in the past, the Agenda for Development was requested by the General Assembly from the Secretary-General as a parallel initiative to the Agenda for Peace which the Secretary-General had prepared before. We have been asked for, and have provided, some initial input to the elaboration of this document which the Secretary-General is preparing, and the subject was discussed by the executive heads at the recent meeting of the Administration Committee for Coordination.

We have taken careful note of the number of delegations who have pointed out that FAO had a unique and important contribution to make to this document. We certainly agree that this contribution needs to be made. At the moment, however, the procedures, the modalities, for making that contribution have not yet become clear to us.

Going to other international conferences, I believe it was the delegate of France who mentioned the importance of the preparations for the Conference on Population and Development. Here again I would point out that FAO has been represented at the various inter-agency meetings which have taken place, and also at the preparatory meetings of governments to draw up the documentation for this Conference. At the moment, we have found that the annotated outline of the final document for the Conference does not yet reflect the importance of rural development issues, such as rural population dynamics, which are obviously of great importance to this Conference. We welcome indications which we have recently had from New York that some governments are calling for further inter-agency consultations in the context of the preparation of the full document, because we would like to be able to follow your guidance and make the input we need to make to ensure that the issues for which FAO is particularly competent are adequately reflected in the final Conference document.

Similarly, a number of delegations pointed to the need for FAO to make an important contribution to the Secretary-General's report, which has been requested for the 49th General Assembly - that is, next year - on food production and related issues. As I think we also pointed out to the Council in June, the General Assembly, in calling for this report, did not specifically mention FAO. We hope and expect to be consulted on the preparation of that report; in fact, we would expect that we would be able to prepare the report if so requested by the Secretary-General. As you know, we have a number of precedents. Going back a few years, the Agriculture Chapter of the fourth International Development Strategy, as many Member Nations will recall, was prepared by FAO and in fact discussed by FAO's Governing Bodies before being sent forward to New York for incorporation in the wider International Development Strategy document. Similarly, as I mentioned yesterday, FAO was requested by the Secretary-General to prepare the basic document for the General Assembly's discussion at this present session on the need for and feasibility of a diversification facility for Africa's commodities. We did prepare that document entirely here in FAO, and it has been sent forward by the Secretary-General to the GA as FAO prepared it.

These are examples of how the Organization's expertise can be made available and is made available; but again it requires that the central inter-governmental bodies in New York and the Secretariat of the UN make the call on FAO. So we are pointing that out - we are taking note of your injunction to us to cooperate to the fullest extent possible, but it is an example also of how the Member Nations which are represented here and also

represented in New York can help in ensuring that FAO's contribution is called for when needed in dealing with these subjects, which are so central to its mandate.

I would like to go on from there to some questions concerning FAO's activities in emergency relief and humanitarian assistance. We have taken very careful note of the very positive comments on the tremendous efforts that the Organization has been making in the last two years in cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the UN, and also of the expressions of appreciation for the unique role and work being carried out by the Global Information and Early Warning System.

We did however note also some warning signals being sounded by several delegations. The United States delegation pointed out that the exercise of coordination can be carried too far, and that we need less talk and fewer meetings. The delegate of France pointed to the concern which we had reported to you in our document in paragraph 11, and which is something that occupies our mind considerably, that is, the multiplication in a number of countries of coordinators - not just the resident coordinator, but humanitarian coordinators and special representatives. The delegate of Germany referred to the fact that when an emergency arises there is sometimes no time to implement coordination. What is important is action. The delegate of the Netherlands also requested some more detail on the work we have been doing in this area, and on the problems we have encountered.

I will not take up your time with a full list of what we have been doing in emergency-related work. I would however like to point out that we have just in the past few months, participated in consolidated appeal processes for Angola, Burundi, Iraq, Rwanda, former Yugoslavia, Zaire, the Programme for the Horn of Africa (called SEPHA) , Lebanon, and Sierra Leone. I have a list here of some sixteen missions and two more assessment reports carried out in cooperation with WFP through the Global Information and Early Warning System.

A comment was made that cooperation be intensified and be permanent with WFP, and I would like to assure you that on this the cooperation is indeed permanent. Our Crop and Food Supply Assessment Missions are carried out jointly.

That, I must say, is a brief overview on the plus side. What do we have on the minus side? - Or rather, not fully minus but...

Since the DHA was established at the beginning of last year we have noted an extraordinary increase in the number of requests to us for participation in meetings to prepare the work for these various emergency exercises and to provide inputs to reports to various other fora, such as the General Assembly. These have, for instance, moved from a total of eight requests for inputs received in 1991 to 27 in 1992 and 49 in 1993. We receive now, on an average, 7 requests per month for reports of some kind. At the same time, we are having an average of 8 to 9 meetings per month on various emergency-related activities. Luckily, a number of these meetings take place in Geneva, where we do have a small office who can assist us in covering them; but we do occasionally ask ourselves whether we are not getting to a point where the effort required to ensure coordination is beginning to be made at the expense of the action which needs to be carried out to actually address the emergencies. We are working on this at the inter-secretariat level with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

As I mentioned yesterday, Mr Hjort is an active participant on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and already some improvements have been worked out among the various agencies involved. But we appreciate the recognition which we have noted in this morning's discussion, that sometimes coordination can become end in itself, to the detriment of prompt action at the country level, and that we must at all times be careful that the use of our scarce resources is designed to deal with the real and pressing problems which a number of delegations, such as the delegation for the Netherlands, pointed to this morning.

Talking about emergency assistance seems to take us logically into a discussion on cooperation with NGOs, because cooperation on emergency relief and humanitarian assistance is one of the areas to which not only FAO but other organizations in the UN system have been attaching much greater priority recently, and have managed to establish very fruitful cooperative links with a number of important NGOs working in this field.

I believe the representative of CARITAS referred just now to the resources which are available to NGOs working in the humanitarian assistance field who are on the ground, who are often able to implement extremely quickly.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, as Mr Hjort has often pointed out (including to ECOSOC this summer) has the great advantage of being as broad as the problem. It can therefore involve, and does involve, representatives from the NGOs along with representatives of the UN operational agencies, and specialized agencies such as FAO and WHO.

We have covered in the document, and several Member Nations have referred to, the important and very fruitful cooperation of the Global Information and Early Warning System with some 60 NGOs. But we must also think of the whole problem of the continuum from emergency relief to development which passes through a phase of rehabilitation, to which sometimes not enough attention is paid. I believe the delegate of Pakistan referred to it this morning, and I would point out that the intervention of the delegate of Ethiopia who referred to FAO's work with NGOs funding in Ethiopia over the past years on local rehabilitation initiatives is, we think, a very good example of how FAO and NGOs can cooperate in this very crucial phase of rehabilitation, carrying out the work which is necessary to allow people to re-establish themselves, recreate their livelihoods, and go on, once the emergency relief phase is passed.

We have noted several interventions concerning the follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, and the point raised by the delegate of France, which we most appreciate, concerning the happiness of the French NGOs at having been participants - "à part entière", I believe he said - full participants in the process of preparation of the ICN. I wish to assure you also that they are to be full participants in the follow-up. This follow-up is something to which we attach great importance, particularly at the national level. That is where the work needs to be done, and where the role of the NGOs can be absolutely vital.

The delegate of the Netherlands asked for some clarification concerning FAO's work in consultation with farmer organizations. I would like to refer him to a number of paragraphs in document C 93/2 0 where the subject is covered. We do not have a special section on cooperation with farmer organizations, but in paragraphs 23, 30, 37 and 45 of the first section, and 5, 10 and 38 of the second section he will find references to FAO's

work with such organizations, which I should like to assure him continue to be of major importance to FAO's work.

Cooperation with NGOs concerning sustainable agriculture and the environment: the report of the informal NGO meeting which took place on 9 November, to which also the observer from CARITAS referred just now, testifies to the rich dialogue which we are having and have been having over the past years with NGOs on cooperation in the area of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

As I mentioned also yesterday, the recent FAO/NGO consultation in Asia which was hosted by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was also on this subject. I believe that a reference is also made in document C 93/20 to regional programmes of FAO/NGO cooperation which we are finalizing now as proposals, and for which we hope to find funding to promote sustainable development of the smallholder farming systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

I believe that the delegate of the United States referred to the recent consultations with NGOs hopefully leading to such regional cooperation programmes. We see here a complementarity between the action of NGOs and the actions of governments for sustainable agriculture, particularly in the area of extension and research. The role of FAO in such programmes would be to provide technical and methodological assistance and to facilitate cooperative activities.

That perhaps raises the broader question of the Organization's relations with not only non-governmental organizations but intergovernmental organizations. I believe it was the delegation of Bangladesh who referred very aptly to the concept of a mosaic, particularly at the country level, this mosaic involving all the actors on the development scene - governments, intergovernmental organizations both regional and global and non-governmental organizations of various types.

As a number of delegates pointed out, these relations are becoming more and more complex. That is why the request from the delegate of Germany for a table or a diagram of these relationships gave me some pause for reflection. On terms of a diagram or a table, I think I am not a good enough artist to do a graphic design that would be readable. There would be so many arrows going in so many different directions that it would be extremely difficult to conceptualize in one table all the different kinds of relationships which exist between these various organizations. I do have some information which I would be happy to provide to the delegate of Germany. For instance, we have a register of all the organizations with which FAO has an official relationship. We have a directory of NGOs particularly involved in rural development, and a number of other lists of various types.

I would also like to point out that we are preparing a database with information on non-governmental organizations working in the fields of most interest to FAO. So together I think these various sources would give a clear idea of what different types of relationships exist, but we will also take this, under advisement for the next document to make sure that we give you a clear indication of the various types of networks and cooperative activities which we have with these different organizations.

A number of comments were also made about our relations with IGOs and INGOs in different regions which are recorded in some detail in the first part of

document C 93/20. We noted in particular the support for the activities of our regional offices and joint divisions, the joint divisions which we have with the UN Economic Commissions in the various regions, and also support for the joint division which we have with the International Atomic Energy-Agency in Vienna.

I believe that a question was asked by the delegate of Germany concerning activities of the joint division with the Economic Commission for Europe. A number of these activities have been covered in the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report, and I think you might wish to look at those sections to get more detail than I could give you this afternoon on our work in that joint division. The cooperation was also reviewed at the last Regional Conference for Europe.

