

**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

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**PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES DU CONSEIL**  
**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DEL CONSEJO**



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SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA  
(11 November 1977)

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## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/1

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(8 November 1977)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours,  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

EL PRESIDENTE: Declaro abierto el 72° período de sesiones del Consejo. Como ustedes saben, este período de sesiones de nuestro organismo tiene carácter particular ya que, de acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes y con lo que se ha hecho siempre en el pasado, esta sesión breve debería de estar limitada a revisar y concluir los arreglos para la Conferencia que se iniciará el próximo sábado. Digo esto porque notarán ustedes que en el programa provisional aparecen temas y documentos muy importantes sobre los cuales, por la razones que acabo de exponerles, agradecería que limitaran sus intervenciones a temas muy específicos y concretos. Me refiero en particular a los temas 10, 11 y 12, Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79. Examen de los Programas de Campo y Objetivos a Plazo medio.

Son documentos que dentro de muy pocos días van a ser discutidos en la Conferencia. Naturalmente, les ruego que interpreten esta observación mía con carácter flexible pues en ningún momento intento limitar la forma como cada uno de los miembros del Consejo desee intervenir en nuestros debates.

Creo que yo debo dar el buen ejemplo y no tengo más nada que agregar por el momento, y si ninguno de los miembros del Consejo tiene observaciones de carácter general, de acuerdo con el Orden del Día que ha sido distribuido esta mañana, les propongo que pasemos al tema 1: Adopción del Programa y del Calendario.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier

1. Aprobación del programa y del calendario

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a conceder la palabra al Secretario, señor Caprona, Secretario del Consejo, quien les propondrá unas breves y simples adiciones al programa provisional que se ha distribuido.

SECRETARY GENERAL: It is just to add under item 17, Other Constitutional and Legal Questions, the following sub-item "Agreements concluded under Article 14 of the Constitution" which would be for discussion and/or decision. The relevant document has been distributed, which is CL/72/17, and the Members of the Council will see that it is really more of a housekeeping nature. It is not controversial at all.

The second sub-item is under item 18, Any Other Business, where we would have the standard traditional Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1976-77 Biennium. The document is CL 72/14. That is also an uncontroversial item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos ustedes hayan tomado nota de la adición que se propone a nuestro programa provisional. Como lo dije antes, y lo ha confirmado el señor de Caprona, se trata de adiciones simples que espero no ofrecerán problemas a los miembros del Consejo.

Sobre el Calendario, quiero hacerles una propuesta de modificación. En el documento CL 72/INF/1, notarán ustedes y así está confirmado en el Orden del Día para hoy, que el tema 7: Programa Mundial de Alimentos figuraba como segundo tema de fondo de esta mañana después del tema 6, sobre la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

Sin embargo, en la segunda parte del tema 7 - Aprobación de las Normas Generales revisadas del PMA, aún falta un documento adicional que entiendo será el CL 72/16/Sup.1, que contiene el extracto de informe del CFA, del Comité del Programa Mundial de Alimentos que apenas concluyó su último período de sesiones el viernes pasado. En atención a que este extracto del Informe del CFA tiene relación directa con la segunda parte del tema 7 - Normas Generales revisadas del PMA, me permito proponerles que el tema 7 sea aplazado, que la discusión del tema 7, Programa Mundial de Alimentos tenga lugar mañana por la mañana.

Si el Consejo estuviere de acuerdo con esta propuesta, querrá decir que el programa continuará tal como está, o sea que después del tema 6 irán los temas 10, 13, etc., y que sólo el tema 7 se aplaza hasta mañana por la mañana.

Si no hay ningún comentario, entiendo que los miembros del Consejo están de acuerdo con las adiciones propuestas hace poco al programa provisional y con el cambio que les acabo de sugerir en el Calendario. En cuanto al Calendario, quiero hacerles una observación, que es obvia para todos ustedes, y es la de que no está prevista ninguna mañana ni tarde libre como acostumbrábamos hacerlo en el pasado. Esto se debe al carácter particular de esta reunión. Sin embargo, confío en que obtendré la cooperación de todos ustedes para que podamos concluir este período de sesiones el jueves en la tarde del modo que está previsto, y así facilitemos la reunión del Comité de Candidaturas que tendrá lugar el viernes próximo, o sea inmediatamente antes del sábado cuando se inaugurará la Conferencia.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, entiendo que procederemos así, y podemos ahora pasar al tema 2.

2. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee

2. Election des deux Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

2. Elección de dos vicepresidentes y nombramiento de presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción

EL PRESIDENTE: Para la elección del primer Vicepresidente, ¿quién desea hacer propuestas?.

Sra. C. I. DOMINGUEZ (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá tiene el placer de proponer a la distinguida Embajadora de México, Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe para la primera vicepresidencia de este período del Consejo.

Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe ha tenido una larga y brillante carrera política y técnica en su país, luchando siempre por elevar el nivel de vida de las comunidades campesinas y en especial de la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo económico y social de México. Las poblaciones de las zonas rurales de la capital la eligieron por dos períodos como su representante en la Cámara de Diputados. Durante ese período trabajó afanosamente por resolver los problemas de los grupos marginados. Antes de ocupar su actual cargo como Representante Permanente de México ante FAO, la Embajadora Iturbe desempeñaba el cargo de Director de Estudios Económicos del Departamento del Distrito Federal. Consideramos, señor Presidente, que por las grandes capacidades y el dinamismo que caracterizan a la señora Iturbe, será una excelente Primer Vicepresidente, y por eso la delegación de Panamá al presentar esta candidatura lo hace sabiendo que contará con el apoyo de todos los miembros del Consejo.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Rep. Fed. de Alemania): La delegación de la República Federal de Alemania, apoya con gran placer la propuesta de que Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe, Embajadora y Representante Permanente de México ante la FAO sea elegida Vicepresidente Primero de nuestras sesiones de Consejo.

La distinguida señora Rivera Marín de Iturbe es bien conocida en el seno de nuestro Consejo. Sus virtudes fueron destacadas por la distinguida delegada de Panamá. Estoy seguro de que se podría agregar mucho más pero no voy a hacerlo para ser breve y facilitar los trabajos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ninguna otra intervención de los miembros del Consejo entiendo que se decide elegir por aclamación como Primer Vicepresidente a la distinguida señora Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe, Embajadora de México y Representante Permanente ante la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (Mexico): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, por otorgarme la palabra. Deseo en forma muy breve agradecer la nominación de que he sido merecedora y debo recibirla no tanto por méritos propios sino en nombre de mi país, nación que como ustedes saben, señores miembros de este Consejo, se ha distinguido en la historia del mundo moderno por luchar por reivindicar los derechos de las clases débiles y sobre todo por llevar adelante una lucha en el mejoramiento de las clases campesinas que son quienes padecen y sufren las diferencias de un desarrollo que, desafortunadamente para nosotros, no ha sido lo debidamente equilibrado.

FAO y todos nosotros estamos empeñados en la misma lucha y es por esto que agradezco a los señores consejeros, y en primer término a la distinguida delegada de Panamá y al distinguido delegado de Alemania Federal, que me han hecho el favor de proponerme como candidato a la vicepresidencia, y agradezco a ustedes que hayan apoyado esta propuesta, vuelvo a repetirlo, tanto en nombre de mi Gobierno como en el mío propio.

EL PRESIDENTE: Para la elección de segundo vicepresidente, ¿quién desea hacer propuestas?

O. BORIN (Italie): J'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de soumettre à l'attention du Conseil la possibilité d'élire comme deuxième Vice-président le représentant permanent des Pays-Bas, Monsieur de Bakker.

M. de Bakker n'est pas à la FAO depuis longtemps mais il nous a été possible de très bien le connaître. Il est très actif, extrêmement intelligent et dans ses interventions il a toujours fait preuve de grande capacité et d'un grand équilibre.

Pour ces raisons, nous avons le plaisir de présenter sa candidature comme deuxième Vice-président.

E. CAKAJDA (Tchécoslovaquie): La délégation tchécoslovaque appuie la candidature de M. de Bakker, étant sûre que son expérience de longues années et sa connaissance du système de la FAO seront profitables à cette session du Conseil.

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina, en base al conocimiento de los problemas de la FAO y de los antecedentes del señor de Bakker quiere adherirse y apoyar la candidatura para la segunda vicepresidencia del representante de los Países Bajos ante la FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ninguna otra intervención de los miembros del Consejo, considero que decidimos elegir por aclamación al señor de Bakker, de Países Bajos, como segundo Vicepresidente.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. DE BAKKER (Netherlands): It is for my country and myself a great honour to be elected as Vice-Chairman of this very important Council Session, the Session that precedes this important Conference that we are going to have next week. I feel very honoured and pleased to be in the same bureau with you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that with you, as Chairman, and the other Vice-Chairman, we can form this bureau together. I must thank the three delegations that proposed and seconded my election and I can assure you that when you call upon me I will do my best, together with the lady sitting next to me, to make this Session a great success.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos así los dos vicepresidentes a quienes felicitamos cordialmente en nombre del Consejo.

Sobre el Tema 2 queda pendiente el nombramiento de Presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Para el cargo de Presidente del Comité de Redacción se nos ha sugerido al Sr. Haque, representante alterno de Bangladesh ante la FAO. El Sr. Haque es bien conocido por todos ustedes, pues participa con actividad, inteligencia y consagración en los trabajos de nuestra Organización. Quiero preguntar al Consejo si están de acuerdo en que elijamos por aclamación al Sr. Haque de Bangladesh, como relator y presidente del Comité de Redacción. Entiendo que todos están de acuerdo y así se decide.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sobre los países que habrán de integrar el Comité de Redacción, hemos iniciado las acostumbradas consultas que todavía no han concluido. Confiamos en poder proponer al Consejo esta tarde, o mañana por la mañana, los nombres de los siete países que han de integrar este Comité de Redacción. Si están ustedes de acuerdo dejamos pendiente el Tema 2 y podemos pasar al punto siguiente.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL

6. Report of the Commission on Fertilizers (4th Session, Rome, September 1977)

6. Rapport de la Commission des engrais (quatrième session, Rome, septembre 1977)

6. Informe de la Comisión de Fertilizantes (Cuarta reunión, Roma, septiembre 1977)

- Future of the IFS

- Avenir de l'IFS

- Futuro del PIF

EL PRESIDENTE: Concedo la palabra al Sr. Blanco Delgado de México, quien fue el Presidente de la Cuarta Reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, con lo cual vamos a seguir el punto 6. Espero que todos tengan a la mano el documento CL 72/2, que es el informe de la Cuarta Reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes. Vamos a tratar, pues, el Tema 6 que incluye, como está especificado en el orden del día, el futuro del PIF, sobre el cual les va a hablar el Presidente de la Comisión, pero además ustedes podrán encontrar detalles sobre la posición de la Comisión en los párrafos 32 a 35 del documento CL 72/2.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (Presidente de la Comisión de Fertilizantes): El Informe de la Cuarta Sesión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, como ya lo ha dicho usted, señor presidente, se presenta como documento CL 72/2, sobre el cual voy a considerar únicamente las partes más importantes del mismo. Tal como fue solicitado por el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, la Comisión puso durante sus trabajos especial interés en la revisión del mandato, en donde, gracias a los constructivos comentarios que se hicieron se llegó a un acuerdo sobre el mandato revisado, el cual se presenta como Apéndice E de este Informe para su aprobación por el Consejo. Para esto el Consejo habrá de aprobar una resolución, la cual se presentará en el proyecto de informe de esta sesión del Consejo.

Con respecto al mandato revisado que fue aprobado por la Comisión, notará usted, señor presidente, que además de ayudar a todos los países, particularmente a los países en desarrollo para tener a su disposición, en cantidades suficientes y a precios razonables, los nutrientes que requiere su desarrollo agrícola y su producción alimentaria, se incluye la ayuda para promover la producción de fertilizantes, particularmente en los países en desarrollo, en cooperación con los organismos apropiados de las Naciones Unidas y tal como fue solicitado por el Consejo en su 60ª sesión.

Durante las deliberaciones de la Comisión, el representante de la ONUDI señaló que la producción de fertilizantes era una responsabilidad de ONUDI y a este respecto quiero hacer énfasis que la Comisión no tiene intenciones de duplicar las actividades de ONUDI en el campo de la producción de fertilizantes, sin embargo, el punto de vista que se refleja en el capítulo C del Mandato revisado y aprobado, es que existe la necesidad de promover la producción de fertilizantes, particularmente en los países en desarrollo, producción que será directamente benéfica para los países; a ONUDI para ampliar sus responsabilidades y a otras instituciones como el Banco Mundial que provean asistencia financiera para la construcción de plantas de fertilizantes en países en desarrollo.

Notará también usted, señor Presidente, que los representantes de ONUDI, el Banco Mundial y otras organizaciones, participaron activamente en la reunión, lo cual fue apreciado por la Comisión y se muestra claramente que las actividades de las diferentes organizaciones están siendo coordinadas como se refleja en el capítulo E del Mandato revisado de la Comisión.

En el párrafo 10 del Informe, la Comisión expresa su sentir con respecto a que, aun cuando la situación actual y las perspectivas hasta 1981-1982 parecen ser satisfactorias, esto debería ser visto con precaución ya que las experiencias pasadas pueden cambiar en forma rápida. También creo prudente llamar la atención al párrafo 11 de este documento en cuestión, donde se refleja que la Comisión puso énfasis en la importancia de su labor para superar los desequilibrios cíclicos, además de los que son de naturaleza estacional en la oferta y demanda que llevan a ampliar fluctuaciones en los precios, por lo que se solicitó que para llevar a cabo esta importante función se deberá dar la prioridad necesaria en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para que los recursos adecuados estén disponibles para llevar a cabo su trabajo.

Por lo tanto la Comisión solicitó a la Secretaría que mejorara su metodología para las determinaciones previas a corto y largo plazo de la oferta y la demanda, como se expresa en el párrafo 12. Así como también era necesario un trabajo más extenso en lo que respecta a los contratos a largo plazo (párrafo 15), y se debería también incluir los estudios de los costos de producción como se dice en los párrafos 22 a 24 del Informe.

En los párrafos 16 al 19 se expresan los puntos de vista sobre las propuestas de opciones, y la Comisión también solicitó al Director General que proceda con la propuesta de opciones, la cual tiene como objeto general asegurar que los países en desarrollo, particularmente los países más gravemente afectados, obtengan los fertilizantes que se necesitan importar a los precios que equivalgan a los precios domésticos de los países desarrollados. También introduce un elemento de estabilidad en los precios internacionales para los fertilizantes.