With regard to the OECD, I should point out that we have a regular exchange of documentation, and we have reciprocal participation at our meetings, particularly those of the OECD Committee on Agriculture and the Joint Agricultural Environment Committees and working parties of both organizations.

Finally, if I have not overlooked any particular question, I would take note of the number of delegations who called for a more effective cooperation between the Organization and IICA. Speaking of formal relationships, as I was a little while ago, FAO has had a very long-standing formal agreement with IICA since 1967. We have a number of cooperative activities which are carried out both from Headquarters and through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. We have reciprocal representation, for instance, the FAO Regional Conference in Montevideo in 1992, the Inter-American Joint Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture which took place in 1991 in Madrid and 1992 in Mexico City. There has been technical cooperation with IICA for carrying out of initiatives such as the workshop held in Uruguay in 1992 on genetic improvement. We have some joint publications with IICA such as the Catalogue of Latin American Bio-Technology Laboratories. Recently we have had a sub-regional meeting jointly organized with IICA, CATIE and IBPGR which resulted in the establishment of the Central American Network on Plant Genetic Resources. The delegate of Barbados referred to the Amblyomma variegatum Programme. This programme has been developed by FAO through TCP and the Government of Belgium, and IICA is a member of the Steering Committee.

That said, there is certainly scope for discussing further and closer cooperation. We have been informed by Member Nations that IICA has been requested to get in touch with FAO to seek the modalities for such cooperation. We have not yet been approached directly by IICA but we are ready to explore the possibilities, particularly including assistance to the Inter-American Development Bank and its member countries on both technical assistance and investment activities, and of course to come back to you at the appropriate time and report.

If I have overlooked any particular question, I stand ready to come back.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ms. Killingsworth, for your wide-ranging comments on the remarks that were made by delegations this morning and this afternoon.

It is quite difficult at this stage for the Chairman to sum up. I would not like to sum up what has already been exhaustively - if I may use that expression - said by Ms. Killingsworth. I would like to stress I do not have the pretension of making a summing-up of all the points that were raised because first of all, as I recall - and Mrs Killingsworth said the same in her presentation - Item 15 and sub-items 15.1 and 15.2 of our agenda are more in the nature of information concerning what is going on in terms of the UN system, and FAO's cooperation and participation with other agencies within the UN system as well as with NGOs and IGOs. But taking into account that this is an information item, it would be interesting, perhaps, to give you some views from the Chair and to see if we agree on certain points that might be interesting to collect and to register in our drafting group.

With regard to the recent development in the UN system of interest to FAO and the question of cooperation between FAO and the UN specialized agencies, I think that we all agree that we have had very concise information, although not necessarily with the depth that certain issues were dealt with in Commission I, and even here in this same Commission, but we have been informed of the wide range of cooperation of FAO with different agencies of the UN system, as well as about FAO's participation in the preparation of future global conferences.

In the area of humanitarian and emergency assistance we have also been informed of the work of FAO in the continuum that goes from emergency assistance to rehabilitation and development, as well as on the continuing collaboration of FAO with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-agency Steering Committee.

A number of delegations have also mentioned the importance of FAO's global information and early warning system and its work to support the assessment of food needs for agricultural relief.

Many delegations have insisted on the importance of FAO's work in the area of Drug Abuse Control and on the continuation and enhancement of this work. We have also been informed - and it is important to register this - that FAO has produced a study on the need for and feasibility of a commodity diversification fund for Africa as an example of FAO's contribution to agriculture, trade and commodity issues.

Many countries, including Barbados, the Netherlands, Colombia and Honduras, have stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation between FAO and IICA, but it is my understanding that this cooperation should not be sought in the sense of IICA replacing FAO in Latin America but in terms of further enhancement of cooperation between FAO and IICA. This is the sense of the mandate given by Ministers in the recent IICA Meeting in Latin America.

I would also like to stress the importance of the work on the follow-up to UNCED. This question has been exhaustively discussed in Commission I but the importance of this follow-up work has also been very much emphasized here in terms of operational activities for development.

Under this Item 15.1 many delegations have referred to the importance of the proposal of the UN Secretary-General to develop an agenda for development as a counterbalance to the Agenda for Peace. It is obvious, and it is in the interest of all member countries of FAO, that FAO should also be essentially a development agency in terms of agriculture and the fight against hunger. FAO has a key role in the implementation of this Agenda for

Development. It is not excessive to mention this, as a number of delegations from both developed and developing countries have stressed the importance of realizing this Agenda.

We have talked about humanitarian issues and emergency assistance, and this is obviously very important, but we must also think in terms of a structural approach and put the question of development on the agenda of the international community, as it is an issue which has been somewhat overlooked recently. Peace is obviously very important, but the question of development and what to do in a peaceful world in terms of resuming development is of the utmost importance, and we here in FAO must have a clear view of what the Organization can do in terms of developing a key role in this Agenda for Development.

Turning to Item 15.2, Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations, it is clear that we were satisfied with the information presented on FAO's collaboration with NGOs and IGOs, and there is a general consensus that this collaboration is good and a good level of understanding has been achieved, and that FAO's experience in technical cooperation can be further utilized and developed in cooperation with NGOs.

We have also heard from the representatives of NGOs of the results of the meeting held here on 9 November, and I think we should register the importance of an accrued cooperation between the Organization and the NGOs in many different areas, especially coordination with governments.

In saying that, I would like to emphasize that this cannot be a very extensive summing-up because of the many questions that were put. Some delegations have referred to the lack of precise and up-to-date information, but all of us here are also represented in New York and in different international organizations. I would like however to thank all the participants for their interest in the presentation, for the high level of discussion with regard to these two sub-items of Item 15. This revealed the interest in having FAO collaborate and participate, without duplication of course, with other UN Bodies, and also our high opinion of FAO's substantive task in its original area of work as well as in terms of coordination within the UN system.

In concluding this substantive part of the Agenda of Commission II, I would very much like to thank you all for your cooperation, for your patience and for your contributions, and I would like to reflect the views of everyone in this room by saying that we thank the Secretariat very much. We especially thank Dr Hjort and Dr Shah, who have by their presence here been of almost encyclopaedic assistance to the Commission. I would once again very much like to thank Mrs Killingsworth and the Secretariat.

Ms Charlotte E. ROE (United States of America) : In giving your summary you asked delegates to respond to it, and we do have a response to parts of the summary, which in general was quite comprehensive. First of all, I am a little confused by your observation on cooperation between FAO and IICA. Nothing was ever said about one group imposing itself on the other or replacing the other. In fact, we believe that the fact that there is this perception is an indication that altogether too much competition exists.

I would also observe that following the discussion, as many delegates approached me, I became aware that there are delegates in this room who do

not know what IICA is. It would be very good if FAO invited IICA to the next Council Meeting as an Observer to further explain their activities. However, I do not believe we were simply expressing an interest in enhancing what is already going on between FAO and IICA; we were expressing a strong desire for greater integration of activities on many levels and for a report on that.

Another thread running through the discussion was a desire for greater regionalization of the good things FAO is doing in NGO cooperation and greater emphasis on activity at the country level and more action on the ground. To say that we are "satisfied" with the level of FAO's cooperation with other organizations is something that belongs to a different era. We have heard too many times following a discussion that the result of the discussion shows that we are satisfied with everything that is going on. What we try and do in these meetings is to point out some good examples of what FAO is doing and to say that there needs to be a lot more of that done. If we were simply satisfied with everything that is happening, we would not say anything. There is a slightly different twist.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of the United States very much for her comments. I give the floor to the distinguished representative of the Netherlands.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands) : I am very happy with your summing-up. I have only one point to make - Ms Killingsworth said a lot about it - and that is the growing need for coordination with agencies for humanitarian aid. Perhaps you could stress that in the Report. I must apologize for asking for information available elsewhere in the documentation. As I know my new job will be in the sphere of coordination, I am very happy with the warning from the podium about growing coordination in every field.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): C'est une occasion pour moi pour féliciter Mme Killingsworth pour l'introduction de ces deux points, mais mon intervention va se limiter au point 15.2.

A la lecture des documents C 93/20 et C 93/20-Sup.I, le Secrétariat mérite des félicitations puisqu'il a fait un effort en introduisant quelques innovations comme il est dit au paragraphe 2 du document C 93/20.

Par ses actions la FAO collabore avec les ONG des différentes catégories, celles qui ont ou non un statut officiel et sur les différentes activités pour lesquelles, elle, la FAO a reçu mandat.

Monsieur le Président, la section I du document nous donne un aperçu de la coopération dans les cinq régions. Cela démontre l'expérience que la FAO possède. Ainsi elle est le catalyseur entre les pays d'une région, elle connaît tous les problèmes des ONG. Cette collaboration entre la FAO et les ONG qui existe déjà devrait être renforcée. La FAO peut aussi faire connaître les expériences d'une région vers une autre, d'un pays vers un autre dans la même région ou d'une autre région.

Le document nous rappelle que les bureaux régionaux sont les principaux véhicules de la coopération entre eux. Ainsi la FAO a le grand avantage de les connaître toutes. Par conséquent, il est nécessaire d'avoir un annuaire FAO sur les ONG par pays pour information, présentant les données les plus

significatives après étude par le Secrétariat, sous une forme facilement accessible. S'il existe déjà, la délégation de mon pays demanderait que cet annuaire soit actualisé. Ce document serait identique à celui des projets par pays qui bénéficient de l'assistance technique de la FAO, et élaboré en 1992. Ma délégation laisse au Secrétariat la liberté de chercher les données à y mettre; les relations, disons le type de relations existant entre les ONG et la FAO. Je sais que ce travail, s'il n'est pas prévu dans le budget, exigera des ressources extrabudgétaires.

En Angola le nombre des ONG nationales et étrangères ne cesse de croître. Celles-ci interviennent dans plusieurs domaines. La déléguée du Sénégal a cité quelques domaines. Dans mon pays, compte tenu de notre situation de guerre, les actions des ONG sont très limitées, surtout dans les centres urbains. Le Bureau de la FAO a du pain sur la planche. Une fois de plus je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles qui ont précédé en insistant sur la collaboration très étroite entre la FAO et les ONG qui doit toujours exister et être poursuivie. Je vous remercie.¹

CHAIRMAN: I hope that you do not have to be the coordinator or coordinators ! I thank very much both the United States and the Netherlands delegations. I just wanted to say that I am not trying to influence the wording of what is going to happen in terms of the Drafting Group. I am sure that all the interested delegations will be present and those who have made their interventions will try to make their point clear or will try to have the precise fine tuning.

With regards to the IICA I think there was a recommendation from the Ministers in the sense that the new Director-General should sponsor a study on the means for further strengthening the cooperation and interaction with FAO, that is true, and that is why I referred to enhanced cooperation in the sense of strengthened cooperation and inter-action between the two institutions. Perhaps it is true that a number of delegations do not know the mandate or what IICA is and that IICA should be invited for further meetings but this is something that should be discussed and I think that we have, from the observations that were made, good material for discussion in the late Session of the Drafting Group tonight. If there are not more observations I would want again to thank you very much for the understanding, for your cooperation, for the work and declare this Session adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas.

¹ Texte reçu avec demandé' insertion au procès verbal



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 93/II/PV/15

Twenty-seventh Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-septième session
COMMISSION II

27° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(22 November 1993)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours

Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 15.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Je déclare ouverte la quinzième séance de notre Commission. Cette séance est consacrée à l'adoption du rapport. L'élection des membres du Conseil se poursuit à la plénière, mais je crois savoir que celle-ci fera une pause d'une heure, ce qui nous permettra d'avancer sérieusement dans l'adoption de notre rapport.

Vous avez sous les yeux les projets de rapport C 93/II/REP/1, REP/2, REP/3, REP/5 et REP/6 puisque le REP/4 a déjà été approuvé par nous-mêmes et par la Conférence. Avant de donner la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, quelques coquilles s'étant glissées dans une version, je vais demander à Mme Forthomme de vous lire rapidement les corrections à apporter.

Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II): This is just the English version which contains some typographical errors. It is only the English version and not the other languages. In paragraph 8 of REP/3, page 4, it reads now the development and use. You must delete the first "use" and the sentence should read "It encouraged further efforts by FAO in fostering the development and use of national capacities".

Then there are another two errors in paragraph 23, page 7, page 7 of the same REP, REP/3, second line, "and noted these required an appropriate response" rather than "they are required" then in the second sentence which starts, "In this connection the Conference recommended that further FAO assistance", and what you have here is the word "taken" which is additional and should be deleted. It reads now, "In this connection the Conference recommended that further FAO assistance", and is what it should read. Thank you, Sir.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne tout de suite la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, M. Marsh, qui va introduire ces cinq rapports. Il vous souviendra tous que, ce matin, j'ai fait une proposition en tant que Représentant du Maroc, qui a été appuyée par un certain nombre de délégations, consistant à introduire dans le Rapport de la Conférence des informations relatives aux Comités de rédaction et aux Rapporteurs puisque nous avons un Rapporteur pour la Commission III, informations qui ne figuraient pas dans le rapport de la Conférence. Cela a été admis ce matin et notre Secrétaire, Mme Forthomme, suivra cela avec ses collègues du Secrétariat.

Monsieur Marsh, Président du Comité de rédaction, vous avez la parole.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee hopes ardently that these documents will speak for themselves and will meet with the approval of the Commission. They are the products of many hours of work and - may I say, Mr Chairman - very devoted work by the cooperative efforts of members of the Drafting Committee and members of the

Secretariat. We are therefore very grateful for the members' work, for the assistance received from officers of Secretariat, from drafters, from interpreters, and many others.

I suggest that we proceed without further delay to examination of the texts themselves.

There is however a change in language proposed for REP/6, and at the appropriate time I would like, with your permission, to read out the change of language which we have produced. It is an improvement over earlier language adoption at 1 o'clock in the morning, when we were not quite sure what we were saying let alone what we were doing. I believe that the interpreters have been supplied with translations in French and in Spanish of the language. I regret that time did not permit completion of the translation into Arabic and Chinese, but we shall ask for the indulgence of the delegates in those cases. We do, however, have authenticated versions in Spanish and in French of the change of text.

I believe we are ready now, under your guidance Mr Chairman, to consider the approval of the Reports themselves.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 1

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Marsh, Président du Comité de rédaction. Nous avons cinq projets de rapports sous les yeux. S'il n'y a pas de remarques générales, nous abordons tout de suite le rapport C 93/II/REP/1, Activités et programmes de l'Organisation, point 9, rapport d'exécution du Programme.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 17

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 17

PARRAFOS 1 a 17

Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 4

PARAGRAPHE 4

PARRAFO 4

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): En el párrafo 4, en la segunda frase, donde indica "se hicieron propuestas explícitas a este respecto, en particular la conveniencia de utilizar logros y objetivos", esta última palabra "objetivos" creemos que sería más adecuado poner "metas", ya que conforma mucho más la frase que la concepción "objetivos".

LE PRESIDENT: Tout à fait, Monsieur le délégué. Je crois que le Secrétariat en a bien pris note.

Paragraph 4, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 4, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 4, así emmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 5 to 17 approved
Les paragraphes 5 à 17 sont approuvés
El párrafos 5 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 1, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, première partie, ainsi amendé,
est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 1, así emmendado, es
aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - Part 2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 17
PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 17
PARRAFOS 1 A 17

Paragraphs 1 to 2 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 2 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 2 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 3
PARAGRAPHE 3
PARRAFO 3

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España) : En este párrafo, en la segunda frase, la que empieza por "a este respecto los delegados señalaron", nosotros creemos que reflejaría muchísimo más el debate, si en lugar de "los delegados" pusiéramos "algunos delegados, dado que hubo diferentes criterios al respecto y con ello se refleja muchísimo más lo que aquí aconteció, al darle la pluralidad correspondiente pero sin la unanimidad de "los delegados". En consecuencia, creemos que podría ponerse "a este respecto algunos delegados, etc. etc. etc."

LE PRESIDENT: S'il n'y a pas de remarques particulières ni d'observations de la part du Président du Comité de rédaction, nous pouvons considérer que cet amendement au paragraphe 3 est accepté.

Paragraph 3, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 3, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 5 to 6 approved
Les paragraphes 5 à 6 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 5 a 6 son aprobados

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, je pense que nous devrions adopter le rapport en le prenant par partie plutôt que d'examiner chaque paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie. Pour ma part, je n'y vois pas d'inconvénient. Je voulais simplement éviter des confusions, car si on prend par exemple une partie comprenant les paragraphes 7 à 10, un délégué pourrait présenter un amendement sur le paragraphe 7 et un autre sur le 10, mais si vous voulez que l'on procède par parties, je n'y vois pas d'inconvénient et je peux très bien le faire.

Paragraphs 7 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11

PARAGRAPHE 11

PARRAFO 11

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España) : En la penúltima frase del párrafo 11, la que se inicia por "Algunos delegados también solicitaron indicadores cuantificables de metas y resultados, respecto de los cuales pudiera evaluarse las considerables"... La traducción o la acepción correcta quizás en nuestro idioma de la palabra inglesa, más que "considerables" podría ser la de "importantes aportaciones".

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11, así emmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 12 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 25

PARAGRAPHE 1 à 25

PARRAFOS 1 a 25

Paragraphs 1 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11

PARAGRAPHE 11

PARRAFO 11

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): En el párrafo 11, en la penúltima frase, la que se inicia "En este sentido instó a que se presentara la debida atención...", casi al final, en su tercera línea antes de acabar la frase dice "y la adopción de un criterio holístico...".

En nuestro idioma esta expresión, no digamos que es incorrecta, pero es, como mínimo, poco frecuente y podríamos traducirla por "y la adopción de un enfoque global" que creemos refleja lo que quiere decirse en inglés pero que, en nuestro idioma "holístico" nos suena, como mínimo, un poco extraño.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Espagne, Je crois que Mme Forthomme avait également souligné cela dans sa copie en espagnol.

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11, así emmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 12 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 22 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 23

PARAGRAPHE 23

PARRAFO 23

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland): With your permission I should like to address myself to paragraph 23, in which apparently certain typing errors have occurred which distort the meaning. While I have drawn the attention of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to these errors, I have also comments on the substance. That is why I should like to ensure that we all know what we are about to adopt.

My first point is that in the second line of the paragraph where it reads "and noted there required an appropriate response from FAO" seemingly the intention was to write "they" which stands for these very countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Since I was not a member of the Drafting Committee I speak with a certain hesitation in my voice, but this seems to make sense.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec votre permission, je vous informe que la Secrétaire a apporté les corrections nécessaires et il s'agit de "these" et non pas "they".

Jan BIELAWSKI (Poland) : Thank you, Mr Chairman. I had hoped this was going to be the case, but with your permission I should like to pass on to minor amendments. I should like to suggest two words which should add an emphasis. The explanation is that this paragraph should be very well drafted and should, to a certain extent at least, be in conformity with the language the Council adopted for the same issue. Without going into the history, I pass on to the suggested amendment, which is that in the first line we should add the word "growing" before "needs of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe". The 103rd Session of the Council indicated that FAO should be prepared to shoulder its growing responsibilities.

The second amendment, since these two relate to the first sentence, is to add the words "and urgent" after the words "and appropriate". It would then read "these required an appropriate and urgent response". I think that would correctly read and reflect the expectations and attitudes of Central and Eastern European countries present here.

Those are the two minor amendments I would suggest to the first sentence.

Allow me to pass on to one more sentence on which I should like to comment. Again, seemingly the sentence which begins "In this connection, the Conference recommended" is not good grammar in English, according to my knowledge of it, and the word "taken" is, I think, superfluous. I have already reported this to the Chairman. Having said this, I just want to make sure that this sentence, which is so crucial to the countries I at least partially represent, is grammatically clear. To make my point simple, my suggestion is, after a long discussion on the context and grammar, that the sentence read as follows: "In this connection, the Conference recommended that FAO develop further assistance to this region built" - the past participle - "on the useful initiatives taken to date".

My only intention in rephrasing this is so that it is clear in all languages.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la proposition d'amendement que vous venez de nous soumettre ne devrait pas causer de grandes difficultés. Dans le texte original il est écrit: "Besoins spécifiques", mais je crois que "Besoins croissants" est tout à fait correct.

S'il n'y a pas de remarques particulières sur cet amendement, je considérerai donc que le paragraphe 23 est adopté tel qu'amendé.