En los párrafos 32 al 35, la Comisión tomó nota de la ayuda de fertilizantes a países en desarrollo, especialmente el Plan Internacional de Suministro de Fertilizantes. En el párrafo 33 se refleja que la Comisión avala la cercana interrelación entre el PIF y las otras actividades de los fertilizantes de la FAO, como fue recomendado por el Director General y como punto de vista general se consideró que las actividades del PIF deberían ser continuadas y reforzadas durante el próximo bienio.

En los párrafos 36 al 42 se refleja el informe de las actividades de la FAO en materia de fertilizantes y la Comisión solicitó que informes similares fueran presentados en las próximas sesiones de la Comisión.

En el párrafo número 62: programa futuro de trabajo de la Comisión, se solicita que se deberá dar la prioridad apropiada en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y fondos adecuados para llevar a cabo su trabajo deberán ser puestos a su disposición.

El párrafo 63 indica el acuerdo de la Comisión para que el Director General en consultas con el Presidente de la misma determine la fecha de la próxima reunión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias colega y amigo Blanco. Creo que su presentación ha sido muy concreta y sin duda ayudará a los miembros del Consejo a la discusión del Tema 6, cuyos debates vamos a empezar.

En primer lugar ha solicitado la palabra la delegación de Brasil para hacer una declaración, entiendo que a nombre del Grupo de los 77.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman, Group of 77): My delegation would first like, at this stage, to thank Dr. Blanco, Chairman of the Commission on Fertilizers, for presenting to us a very interesting report and we are confident that the Commission of Fertilizers' fourth session has indeed done very interesting work and produced thus a report with very important suggestions. With your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, and that of the Council, I would very much appreciate it if I could be allowed to make some comments of a very general nature since we believe, we feel, in the Group of 77, that perhaps the Council Members could benefit by having a rather general picture of the substantive items we have before the Council. I must say that in offering our comments at this stage we are doing so in a spirit of cooperation, as a possible point of reference so that our deliberations can be more easily focused and therefore the fact that I shall try to give a general view on several points is simply to show the kind of integrity of views and a general picture of the way we see the main matters before us at the present Session of the Council.

We understand that the present Session of our Council must endeavour to prepare the work of the Nineteenth FAO Conference, as you have said, Mr. Chairman, which is going to start its deliberations in just a few days. In order to facilitate this task, the Group of 77 thought it appropriate to present briefly its views on the main issues before us. These views will of course be elaborated and further explained by individual delegations in the course of our deliberations.

At the time of the 71st Session of the Council we had the opportunity to comment upon the outlook of the world agricultural situation. At that time, available indications had led us to expect that agricultural production would once again show healthy signs, although concealing serious disparities among countries and regions. More recent information suggests that those initial expectations were perhaps too optimistic, as unfavourable weather in recent months resulted in shortfalls in the total volume of production, particularly of foodcrops, damping the hopes for a much-improved world food security situation. It would appear, however, that not only unfavourable climatic conditions have conspired to reduce food availability in the coming year: the well-publicized plans for reducing acreage planted with grains will, in fact, increase the risk of a return to the tight supply/demand situation of the early years of this decade.

Therefore while on the production front the prospects do not seem to be altogether satisfactory, the results of effort undertaken by the international community to lay the foundations for a more just world economic order are even less encouraging. The much hailed North-South Dialogue ended, as we all know, without any tangible results but it left in its way instead an inventory of pent-up frustrations. At this stage we can only hope that the current negotiation in UNCTAD, in particular the resumed Conference on the Common Fund, now taking place in Geneva and the talk-around of multilateral trade negotiations will prove more fruitful. What is needed now is for the developed countries to come forward with more imaginative and forceful counterpart action to dovetail with intensive efforts of developing countries to meet the challenge of their food and agricultural development needs.

We similarly hope that the response of the international community to the renewed priority accorded to rural development in developing countries will be reflected in clear policy initiatives particularly in the supply of agricultural inputs and in a much larger volume of external financing on better terms. We are gratified, in this connection, that the entering into force of the IFAD agreement is imminent. We are also pleased to know that the re-orientation of FAO's programmes with much greater emphasis on field activities is beginning to bear fruits. At the same time we cannot but show an apprehension in the external financial flows for agricultural development and the worsening of its terms which took place in 1976 after the encouraging trends of the two previous years. Last year the external flows to developing countries amounted to less than half of the real value of the requirements estimated by the World Food Conference as the minimum necessary to ensure the 4 percent growth rate on agricultural production recommended in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

We are also concerned that measures restricting access to markets in developed countries are increasingly acting as disincentives to agricultural development in the developing world.

In line with these preoccupations the Group of 77 would like to comment briefly on some recent developments in the FAO and the World Food Programme, in the report of the Commission on Fertilizer, the introduction of which we have just heard; we were happy to note that the Commission was in a position to recommend the continuation of the International Fertilizer Scheme, an arrangement which in spite of its modest scope provided its benefit to a number of developing countries. It is equally gratifying to see that the Commission is in the process of evolving specific policies and measures aimed at ensuring price stabilization, and, just as important, at reducing price differentials for fertilizers paid by farmers in developing importing countries and in the major suppliers' markets. Farmers in developing countries should not be placed at a comparative disadvantage in the use of this essential input for improving yields and expanding agricultural production. In this connexion we would like to underline our support to the option proposal which the Commission on Fertilizers has discussed at its Fourth Session. This proposal, which has already received wide support in industry, could in our view increase significantly the use of fertilizers in developing countries. It is our hope that it will soon become operational.

The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, an item we are discussing a little later, has just completed a very fruitful session in our view. We urge this Council to endorse the target of US\$ 950 million approved by the CFA for contributions to the World Food Programme in the biennium 1979-80. We also urge this Council to approve the two specific decisions recommended by CFA relating to the general regulations of the Programme. The recommended increase in the level of resources of the Programme is indicative of the wide support for the World Food Programme in channelling multilateral aid in an effective manner, including emergency operations for which resources within the Programme must be allocated at the appropriate level. Moreover we very much hope that the revised general recommendations in the manner they are intended to be adopted will serve well the Programme in its new stage of maturity so that its humanitarian objectives can be extended to all those in need.

At the last session of our Council we had already commented on the general outline of the 1978-79 Programme of Work proposed by the Director-General on the trends and the priorities which it reflected and on the budget level required to implement it. We still feel that those proposals reflect a realistic approach in support of the efforts of developing countries to accelerate their process of agricultural development so as to meet the needs of their growing populations.

The Group of 77 takes this opportunity to reiterate its full support to the Director-General in his quest for a debureaucratization that saves resources for practical action, a decentralization that assists the real transfer of activities to the country level, and technical cooperation activities specifically designed to promote investment and encourage production.

While acknowledging that our Council will not be in a position to consider in detail the specific points raised in the programme and budget documentation before us, and in particular the very interesting remarks of the Programme and Finance Committees, we would like a few comments on the subject.

On the overall level of the proposed budget we would like to recall that last June we endorsed as a group a total package of programmes which by any standards had to be considered an absolute minimum in the light of requirements of developing countries and of the statutory obligations of the Organization. We understand that the level of expenditure now has to undergo a relatively minor readjustment in order to reflect the difference in currency exchange rates and the additional costs to be incurred with the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We agree that such readjustments are fully warranted. Thus the Group 77 fully endorses the new level of budget proposed by the Director-General which amounts to approximately US\$ 211.3 million. In any case this budget will have, I must stress, to absorb nearly US\$ 870 000 for other Programme requirements of primary concern to developing countries as mentioned in the report of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

We need not dwell on the obvious need to take into account exchange fluctuations in the final dollar value of the budget. The additional costs budgeted for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development are fully justified in our view by the enlarged scope of the work to be accomplished in line with the new awareness of the new international community on the need for integrated rural development. As a priority target for action, instead of the more limited technical meeting first envisaged it has become apparent during the preliminary work for the Conference that a much broader conceptual approach is required to promote a thorough appraisal of the difficulties involved in overcoming the complex problem of rural priority. It is obvious that the Conference, including its preparatory work, will require sufficient financial resources if the whole exercise is to meet our expectations. Even so we should like to stress that the total budget allocation for the Conference is still far below that of international meetings of similar importance and scope.

At the time of the June session of our Council we had already advanced our support for the proposal of the Director General to set aside from the savings expected to accrue at the end of the current biennium in the expense account established under Conference resolution 35/75 the amount of US\$. 5 million in a special reserve account to protect the Organization's programme of work against persistent currency instability, inflationary tendencies and other uncertain factors. We also gave our support to the proposal that the balance of US\$ 10 million still remaining in the suspense account after the establishing of the special reserve account be transferred to the new special fund for reduction of food losses. We strongly believe that the Organization must have a minimum of security against unforeseen circumstances which could affect its programme performance. Similarly we believe that the US\$ 10 million earmarked for the new special fund for reduction of food losses would provide the necessary seed money for the type of programme which is generally agreed to be of high priority.

Now, a matter of principle: We consider that potential savings from currency fluctuations and good financial administration should not be a windfall gain to contributors to the budget, especially to the richest member states.

Finally it is worth noting that these proposals as well as the overall level of the budget have been approved without reservation by both the Programme and Finance Committees:

Still in relationship to the programme of work for the next biennium we should not like to leave without notice the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the Director-General present to the spring session of that Committee a proposal for changing the status of the Industry Cooperative Programme. We endorse their proposal without any prejudice to an effective and fruitful co-operation with industry. We very much hope that the deliberations of our Council by taking positive action on these different initiatives and ideas will auger success for the Nineteenth FAO Conference.

I must say that I am very grateful that you and the Council have allowed us to present this overview of the Council at this session and as I stated at the beginning of my intervention those views that I have advanced on request of the Group of 77 are presented here in a spirit of cooperation in an effort to help deliberations of the Council. We are for the dialogue as we always have been ready.



EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Seguimos ahora la discusión del tema 6.

Sra. P. DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya las principales conclusiones que aparecen en el documento CL 72/2, Informe de la Cuarta Sesión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

La delegación de Colombia aprovecha esta oportunidad para expresar su reconocimiento y gratitud al colega y amigo Virgilio Blanco, de México, quien presidió esta reunión con gran habilidad y mucha competencia.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): We would like to know if we can state in a general discussion on all points or are we all going to discuss this document CL 72/2 by itself, because the representative of Brazil spoke about all the items that are going to come up before the General Conference. My question, therefore, is are we discussing everything or are we just discussing the report of the Commission on Fertilizers ? I think we ought to stick to the documents presented to us because now we do not know what the point of discussion is any more, what subject is under discussion. Obviously I do agree with everything that was said by the representative of Brazil but I do feel that right now we are discussing a particular point and that those other points could have very well been left till later.

With respect to the report of the Fourth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers, this is an outstandingly good report, and the comments made by the Chairman of the Commission were more than adequate. Even so, I do have one or two questions to ask, in particular about the cooperation between FAO on the one hand and the UNDP on the other. Will there be better cooperation between these two organizations on fertilizers later on ? Does the cooperation already exist ? Is it going to be followed up ? That is my first comment.

My second comment is that in this report we noticed that the Director-General of FAO was being asked to ensure price stabilization, that is, to make sure that the price of fertilizers should not increase in developing countries. Now, what has been given to the Director-General to make quite sure that he can stabilize prices ? We all know only too well that they are subject to the laws of supply and demand. They do not depend upon the good intentions of any particular country or any particular organization, so we would like to have an answer from the Secretariat about this, and in particular we would like to know what steps can be taken to stabilize prices in developing countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero quede claro para todos los miembros del Consejo que, como lo hemos hecho siempre, cada tema del programa será discutido separadamente, de acuerdo con el orden en que aparece en nuestro calendario. Esto quiere decir que ahora nuestra discusión está concretamente limitada al tema 6, Informe de la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

Sobre las pertinentes preguntas que hizo el distinguido Ministro de Agricultura de Jordania, entiendo que la Secretaría al final del debate sobre este punto tratará de responder.

R. TANABE (Japan): My delegation associates itself with the other delegations in appreciating the work of Mr. Blanco, the Chairman of the Commission on Fertilizers, at its Fourth Session. I would like to take this opportunity to express the view of my delegation with regard to the option scheme. This scheme pertains to industry and the government cannot force industries to join it. Therefore, to ensure the effective operation of the scheme, it should be improved so as to be attractive not only to the buyers but also to the suppliers. My delegation is of the view that this scheme should be further examined, discussed and improved so that the aims could be achieved in terms of the benefit to the buyers and the suppliers.

C.V.K. RAO (India): We would like to congratulate the Fertilizers Commission and also the FAO Secretariat for preparing an excellent report of the Fourth Session of the Commission which properly highlights the important issues discussed and also the decisions taken. We would like to express our concern about the recent upward trend in the prices of fertilizers. This would thwart the efforts of the developing countries in augmenting agricultural production. This is a very unsatisfactory trend,

and it is desirable that it should be halted if it cannot be reversed. We therefore extend support for the decision taken by the Commission to find ways and means for overcoming this cyclical imbalance in the supply and demand of fertilizer which led to wide fluctuations in prices and also a need to further improve the forecasting methodology in this regard. We feel that the communication of information collected by the Secretariat can be improved. Such communication of information is presently being done through the annual review which becomes available very much after the year is over, and the data included therein usually pertain to the previous year or the year before it. An efficient system of supply of data to countries is therefore essential.

We welcome the initiative taken by the Director-General for making preliminary contacts with fertilizer producers under the option proposal, as the scheme would considerably help several countries. At the same time it will bring about the desired measure of stability in fertilizers, and I am sure this would meet the point raised by Japan. It is necessary for not only the countries but also the manufacturers to realize that stability in prices is good for all concerned. The scheme should open up a new style of international trade for fertilizers. We, therefore, consider that the implementation of the scheme should start without any further delay and that it should be given a fair trial by all concerned.

We also extend support to the continuation of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, as it will enable the more needy countries to derive benefit from it, and we do hope that substantial quantities of fertilizers will be made available under this scheme to developing countries.

We would like to reiterate that the Commission on Fertilizers, which has been doing excellent work, should be made a permanent body and its working should be given due priority in the Programme of Work and Budget of the FAO. The proper and timely supply of fertilizer is the biggest boost we can give for fertilizer production and it is essential that the Commission on Fertilizers should be placed on a permanent footing. The Commission has played a positive role in bringing the world food situation to normalcy, and there are numerous aspects which deserve the close and continuous attention of all of us. Their comments need to be reviewed with caution and there is need for continuous monitoring of supply and demand and of promotion and trends. There is also a need to continuously assess the requirements for production of developing countries, as recommended by the World Food Conference, and efforts should be made to ensure adequate supplies of important raw materials in developing countries. We would like the Commission to meet annually unless the situation warrants early meetings.

We also lend support to the adoption by the Council of the revised terms of reference mentioned by the Commission. We hope that these terms of reference will enable the Commission to play a very significant role in the production, availability and promoting of consumption of fertilizers, particularly in developing countries, and help the member countries in keeping abreast of the latest developments in this work. The terms of reference would also help the Commission to accelerate the activities of FAO, UNDP, UNCTAD and the World Bank.

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): Mi país da su aprobación al Informe de la Comisión de Fertilizantes que considera apropiado. Sólo desea sugerir como contribución práctica a la mejor utilización de los recursos en el marco de la Comisión de Fertilizantes que se intensifiquen los seminarios nacionales sobre fomento del uso de fertilizantes, como medio idóneo para tratar exhaustivamente los problemas que inciden en el bajo consumo de fertilizantes y en el mejor aprovechamiento de los mismos. Consideramos que el informe producido es laborioso y solamente queremos hacer esta observación práctica para mejorar la utilización de los recursos disponibles.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I will limit my delegation's comments on the item before us, Item 6, namely, the Report of the Fourth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. The delegations which attended that session noted with satisfaction - and this is also reflected in the report before us - that in the medium term a balanced supply and demand situation can be expected for fertilizers. That does not mean that no further thought should be given to measures which help avoid major price fluctuations which may occur in the future as a result of different supply and demand situations.

The report also meets with the approval of my Government, because it shows clearly that the members of the Commission always discuss a great number of topical questions relating to fertilizers with the aim of further improving the food supply situation in developing countries. We also feel that there is no doubt that the specific use of fertilizers plays a special role in this respect. Therefore a Commission or Committee on Fertilizers should have a permanent place within FAO as a forum to discuss all questions relating to the application, supply and distribution of fertilizers.

In our opinion, the new terms of reference provide a comprehensive basis for that. However, the idea to hold in future the sessions of the Commission on Fertilizers every second year, depending on prevailing conditions, is thoroughly worth considering. Apart from savings in cost, such a solution would have the advantage that longer-term problems such as long-term contracts, for example, or uniform fertilizer terminology could be discussed without pressure of time with all interested groups concerned with the fertilizer market.

With regard to fertilizer aid to developing countries, in particular with regard to IFS, mentioned in paragraph 32 of document CL 72/2, let me make the following remarks: the requests for bilateral and also multilateral fertilizer aid were declining in 1976/77. This is not least reflected by the free availability of fertilizers on the world market and the expanded production capacities in developing countries. We should always recall that fertilizer aid is primarily intended as an incentive to convince farmers of the advantages of the use of fertilizers. In cases where balance of payments difficulties and problems exist in logistics and in the credit system which render an adequate fertilizer supply more difficult, we are prepared to support all efforts to secure the supply situation of these countries. In this respect, the International Fertilizer Scheme was during the last years able to make a significant contribution. However, the main aim in this connexion was to help overcome a critical deficiency situation. Meanwhile, as is known, conditions have changed fundamentally. As the IFS, as a consequence of that development, was substantially restricted in its original mandate, my Government does not see an immediate necessity to continue the IFS in the original form. However, we feel the cooperation so far of the IFS with the Fertilizer Programme is a thoroughly justifiable interim solution. Whether, however, an institutionalization of the IFS within the framework of the envisaged Fertilizer and Plant Nutrition Service is useful remains to be seen.

With regard to the suggested price stabilization measures, that is to say, in particular para. 14 and following of document CL 72/2, I should like to make the following remarks:

We can fully support the recommendation of the Commission on Fertilizers that the long-term model contracts should be further revised. The buyers' option likewise requires, from our point of view, further elaboration. In this respect, it should be avoided in particular that the option model will automatically be applied if a percentage of the current import requirements of the MSA countries is met by industry. The pertinent formulations adopted by the Commission of Fertilizers take account of these considerations.

Still a last word about fertilizer terminology. The financial and administrative expenditure which a conversion or uniform expression of plant nutrients in elemental form would cause, seems only justified if it is based on coordinated action with the appropriate international and national organizations and interest groups. From my Government's point of view the further discussions about that subject should, therefore, not be placed under pressure of time, all the more so as the major proportion of fertilizer production and sales, including fertilizer exports, is accounted for by countries which are using anyhow the oxide form.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation has read Document CL 72/2 with interest. We would like to compliment the Secretariat on producing such an informative and useful paper. We would also like to thank the Chairman of this Commission, Mr. Blanco, for his interesting presentation. While endorsing the recommendations contained in the report, my delegation would like to underline some of the points made in the report. Although the Commission was established during a world fertilizer crisis, it has proved itself to be a valuable focal point for discussing the international fertilizer situation.

The adverse effects which limited supplies of fertilizers and their high prices had on fertilizer promotion and food production programmes in developing countries are well known. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that you will agree with me we all wish to avoid the recurrence of such a crisis in future. We would, therefore like to draw attention to the importance of the Commission's deliberations in this regard and to stress that its work should be given the appropriate priority in the Programme of Work and Budget, and that adequate resources be made available to it to carry out its work.

Its work means to overcome the cyclical imbalances in fertilizer supply and demand and sharp fluctuations in prices which have affected developing countries adversely. Of special interest to us is the option proposal which the Commission has requested the Director-General to follow-up. We believe that this proposal should benefit the developing countries, particularly the most seriously affected countries, and would suggest to all fertilizer producing countries to support the proposal so that it becomes operational without delay. Though the target figure for putting the option system into operation is for nitrogenous fertilizer only, we would urge that phosphatic and potassic fertilizers also be included in the scheme once it becomes operational.

The option system will complement the IFS, the International Fertilizer Scheme, which depends on contributions by donors. Unfortunately, contributions to the IFS declined sharply in 1976/77 and we would urge that contributions to the Scheme be increased since it has fairly demonstrated its importance in assisting the developing countries. My own country has benefited from the IFS and we would like to avail ourselves of this opportunity to place on record our deep appreciation to the donors who have contributed to the Scheme.

Though fertilizer supplies may look adequate, fertilizer price trends in the international market today do give cause for concern to the most seriously affected countries with serious balance of payment problems. We would agree with the Commission that the IFS should be strengthened and would recommend its continuance on a permanent basis. We also endorse the need for close relationship between the IFS and other fertilizer activities of FAO as recommended by the Director-General.

We also endorse the revised terms of reference of the Commission and support the proposal of the Commission that its fifth session should be convened during the latter part of 1978, unless the situation requires an earlier session.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I wish to make a brief statement on behalf of the United Kingdom, and I am delighted to hear the measure of support there has been for this report. I had at the Fertilizer Commission to say that the United Kingdom had an open mind on the future of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. You know we always have an open mind, Mr. Chairman, but I am delighted to take this opportunity of informing the Council that after the deliberations of the Commission we decided to put up another 5 million pounds to the IFS Scheme so that in all since its inception we have contributed something over 54 thousand tons of fertilizer which brings our total contribution to a figure just short of 140 thousand tons.

That is on the one side of the balance sheet. The United Kingdom can go along with the recommendations of the Commission, subject to one or two slight reservations. I would like to say in respect of the very important question of price stabilization that I noted earlier speakers - in particular Jordan and India - emphasizing the importance of further studies of ways and means. The report in fact refers to three particular forms of price stabilization. We agree with earlier speakers that it is helpful and useful for further work to be done on the model long-term contract.

Secondly, with reference to the UNIDO draft scheme on options, we agree that this needs further evaluation particularly as regards costs and administration and the legal aspects. It is very important there should be further clarification and there should be no automatic decision on this until the Secretariat have been able to do the further work which the report envisaged.

That completes what I wish to say except I want to record our thanks to the Chairman of the Commission for the competent way in which he chaired this meeting.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): First of all, we would like to compliment the Fertilizer Commission and its Chairman for its excellent work in its fourth session. We find this document very informative and useful.

While generally endorsing the recommendations of the Fertilizer Commission, we would like to put forward a few points underlining them for the consideration of this Council.

It is heartening to note that consumption of fertilizer in developing countries has been improving since the depression in 1973, 1974 and 1975. It should be noted however that still the rate of increase in consumption is far below the requirements to obtain full growth in agriculture.

The other point which has to be noted is that with an increase in the consumption rate the import requirements of developing countries is also increasing.

The production in developing countries collectively and also individually is not increasing at the same rate or in the same space as the consumption requirements. For example, I can cite my country. Our consumption in 1975/76 was 450 thousand tons. In 1976/77 it is estimated to be about 600 thousand tons, while our production is about 300 thousand tons. That means our import requirements have gone up by about 150 thousand tons. I believe this is similarly the case with most of the developing countries.

In this context it is important to draw to the attention of the Council the price trend in fertilizers in recent months. After the slump in the prices, in the current year the price is strengthening - in other words, the price is hardening. If you look at the food information issued by the FAO for

October, 1977, you will notice the price of urea or nitrogen fertilizer which was US\$40 per ton over six months or so, which is very indicative of the future trend of the price of fertilizer which is of great concern to the developing countries.

In this context I would also draw the attention of the Council to the recommendation of the Fertilizer Commission regarding price stabilization measures to find ways and means, as you find in the Recommendation, paragraph 11 of page 4 of the document. It is very important, this price stabilization measure.

The next point I would like to touch upon is the IFS Scheme. As you all know this Scheme was born in a very emergent situation. I am very happy to say as one of the beneficiary countries that the Scheme has done an excellent job in the crisis period. It has proved its worth, it has proved its merit. Unfortunately, in 1976/77 the role of the IFS has considerably gone down due to lack of resources.

A point is made that the emergency situation is no longer there. In this context I would like to underline that for the MSA countries the emergency has not gone down, for two reasons: first, that the price is again hardening; second, that their consumption requirement is going up compared with their production, which means that they have more import requirement. If they are required to import more they have to invest more of their scarce resources. In that situation I feel that the emergency is still there for the MSA countries.

We appreciate the role of the IFS and we feel that the donor countries will also realize its importance, particularly for the MSA countries, and that contribution to the IFS will be forthcoming in more generous terms.

We appreciate the recent changes made by the Director-General in linking up the role of the IFS with other fertilizer bodies in the FAO and we believe that it is a very good step.

As regards the Commission on Fertilizers we feel that it is a very important Commission dealing with very vital ingredients of agricultural development in developing countries. For this reason we recommend that the Commission should be institutionalized, its meetings should be annual, and we endorse the revised terms of reference of the Commission as proposed by the Commission on Fertilizers.

With these words I would like to conclude my statement, drawing the attention of the concern of the developing countries to increase resource flow in the IFS, institutionalization of the Commission, and price stabilization of fertilizers.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Président de la Commission pour la présentation de ce document, présentation claire qu'il nous a faite, et je voudrais également féliciter la Commission des engrais pour le travail qu'elle a réalisé.

Je ne pourrai pas m'abstenir de faire ici observer la disproportion des attentions qui sont portées, d'une part sur les problèmes de prix, de quantité, de disponibilités, de tendances de production d'investissements et autres, et, d'autre part, les attentions apportées aux problèmes d'une utilisation optimale des engrais, partant, certaines questions connexes qui sont parfois quelques amendements qui permettent de mieux utiliser les engrais. Je crois qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement d'utiliser les engrais pour utiliser les engrais, il faut surtout les utiliser pour qu'ils donnent les meilleurs résultats qui peuvent en être attendus.

Je ne doute pas que, dans certains cas, on n'ait pas eu de réponse et je crois avoir lu dans le rapport que certains pays ne répondent pas quand on leur pose des questions quant à l'utilisation qu'ils ont faite des engrais. Cela revient simplement à dire que parfois ils ne veulent pas dire exactement ce qui a été fait, quelles utilisations ils ont données à ces engrais et parfois ces engrais n'ont peut-être pas été utilisés pour une production agricole qui était nécessaire. Lorsqu'on parle, dans le mandat de la Commission, du prix raisonnable des fertilisants, c'est nécessaire pour le développement agricole et je crois que c'est là où il y a vraiment achoppement. Je considère plus utile de se reporter aux travaux qui sont faits par la FAO en son sein et je pense là au paragraphe 37 dans lequel il est indiqué qu'il faut promouvoir des actions de terrain pour l'utilisation rationnelle des engrais. Malheureusement, je n'ai pas entendu dans le débat, dans les interventions qui ont précédé, prononcer ce terme de "rationnel", et c'est là où certaines délégations pourraient porter leur attention.

Il est évidemment proposé que ces activités s'appuient beaucoup plus directement sur les données pédologiques. Certains sols, quelle que soit la quantité d'engrais qu'on y mette, ne rendront pas ce qu'on croit en attendre. Je crois qu'il est souhaitable que nous soulignions ce point, qu'il n'y a pas que les prix, les quantités disponibles, les industries pour produire les engrais, mais qu'il y a ce problème de l'utilisation rationnelle des engrais pour un rendement optimal et de leur utilisation en fonction des données pédologiques, ce que nous manquons parfois de souligner.

D. MORK ULNES (Observer for Norway): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak as an observer on a subject to which my Government attaches importance. I shall be brief. The main recommendations of this report my delegation can subscribe to. In particular I would like to point out that efforts towards greater stabilization for both supply and prices should be pursued as they are listed in the conclusions of the report. In particular I have in mind the conclusions that are contained in paragraphs 15 and 16 on long-term contracts and option proposals, to which my Government would give support and would like to see put into force.

As I said during the Commission's session, fertilizer has proved itself to be one of the main inputs in agricultural production. It is in this light that we see the work of the Commission and the FAO in the field of fertilizer. The four sessions of the Commission which have evolved have equally shown that the Commission itself has developed into a forum or a focal point for discussion on the international fertilizer situation with a view to avoiding serious disruption of prices and supplies. We fully agree with the conclusions that the Commission should be placed on a continuing and permanent basis and given appropriate priority in the work and budget of FAO and adequate resources to carry out its work.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): I also would like to commend our distinguished colleague, Mr. Blanco of Mexico, for his work in this Commission and in the report that he has given us this morning to study.

My delegation fully supports the closer relationship between the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and the fertilizer activities of FAO as recommended by the Director-General and as endorsed in the Commission's report.

We welcome also the shift in emphasis from supply of nutrients to ensuring that nutrient availability is accompanied by rational use.

With regard to the permanency of the Commission this is something that we would prefer to give some study to, also the situation concerning annual meetings. We note that the Commission speak of the existing situation dictating when the next session should be, and we hope that this will be the criterion that will be applied.