Paragraph 23, as amended, approved
Le paragraphe 23, ainsi amendé, est approuvé
El párrafo 23, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 24 approved
Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé
El párrafo 24 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 25
PARAGRAPHE 25
PARRAFO 25

Jaime GARCÍA Y BADÍAS (España): Muy brevemente, pero quiero introducir una pequeña enmienda que permitiría clarificar perfectamente el punto 25, en su última frase, la cual empieza por "No obstante, en última instancia la Conferencia recomendó, por consiguiente, que en el próximo Plan a Medio Plazo se examinaran..." creemos que, de acuerdo con las intervenciones y con el texto en inglés, sería más correcto substituir "examinaran" por "incluyeran proyecciones...".

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec vous.

Paragraph 25 approved
Le paragraphe 25 est approuvé
El párrafo 25, así emmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 3, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, troisième partie, ainsi amendé,
est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 3, así enmendado, es
aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons passer au C 93/II/ REP/5: Je donne la parole à Mme Forthomme qui va corriger quelques phrases sur le paragraphe 4 du C 93/II/REP/5 dans la version espagnole.

Mme C. FORTHOMME (Secrétaire, Commission II): Il s'agit du C 93/II/REP/5 en espagnol. Au paragraphe 4, on lit ce qui suit: "Directrices internacionales armonizadas". J'ai demandé que l'on trouve une meilleure traduction.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous en sommes au C 93/II/REP/5: Activités et Programmes de l'Organisation. Point 13 de l'ordre du jour: Procédures pour l'harmonisation mondiale de la quarantaine végétale, et Point 14: Objectif de contributions au PAM.

Paragraphs 1 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraph 11, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 11, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 11, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 5, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, cinquième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 5, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 6

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons passer au C 93/II/REP/6. Je donne la parole à Mme Forthomme qui va vous soumettre quelques corrections dans la version espagnole, au paragraphe 6.

Mme C. FORTHOMME: Au paragraphe 6, dans la version espagnole, le mot anglais "continuum" a été traduit par "paso" ce qui n'est pas tout à fait correct, c'est pourquoi j'ai demandé qu'on le retraduisse.

Au paragraphe 7, à l'avant-dernière phrase qui commence par: "Se destacaron los elevados costos de la asistencia humanitaria, etc." Les termes "sustained funding" n'ont pas été traduits correctement, il manque également le mot "financiación". Nous avons ici seulement: "Se insistió en la importancia de que siguiera habiendo financiación sostenida" qui n'ont pas été traduits.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie pour cette précision qui concerne la version espagnole. Nous en sommes au C 93/II/REP/6: Faits nouveaux intervenus récemment dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : This amendment may seem small, but the meaning changes considerably if it is not undertaken. There is a superfluous comma in paragraph 7 the third line of the English text after the word "coordination", so the comma should be removed.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 13 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 14

PARAGRAPHE 14

PARRAFO 14

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : First, a word of explanation: as I indicated earlier, this work was done at one o'clock in the morning and we found in the light of day that there probably was a more accurate and felicitous way to put paragraph 14. Therefore, I should like to propose the following text which would replace paragraph 14 completely. The text is as follows: "With regard to the North American and Latin American and Caribbean regions, it was pointed out by a number of delegates that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture had recommended to the incoming Director-General that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) conduct a study to determine what steps must be taken to move forward in coordinating activities with FAO and, if possible, to integrate their actions in the region.

"The Conference requested that FAO participate in the Study and take, without delay, concrete measures to ensure much closer cooperation between FAO and IICA, with the objective of realizing a progressive harmonization of their activities, including those related to the Inter-American Development Bank. The Conference underlined that such harmonization measures could allow both Organizations to realize substantial economies. The Conference requested that the Secretariat report to the next Session of the Council on the concrete measures taken by FAO to implement this request."

That is the text. It reflects an actual Resolution taken at the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and picks up the language of that, so it is a more accurate quotation of that, and the Committee is grateful for the assistance of the Secretariat and the understanding of various countries of the Region and of the Drafting Committee for putting forward this text to you as, we think, an improvement on the original.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de donner la parole à Mme Forthomme qui va vous donner à nouveau lecture de ce paragraphe 14 modifié, j'aimerais, avec la permission de M. Marsh, attirer votre attention sur une toute petite correction à la première phrase lorsque l'on dit: "de nombreux délégués ont tenu à indiquer que... le Conseil du Bureau interaméricain ...". Disons que l'organe qui a pris cette décision: "avait recommandé à son Directeur général qui va entrer en fonctions" - et c'est simplement là une petite précision - je ne sais pas quel est l'organe qui a pris cette décision: "avait recommandé à son Directeur général qui allait entrer en fonctions".

Je donne la parole à Mme Forthomme pour la lecture du paragraphe 14.

Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II): "With regard to the North American, Latin American and Caribbean region, it was pointed out by a number of delegates that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture had recommended to the incoming Director-General that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) conduct a study to determine what steps must be taken to move forward in coordinating activities with FAO, and, if possible, to integrate their actions in the Region. The Conference requested that FAO participate in the Study and take, without delay, concrete measures to ensure much closer cooperation between FAO and IICA, with the objective of realizing a progressive harmonization of their activities, including those related to the Inter-American Development Bank. The Conference underlined that such harmonization measures could allow both Organizations to realize substantial economies. The Conference requested that the Secretariat report to the next Session of the Council on the concrete measures taken by FAO to implement this request."

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai déjà deux délégations qui m'ont demandé la parole sur ce paragraphe 14, et je la donne tout de suite au Représentant de Cuba.

Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba) : Cuando el delegado cubano que atendía la Comisión II me mostró el texto del párrafo 14, lo encontré fuera de contexto, y ahyora me aclaro. Según se me informa, se terminó a la una de la mañana. En Roma hacía una noche muy fría, monstruosa, llovía y eso parece que inspiró este párrafo, que no entiendo ni acepto. Nuestra Delegación no puede aceptar esta versión original inspirada en esa noche truculenta. Ahora se me presenta otra. No sé a qué hora del día o de la mañana lo hicieron, pero hay errores garrafales. En primer lugar, sin pretender dar una clase de geografía, creo que está bien claro que América son dos Américas: América del Norte y América Latinoamericana y del Caribe. No sé por qué encabezan este párrafo diciendo "... región de América Latina y el Caribe"; no lo entiendo.

Aquí se habla, según he recogido rápidamente, de dos palabras. Según recuerdo de lo que leí en el diccionario de la lengua castellana, que nuestro colega de España me puede rectificar, la palabra "cooperar" significa "obrar juntamente con otro u otros para un mismo fin". Integrar significa "formar las partes con todo", "completar uno con todo con la falta de las partes". Entonces aquí o está mal la palabra "cooperar" o está mal la palabra "integrar". Son dos cuestiones completamente distintas.

También me pregunto ¿qué tiene que ver al Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo dentro de este texto? Vamos a hablar muy claramente, señor Presidente. ¿Se quiere fortalecer la FAO o no se quiere? la FAO está abierta a cooperar con todo el mundo - lo hemos visto aquí con los dirigentes. Se quiere que haya una integración precisamente cuando hay un nuevo Director General de la FAO. Hay que tener mucho cuidado en este sentido. América Latina tiene ya bastantes cuestiones - no vamos a comentarlas porque creo que en este salón se conocen. Señor Presidente le conocemos, sabemos de su inteligencia, de su ponderación, pero deseo. que se revise este párrafo porque nuestra Delegación no puede aceptar ni la primera ni la segunda versión.

En medio de todo lo que hemos hablado, que son cosas sensatas, no queremos poner obstáculos, sino todo lo contrario, pues sabemos que se ha trabajado, pero deseamos que se trabaje bien y como hay un problema que creo puede dañar a la FAO - porque todos los discursos que pronunciamos son para fortalecer a la FAO y a América Latina - no podemos aceptar este párrafo. Deseamos que sea motivo de un estudio más profundo en este sentido, dada la importancia de este párrafo. Estas son mis consideraciones iniciales.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous en êtes d'accord, s'agissant de la première phrase -et je n'étais pas là lors de la discussion, c'était notre collègue du Brésil qui conduisait les travaux sur ce point - je pense, qu'elle ne devrait pas poser de problèmes aux membres de la Commission. Par contre, concernant la deuxième et la troisième phrases où l'on parle de la Conférence - et cela concerne tous les membres de la Commission II - je pense que l'on peut attendre des amendements précis. Sur la première phrase, qui concerne un certain nombre de délégués qui se sont exprimés sur cette question, je ne pense pas que l'on puisse discuter très longuement, mais je donne tout de suite la parole à la Représentante de l'Algérie.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): En fait, j'avais pris la parole très rapidement, avant même que Mme la Secrétaire relise le texte, mais si je peux me permettre, je voudrais signaler quelques distorsions entre ce qu'on nous a lu en anglais et la version française. Il faudrait faire attention et relire le texte une dernière fois afin que tout le monde puisse appréhender les termes tels qu'ils sont car, je le répète, il y a quelques distorsions aux deux premières phrases.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais demander à Mme Forthomme de relire cette proposition dans la version française.

Mme C. FORTHOMME (Secrétaire, Commission II): "En ce qui concerne les régions Amérique du Nord, Amérique latine et Caraïbes, de nombreux délégués ont tenu à indiquer que le Bureau interaméricain de l'agriculture avait recommandé au Directeur général, qui va entrer en fonctions, que l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture (IICA) entreprenne une étude avant de déterminer les étapes qui doivent être envisagées pour améliorer la coordination des activités de cette institution avec la FAO et, si possible, organiser des actions intégrées dans la Région. La Conférence a demandé que la FAO apporte sa contribution à cette étude et prenne sans délais des mesures concrètes afin d'assurer une coopération beaucoup plus étroite entre la FAO et l'IICA, avec pour objectif de parvenir à une harmonisation progressive de leurs activités, y compris celles qui intéressent la Banque interaméricaine de développement. La Conférence a souligné que de telles mesures d'harmonisation permettraient aux deux organisations de réaliser de substantielles économies. La Conférence a demandé au Secrétariat de faire rapport au Conseil, au cours de sa prochaine session, sur les mesures concrètes prises par la FAO pour donner suite à cette requête.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands) : Certainly the text now proposed is much weaker than the one we find in the report but what I would like to know is what is the truth, was the Board of Agriculture recommending a study or what we can find in the text before us, called upon to contact FAO. It is

important to know and perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee knows about that because I thought that he was present during the meeting of that Board but it is important for us to know because the text has been watered down in many many places where we go from integration to harmonization and participation of FAO in the Study, and I regret that very much. There is a lot of competition between the two organizations, the Latin American and the Caribbean, even the North American I was told and I was consulted about this text which we find in a report, so I would like to get a further explanation about what happens after that rainy night.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais demander au Président du Comité de rédaction ce qu'il en pense. Il y a, dans ce paragraphe 14, la partie historique de cette décision prise par le Conseil ou le Comité exécutif. Je ne sais pas quel est l'organe directeur du bureau interaméricain de l'agriculture qui a demandé qu'une telle étude soit entreprise. Puis, il y a eu le débat et ce que l'on a fait reprendre par la Conférence et que l'on demande au Secrétariat de la FAO.