A. HARIBOU (Observateur pour les Comores): En tant qu'observateur des Comores je tiens à prendre la parole pour faire à peu près les mêmes remarques que M. le delegate du Gabon. En effet, dans ce document, il semble qu'il y ait quand même une question importante qui ne se dégage pas de cet ensemble. Il ne s'agit pas d'employer coûte que coûte des engrais pour obtenir un rendement. Nous avons des données intrinsèques de chaque type de sol et nous pensons que, jusqu'à présent, si des erreurs ont été commises, si des résultats n'ont pas été observés dans certains pays du Tiers monde et si, dans certains pays du Tiers monde, on constate que finalement on a affaire à des cultures hydro-pomiques plutôt qu'à des cultures classiques, c'est parce que justement on a négligé ces facteurs intrinsèques, autrement dit ces facteurs pédologiques des sols, sols qui représentent quand même dans leur totalité une certaine originalité. En effet, nous savons que nous avons affaire souvent à un milieu tropical humide, à un milieu souvent fragile où on utilise à tort et à travers des quantités énormes d'engrais et, finalement, on se rend compte qu'on détruit même la fertilité existante de ces sols.

Ceci étant, j'aimerais qu'au sein même de cette Commission on prévoie cet aspect de l'étude intrinsèque des sols et que, finalement, en utilisant les termes "emploi d'engrais pour optimiser le rendement", on associe aussi la notion de rationalisation d'engrais, c'est-à-dire qu'on n'utilise pas ces engrais à tort et à travers, et je suis certain que nous arriverons un jour à utiliser de meilleure façon et à obtenir de très bons rendements dans les pays où les sols sont très fragiles.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy ahora a conceder la palabra al Dr. Bommer, Subdirector General del Departamento de Agricultura, para que responda a las observaciones planteadas.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all, I would like to express appreciation for the support given to various activities and measures in the light of servicing the Commission on Fertilizers. I think there were only two distinct questions raised by the delegate of Jordan. One was on the collaboration with UNIDO. It is simply to say that collaboration is very good. The Director-General has given specific emphasis to improve the already on-going collaboration with UNIDO which is going on in various fields in which we have a common interest with our sister organization. In the field of fertilizers it is specifically concentrated in a working group in which we

sit regularly together with UNIDO and the World Bank, discussing not only the forecast and development of supply and demand in the field of fertilizers but, at the same time, other matters of common interest including the development of new production in developing countries. In the meetings organized by UNIDO for the development of the fertilizer industry we are collaborating with UNIDO in the preparation of documents and in various other ways.

These are two distinct activities in which we very clearly collaborate and I think there is no problem here.

The second question raised was on the price stabilization measures. I hope the discussion has already given you some additional information. Three items actually fall under these activities so far crystallized out of the discussion of the Commission on Fertilizers and the one which is, I think, closest to possibly becoming operational is the option proposal which will be pursued in the light of the recommendations of the Commission. The second one will need some longer preparations, probably, models or formulae for longer-term contracts; and the third one, for which an even study may be necessary, is a specific proposal made by Iran to link up fertilizer prices with production cost prices, which is a very complicated model but it is certainly worth further looking into.

I think I have answered the specific questions raised by the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que podemos concluir así la discusión del tema 6 sobre el cual, para agilizar nuestros trabajos, presentaré un resumen muy sucinto.

Entiendo que el Consejo, en general, apoyo el contenido del informe de la Cuarta reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

Igualmente el Consejo aprueba el mandato revisado de la Comisión que aparece en el Anexo E del documento CL 72/2.

El Consejo destaco la preocupación de la Comisión por la falta de recursos para la marcha exitosa del PIF, plan sobre el cual el Consejo está de acuerdo en que se continúe y se refuerce en el bienio próximo; respecto a lo cual se hicieron observaciones en el sentido de que convendría examinar y revisar algunos aspectos de ese plan en orden a tratar de perfeccionarlo.

Igualmente se expresaron ciertas reservas no muy de fondo, según me pareció entender de las observaciones de algunos oradores, y se hicieron referencias a la oferta y la demanda, al uso racional, a los precios, al consumo, etc., todo lo cual aparece en las actas donde están sus intervenciones y que serán enviadas al Comité de Redacción para que trate de reflejar esas distintas posiciones.

Finalmente, creo que el Consejo fue unánime en reconocer la excelente labor que viene realizando la Comisión de Fertilizantes, sobre lo cual la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo estuvieron de acuerdo en que debía de tener reunión anual y, asimismo, contemplar la posibilidad de la institucionalización.

Igualmente, el Consejo reconoció la labor que viene desarrollando el Sr. D. Virgilio Blanco como Presidente de esa Comisión, a la cual yo me adhiero, en nombre de todos ustedes, con mi reconocimiento por su cooperación para la discusión de este Tema 6.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): In order to be clear, in the light of your summing up, Mr. President, I understand that the Council is endorsing the request made by the Commission to the Director-General to further develop the option proposal in cooperation with interested parties with a view to possible implementation of the system once commitments by fertilizer producers amounting to 10 percent of estimated nitrogen fertilizer import requirements of the MSA's have been obtained. That was a specific request of the Commission which I understand the Council is endorsing.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que el distinguido colega de Brasil entienda que con el resumen tan breve que trato de hacer no puedo entrar en todo detalle, pero lo que el ha dicho pasará al Comité de Redacción.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo podemos concluir el tema 6 y, de acuerdo con la modificación que habíamos introducido esta mañana en el calendario, pasamos ahora al tema 10.

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

10. Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (C 77/3)

10. Programme de travail et budget, 1978-79 (C 77/3)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (C 77/3)

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Merci M. le Président. Le but de mon intervention est de vous proposer, ainsi qu'aux distingués délégués, de discuter maintenant le niveau du budget, puisque nous sommes à la veille de notre Conférence, qui commence samedi. Comme vous le comprendrez, j'ai dû attendre jusqu'à la dernière minute pour suivre l'évolution du taux de change du dollar avant de faire, à ce propos, une proposition formelle à la Conférence, par l'intermédiaire du Conseil.

Je n'ai rien à ajouter en ce qui concerne le Programme, sinon pour me féliciter que le Comité du Programme, ainsi que le Conseil aient approuvé mon programme de travail. A cet égard, je voudrais me référer en particulier au rapport du Conseil de juin dernier, dont le paragraphe 129 dit que "Le Conseil appuie pleinement les grandes lignes des propositions de programme", et le paragraphe 130 que "Le Conseil confirme aussi bien les orientations politiques que les priorités du programme indiquées dans le Sommaire de programme de travail et budget, en particulier le programme de coopération technique..." Tel était l'avis de votre Conseil au mois de juin sur le Sommaire de Programme de travail et budget.

Toujours en ce qui concerne les décisions du Conseil de juin, le paragraphe 158 dit que: "Le Conseil approuve sans réserve la façon dont le Directeur général conçoit la mise au point d'un ensemble de programmes réalistes et équilibrés, etc."

Quant au Comité du Programme, il s'est réuni, comme vous le savez, fin septembre/début octobre. Il a eu l'occasion d'examiner non plus le Sommaire de Programme de Travail et Budget, mais le programme lui-même, ce gros document que vous avez tous reçu et qui sera encore l'objet d'un examen minutieux par la Conférence et, en particulier, par sa Commission II. Je suis heureux de constater que le Comité du Programme, au paragraphe 2.4 de son rapport, "confirme sa recommandation précédente et réitère son appui au programme proposé par le Directeur général".

J'ai été heureux d'écouter ce matin la très importante déclaration faite par le Président du Groupe des 77. Je sais que cette déclaration reçoit l'appui de tous les membres des 77, puisque j'ai appris qu'elle avait été discutée dans une réunion plénière de ce Groupe. Je me réjouis de constater que le Groupe des 77 approuve également les grandes lignes du programme de travail et, de ce fait, se trouve en parfait accord avec la session du Conseil de juin dernier et avec le Comité du Programme.

Je voudrais maintenant en venir au problème du niveau du budget, qui constitue la question principale que je me propose de discuter avec vous ce matin et au sujet de laquelle j'ai une proposition formelle à vous faire. Il me semble qu'il s'agit là, et de loin, de la question la plus importante en ce qui concerne le programme de travail et budget, bien que d'autres questions, importantes elles aussi, soient destinées à être discutées plus tard. Vous avez sans doute lu le rapport du Comité du Programme qui vous est soumis. Vous avez donc noté que le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, à leur session conjointe, ont approuvé ma proposition d'augmenter le Budget de 1 200 000 dollars, pour faire face aux dépenses dérivant de l'organisation de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Je n'ai pas besoin de parler plus en détail de cela, puisque vous trouverez tous les détails dans le rapport et puisque les Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier sont là pour vous éclairer davantage s'il en était besoin. Je suis heureux de constater que le Groupe des 77 appuie aussi cette proposition.

Comme vous le savez, le budget que j'avais proposé au mois de juin s'élevait à 206 877 000 dollars. Ce budget avait été préparé en octobre 1976, à la fin des conférences régionales qui avaient eu lieu pendant cette année.

Il était normal pour moi d'attendre que ces cinq conférences régionales se terminent, de façon à pouvoir étudier dans le détail les recommandations formulées par les gouvernements. J'ai donc préparé ce budget en octobre 1976 et proposé un chiffre de 206 millions, sur la base de 900 livres par dollar. Nous sommes maintenant en novembre 1977 et ce budget est destiné au biennium 1978-79! Dans de telles circonstances, personne ne peut faire de pronostics certains en ce qui concerne les changes, même pas le fonds monétaire international!



Or il se fait que le taux du dollar aujourd'hui n'est plus de 900, chiffre de base utilisé jusqu'ici comme référence; et j'avais bien précisé que ce chiffre devrait être révisé par le Conseil et la Conférence, mais le plus tard possible, à cause, justement, des fluctuations du change. Aujourd'hui, le dollar est à 879 liras.

Il en résulte que le même programme de travail sur lequel tout le monde était d'accord coûte plus cher aujourd'hui. A titre d'information, les conférences de 1973 et 1975 avaient toutes deux adopté le cours du jour comme taux de change du dollar. Ce taux était de 582 en 1973 et c'est ce taux qui avait été adopté, en 1975, il était de 670, et ce taux avait aussi été adopté; aujourd'hui, à la veille de la Conférence, le taux est de 879.

J'avais déjà informé le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme de ce qu'un taux de 880 conduirait à une augmentation de 3 200 000 dollars (page 31, paragraphe 3.8 du texte français de leur rapport).

Je pense que vous recevrez, au début de l'après-midi, un projet de résolution soumis à la Conférence pour l'ouverture d'un crédit de 211 350 000 dollars.

Je voudrais indiquer que le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme ont clairement approuvé un budget de 208 millions de dollars, soit, au taux de 900 liras par dollar, 1 200 000 dollars de plus que les 206, 8 millions que j'avais demandés à l'origine. Ce faisant, le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ont donc implicitement approuvé le budget de 211 millions de dollars au taux de 879 liras, puisqu'ils ont répété, tout au long de leur rapport, qu'il ne fallait pas que le Programme soit altéré du fait du taux de change.

Je suis également satisfait de noter que le Groupe des 77 a, lui aussi, appuyé ce niveau du budget.

Pour conclure, je voudrais mentionner un élément qui n'est pas très connu: Il s'agit du fait que les pays membres n'auront pas, en réalité, à déboursier 211 millions de dollars. En effet, nous avons effectué près de 2 millions d'économies en 1976-77, qui ne sont pas mentionnés au document qui est devant vous. De plus, nos revenus divers ont dépassé les prévisions de 5 millions de dollars en 1976-77, essentiellement sous forme d'intérêt sur des fonds que nous avons en banque. Ceci représente donc un montant total, relativement élevé, de 7 millions, qui vient s'ajouter aux 3 800 000 dollars de revenus divers, provenant également de l'intérêt de nos dépôts bancaires, mentionnés au document qui vous est soumis.

Les gouvernements auront donc 10 800 000 dollars en moins à payer sur les 211 millions que j'ai mentionnés. S'il y avait la moindre question à ce sujet, mon collègue, M. West, pourrait vous donner plus tard davantage d'informations.

Je n'ai pas besoin de dire qu'en tant que Directeur général, je ne puis prendre la responsabilité de commencer l'année 1978 avec un budget entaché d'un déficit initial de 1, 2 ou même 3 millions de dollars. Le programme de travail que je vous ai soumis coûte aujourd'hui 211 millions de dollars, dans lesquels entrent 1 200 000 dollars pour la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

En conclusion, je voudrais remercier encore une fois les membres du Groupe des 77 de leur appui au budget que j'ai proposé et je voudrais suggérer à Messieurs les délégués de discuter séparément ce niveau, car, s'il devait être discuté avec l'ensemble des autres points - évaluation d'AGRIS etc. - cela ne serait pas possible.

Le projet de résolution, que l'on est en train d'imprimer et qui vous sera distribué, ne diffère du texte précédent que par le total qui, au lieu d'être de 206, 877 millions, sera de 211 millions 350 mille, puisqu'il y aura 1 200 000 dollars de frais additionnels pour la Conférence et que le taux du dollar n'est pas de 900 liras, comme supposé jusqu'ici, mais de 879. C'est là toute la différence.

J'estime donc que la distribution du document ne devrait pas empêcher Messieurs les délégués de discuter dès maintenant ce point très important du niveau du budget et j'espère qu'il y aura un consensus à ce sujet, évitant ainsi la sorte de débats que nous connaissons trop bien à la Commission II. Je vous remercie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la propuesta del señor Director General de que sobre el tema 10 iniciemos nuestras discusiones en forma separada, limitadas al nivel de Presupuesto a la luz de la posición oficial definitiva que el Dr. Saouma acaba de expresar. ¿Están de acuerdo los miembros del Consejo en que se proceda así? Si no hay ningún comentario, entiendo que todos estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta del Director General, y se abre el debate sobre el nivel de presupuesto solamente.

J. BAKER (United States of America): These new figures about the budget have been available to us just this morning and with all due respect I think my delegation would like to have the opportunity to examine the budget, perhaps with the aid of Mr. West, exactly what is the significance of some of these calculations before we take a position on the level which you have suggested.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la declaración que acaba de hacer el distinguido delegado de los Estados Unidos quien propone que se conceda un poco de tiempo a los miembros del Consejo.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We appreciate very much the information provided by the Director-General but he has a bit of an advantage, he is working with the figures day in and day out and he has the staff with him. We have only just been given these figures. We have another problem. We have arrived with instructions on \$206.8 million. I am under obligation to consult my government in Ottawa and consult them before I come along and say we agree or disagree and therefore we would like to have more information. We have two ways of doing it, we can say 'yes' automatically, which does not mean anything because I am not authorized. I appreciate the lire has dropped 11 points but by the time the Conference meets we might be in the unfortunate position of facing another drop, say down to 850, so there is a kind of principle. We have to go back to our people and say "The Director-General has made amendments on the basis of currency changes he has no control of. We have to have more information than that. This is very fast and I did not have a chance to follow the quick arithmetic; I am a slow thinker and I also want to send back the information to Ottawa as well. It is not possible to get an answer by this afternoon so I suggest the Director-General gives us time to consult our colleagues and so by the time the head of delegation arrives at the end of this week we will have been briefed in Ottawa on the problems the Director-General faces. All we can do is ask for clarification but we are not in a position to discuss. It is a new budget and \$10 million increase is a fair amount of money so our plea is give us a chance to consult as a delegation and give us a chance to get in touch with our governments. As I say, I am not prejudging the Canadian position on the new budget total.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I wish to react immediately to the comments made by the delegate of Canada, because all delegates here - and there are forty-two - could say the same thing: namely, that they have no instructions and have been taken by surprise. I believe that the exchange rate of the dollar is as well known in Ottawa as in Rome, and it has always been decided that the exchange rate to be applied would be that prevailing at the time of approval of the budget. This is stated in the report of the 71st Session of the Council and in the reports of the last Programme and Finance Committees. It should not, therefore, be a surprise to anybody when I now propose that the exchange rate in force today should be the one to be considered by the Council and the Conference.

I fully agree with the delegate of Canada that, if this exchange rate were to change suddenly at the time of the adoption of the resolution, we should have to apply the rate prevailing on that day; but what we cannot do is to maintain the exchange rate which I proposed in June 1977 as part of a budget formulated in 1976. Now we have to come closer, and the closest rate we can use is that of today. The Conference is starting on Saturday and it is my duty to propose an exchange rate for the dollar four days in advance; so I am now recommending formally and exchange rate of 879 lire to the dollar, on the understanding that it will be confirmed and finalised when the resolution is adopted by the Conference.

Concerning the \$1 million 200 thousand which I have requested, to enable me to organize better the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, I should like to state that this subject was brought to the notice of the Programme and Finance Committees and that it was mentioned, therefore, in their reports, which have been received by the Governments, at least within these last four or five days. Accordingly, delegates could have telephoned Canada, or anywhere else, to obtain information on this published document. Thus members of the Group of 77, without making any contact with their cabinets, have decided to support this increase of \$1 million 200 thousand for adoption by the Conference.

Still concerning the World Conference, I should like to point out that we must organise it in an efficient manner and that the amount I am asking will be the lowest one for such a purpose in the UN system during the past four years. Originally, I had budgeted only \$450, 000 for this Conference; at present, with the proposed addition, the total will reach \$1, 650, 000, and many delegates have told me that even this amount may not be sufficient.

Looking at the cost for other conferences of the same scope and importance, I would quote a few figures. The Conference on Habitat, held in Vancouver, Canada, cost the UN \$4, 000, 000 and Canada a great deal more, since the Government of that country were very generous hosts. The Conference on Education cost \$2, 000, 000; the Conference on Science and Technology for Development, to be held in July 1979 - that is to say, at the same time as our World Conference - will cost \$9, 000, 000, of which \$5, 000, 000 has already been included in the budget of the UN. Finally, I would also mention the Conference to be held in the USSR in September 1978, the budget of which is estimated at \$6, 000, 000.

I regret I have been obliged to intervene a second time, Mr. Chairman, but I have done so to avoid any misunderstanding and to answer in advance other delegates who might argue in the same way as Canada and claim that my proposals had come as a surprise and a shock. It was in order to moderate that surprise and litigate the disappointment of delegates who do not welcome a budget increase, even if the reasons for it are beyond my control, that I mentioned that we should have such a large miscellaneous income in 1976/77. As well as telling you that I had been obliged to increase the budget level by \$4.5 million, I wanted also to say that we could expect a great deal of unforeseen income, so that the final bill will be less than you expected and less bitter for certain countries.

S. JUM'A (Jordan) (Interpretation from Arabic): The Chairman of the Group of 77 spoke this morning and I would like to state we do not disagree with him, that is to say, the Group of 77 does give its support to the final or semi-final forecast made for the budget for the next two years. I believe that the Council has not taken a final decision on the matter; it will simply have to present a recommendation to the Conference so between now and the Conference we still have some time, especially if we take into account the day on which we will have to approve the final budget, and surely each delegate can contact authorities in his own country in order to find out what they feel about the new situation. I believe we have enough time to establish these contacts.

Let us not forget, either, that the Director-General has not asked for new activities to be included in the programme of work of the organization, but he has to revise the figures because of financial instability or the rate of exchange between dollars and lire. Therefore, the forecasts which have been made in the past are not realistic and hence need to be revised. This is apart from the fact that the forecasts made by the Secretariat with regard to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform were not realistic, and this is because the original figure was a very low one indeed and it is not possible for this organization to take responsibility for a Conference of this scope and level. You know that this is a Conference which is not merely a scientific conference, it is a conference which has very many different aspects, and it is therefore necessary and it is natural that the Director-General should ask for an increase of the budget for this particular conference and the expenditure which will be incurred for the conference,

We therefore arrive at the conclusion that this request for an increase is justified and I personally am convinced that all countries may not have been informed about these forecasts; some countries knew it because they have got members in the Programme Committee or the Finance Committee - I myself am a member of the Programme Committee - but other Council members or other members of the organization who may not have heard officially about this financial instability and were not aware of the fact that there might have been unforeseen fluctuations, may be surprised, but it is a surprise not only for the delegates of the United States or Canada, it has been a surprise for practically everybody. However, I do believe we have enough time as from today up to the final adoption of the budget for the Conference to establish several contacts with the authorities in our countries in order to get their agreement to this level of the budget.

Of course, we know that at present we are not really discussing anything except the level of the budget and all we have to do is to make a recommendation to the Conference. We take no final decision for the budget for the next biennium.

G. DE BARKER (Netherlands): I have understood very well that it is a good fact that the dollar/lire exchange rate has stood at 880 instead of going down further to 900. I would say that is a good thing for all Italians and for all people that live here that the inflation rate has come, not to a stop, but it is better than it was before, and when that must cost some extra money to the organization because you first calculate it on the basis of 900, I do not think that would give great concern to our governments, but I would say that the budget as it was presented with the 900 already gave some concern to our government, anyway, because there is a general trend in the whole United Nations organization and also here that the increase, in spite of the efforts of the Director-General, that I know he made, is still going up further and more than our financial people feel is justified in view of our own obligations we have at home with so many other commitments.

So I was instructed to say here that we feel concern about the rate of increase, about the percentage. I would like, therefore, to get if possible on paper what the Director-General just told us about that extra miscellaneous income you had last year, and apparently you expect more miscellaneous income this year than you had already budgeted in the document here. If it leads to the fact I understood from your explanations that instead of the governments coming up in total with \$211, 000, 000, instead of that come up with \$200, 000, 000, if we can get a report of that to our governments today or tomorrow when you have a sheet of paper with the new information, I expect that the concern I was instructed to express would be of bit lighter tone than I would have done in the Conference without that information, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Director-General if possible that we receive today or tomorrow this new information, and also because we are not all financial wizards, whether this really means that our governments altogether have to pay not 211 but 200 next year, the difference between total expenditures and the total income and also the miscellaneous extra income of last year. If that were the case, I feel that it may help a bit to overcome the problems our financial people have at home, and that is my request, Mr. Chairman: If possible, before we make a final budget or a final consensus decision on the budget that we could receive that extra information that the Director-General just read to us.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I wonder if it is necessary, really, to have a piece of paper, because in three lines one can say exactly what the figures are. We repeat in effect what the Director-General said with a very brief explanation. I will do it very slowly so notes can be made. On page 17 of the English version of the Programme of Work and Budget, which I think you all have...this is at the end of the Director-General's personal introduction....there is a draft resolution for adoption by the Conference on budgetary appropriations for 1978/79. This is now being amended by a new draft resolution which the Director-General just announced was being processed.

However, paragraph 2 remains the same, and in paragraph 2 there is a reference to a deduction of miscellaneous income in the amount of \$3, 820, 000. So already governments are fully aware that out of the previous total of 206.8, the revised total of 211.350, 3.820 is already going to be deducted. In addition, there will be monies accumulating from the current biennium which is not quite finished but we can already estimate fairly safely what this will be. The monies from the current biennium which will be added to this 3.82 in the resolution come from two sources. The first is programme savings. We estimate that by the end of this year the programme savings will amount to \$2 million. En passant, Mr. Chairman, I would indicate that these programme savings arise to a very large extent from savings in Chapter III of the Budget and not on the technical and economic programmes, and they are for reasons beyond our control in Rome.

Then there will be an excess of miscellaneous income in 1976/77 over and above what was estimated in the original budget resolution for 1976/77 which appears in the old Programme of Work and Budget, so there is 2 million programme savings, 5 million excess miscellaneous income in 1976/77.

This will all go into the amount which is distributed to Member Governments at the end of 1978; thus, we have figures of 3.8, 2 and 5, making 10.8 million dollars together for the total to be deducted from the total of US\$211.350, 000.

The actual programme for 1978/79 would cost approximately US\$200 million or just a bit over. Furthermore, I am not taking into account any excess of miscellaneous income which might occur during 1978/79 since governments would not get this back until the following biennium. The US\$10.8 million I have mentioned is certain for this coming biennium of 1978/79. I hope this makes it clear.

Once more to summarize: already estimated for deduction in paragraph 2 of the Resolution, \$3.820.000; in addition, from 1976/77 programme savings \$2 million; excess miscellaneous income 1976/77, \$5 million. Total deduction \$10.8 million.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I am very happy to hear just now the explanations given by Mr. West. I must say that the debate trend perhaps suggested that some qualifications are necessary. As we indicated in the Group of 77 in its intervention, this Council has already approved a certain package, a package which on the estimation of the Council itself was a minimum package. Beyond that we have a new factor, the question of the actual costs of the Conference on a gradual and formidable development.

The reasons for the adjustments are clear and the data which we have before us amply justified the appraisal that the new budgets for that Conference are reasonable. What the Council has to act upon now is simply, as far as the level of the budget is concerned, to make the adjustments of the currency. This fact is simply a consequence of the long process of preparation of the Programme and the Budget.

If we had a much shorter process obviously this adjustment would not be necessary. A fortnight ago we received a proposal which with minimal changes would be the actual proposal to be acted upon. We feel that this Council is, therefore, and should be in a position to act on the proposal for overall levels of the budget. We feel that our Government had in fact all the information in terms of the Programme to be delivered. The consequential changes which all of us know are simply pure logic.

Therefore, we very much hope as we advance in our joint statement that this Council will be in a position to take positive action on this specific proposal. We feel it is the duty of the Council, and we very much hope that as in the past the Council will not fail in its duty on a very important matter.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): When the delegate of Brazil spoke on behalf of the resolution of the Group of 77, he expressed the hope we might start this Session with a dialogue and not a confrontation, and I can give full support to what he said. We must study these questions in the framework of a dialogue so that we can arrive at a consensus on what we want to present to the Conference. I hope that this constructive spirit, which was the spirit of our June meeting and which led us to adopt the proposals made by the Director-General, will again prevail.

The delegate of the Netherlands made a project in regard to savings and here again the Director-General in his first programme showed his goodwill. This led us to believe that we are really on the right lines especially when it is a matter of adopting the programme which he has presented. He has presented a programme for savings. He has saved a number of posts and meetings and also budgets allocated to such and such activities. This is a whole series of major savings which is useful to everybody in developed and developing countries. There have been circumstances which are outside his powers which we have to face.

Of course, I know that the delegate of the United States finds himself in a difficult situation. We all of us are, but after this session we must try to get closer to each other in our points of view so that we can start on the Conference with as unified an attitude as possible.

There are two points. There is one point which is quite outside the powers of the Director-General and that is the fluctuation of the Exchange rates. The other is the expense for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform. After the excellent explanation given by the Director-General on costs of other similar Conferences, I do not think the Conference on Agrarian Reform is less important than the others the Director-General mentioned and therefore I feel his budget for this Conference is quite balanced and reasonable.

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council for having asked Mr. West to give his explanations, and I hope that over the lunch hour further information can be made available. I do not know whether the information given by Mr. West now is sufficient for the delegate of the United States, but I certainly am grateful for the very understanding attitude, and I hope the United States delegate will receive sufficient information by the afternoon meeting so that he can be satisfied and we can reach a result.

G.V.K. RAO (India): I am somewhat surprised at the discussion, because the Council has already considered in the past the level of the budget. There has been general agreement on a level of \$206 million. Since the June meeting some things have happened beyond the control of anybody, either the Organization or the Director-General, and as the Director-General mentioned, there may be some changes even in the next few days. These developments necessarily bring adjustments and the new level of \$211 million represent the adjustments and the comparatively more realistic estimates which have been made.

We feel particularly so far as the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is concerned, that it is an extremely important Conference not only for the developing countries but in the interests of the developed countries also. The need for the society which provides for fewer opportunities for development in all the developing countries depends exclusively on proper implementation of agrarian reforms and in getting a proper scheme for rural development.

I find it difficult to agree even with the Director-General when he mentioned that the other Conferences were of equal importance. Personally I think this Conference is of higher importance.

I mentioned yesterday the Group of 77. They have been very concerned in considering the level of expenditure for this Conference. All I think we should mention to the Director-General is the preparation for this Conference should be very thorough and the estimate of expenditure should go up. This Conference will have far reaching effects and it should be attended well at the highest level possible. It should lead to the structural changes necessary for getting this society.

I will therefore plead with all the force at my command that the level of the budget is modest and has to be supported. I would also suggest that the preparations for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should be given higher priority than what has been given to it up to now.

Sra. J. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Debo entender por lo expuesto por el Sr. West que la cantidad de 10 millones de dólares en fracción que el señor Director General se propone incluir como enmienda en su presupuesto de 1978-79, es producto de ahorros que él ha obtenido en el manejo de la Institución y de los cambios en los tipos monetarios, en las fluctuaciones de carácter monetario, que han ocurrido en el país huésped, Italia, por lo cual el parecer de esta delegación es que la utilización que él desea darle, entre otros objetivos, en la realización de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria y de Desarrollo Rural, es legítima y que los países en vías de desarrollo que tenemos como instrumento del cambio básicamente el desarrollo rural, sin el cual no podremos llevar adelante nuestros objetivos y nuestras metas de mejoramiento de vida para las grandes masas de las poblaciones es de vital importancia y es necesario que, así como lo ha solicitado el representante de Brasil en el excelente documento que presentó como producto del trabajo del Grupo de los 77, al cual México se siente muy honrado en pertenecer, debemos pedir todo el apoyo solidario de este Consejo para el Director General y dárselo en el sentido de que la Conferencia se pueda realizar utilizando la mayor parte de los recursos que él, por su esfuerzo y su trabajo y por las fluctuaciones monetarias ha logrado obtener.