Je vais demander à Monsieur Marsh, puisqu'il en a débattu longuement, de répondre.

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The original text occasions quite accidentally some legal questions and some structural questions that we thought might be avoided by rephrasing, and so in the first instance for the first sentence we checked against the records of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and have faithfully reproduced its recommendations to the incoming Director-General. So we can stand by the accuracy of the first sentence.

In the second sentence, we did some rephrasing and with the help of the Secretariat we came up with what seemed a reasonable and pragmatic approach to the matter.

The third and fourth sentence are essentially retained from the original text so that what we have in sum is a composite which is based upon the consultation of the relevant documents, based upon a consultation with the Secretariat and with a number of interested parties and a repetition towards the end in essence of the original paragraph.

We put this to you with the recommendation that it merits your adoption because it seems to bring a convergence of the interests involved, our Organization, the IICA, the Member States, while at the same time repeating the basic documents and the all important value making a faithful reflection of the accurate discussions here on the floor. So we feel this is an improved version, we wanted to put that before you and we recommend that to you and for your approval at the present time.

H.W. HJORT (Deputy Director-General): I thought it might be useful in responding to the question that was raised by the Netherlands and in view of some of the earlier confusion over the drafts. I have in front of me what is identified as Resolution No. 204 on Coordination of FAO/IICA. It is a resolution of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture at its 7th regular meeting. Its operative paragraph says "Resolved: (1) to recommend to the incoming Director-General that IICA conduct a study to determine what steps must be taken to move forward in coordinating activities with FAO and if

possible to integrate their actions in the region." You notice the words there, the key words it seems to me, it recommends, it does not direct, it recommends that a study be conducted: not that any decisions be taken or actions be taken, that a study be conducted to determine what steps must be taken to move forward and so forth.

The second operative part, for the information of the Commission, is to urge the Ministers of Agriculture of the countries of the hemisphere to ensure that the FAO Council support this initiative of coordination and integration encouraging FAO's participation in the study proposed in this Resolution. You notice here the key part is the encouraging FAO's participation in the study proposed in this Resolution. What you have before you goes considerably further than that I might submit.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Directeur général adjoint, pour cette précision importante. Je pense que vous êtes satisfait de la réponse, Monsieur le Représentant des Pays-Bas.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands): I am very satisfied with the reading out of that Resolution of the Inter-America Board of Agriculture because that makes clear that a study was recommended. In our language normally if you do not want to solve a problem you advise a study, but that is apart. But the remarks by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I do not believe that he can say we followed almost the original text which was presented to us because it is a watering down and perhaps we can restore a little bit of the original text, especially when you speak about harmonization, why don't you speak about integration because that was the word in the Resolution and secondly, why do we delete the model of the World Health Organization because that is the role model in that area.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le Président du Comité de rédaction, voulez-vous réagir à ces propos?

William H. MARSH (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If I may. We wanted to place the emphasis upon attainable activity rather than raising an influence of institutional reorganization. Some felt that the word "integration" might even suggest certain constitutional changes and in seeking to avoid that influence we tried to rephrase and rework so that it became something concerning the conduct of business rather than the question of authority and therefore the use of that. Now, the question might well be to say well then "to integrate their actions in the region" simply because that is a quotation, it is not quotation marks but it is a direct quotation, harmonization or the word used later to describe the behavioural transitions that delegates in their interventions had sought to achieve.

LE PRESIDENT: La situation est claire. Le paragraphe qui nous a été lu par le Président du Comité de rédaction était en quelque sorte un compromis pour éviter une incompréhension du paragraphe original du C 93/II/REP/6. Je crois que, comme l'a remarqué le Représentant des Pays-Bas, nous avons

nuancé un peu les choses dans cette proposition. Après avoir entendu trois ou quatre délégués, le Président du Comité de rédaction et le Secrétariat s'exprimer sur cette question, j'aimerais maintenant que l'on passe pratiquement à des propositions d'amendement sur ce paragraphe.

Humberto CARRIÓN McDONOUGH (Nicaragua) : En este momento, no tengo una propuesta de enmienda del Párrafo 14 modificado tal como se ha leído, tanto como por el presidente, por el Comité de Redacción, como por la Secretaría. Pero quería aprovechar para mencionar que he leído el verbatim de la sesión que discutió este tema y de hecho hay tres países que hicieron referencia a una integración del IICA y la actividad de la FAO en la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Esos tres países, dos son de la América del Norte, llamada América del Norte, y uno es región de Europa. En cuanto a los países de América Latina y el Caribe, todos los que intervinieron en ese tema, hablaron solamente de cooperación. En ningún momento, se habló de armonización ni de integración. Por lo tanto, me confunde un poco que estemos discutiendo un asunto delicado para la región de la América Latina y el Caribe, para América del Norte inclusive, pero que se discuta entre los Estados Unidos y Holanda. Esto evidentemente, lo digo con todo respeto.

Otra cosa que quería mencionar es, hasta que punto una junta de un Organo regional como es el IICA, puede o no sugerir a la FAO que realice estudios. Yo comprendo que en una Conferencia de la FAO para la América Latina y el Caribe, se tomen decisiones que se puedan ir cumpliendo a través de mecanismos estructurales ya determinados por la estructura de la FAO como tal, a través de esta Conferencia. Es decir, de la Conferencia Regional a la Conferencia General, porque aquí también se está pidiendo que una junta de un órgano regional que no está estructurado con la FAO, haga trabajos a través del Consejo de esta Organización.

Eso también me confunde y yo quisiera una aclaración porque si es cierto que algunos países, -el verbatim es claro en este sentido-, piden ésto, incluso una integración como mencionaba el representante de los Países Bajos. Pero, por otro lado, una mayoría de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, hablan solamente de cooperación, no de integración ni organización.

Son dos preguntas que hago. Una es, desde el punto de vista estructural y jurídico, de que el IICA pueda pedir a la FAO un trabajo específico y, segundo, salir de la duda de si en realidad la América Latina y el Caribe pide esta armonización e integración entre el IICA y la actividad de la FAO en esta región.

LE PRESIDENT: Cette question a effectivement fait l'objet d'un long débat au Comité de rédaction et je crois que la proposition qui avait été faite avait été acceptée. C'est ce qui s'est passé au niveau du Comité de rédaction. Maintenant, au sein de la Commission, nous sommes là, bien sûr, pour adopter un rapport et pour être d'accord sur son contenu.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile) : Yo creo que es importante precisar algunas cosas. Creo que a veces, por querer ir muy rápido, podemos hacer las cosas mal. Entiendo que a la una de la mañana, algunas ideas no se expresen bien y que tengamos que corregirlas, pero hay una serie de dudas que me permiten a mí hacer una reflexión que quisiera compartir, al menos en esta oportunidad.

La primera cosa: estamos de acuerdo en fortalecer el trabajo de la FAO en América Latina. Estamos de acuerdo en que se haga el mejor uso de los recursos disponibles para el desarrollo agrícola de la región. Estamos de acuerdo en que exista la mayor coordinación posible y complementariedad, no solamente con el IICA sino que, a partir principalmente con las agencias del sistema de Naciones Unidas en la región, con el IICA y otros organismos.

Lo que estamos analizando en el día de hoy es, tomando posición respecto de una resolución de un organismo regional del cual -y me van a excusar- no todos los miembros de la Conferencia tienen antecedentes respecto a las actividades que desarrolla, los programas de desarrollo, el número de países que forman parte. Desde luego no todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe forman parte del IICA.

Pero a mí me parece que nosotros estamos tratando un asunto de la mayor importancia y transcendencia, sin entrar con seriedad a tomar una posición o una decisión por la vía del párrafo que se nos propone. Lo quiero ejemplificar en estos términos: el IICA en su órgano regional plantea recomendar un estudio y que la FAO, ojalá participe en ese estudio o que colabore en ese estudio, con vistas a un objetivo determinado.

Lo que se propone acá es, en un plazo muy breve, no solamente participar en ese estudio, sino que al mismo tiempo, tomar medidas concretas que permitan la integración a informar al próximo Consejo de cuales son las medidas que ya se han tomado, sin que el próximo Consejo haya conocido el resultado de los estudios. Entonces, ¿por qué no hacemos las cosas bien? ¿por qué no estudiamos el problema?, e informamos al próximo Consejo de cuales son las medidas que se sugieren para una mayor coordinación, una mayor complementariedad y sobre la base de ese estudio, estudiamos la posible reforma que haya que hacer. Si estamos de acuerdo o no. Pero me parece a mí, que no se puede venir ligeramente a pedir que se hagan estudios, que se participe en un estudio que está resuelto por otra instancia, que el Consejo y la Conferencia conocen, y que al mismo tiempo tomemos todas las medidas de integración antes que el Consejo conozca el estudio.

A mí me parece que lo lógico, si queremos evitarnos problemas, es que hagamos las cosas bien. Y en segundo lugar, me parece que lo que aquí hay son distintas ideas contradictorias y por eso tenemos una enorme discusión y estamos perdiendo el tiempo. Porque si se quiere hacer la reforma en la FAO y reemplazar las oficinas regionales, integrar las oficinas de la FAO a las oficinas de IICA, como aparece en el primer texto, hagamos la discusión de la reforma de la FAO abiertamente con tiempo y tomemos las medidas adecuadas. Si queremos hacer ahorros, estudiemos la posibilidad de ahorro que existen, pero digamos derechamente que es lo que queremos, porque acá se plantea por una parte, después de decir que hagamos el estudio, que tomemos las medidas y que informemos al próximo Consejo qué es lo que hemos hecho sin conocer el resultado del estudio. Todo eso ¿con vistas a qué? A reducir los recursos, a hacer ahorros sustanciales.