Creo que el consenso del Consejo se debe de obtener pidiendo la buena voluntad de los distinguidos representantes de los Estados Unidos y del Canadá y que se aboquen a estudiar la forma en que pudieran resolver estas diferencias de tiempo que tienen ellos respecto de la aprobación en este momento o en una aprobación posterior una vez que hayan consultado con sus Gobiernos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores es la una de la tarde y tengo todavía tres oradores en la lista. No nos conviene retrasar la sesión, así que continuaremos esta tarde.

Creo que para la tarde estará ya listo el proyecto de resolución a que hizo referencia el Director General.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La sance est levee a 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/2

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(8 November 19 77)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

10. Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (continued)

10. Programme de travail et budget, 1978-79 (suite)

10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a iniciar nuestra tarde de acuerdo con lo que habíamos convenido esta mañana. Seguiremos ahora la discusión limitada a nivel del presupuesto según lo propuso el Director General esta mañana y a la luz de las discusiones iniciales al respecto.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I am sorry if this morning our intervention led to the wrong impression. Perhaps as I get older I have difficulty in expressing myself clearly but apparently our delegation appears to constitute some sort of a bottleneck in decision making. First, . I made no reference whatsoever to the \$1.2 million. We only talked about the change in relation to the currency problem. Secondly, we made a request for time which I thought was a very fair one. I envy those of my colleagues here who can make instantaneous decisions; unfortunately, we are not so lucky in this respect.

I want to make it quite clear that we are not going to block any action; the Council may make whatever decision it wishes but if the decision is one we cannot accept, we will not join the Council at this point. But we do not want to be accused of blocking any action and I am not even in a position to make any changes. We have some commentaries to make on the budget but I do not think now is the appropriate time because I have the feeling this morning that the Council is very anxious that we finish as soon as possible. I want to cooperate but our cooperation will have to be one of not being part of the group and I am very sorry if this should happen, but there is a Conference coming and my Minister will then be able to make his statement on the basis of the agreed position of Canada.

So I must again appeal to my colleagues here: I did not object to anything, I am not trying to hold anybody up on this matter. I merely made an appeal to give us a little more time so that we have a chance to consider new proposals. We are in the position where we do not have the advice of Mr. West, I am a slow thinker. So, we are not going to block any action. I am prepared to discuss the budget as such in a general way; we have certain views and can make various suggestions.

At this point I have had the floor twice. If later on, Mr. Chairman, you wish us to continue the discussion in detail, we will be able to make positive suggestions for consideration by all concerned.

EL PRESIDENTE: Está siendo ahora distribuido el Proyecto de Resolución a que hizo referencia el señor Director General esta mañana. Es el documento CL 77/INF/17.

H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): At the very outset I would like to state that, unlike some of my colleagues around this table, we are not at all surprised to see the change in the level of the budget. We would be surprised, on the contrary, if the level were the same as it was in June 1977. We have noted the Director-General stated that this budget was prepared in the autumn of 1976. One has to recall the outlook of the lira in the autumn of 1976. In that context one would feel that even 900 lire was a conservative figure at that time, in 1976. Today the situation is completely different: thanks to the people and the Government of Italy, the lira is stabilizing; it is not only stabilizing, it is showing improvement against the mighty dollar. In this context one has to see the changing level of the budget.

I am sure that if the contrary were true - which I do not hope, as a white-collar employee living in Rome - if the lira had gone up to 930, I am sure the Director-General would have proposed a reduction in the level in spite of the \$1.2 million increase for the World Conference. This is one of the elements for the change in the level of the budget from \$206.8 to \$211.350.

In this context I should also like to mention that any change in the level of the budget equally affects all Member Nations of this Organization. When I say equally affects, I mean proportionately to the resources. We all know that many nations of this Organization contribute to the budget proportionately



to their GNP, population and resources according to the United Nations formula. So, from that context, I would say that we are equally concerned about the level of budget, like other colleagues around the table.

What is now the proposal of the Director-General when he has proposed a change from \$206.8 to \$211.350? One element is the fluctuation in favour of the lira in the exchange rate between the lira and the dollar, which is beyond anybody's control and which is a pleasant surprise for all of us, and most of all for those of us living in Rome. So this element cannot be a part of it. We have to live up to reality. When I recall in the 1975 Session when this point was discussed, I had put a specific question about this 900 figure because at that time also it was not 900 and my understanding was that we would take the recognition of the reality at the time of the 72nd Council and the Conference. Now the time is here and we recognize the reality today, and I understand this is a simple proposal of the Director-General to recognize the reality. Which is the reality? The reality is the exchange rate as of today which proposes 877 lira to the dollar.

The other element is the expenditure increase for the World Conference, \$1.2 million. I draw the attention of this Council to the fact in the Seventy-first Session we demanded of the Director-General that he make a success of this Conference. We demanded that the Director-General, as it is so important and vital for all of us, and more so for the developing countries, to make a success of that Conference. We also directed the Director-General and the Secretariat to produce the programme of work and when we demanded the Director-General to do these things we should also provide him with the instruments to do these things. The basic instrument we can provide is the finance, which is a very reasonable thing and I believe, joining my colleague from India, as he says that we find this budget modest, \$1.2 million increase, even together it does not make \$2 million, which means it is lower than any international conference with similar or lower importance arranged so far. So we would feel if possible this budget level should be increased and we wish and we hope the Director-General will make a good success of the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

As regards the information provided by Mr. West with his good news, we take note of this for the consumption of the Ministry of Finance back home.

Finally, recognizing the present reality and taking into consideration the increased expenditure in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform, which is even to our mind modest and not perhaps up to the amount of expenditure we would expect, we support that the budget level of 211.350 be approved and in this context I say that this Council has to take a decision on this. We adopted the 206.8 level on the package, there are only two additional elements so today we have to take a decision and make a recommendation to the Conference, this point cannot be deferred so we hope that the Council will be able to make a decision and recommend to the Conference to approve a budget level of 211.350 on the basis of a lire of 877 to a dollar.

A. CISSE (Niger): Il faut rappeler que le Conseil avait décidé en juin dernier à l'unanimité de fixer le niveau du budget à 206, 8 millions de dollars E.-U. sur la base de 900 liras pour un dollar E.-U. Nous avons donc approuvé ce budget, compte tenu de son contenu qui vise la dynamisation des opérations de la FAO, dont la création de représentations locales dans les pays en développement, l'accélération des programmes de terrain et du programme de coopération technique, etc.

Il se trouve qu'aujourd'hui les objectifs que nous avons fixés à la FAO dans le biennium à venir n'ont pas changé alors que la relation d'équivalence entre le dollar et la lire italienne a évalué dans un sens qui pénalise le budget accepté par le Conseil. Il est évident que nul ne peut être porté responsable d'une telle situation, si bien que pour ne pas faire une entorse au programme arrêté en juin 1977, il est du devoir du Conseil d'accepter l'augmentation compensatrice proposée par le Directeur général.

Quant au million de dollars affecté à l'Organisation de la Conférence pour la réforme agraire, nous devons l'agréer, compte tenu de l'imprécision de l'appréciation du coût de cette organisation et de l'insistance du Conseil auprès du Directeur général pour qu'il apporte tout le soutien voulu à cette Organisation.

Enfin, nous pouvons nous féliciter des économies de 10 millions de dollars réalisées car elles peuvent nous aider à faire face aux variations liées au déséquilibre économique international qui rend difficile toute approche correcte des prévisions financières à court, moyen et long terme.

Le Niger se rallie donc à la déclaration du Président du Groupe des 77.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): My delegation would like to endorse the level of the budget for the 1978-79 biennium at the level proposed by the Director-General, namely US\$211.350 million and we would like this figure to be endorsed as of now. The revised figure is somewhat higher than the previously agreed figure of US\$206.8 million for reasons beyond any individual's or any organization's control. In fact to us it appears that the adjustment is largely arithmetical being consequential to the US dollar and Italian lire currency fluctuations.

My delegation also endorses the relatively more realistic allocation for the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to which we attach great importance. In fact we do not see why the allocation for the Conference should be so much lower than the actual expense of similar conferences held in the recent past or budgeted expenses planned on conferences in the near future.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): I had almost decided not to speak in this discussion today but I would not want silence to be misinterpreted any more than I would like what I am going to say now to be misinterpreted either. My delegation does find it somewhat difficult to take up a position at this present moment. It is not that we do not understand the situation, I think we do, but I find it difficult to help to take a decision about the budget without considering the whole financial situation, in some ways in the manner in which the representative of the Group of 77 dealt with it in giving us his overview this morning. If these various items are taken separately then they each have something to be said strongly in their favour. I would not want to raise objection to a budget costed on a realistic dollar exchange rate if that rate were the best that we could get to the likely rate that would prevail in the next two years. I would certainly not want to argue about an increased allocation of resources for the World Conference because the United Kingdom also considers that this is an extremely important conference, but outside the budget there are the other two important items. First, the \$10 million proposed for launching the Post-Harvest Losses Fund. Again we attach great importance to having a fund of money to help cope with this very important problem of post-harvest losses but we still have at this moment in time a little difficulty about the manner in which this \$10 million dollars can come into the right purse. Then there is the last item, the proposed £5 million for a reserve account. As I said, it is possible to speak strongly in favour of each of these elements. What is troubling me is whether when they are all added up together the total result is a sum of money that our governments will not want to complain about and I wonder now whether there is even at this moment in time a possibility of some give somewhere. The representative of the Group of 77 this morning talked about dialogue and talked about consensus, and his words were echoed by other speakers from the Group of 77. I would have thought that possibly a dialogue leading to a consensus would start from the assumption that it is possible to arrive at an intermediate position between, and this is perhaps not the right phrase to use, two extremes; the extremes being the financial position as it seemed to us to be earlier this year and what it could be now if all the additional proposals are acted upon. Right at this moment I do not quite know where the give might be but one point is the possibility of some adjustment even now within the proposed programme and we know that within programmes, although the Council has blessed the proposed programme in major terms, adjustments are possible. Programmes have been adjusted before when there seemed to be more urgent need for some of the money that had been voted in a budget. As I say, I am not proposing a solution, I am simply saying that right now I would not be able to go along with resolutions which led ultimately to the full final result, and this is my difficulty.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): After having the document for the Programme of Work and Budget a long time ago and having heard the statement of the Director-General and additional information from Mr. West we feel it is appropriate that the Council should take as its first priority to discuss the level of the budget. In a few days we will have the Conference, we will have the opportunity to decide on this matter. It is therefore necessary that the recommendation of the Council should be received long ahead so that interested Member Governments have the opportunity to assess the matter carefully and can make a final decision.

My delegation believes that it is wise and necessary that the Council come to a consensus on the level of the budget and the costs on the programme of work itself but this last matter was generally discussed and endorsed during our last session. I may also add that the Programme Committee expressed the need that the programme level should be protected from the consequences of unbudgeted inflation and/or unfavourable currency fluctuation. It follows then that consequently we need to approve the budget necessary to implement the programme of work of FAO. It seems from the debate that the value of the dollar for adjusting the level of the budget does not raise much difficulty. It was stated that usually the Conference decides the value as to the prevailing rate at that time. It is a matter that is beyond our control and that of the Director-General. Whatever the value may be my delegation supports the necessary adjustment. If the Council feels that the rate of 877 is reflecting the real situation then of course we suggest adopting it accordingly.

Now the question of increase from the 206.8 million to the 211 million level, the intervention made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and other delegations, in particular from India, concerning the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development should erase our doubt about the necessity for the additional programme and its budget. We feel that if we wish to have success and well-made and solid results, the preparation should also be done properly, although there are still other new and important activities which surely will arise after the Conference. The Director-General can try and absorb these matters in the existing budget, so he is only asking for a net increase of \$1.2 million for this purpose. Maybe it is also necessary to compare the increase of the budget for 1978/79 with the increase in the budget for 1976/77 as compared to the budget for 1974/75. The increase at that time was about twice the increase that is now being proposed. There should not be reason for concern; the increase is very modest. Furthermore, the 1978/79 budget is really the first budget prepared by the new Director-General to reflect the new integrated policies that we all have approved of to bring the Organization closer to achievement of the goal to bring about a fair and just agricultural situation in the world. My delegation therefore supports the proposed budget level.

H.L. CLAVERIE R. (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela ha tenido por norma en esta Casa dar su apoyo a aquellos proyectos dimanantes de la Dirección General o de este Consejo que incidan directamente y en forma positiva a solucionar el problema agrícola y alimenticio en el mundo. De la misma manera ha criticado y ha rechazado su apoyo a aquellos proyectos que considera no van dirigidos en esta vía.

Nos encontramos hoy ante un problema que es resultado de un mandato que en un momento este Consejo le dio al Director de esta Casa. En este sentido creemos que es consecuencia directa del mismo y un instrumento para llevar adelante los lineamientos que le pidieron al Director General. Entonces Venezuela dio su apoyo incondicional a la idea del Director General de crear el fondo de reservas para las pérdidas de cosecha con los fondos provenientes del mecanismo cambiante.

A los que vivimos el fenómeno italiano, que no lo vemos muy diferente de lo que sucede en otras partes del mundo, dada la situación económica hoy en día, no nos ha causado ninguna extrañeza la conformación del problema monetario, pero estos cambios inciden en el proyecto de presupuesto de esta Casa que el Director General propone a discusión en este momento.

Quisiera ver con simpatía, o al menos entender, las razones que se han expuesto en una u otra circunstancia hoy en esta sala para mantener alguna reserva con relación al nivel del presupuesto prefijado. Nosotros, como ya alguien ha mencionado, hemos vivido el fenómeno italiano y lo entendemos, por eso no nos ha llamado la atención y nuestra delegación no tiene ninguna reserva en apoyar el nivel del presupuesto que el Director General propone en esta oportunidad.

Por otra parte Venezuela ha mirado con mucha simpatía desde el inicio del proyecto mismo, la idea de la convocatoria a una Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria. Nuestro país tiene mucha esperanza en esa Conferencia y ha puesto en ella mucha ilusión. Hemos vivido un proceso de reforma agraria al igual que muchos países en vías de desarrollo y quisiera conocer el concepto de la problemática a que se refiere la reforma agraria, a la que van dirigidas nuestras políticas y a la que van dirigidas las políticas de otros países para instrumentar una transformación en los campos y en los medios sociales y agrarios del mundo.

Nos preocuparía ver disminuido el presupuesto indicado para esa Conferencia y nos preocupaba ya el nivel del presupuesto que se había dedicado a esa Conferencia. Por lo tanto hemos recibido instrucciones de apoyar el aumento al presupuesto de la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria que se presenta. Tenemos instrucciones muy claras al respecto e incluso, posiblemente, el criterio de que preferiríamos no ver realizada la Conferencia que verla realizada con recursos que no incidieran en un cabal, efectivo y óptimo resultado de las deliberaciones.

Doña. P. DE CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): El compañero Brito, del Grupo de los 77, ya ha hablado por nuestra delegación en el tema que vamos a tocar referente al aumento del presupuesto de FAO. Sin embargo, queremos ratificar al Consejo en pleno nuestra complacencia por la cantidad de 208 350 000 dólares que el Director General propone, y espera que con esta nueva cifra se aprueben reajustes de ciertos programas, en especial el de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que nos interesa a todos los países del Tercer Mundo.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie) (interprétation de l'arabe): La contribution effective prise en considération dans le document était de 206 817 000 dollars. Les augmentations proposées par le Directeur général proviennent d'abord de l'évaluation du coût de la Conférence sur la réforme agraire: lorsque nous comparons les sommes allouées à cette Conférence et les sommes allouées à d'autres conférences, il apparaît que cette augmentation est légitime. La deuxième source d'augmentation provient du taux de change. Il ne s'agit pas d'une augmentation effective, il s'agit simplement de prévisions qui n'ont pas été réalisées. Y aurait-il des membres du Conseil qui proposeraient le maintien du taux de change du dollar à 900 livres? ou qui préféreraient réduire le programme et le financement correspondant? Lorsqu'il s'agit du financement de cette augmentation, il faut savoir qu'en contrepartie de l'augmentation de 4 millions et demi de dollars, le Directeur général nous a appris qu'il y avait des économies imprévues de 7 millions de dollars.

Compte tenu de tout cela, la délégation tunisienne appuie pleinement le budget qui a été approuvé par le Comité financier ainsi que les amendements proposés par M. le Directeur général.

L. VELAY (France): Je voudrais tout d'abord me référer à ce qui s'est passé exactement au cours du Conseil de juin dernier. J'ai entendu à plusieurs reprises certains de nos amis faire état de l'unanimité par laquelle le Conseil aurait approuvé en juin les propositions du Directeur général pour un budget du biennium de 206, 8 millions de dollars. S'il en était ainsi, ce que je vais dire serait une trahison de cet accord unanime, mais en fait il n'y avait pas eu accord unanime, il y avait eu une large majorité pour approuver les propositions du Directeur général et il y avait eu quelques délégations qui avaient préféré prendre connaissance de la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget avant de se prononcer sur son niveau.

Il y avait eu d'autres délégations - et la délégation française en faisait partie - qui avaient souligné que, compte tenu des efforts de rigueur financière auxquels sont astreints leurs pays, il conviendrait de limiter également le taux d'accroissement des budgets des organismes internationaux et ces délégations avaient en conséquence souhaité que le Programme de travail et budget soit revu dans cette optique. Je crois que le rappel de ces conclusions du Conseil de juin étaient nécessaires avant que je rappelle la position de la délégation française en cette affaire.

Notre délégation, en juin dernier, n'avait pas exprimé de critiques fondamentales sur les motivations du Directeur général. Le niveau qu'il proposait, donc à l'époque 206, 8 millions de dollars, traduisait non seulement l'augmentation des coûts dus à l'inflation mais aussi l'accroissement d'activité qu'il souhaitait donner à l'institution au cours du prochain biennium.

Notre délégation n'avait nullement considéré comme excessif en valeur absolue cet accroissement d'activité et le dynamisme du Directeur général avait, en cette occasion comme en d'autres, toute la sympathie de la délégation française. Cependant, notre délégation avait seulement rappelés, comme d'autres d'ailleurs, que la situation de crise, dans laquelle se débattaient la plupart des pays qui actuellement affrontaient une inflation accélérée, imposait à chacun des pays une lutte contre l'inflation, lutte qui est certes vitale pour les économies développées mais qui ne l'est pas moins, j'y insiste, pour les pays en développement. Donc, les économies des différents pays sont actuellement étroitement solidaires.

Notre délégation avait indiqué que, dans le cadre de cette lutte contre l'inflation qui implique un freinage des dépenses budgétaires dans chaque pays, il convenait de limiter le taux d'accroissement du budget des organismes internationaux. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons souhaité que le Programme de travail et budget soit revu dans ce sens et notre délégation avait fait à cet égard plusieurs suggestions concrètes sur différents postes qui nous paraissaient pouvoir être modérés, sur différentes actions dont le rythme nous paraissait pouvoir être quelque peu moins élevé et elle avait souhaité retrouver, au moment de la Conférence, un budget ainsi maintenu dans des limites supportables, dans des limites tolérables par les budgets des gouvernements membres.

Je suis déçu de constater aujourd'hui que le Directeur général n'ait pas pu donner suite à ces différentes suggestions. C'est pourquoi je suis obligé, aujourd'hui encore, de réserver la position de la France en ce qui concerne l'approbation du budget et cela d'autant plus que, comme le délégué du Royaume-Uni, je ne puis m'empêcher de relier à cet effort budgétaire ce qui nous est demandé et demandé par ailleurs à la fois pour le Fonds d'étude contre les pertes en récoltes et contre la création d'un Fonds de réserve.

Je serai beaucoup plus bref sur les données tout à fait récentes du problème en ce qui concerne l'arithmétique du taux de change. Je crois qu'il s'agit d'un problème qu'il faut regarder d'une façon très mécanique et qu'il ne devrait pas être difficile de se mettre d'accord sur un tel problème.

En ce qui concerne le coût de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire, je dois rappeler que l'opportunité même de cette Conférence a fait l'objet de longs débats au sein de notre Conseil.

Je n'y reviens pas puisque la majorité s'est alors prononcée en faveur de l'organisation de cette Conférence, mais je dois bien regretter que s'agissant d'un projet si longuement débattu, l'évaluation de son coût par le Secrétariat ait été si longtemps et si fortement erronée. Il s'agit là, et je le reconnais bien volontiers, d'une charge imprévue qui s'impose au Directeur général. Je dois faire observer qu'en pareille circonstance, il y a deux moyens d'y faire face: le premier est d'augmenter d'autant plus le budget global de l'institution, c'est la solution que nous propose le Directeur général, mais il est un autre moyen qui consiste à faire des économies d'un montant équivalent sur les autres postes du programme du budget.

Je ne puis donc que rappeler sans les énumérer les différents points sur lesquels nous avons souhaité que des économies soient réalisées. Il n'est peut-être pas trop tard pour trouver là les moyens de financer le supplément de coût entraîné par la Conférence sur la réforme agraire.

En conclusion, M. le Directeur général nous propose un budget qui va au-delà de ce que nous considérons comme tolérable par les budgets des pays membres; et je ne puis pas engager dès maintenant la position que prendra la délégation française à la Conférence de la semaine prochaine.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais me permettre de dire à l'honorable délégué de la France que la première estimation de 450 000 dollars, qui avait été faite pour le coût de la Conférence mondiale, correspondait à une réunion technique très simple. C'est d'abord le Comité de l'agriculture, puis le Conseil, qui ont exprimé l'avis que cette conférence devrait avoir de plus grandes dimensions et qu'il fallait nommer un comité d'experts de haut niveau pour conseiller le Directeur général dans la conception et l'organisation de cette réunion. Ce comité s'est réuni à Rome; il était composé de 16 experts, dont plusieurs anciens ministres de la réforme agraire et de l'agriculture, tous considérés comme des personnalités éminentes dans ce domaine.

Ce comité d'experts, après trois jours de discussion, a estimé qu'il fallait donner plus d'ampleur à cette Conférence; qu'il ne fallait pas que ce soit une simple réunion technique, mais une réunion beaucoup plus importante; et qu'il fallait que tous les pays membres soient associés à son organisation, au sein d'un Comité préparatoire. Il avait d'abord été prévu que le Conseil lui-même tiennne lieu de Comité préparatoire et qu'il se réunisse quelques mois avant la Conférence pour finaliser tous les projets de résolution de la Conférence et pour l'orienter. Mais le Comité des experts m'a vivement conseillé de voir beaucoup plus grand. J'ai vu plus grand et j'ai mieux compris l'importance du problème lorsque j'ai étudié la politique de la Banque mondiale en matière de développement rural.

C'est donc d'une autre Conférence qu'il s'agit maintenant, ce n'est plus de la même. C'est pour cela que je voudrais assurer le délégué de la France qu'il n'y a pas eu d'erreur d'estimation. Il y a quelques mois, nous avons décidé d'organiser une réunion de trois semaines pour des représentants de pays du Proche-Orient et d'Afrique du Nord. Il s'agit d'un séminaire de formation dans le domaine de l'identification et de la préparation de projets de financement. Ce séminaire va nous coûter 350 000 dollars (français, anglais, arabe; trois semaines) ! Je ne puis rien faire pour les prix et ils sont de plus en plus élevés.

A ce stade de la discussion, je voudrais souligner que l'on considère en ce moment le niveau du budget. Personnellement, je ne vois pas de lien entre ce sujet, c'est-à-dire quel est le coût du programme, et le problème de la réserve de 5 millions de dollars dont la création a déjà été appuyée par la majorité du Conseil et recommandée à l'approbation de la Conférence. Ce dernier sujet a déjà été étudié, le seul lien entre les deux est sans doute qu'il s'agit en définitive de dollars mais, en ce qui me concerne, ce dont nous devons nous occuper maintenant est de déterminer le coût d'un programme de travail.

A en croire Messieurs les délégués de la France et de la Grande Bretagne, et comme le diront peut-être tout à l'heure les délégations de certains autres pays, le Directeur général devrait comprimer le budget et trouver le moyen de payer les coûts supplémentaires de la Conférence; plus encore, il devrait même diminuer le budget! Malheureusement, je dois vous dire que ce même budget de 211 millions de dollars doit d'abord absorber près de 800 000 dollars pour couvrir certaines dépenses indispensables et imprévues. J'en ai ici la liste; j'en ai parlé au Comité du Programme, qui a mentionné ce problème dans son rapport. Je crois que le Président des 77 en a fait part aussi à ses membres. Je dois donc, en début d'exercice, procéder déjà à des compressions budgétaires et c'est ainsi que j'ai devant moi le texte d'une note que j'ai envoyée à tous mes directeurs, pour leur dire que leurs allocations seraient réduites de 0,3 pour cent pour couvrir ces 800 000 dollars. Certes,

j'aurais pu ajouter ces 800 000 aux 211, 359 millions; cela aurait fait 212 millions, qui auraient peut-être fait sursauter certaines délégations qui n'aiment pas les chiffres élevés. Je vais donc avoir à absorber 800 000 dollars, en partant d'une base de 211 millions, pour couvrir une série d'activités que je dois entreprendre.

Comme vous le savez, notre programme est dynamique, il n'est pas établi une fois pour toutes. Je vais vous lire, à titre d'exemple, quelques-unes de ces activités: - un plan régional d'alimentation pour l'Afrique - c'est la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique qui m'a demandé cette étude, il me faut 40 000 dollars supplémentaires pour la terminer; - un Centre pour le développement rural intégré en Asie; j'ai besoin de 30 000 dollars. - de même quelques délégations ont demandé au Conseil que je fasse une évaluation du programme de coopération technique. Cela aussi coûte de l'argent.

C'est le total de telles petites sommes qui arrive à 800 000 dollars.

Pour les trouver, je dois procéder à des compressions budgétaires en partant d'une base de 211 millions. De plus, je devrai, sans nul doute, procéder à d'autres compressions budgétaires, car la Conférence, comme à l'ordinaire, va certainement me demander d'entreprendre certaines activités nouvelles en me disant: "Procédez à des compressions et à des transferts, " débrouillez-vous" pour entreprendre ces activités". Tel a toujours été le cas depuis 1955; j'ai assisté à toutes les Conférences de la FAO depuis cette date et il n'y en a pas une seule au cours de laquelle nos pays membres, tout en approuvant un certain niveau de budget pour un programme défini, n'aient pas fixé tout en même temps des objectifs plus vastes, pouvant coûter un ou deux millions de dollars supplémentaires.

En d'autres termes, je m'attends à ce que la Conférence me demande d'entreprendre certaines activités supplémentaires sans me donner de fonds pour cela. Il en résulte que, même si je ne faisais aucun ajustement pour le moment, je serais néanmoins obligé d'en faire au début de l'année prochaine, pour 800 000 dollars si ce n'est pour 2 millions!

J'ai beaucoup apprécié l'esprit dans lequel le délégué du Royaume-Uni a parlé de l'ensemble de ce problème, du niveau du budget, de la réserve, des 10 millions de dollars; nous n'en sommes pas encore là et parlerons plus tard de ces affaires. Comme vous vous en souviendrez, le Conseil avait accepté, en juin dernier, de différer la discussion de ces sujets pour permettre d'aboutir à un consensus; je ne voudrais pas que l'on complique le problème en parlant des trois questions ensemble. Les 15 millions en question ne représentent pas une contribution supplémentaire; il s'agit d'une part de l'ancien budget qui n'a pas été dépensée. Les 211 millions représentent, par contre, le nouveau budget.

A propos des 10 800 000 dollars d'économies ou de recettes que j'ai mentionnées, je puis vous répéter qu'ils comprennent 7 millions de dollars qui ne figurent dans aucun de ces documents à votre disposition jusqu'ici. Il en résulte que cette somme fait plus que compenser la différence de 4, 5 millions de dollars entre 206, 8 et 211, 3 millions et qu'il y a, en définitive, une différence nette de 2, 5 millions en faveur de ceux qui contribuent à notre budget. Voilà comment se présente la situation: en fait, vos gouvernements n'auront à payer que 200 millions de dollars environ, comme l'a dit M. West.

J'ai d'abord fait cette intervention pour clarifier le problème du coût de la Conférence mondiale; je comprends la réaction du délégué de la France; 450 000 dollars d'abord, 1 700 000 maintenant, la différence est grande! j'ai expliqué pourquoi.

J'ai voulu intervenir aussi pour dire que les sujets mentionnés sont différents et que je ne souhaiterais pas que l'on s'engage dans des marchandages et que les discussions prennent une tournure trop terre-à-terre. Je retiens particulièrement la déclaration du délégué du Royaume-Uni et surtout l'esprit qui a présidé à son intervention. J'espère vivement que nous arriverons à un consensus. J'espère sincèrement que ce Conseil pourra mener ses débats à bonne fin, même si certaines délégations souhaitaient demander encore des instructions complémentaires à leurs gouvernements.