En primer lugar, estoy porque se hagan todos los estudios, que el próximo Consejo los conozca y sobre esa base tomemos una decisión y en relación a los recursos, me permitiría decir simplemente que se haga un mejor aprovechamiento de todos los recursos disponibles en la región y no buscar por esta vía un ahorro sustancial de recursos que, en definitiva significaría, en nuestra opinión, una reducción drástica de los recursos que la región actualmente dispone.

LE PRESIDENT: J'informe les délégations qui sont sous-représentées ici qu'il y a de nouveau un vote à la Plénière où l'on n'a pu élire les membres pour les Régions Europe et Amérique latine. On en est déjà à la lettre L à la Plénière. J'invite donc ceux qui sont sur-représentés ici à aller rapidement faire leur devoir et à revenir.

A cette heure, je crois que vous avez dit ce qu'il fallait dire. J'aimerais vous faire une proposition. Ne touchons pas à la première partie de la proposition car c'est une information historique, je ne crois pas que nous soyons en mesure d'y apporter quelque modification que ce soit. S'agissant de la deuxième et de la troisième phrases, et compte tenu de ce qui est reproduit dans la résolution même de l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture (IICA), ne pourrait-on pas dire que: "La Conférence a encouragé la FAO à donner une suite favorable à cette requête et donc à participer à la réalisation de cette étude", car je crois que c'est là la deuxième partie de la résolution, on demande bien que les ministres de l'agriculture de la région s'assurent que le Conseil de la FAO appuiera cette initiative et encouragera la FAO à participer à la réalisation de l'étude qui est proposée dans cette résolution.

J'aimerais avoir vos réactions à cette proposition.

Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago) : The issue at stake is that we are here actually to do something which, like Chile, I am afraid would put us into some difficulty. The crux of the matter is that IICA and FAO, as indicated in the debate, are important to us in terms of the development of the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors of our national economies.

The important point to remember, however, is that FAO has competences which widely outweigh those of IICA. IICA is restrictive in that it functions in the area of agriculture, whereas FAO functions beyond agriculture into forestry and fisheries. It is a question not of substitution, but of complementarity.

The other point I wish to draw to your attention, Chairman, is that we have the United Nations and we also have the OAS and I think we can liken both organizations to that kind of distinction, one being a regionally-focused organization and one being a broadly-based international organization. The point we are making is that, as beneficiary countries within the Latin America and Caribbean region, both organizations are important and useful to us but we recognize that there is scope for cooperation, collaboration and complementarity of action in order for scarce resources to be more effectively and efficiently used.

That is simply what we are asking. We are asking, as we did ask the IICA Director-General, FAO to do what is necessary to initiate contacts so that cooperation and collaboration may be effected with IICA for the benefit of those countries. In that regard, it would seem a little questionable to begin to introduce notions of IDB and complicate the issue beyond what it is necessary so to do under the circumstances.

I trust with these comments, Chairman, that perhaps a form of words may be added to emphasize cooperation, coordination, and complementarity of action and recommend to the Director-General that such actions be taken when he assumes office.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est vrai que lorsque vous vous étiez exprimé sur ce point jeudi dernier, vous aviez insisté sur le fait qu'il fallait renforcer davantage la coopération entre les deux Organisations.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba): Nosotros teníamos pensado venir a esta reunión hoy, señor Presidente, a felicitarlo por su excelente labor en la conducción. Me da muchísima pena tener que haber planteado toda una serie de consideraciones fundamentales. Cuando hay un artículo de esta forma redactado, uno tiene en primer lugar, que decir qué se pretende. Qué se pretende en lo fundamental para que dé fruto, para que esto sea provechoso.

Yo estoy totalmente de acuerdo con lo planteado por el Embajador Medrano de Chile; creo que ha puesto el dedo en la llaga de todas las cosas que nosotros quisimos decir al principio. Pero hay una cosa fundamental, señor Presidente. Se está hablando de toda una serie de cuestiones y no se ha hablado de la Dirección Regional de América Latina y del Caribe. ¿Existe hoy o no existe? ¿Está o no está?. Yo sería incapaz de juzgar a otras regiones que yo no tuviera conocimiento exacto de lo que está pasando allí. Si eso es así y la Dirección Regional de América Latina y del Caribe está integrada por todos los países de América Latina y el Caribe. ¿Se puede decir lo mismo del IICA?. No, no se puede decir lo mismo; todos los países no están integrados allí.

Entonces, cuando nosotros vimos la primera redacción, yo he tratado en los ratos que he podido con el amigo de Países Bajos, para ver si en algún momento pudiera entender el español. No lo he logrado; se va y todavía no sabe una palabra de español y confunde cooperación con integrar. Cooperación es una cosa, integrar es otra; por eso es que cuando leímos el texto de estas dos, la primera y la segunda, los latinoamericanos saltamos porque hay que tener sensibilidad latinoamericana y en eso - digo y repito - somos muy celosos.

Yo creo que esta cuestión hay que meditarla teniendo presente lo que dijo aquí Chile y Trinidad y Tabago. Son dos cuestiones muy modulares, y me pesa mucho tener que retrasar esto, señor Presidente, pero esto es una cuestión de principio para América Latina.

Sra. María E. JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Yo quería referirme a lo que me mencionó hace un momento el delegado de Nicaragua. Como él dijo, los países que intervenimos en este debate pedimos una mayor cooperación entre la FAO y el IICA. Sin embargo, como ya nos ha explicado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, este párrafo aquí está reflejando lo que acordaron los Ministros en la Junta Interamericana de Cultura, por lo cual podríamos aceptarlo.

Estoy de acuerdo con lo que ha mencionado hace un momento el delegado de Cuba. Yo creo que podríamos salvar esta situación iniciando nuestro párrafo con "Algunos delegados señalaron que la Junta Interamericana de Cultura... había recomendado..." para no referirnos a las regiones; dejarlo un poco más abierto. Tal vez así pudiéramos salvar esa situación.

La otra pequeña propuesta que quisiera hacer con este párrafo, porque podría generar alguna confusión, es cuando nosotros decimos "recomendar al Director General entrante". Aquí también tenemos un Director General entrante, por lo cual podría causar confusión al Director General entrante

del IICA. No creo que sea el Director General entrante que el IICA realice, que, nosotros podamos decirle al Director General de la FAO que el IICA realice; tiene que ser el Director General del IICA. Por lo cual, tan vez valdría la pena aclarar ese punto.

En relación con las razones que ha planteado el distinguido delegado de Chile, las cuales compartimos plenamente, nosotros estaríamos de acuerdo con la propuesta que usted hizo al final del párrafo, dejándolo como que "La Conferencia alienta a la FAO a que siga con el desarrollo de esta propuesta".

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais vous lire à nouveau la proposition de manière à ce que nous puissions aller de l'avant. Je suggère d'ôter les termes suivants: "Les Régions d'Amérique du Nord, Amérique latine, Caraïbes". La phrase débiterait ainsi: "De nombreux délégués ont tenu à indiquer", le reste demeurerait inchangé jusqu'à: "si possible organiser des actions intégrées dans la Région" . Je crois que cela a été dit lorsque nous avons discuté sur ce point. La deuxième phrase commence par: "La Conférence a demandé que la FAO apporte sa contribution à cette étude" et la dernière phrase: "la Conférence a demandé au Secrétariat".

Je vous avais proposé tout à l'heure de dire la chose suivante: "La Conférence a encouragé le Secrétariat de la FAO à répondre à cette demande et à collaborer avec l'IICA à la réalisation de ces études."

Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons ajouter qu'on demande au Secrétariat de tenir le Conseil informé à l'une de ses prochaines sessions. Je crois que c'est logique. J'aimerais avoir votre réaction.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands) : I think I can accept your proposal. Perhaps I should explain to certain colleagues here in the room that I am speaking about this subject because I have a very special feeling for Latin America and the Caribbean. I could also use the argument that part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands is still in the Caribbean.

I would like to say to my colleague from Cuba that it is difficult to speak Spanish, but it is not difficult to speak to each other as we always do here in the Conference room and outside in the corridors. You can understand each other without having to learn the language.

I would like to make another suggestion concerning the last sentence. In the Spring of next year there will be a Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. To avoid a long dispute in this room, perhaps it could be suggested that this cooperation between IICA and FAO should be put on the agenda of that meeting. There could then be a full discussion on the subject, perhaps on the basis of the first outcome of the study.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense aussi que cela peut être une issue pour sortir de l'impasse, d'autant plus que je ne pense pas qu'il soit raisonnable de s'attendre à ce que les résultats de cette étude puissent être communiqués à la prochaine session du Conseil. Je pense que cette dernière question dont nous venons de discuter est peut-être une issue positive.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): This item comes under a section entitled Recent Developments in FAO's Cooperation with Inter-governmental and Non-governmental Organizations. As I understand this particular item, it is not intended to be a purely responsive item. It is intended to be a pro-active item on the part of FAO. I think that within the UN system generally we have talking about coordination of activities so as to eliminate duplication, enhance complementarity and achieve economies.

The achievement of economies is not the purpose, as some have alleged here today, of reducing the level of activities; rather, the purpose is to be able to do more with the same amount. It is in that context that the discussions on cooperation between IICA and FAO have occurred in this particular room. On that rainy evening, among the people who spoke there seemed to be commonality of approach, and that approach, I think, is admirably captured in the re-draft of the text that you have before you.

It seems to me that there are two elements to it. First of all is what happened at IICA, and in that context I would remind participants here that our Ministers who participated in IICA gave the signal very strongly that they wished for greater cooperation of activities between IICA and FAO with a view to achieving more with the same amount of resources. That is the essential element - that is why they spoke of integration, as they have done.

The second element of this - and that is what the discussion was about earlier last week - is, what is FAO's response going to be to this particular initiative? I think that members who took part in the debate that occurred have in fact given their response, that they wish, not a passive, not a pure responsive approach, to what IICA has suggested, but they wish a pro-active approach which says one of two things: firstly, "we wish to participate in the study that IICA is conducting to see if we can define what the areas of complementarity, what the areas of possible integration, harmonization, and complementary activities might be", so that they might then take a decision to do it.

Notwithstanding that approach, there are nevertheless ongoing activities in both our institutions, and these activities - these ongoing activities - can currently also be the subject of cooperative activities such as leverage of our respective resources in order to get more output. That is the second part of this particular formulation which is suggested to us.

Neither of these is threatening to anyone. What the intention is here is to actually begin the process of doing something actively; I think that in respect of first of all deciding what the study is to be before FAO acts, I would recall many comments that have been made about the necessity of not micro-managing the Organization. I think that the Organization currently has a great deal of latitude to respond without coming back on individual programmes and requesting membership approval on whether or not to proceed.