J'espère que vous pourrez dégager un consensus pour qu'il ne soit plus nécessaire de soulever ces questions d'argent en Commission II. S'il en allait autrement, toute notre Conférence ne s'occupe-rait que de quelques dizaines de millions de dollars, et l'on n'aborderait pas du tout de la substance.

Doña M. PANIZA DE BELLAVITA(Panama): La delegación de Panamá desea apoyar el nivel de presupuesto presentado por el Director General para el bienio 1978/79 por la suma de 211.350.000 dolares americanos.

También apoya el incremento de fondos para la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Nuestro Gobierno apoyó con entusiasmo desde un principio la iniciativa de celebrar la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y estamos de acuerdo con lo manifestado por otros delegados cuando afirman que el aumento es modesto y razonable y que está encaminado a garantizar el éxito de la Conferencia.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interpretation de l'arabe): Je ne voudrais nullement discuter de toutes les questions qui ont été soulevées jusqu'à présent dans le fond ou sur le fond, mais je voudrais simplement soulever certaines questions, et je pense que la plupart des pays en voie de développement et notamment le Groupe des 77, se sont déjà posé cette question: Est-il dans l'intérêt des pays industrialisés développés de réduire les budgets des organisations des Nations Unies et notamment de la FAO alors que tout le monde se pose des questions sur la situation alimentaire dans le monde?

La deuxième question que je voudrais poser est lorsque notre ami, chef de la délégation de la France, dit que "l'augmentation a été imposée au Directeur général", lorsqu'il parle de l'augmentation des allocations pour la Conférence internationale sur la réforme agraire, je pense que le Directeur général n'est pas la personne à qui l'on peut imposer un certain niveau de budget s'il n'est pas convaincu que cette Conférence sera une conférence pour tous les pays en voie de développement et pour tous les pays membres de cette Organisation.

C'est pour cela que ma délégation se voit dans l'obligation de dire, dans le cadre de notre participation à ce Comité d'organisation, et bien que nos moyens soient limités comme ceux de nombreux pays en voie de développement, membres de cette Organisation, que le budget de l'Organisation est à un niveau minimum car cette Organisation travaille pour l'intérêt de l'humanité et non pour l'intérêt de certaines personnes.

T. IWATA (Japon) The Director-General's proposal is a completely new one. We have not been informed of this proposal before and it will take some time for our delegation to investigate and study it. So I would like to postpone the decision to a later stage of the Council session. What I am saying is that it is the principle or the procedures of the meeting. For example, in order to get the appropriations for the budgetary affairs we have to inform the budgetary people of the reasons why we need such an amount of money. Therefore, it is the principle or the procedures that we are appealing to the members of the Council to abide by. Namely, the \$1.2 million for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform, this is the first time that we have heard about the reasoning for this increase. In that sense we appreciate the explanation made by the Director-General. His explanation cleared up some ambiguities for my delegation. However, this information has not been transferred to my authorities. We are not at this stage in a position to make any decision on this point. Furthermore, as for the budgetary increase caused by the fluctuations of the exchange rate, the increase might be acceptable if the currency rate is a reasonable one. However, this is also a completely new proposal. We have to wait for new instructions.

O. BORIN (Italie): Au cours de la 71ème session du Conseil, j'ai déjà exprimé les préoccupations du Gouvernement italien vis-à-vis de l'augmentation des dépenses et du budget des organisations internationales, et j'ai dit que, partant, nous souhaiterions, si de nouvelles ressources financières étaient nécessaires pour permettre l'expansion de leur oeuvre, qu'elles soient fournies par des économies. C'est là une ligne de politique générale qui s'applique aussi bien à la FAO et sur laquelle nous ne saurions suffisamment insister. Dans le monde entier, pour tous les Etats, c'est le moment de réaliser des économies et je pense que les organisations internationales ne pourront se soustraire à cette tendance.

Par souci de brièveté, je ne répéterai pas les arguments que nous avons développés au cours de nos interventions à la 71ème session, mais si nous avons des raisons à présenter à l'époque, ces raisons n'ont pas disparu.

Le Directeur général de la FAO, on doit le reconnaître, a réalisé des économies et nous lui sommes reconnaissants des mesures prises à cet égard. Mais nous voudrions dans le même temps l'inviter à poursuivre ses efforts en vue d'une rationalisation du travail de l'Organisation, et d'une révision, là où cela est encore possible, des frais généraux.

Il reste néanmoins vrai que le budget de la FAO" aura une augmentation réelle supérieure à 7 pour cent. Dans l'avenir, nous trouverons des difficultés croissantes à suivre à l'infini cette tendance à

l'accroissement. C'est dans cette optique que nous voyons le Programme de travail tel qu'il nous a été présenté et que nous avons approuvé dans ses grandes lignes au cours de la précédente session. Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail.

En revanche, la délégation italienne exprimera sa pensée dans les différentes commissions.

En ce qui concerne la question qui nous a été posée ce matin par le Directeur général sur le niveau du budget déterminé par le nouveau taux de change, nous estimons que la question mérite toute notre attention. Il est possible que les gouvernements tirent les conséquences de la nouvelle situation qui s'est déterminée indépendamment de la volonté du Directeur général, mais à ce stade actuel de mes instructions, je ne peux pas me rallier aux propositions du Directeur général et je dois de ce fait réserver la position de la délégation italienne à cette Conférence.

A. BEN KHAYAL (Libya) (interpretation from Arabic): I do not want to repeat what was said by the Chairman of the Group of 77. My delegation would like to give its support to the level of the budget proposed for 1978-79.

J.S.CÁMARA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Je vous remercie de me donner l'occasion, en tant qu'observateur, de faire une brève déclaration sur la question qui est soumise au Conseil. Je ne veux pas reprendre tous les arguments, mais vous me permettrez peut-être quelquefois de répéter certains de ces arguments et d'en apporter d'autres.

Tout d'abord, en tant que membre du Groupe des 77, j'appuie la déclaration faite ce matin par notre Pré-sident, et en tant que délégation guinéenne, j'appuie fermement le budget qui nous est proposé par le Directeur général de l'Organisation.

Nous avons entendu de nombreuses délégations et nous voyons qu'il existe un clivage entre les membres du Conseil, clivage qui, nous l'espérons, va se fermer d'ici la fin de la journée, car nous souhaitons vivement, comme l'a dit le Président, que du dialogue sorte un consensus général pour que le Conseil fasse une recommandation. Nous pensons qu'il est temps que le Conseil puisse indiquer à la Conférence générale une recommandation qui ne soit plus celle du Secrétariat de l'Organisation, mais celle des membres de ce Conseil qui parlent au nom de 140 Etats membres.

Il a été dit par certains pays développés qu'il faut faire des économies. Nous sommes d'accord. Tous les pays le disent. Mais les Organisations internationales auxquelles on fait de plus en plus recours ne sont pas comme les gouvernements, même si ce sont les gouvernements qui paient les contributions, car il y a maintenant beaucoup de besoins et beaucoup de demandes. Les problèmes sont aigus et il faut que la Communauté internationale trouve des solutions à ces problèmes. Donc les budgets des organisations internationales ne peuvent que croître.

Il est d'ailleurs tout à fait anormal que le budget de la FAO soit le budget le moins élevé parmi toutes les Organisations internationales. Si on compare ce budget de 212 millions de dollars aux budgets de l'OMS ou de l'OIT, on se rend compte que le budget de la FAO est le moins grand alors qu'il aurait dû être le plus grand. C'est là une réflexion que les pays qui s'opposent à ce niveau de budget devraient prendre en considération.

Ensuite, les difficultés existent également pour nous, car nous contribuons au budget de l'Organisation. Nous sommes certes ceux qui bénéficient davantage, mais les autres pays aussi tirent des gains indirects de l'Organisation. Donc l'effort n'est pas seulement à sens unique, l'effort vient de tous les pays membres de l'Organisation, et si nous voulons que cette Organisation ait le succès qu'on lui demande, il faut lui donner les moyens nécessaires, les ressources requises pour que le Directeur général puisse mettre en pratique le programme qu'il propose aux Etats membres. De nombreuses activités de cette Organisation ont été supprimées en faveur de nouvelles activités qui sont les vraies activités de l'Organisation, des activités qui sont rentables, que l'on peut vérifier et qui ont un impact certain et pratique sur le pays. Si nous sommes d'accord avec le programme du Directeur général, il faut que les Etats membres soient d'accord pour lui donner des ressources. Si ces ressources n'existent pas, cela veut dire que nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec le programme. Mais si nous sommes d'accord avec ce programme, il faut donner des ressources.

Le Groupe des 77 dans son ensemble a insisté pour que tout le Conseil puisse adopter cela. Nous ne pouvons attendre la Conférence générale. Pour éviter que nous consacrons une bonne partie de notre temps à des problèmes de budget, nous devrions savoir si le programme répond parfaitement à ce que le pays attend.

J'ai tenu à faire cette déclaration, je pense que les membres du Conseil en prendront acte.



O. LUCO (Observador de Chile): Teniendo conciencia de mi calidad de observador, hare una corta intervención. Mi delegación estima que en base a lo expuesto tanto por el señor Director General como por el señor West se justifica plenamente la aprobación del nivel del presupuesto tal cual lo proponen las autoridades de la FAO. Para decir lo anterior, mi delegación ha hecho los estudios correspondientes y es evidente que es preciso mantener una relación directa entre el Programa de Labores para el bienio 1978-79 y los medios económicos necesarios para poder llevarlo a cabo.

Es evidente, también, que el Director General, por razones que escapan a su control, debe de proponer un reajuste, el cual es tan lógico por los motivos ya expuestos por las autoridades de la FAO como por numerosos oradores que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, que en beneficio del tiempo no los mencionaré. Mi delegación espera, en consecuencia, que una vez analizada en forma ponderada la propuesta del señor Director General, ésta pueda ser aprobada sin mayores dificultades por el Consejo.

H. AL SHAKIR (Observer for Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to make some comments on the budget level proposed by the Director-General. My delegation supports the statement made by the Group of 77 insofar as it concerns the budget. We know that the increase in the budget is not for any personal or unfounded reason. We know that it can be explained by changes in the rate of exchange between the dollar and the lira, and my delegation has already given its approval to the Programme of Work presented by the Secretariat of the Organization. As you know, this programme of action needs financial resources in order to be put into effect. Later it turned out that the budget was not sufficient to implement the programme of action that we had adopted. In particular, it was impossible to organize a world conference on agrarian reform and rural development within the present budget. Therefore the Director-General is obliged to ask for extra funds for that purpose also.

We feel that we should not be responsible for the failure of such an important conference -important to our peoples and to our countries. We must permit the conference to be a success by allowing it to be organized properly.

With respect to other points that were raised, that is on inflation, for example, the delegate of France has also pointed out that most countries suffer from inflation and that the different stages of economic interdependence between countries means that we must fight inflation side by side. This means that international organizations' budgets must not spiral inordinately. However, we do feel that this does not justify restricting our budget because of the reasons for it.

With respect to those who expressed reservations, some delegations have not received specific instructions to deal with the new situation, so the only thing we can answer is that surely it will only be a recommendation before the general Conference and they will have plenty of time to receive instructions.

B. SAMANEZ CONCHA (Observador de Peru): Si la Dirección General de FAO presentase un presupuesto sumamente rígido y ese que presentase por primera vez no tuviera que ser modificado, creo que debería llevarnos a profunda preocupación.

Estamos viendo que FAO no es una institución estática sino que es una institución dinámica y va reajustando su andar de acuerdo a los acontecimientos. Por lo demás, señor Presidente, como su nombre lo indica, un presupuesto es un supuesto de gasto para un ejercicio determinado y necesariamente como tal debe sufrir reajustes tanto en su preparación como en su ejecución misma. Y si a la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se le quiere dar una mayor cobertura por recomendación del Comité de la Agricultura, que me he honrado en presidir, y por acuerdo expreso de este Consejo, creo que debe el Consejo ser consecuente con los acuerdos anteriores y asignar los fondos necesarios para que esta Conferencia pueda llevarse a cabo y pueda llegar a feliz término en el año 1979. Es por ello, señor Presidente, que mi Gobierno apoya decididamente el presupuesto presentado por el Director General para el ejercicio que se inicia en enero de 1978.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je ne pensais pas, au cours de cette session, que nous aurions eu à revenir aussi largement sur ce problème du niveau du budget. Avant d'entrer en séance, j'ai consulté les notes de la dernière session et je n'ai pas trouvé d'opposition au niveau du budget qui nous a été proposé. Je suis très surpris, par conséquent, que nous ayons un débat aussi long, car à mon avis tous les membres

du Conseil avaient estimé ici que la FAO devenait un organe de plus en plus dynamique, que la FAO devenait, peut-être à la lumière de certains rapports - et je ne citerai pas le rapport du Club de Rome - un organe qui prend le pas sur le fléau de la faim. Mais qui veut éliminer ce fléau doit donner à la FAO les moyens nécessaires pour combattre tout d'abord le fléau, car on n'élimine pas un fléau sans le combattre.

Nous avons eu un programme de travail et de budget qui, au mois de juin, avait rencontré l'approbation générale, je dirai même unanime. Nous avons eu un niveau de budget qui, selon ce que disait le représentant des Etats-Unis, était très bien conçu et qui demandait seulement un temps de réflexion. Je suis déçu.

Je suis déçu que six mois après on nous demande encore de consulter nos gouvernements sur ce niveau de budget et ce programme. Cela me rappelle ce que vous-même, Monsieur le Président, disiez - je crois que c'était à l'île Maurice, - en parlant du continent africain, qu'il était quand même difficile de comprendre les phénomènes qui régissent le monde. A cet égard, je voudrais qu'on élimine de nos conversations, de nos discussions, de nos entretiens, certains termes qui deviennent un peu trop pléthoriques, qui deviennent des termes oratoires, car je ne pense pas qu'il y ait un pays qui puisse dire, à l'heure actuelle, qu'il est développé, à moins qu'il ne me prouve qu'il existe une unité de mesure du développement. Je pense que les pays qui, ayant bénéficié de la puissance - je dis bien de la puissance - de certains pays qu'ils ont colonisés ont acquis un degré matériel tel qu'aujourd'hui ils mettent en cause des notions élémentaires en faisant valoir l'inflation qu'ils créent, parce que ce ne sont pas les pays démunis qui manipulent le commerce international, qui manipulent les économies internationales et, par conséquent, qui créent l'inflation. Donc, ces pays qui créent l'inflation, je suis au regret de constater que ce sont ceux-là mêmes qui acceptent que le budget de la FAO soit le plus petit - je dis bien le plus petit - des budgets des organisations spécialisées du système des Nations Unies, le plus faible, le moins doté en moyens pour réaliser un objectif hautement