Consequently, I think, quite frankly, in terms of what has occurred today, that we have had a violent agreement in this room, and it is now a question of articulating it perhaps more ably than we have heretofore done.

I would propose that the formulation originally suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is the appropriate one to use.

A final point which I would make is in regard to the interests of members who do not participate in the region, are not members of the region, on this particular matter. I would say that they have a very great interest in this Organization, because the efficiency of FAO is at stake. What happens in any one region can also be used as a model in another region, and as members of an international organization they have an interest in all of its activities.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour ma part, je vous avais déjà fait cette proposition auparavant et il me semblait que nous avions considéré le paragraphe 14 du C 93/II/REP/6 comme nul et non avenu, et que l'on travaillait sur la proposition que nous a lue le Président du Comité de rédaction.

Je tiens également à vous indiquer que cette question était un point pour information lorsqu'il a été discuté ici, et je vois que le débat est en train de prendre une autre tournure.

J'avais pensé que ma proposition aurait une chance de recueillir votre soutien du fait qu'elle reprenait les éléments qui ont été dits. Je ne pensais pas que certains délégués auraient pu être réticents face à cette proposition. Je vous la lis à nouveau: "la Conférence a encouragé la FAO à répondre à l'invitation qui lui a été faite par l'IICA pour participer à cette étude". Ensuite, afin d'améliorer le texte et reprendre la proposition des Pays-Bas, je proposerais ce qui suit: "la Conférence a été d'accord sur le fait que le sujet soit discuté à la prochaine Conférence générale pour la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes et a prié le Directeur général de faire rapport à la session du Conseil du mois de novembre 94.

Pedro Alfonso MEDRANO ROJAS (Chile): La delegación de Chile quisiera manifestar su acuerdo con la proposición que usted ha formulado. Creo que refleja en lo esencial los sentimientos y el deseo de la delegaciones de América Latina, y estoy absolutamente seguro que de la Conferencia.

Juan NUIRY SÁNCHEZ (Cuba) : No es por estar en contra de lo expuesto por usted, señor Presidente, solamente una cuestión de espacio y tiempo. La Regional de América Latina va a ser en mayo; todavía el Consejo no tiene una fecha fija. Poner esto aquí sin saber ... Dijeron aquí en la Conferencia de mayo. Lea el final entonces.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai dit: "elle a prié le Directeur général d'en faire rapport à la prochaine session du Conseil en novembre 94".

Neil GALLAGHER (United States of America) : I am a little confused by the suggestion. Are you suggesting that the rest of the material in the second and third sentences be deleted and replaced with this language, so that we lose all reference to harmonization? We would object to that change.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme je vous l'avais annoncé au début, je n'ai pas suivi les débats sur cette question puisque ce point de l'ordre du jour a été traité sous la présidence de notre Vice-Président M. Paranhos. Par contre, j'ai eu l'occasion depuis tout à l'heure de recourir au verbatim. C'est une chose que je n'aime pas faire car c'est une question de confiance entre

collègues. J'avais pensé que cette formule pouvait être endossée par la Conférence. Si vous aviez souhaité insister sur la question de l'harmonisation et de l'intégration, il me semble qu'un plus grand nombre de délégués se seraient exprimés sur la question lors des débats. Mais je m'en remets à vous.

Je donne la parole à la Colombie.

Ivan MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia) : Colombia participó en la discusión de este tema y dejó una declaración por escrito al respecto.

Quisiéramos que no quedara duda sobre la interpretación que nosotros le damos al tema.

Colombia es parte del IICA y de la FAO. Nuestro Ministro de Agricultura participó en la aprobación de la resolución del IICA que se aprobó y que se ha leído acá hace unos minutos. Y naturalmente que nuestra posición en el seno de la FAO es consecuente con nuestra posición en el seno del IICA. Es el mismo Gobierno, es el mismo país y pensamos lo mismo en el IICA y en la FAO en los asuntos que conciernen a estos dos organismos.

Colombia piensa que para la América Latina y el Caribe es necesario, es fundamental que se coordinen las actividades de los organismos internacionales que trabajan en las áreas de la agricultura y la alimentación. En el caso concreto, Colombia está buscando, respalda de manera decidida y resuelta los esfuerzos que se hagan en el IICA y en la FAO para organizar las actividades de estos organismos en la región, para coordinarlos, para que sean más eficientes y den mejores resultados a la población de la región.

Desde este punto de vista, nosotros como gobierno, se trataría de una señal política muy clara, no de una recomendación ni de una aspiración, sino de una decisión política que consiste en decir, en el seno de estos organismos, en los escenarios de posición política como la Conferencia, que estos organismos deben coordinarse. Por eso, no nos parece apropiada la palabra "alienta" a la Secretaría, ni tampoco nos parece apropiado que se delegue el tema a una reunión regional de la FAO para América Latina. Nos parece bien que tomen cartas en el asunto la Secretaría y la Reunión General para América Latina y el Caribe (la reunión de la FAO), pero sobre la base de una decisión política de la Conferencia de la FAO. No podemos delegar a esa reunión regional o a la Secretaría las decisiones que nos conciernen a nosotros. Como Colombia, pediríamos un texto afirmativo en el sentido de que la Conferencia de la FAO decide que se armonice, que se coordine, que se busque una mayor eficiencia en las actividades IICA/FAO, en cuanto son actividades dirigidas al mismo sector agrario, agropecuario, y a la misma región.

Pedimos, señor Presidente, que no haya debilidades en el pensamiento y en la definición de este tema. Que no se piense que no tenemos ideas claras a este respecto. Como Colombia, queremos que la FAO y el IICA sean eficientes en América Latina y para que eso ocurra sabemos que es indispensable que estos dos organismos se coordinen, no que hagan estudios juntos ni reuniones para estudiar, no. Que se coordinen, que sea una decisión política. Por supuesto, para coordinarse hay que estudiar esas áreas de

coordinación, esas actividades comunes, pero que haya una decisión política previa que determine las acciones futuras. Se trata de que haya una coordinación entre los dos organismos y una mayor racionalidad y eficiencia en las actividades que desempeñan.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis en mesure de vous faire une proposition et j'espère qu'elle sera acceptée par tous. Elle se lit comme suit: De nombreux délégués ont tenu à indiquer que le Bureau interaméricain de l'agriculture avait recommandé au Directeur général qui va entrer en fonctions que l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture (IICA) entreprenne une étude en vue de déterminer les dates qui doivent être envisagées pour améliorer la coordination des activités de cette institution avec la FAO et, si possible, organiser des actions intégrées dans la Région.

La Conférence, tout en demandant un renforcement de la coopération et de la coordination avec l'IICA, a encouragé la FAO à participer à ces études. La Conférence a demandé que cette question soit débattue lors de la prochaine session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes. Elle a demandé au Directeur général de faire rapport à ce sujet à la session du Conseil du mois de novembre 94, en indiquant les propositions concrètes relatives à la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de ces études.

Je vais demander à Mme Forthomme de vous la lire en anglais.

Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II): I will only read the last part. "The Conference, while calling for strengthening of the cooperation and coordination with IICA, encouraged FAO to participate in this study. The Conference asked that this matter be discussed by the forthcoming regional conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. It requested the Director-General to report on this subject at the Council Session in November 1994 indicating the concrete proposals related to the implementation and recommendations of this study". That is what I have, iSir.

LE PRESIDENT: J'aimerais insister sur ce que j'ai dit auparavant. Je pensais que cette solution pourrait être une solution de compromis.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada) : I think that the formulation is not quite what we might have expected. We are calling for a strengthening of cooperation. I thought that strengthening of cooperation was a continuing objective of this Organization. I find that rather weak. To encourage FAO to participate in this study is to give no commitment whatsoever that the FAO is being requested to participate in this study. We then ask or require the Director-General to draw up a report on this subject but again it is not clear what the subject is. Is the subject to be the results of the regional conference? is it to be the extent or otherwise to participate in the study and, consequently, I find it just does not quite meet with the objectives as in the original. I thought that we had suggested an alternative formulation on the original reformulation suggested to you which I thought perhaps might be better.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est évident qu'il faut tenir compte des délibérations de la Conférence régionale. Je crois que c'est entendu par tout le monde. J'ai bien indiqué dans ma proposition, une référence à des propositions concrètes relatives à la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de ces études.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): J'adhère complètement à la seconde proposition qui vient d'être faite. Je tiens tout de même à expliquer ma position en me référant à la première proposition d'amendement. Je parle de la feuille volante que nous avons entre les mains. Je n'ai pas demandé la parole au début parce que mon pays n'appartient pas à la région concernée et parce que je n'ai pas assisté aux débats mais, pour des questions de simple logique et de respect des décisions que nous prenons, il me semble qu'il était assez difficile d'adhérer à une demande d'étude et d'entériner les résultats de cette étude en décidant immédiatement de mesures à prendre qui concernaient cette étude. Cela ne me paraît pas très logique. c'est pourquoi je suis d'autant plus heureuse d'entendre la proposition que vous venez de faire et de lui apporter le soutien de ma délégation.

Vous pourrez peut-être améliorer cela en disant: "La Conférence a demandé le renforcement de la coopération et de la coordination". Si l'on dit "tout en demandant", on s'attend à quelque chose qui est contraire alors que cela va ensemble, personne n'est contre la coopération, ni la coordination et on encourage également la participation à ces études.

LE PRESIDENT: Je partage votre avis. Dans la première phrase nous voulions simplement indiquer, sans prendre de mesures concrètes et sans anticiper sur le résultat de cette étude, que nous demandions un renforcement de la coopération et de la coordination. Cela ne nous engage pas à prendre des mesures concrètes alors que l'étude va être menée. C'est une chose que beaucoup de délégués avaient du mal à apprécier.

Neil GALLAGHER (United States of America): We would support the compromise text and ask Canada and our Latin America colleagues to agree to it as well so that we can conclude this matter.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Représentant des Etats-Unis pour sa collaboration et sa compréhension.

Ivan MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia) : Tal vez en aras de buscar un acuerdo fácil sobre este punto, solamente perdería que se cambiara la frase "alentó a la FAO" por una frase más clara y precisa. Porque pareciera como si la FAO fuera un organismo distinto de la Conferencia. La Conferencia solicitó a la Secretaría; que sea una afirmación concreta. Y, por supuesto, que también quede clara la decisión de la Conferencia, en el sentido de que la mayor coordinación también es una voluntad de este organismo. Porque dicho como está en la redacción que usted acaba de leer, queda como un sentimiento secundario de la Conferencia pidiendo que se fortalezca. No pidió que se fortalezcan las relaciones.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela faisait partie du texte de la première proposition que je vous avais lue avant la pause. Je m'étais borné à me référer à la résolution elle-même. J'avais pensé que la Conférence n'irait pas plus loin

que le texte de la résolution elle-même. C'est pourquoi j'avais introduit cette proposition "d'encourager la FAO". J'aimerais vous demander toute votre compréhension, après l'intervention des Etats-Unis, pour nous permettre d'avancer, et vous joindre à cette proposition.

Ivan MARULANDA GÓMEZ (Colombia) : Sé que Estados Unidos tiene una idea sobre el tema, pero la nuestra es distinta y no tiene que coincidir con la de Estados Unidos. Nosotros solicitamos respetuosamente que se cambie la expresión "alentó a la FAO" porque nos parece imprecisa, débil e inadecuada, ya que da la impresión de que la FAO fuera un organismo distinto a esta Conferencia. "Alentó a la FAO, como si fuera un organismo distinto a esta Conferencia. "Alentó a la FAO", como si fuera una tercera persona la FAO. La Conferencia es parte fundamental de la FAO; es el organismo supremo de la FAO. "Solicitó a la Secretaria o "solicitó a la Organización" es más preciso y me parece que no hace daño a nadie.

LE PRESIDENT: Puisque vous insistez, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, il faudra changer le terme "demandant" au début de la phrase. Je n'ai pas de verbe présent à l'esprit maintenant mais il faut dire ensuite: "a demandé à la FAO de participer à cette étude". C'est l'amendement qui est proposé par l'Ambassadeur de Colombie.

Y a-t-il des observations particulières?

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands): I would only like to support Colombia's suggestion of "ask the Secretariat". We have heard Mr Shah say "the Director-General": perhaps he could explain what is stronger - the Secretariat, or the Director-General?

V.J. SHAH (Deputy Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Of course, I am not Legal Counsel, and I do not attempt to be! I would only point out that we in the Secretariat are brought up to be very aware that the Organization is the Member Nations. I therefore very well take the point made by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia. At the same time, it is the Director-General who reports to the Conference. It is the Director-General who is elected by you. We in the Secretariat serve him.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'en parlant de la FAO, nous avons conservé le sens de la toute première proposition du Président du Comité de rédaction, qui disait: "La Conférence a demandé que la FAO apporte sa contribution à cette étude". Je crois en effet que nous pouvons valablement dire: "a demandé à la FAO de participer à cette étude".

S'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, je considère que le paragraphe 14 est amendé de la sorte. Le Canada, vous avez la parole.

Robert ANDRIGO (Canada): Before we conclude, I would appreciate a re-reading of this article because, as I think I suggested, there are a number of vague references in here. For example, when you say "the Conference asked that this matter be discussed by the forthcoming Regional Conference", what is "this matter"? Is it the participation by FAO in the

study? That to me seems to be the appropriate antecedent. I think we need to be very clear on what it is that the Regional Conference is to discuss, and that is the question of improved collaboration and cooperation with FAO.

I still think that the passive voice of "calling" is not sufficient - we need to "call" on FAO. It needs to be made a request, that we must improve cooperation and coordination with IICA and this text as formulated is still very weak.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pensais que cette question, au-delà de l'étude, visait le renforcement de la coopération et de la coordination. Je ne sais pas si la traduction reflète exactement cela, mais on parle bien de renforcer la coordination et la coopération entre ces deux organisations. Il appartiendra ensuite aux pays membres de la Conférence régionale de définir ce dont ils voudront parler. Pour notre part, nous traçons le cadre général et nous ne pouvons pas anticiper sur les débats de la prochaine session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Y a-t-il d'autres observations sur ce paragraphe?

Sra. María E. JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador): Disculpe que le retrase en su trabajo, pero me pareció entender que el Representante de Colombia pidió dos cambios. Uno, cuando decimos "La Conferencia pidió que se fortalezca la cooperación y coordinación", y el otro "solicitó a la Secretaría". Quería estar segura de que los dos cambios habían sido aceptados.

LE PRESIDENT: Parfaitement. Je pensais bien avoir dit cela mais peut-être l'interprétation n'a-t-elle pas été suffisamment exacte.

Paragraph 14, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 14, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 14, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 15 to 16 approved

Les paragraphes 15 et 16 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 16 son aprobados

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 6, as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de rapport de la Commission II, sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 6, así enmendado, es Aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons terminé l'étude du C 93/II/REP/6, dernier document soumis à notre attention. Je vous rappelle que le C 93/II/REP/4 a déjà été adopté par notre Commission et par la Plénière elle-même mercredi matin.

Nous sommes arrivés au terme des débats de cette Commission II. Je n'ai pas préparé de discours car cela ne me plaît guère.

J'aimerais en votre nom à tous remercier le Président du Comité de rédaction, M. Marsh, ainsi que les membres de ce Comité pour le travail qu'ils ont réalisé et qui nous a permis d'adopter le rapport sans grandes difficultés puisque l'approbation des parties II à V du rapport a été très rapide. Certes, les questions d'information ont nécessité un peu de temps mais nous avons profité des observations et commentaires présentés par les membres.

J'aimerais vous remercier tous pour votre collaboration, votre esprit de compromis, mais surtout pour l'atmosphère très cordiale - et j'insiste sur ce point - dans laquelle se sont déroulés nos travaux. J'ai été très fier d'assumer l'animation de cette Commission et c'est un honneur pour moi d'avoir ainsi pu collaborer avec vous.

J'aimerais remercier M. Shah qui nous a souvent aidés et qui est toujours disponible.

Madame Killingsworth, croyez à toute l'amitié des membres de la Commission.

Je remercie l'ensemble du Secrétariat, en particulier Mme Claude Forthomme, pour son amabilité et son sourire éternel, ainsi que M. Devé, Michaela et Ludmila, nos charmantes secrétaires. Je n'oublie pas non plus tous ceux qui ont collaboré à nos travaux, les interprètes, pour leur compréhension et leur patience, les sténotypistes auxquels on ne rend pas souvent hommage, mais j'aimerais insister sur leur travail exemplaire. Ce n'est pas une tâche facile car nous ne nous exprimons pas toujours parfaitement, ce qui leur pose de grandes difficultés. Je remercie également les messengers, le Secrétariat et tous les services de soutien à cette Commission qui nous ont permis d'achever nos travaux dans des délais convenables.

Avant de donner la parole au Koweït, j'aimerais saluer en votre nom, Mme Boudjelti, ma collègue et grande amie qui va nous quitter à la fin de la Conférence car elle retourne dans son pays pour une autre mission; M. Prillewitz qui, lui aussi, retourne dans son pays pour une charge aussi importante puisqu'il continuera à s'occuper des questions qui l'ont toujours intéressé, c'est-à-dire les questions liées à l'environnement. A tous deux, je souhaite plein succès dans leur nouvelle mission.

Miss Fatimah HASAN J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic) : I am not used to taking the floor at sessions such as this, at a time when we have to say goodbye to Mrs Amina. I have been given the opportunity to tell her that she was a great friend, a sincere friend, I believe that you have done honour to our region and that you have given prestige to Arab women through your work. I wish you all the best - I wish you happiness, and all success.

I would also like to give my best wishes to the Member from the Netherlands, who is leaving us as well. I wish him well in his future work.

Mr Chairman, I was here when you were appointed as Chairman, and I was certain that you would be a very good Chairman. I am very pleased to say that you have indeed done honour to all Arab countries. I think you have shown that you were up to this onerous task, and you have been able to guide the work of this Commission very effectively.

You have been extremely precise. The work that you have done has been very exact, and you have now brought the work of this important Commission to a successful conclusion in good time. Everyone here has been extremely happy to see you in the Chair. I am very pleased that you are from an Arab country and that you have represented our region so well.

I should like to thank the Secretariat as well, without going through them name by name. I should certainly like to thank Mr Shah, and Mr Marsh as well. We thank the whole Secretariat.

We are very sorry that we will not see you here any longer, but we hope to see you again. In the meantime, may God keep you in the palm of His hand.

LE PRESIDENT: Je tiens à m'excuser auprès de mes chers collègues et amis, M. Paranhos du Brésil et M. Peter Ianus, de Hollande, les vice-présidents qui m'ont aidé dans la conduite de ces travaux. Je leur demande de croire à toutes mes amitiés. Si j'ai omis de les remercier, ce n'est pas par manque de reconnaissance, mais simplement parce que nous avons travaillé en parfaite symbiose.

S'agissant de Mme Boudjelti, je n'ai pas dit grand chose parce que c'est mon amie, et si elle est élue au Comité du Programme, vous aurez, sûrement l'occasion de la revoir l'année prochaine et les années suivantes.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands) : Mr Chairman, I should like to thank you very much for your kind words and also for the kind words expressed by my dear friend Fatimah of Kuwait. I feel really sorry not to be a representative of an Arab country after her speech, but I am happy that I have been here and have met so many good friends. I love Rome and I love the company of all my colleagues here in the FAO conferences, councils and other meetings. I look forward to a good job in the Netherlands, but I will keep in close contact with most of you and with FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci à vous, Monsieur Prillevitz. La parole est au délégué de la Libye.

Saleh SAHBOUN (Libya) (Original language Arabic) : I have to say that the words have been taken out of my mouth by my sister from Kuwait. I should like to support everything she has said and particularly the kind words that were addressed to you regarding the great abilities you have shown in chairing this meeting. I should like to thank you and to wish Mrs Boudjelti from Algeria and the other outgoing members all success for the future.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne la parole à Mme Boudjelti, Représentante de l'Algérie.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algerie): Monsieur le Président, il y a des moments où les mots n'expriment rien du tout. Je vais donc vous dire simplement merci à vous et à tous les collègues ici présents. Mais je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour compléter, si elle me le permet, ce qu'a dit Mme Hayat en disant que vous avez été la fierté du groupe arabe, certes, mais également la fierté du groupe africain qui vous a permis d'être à ce poste.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes arrivés au terme de nos travaux. Je déclare la quinzième et ultime séance de la Commission II close. Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas.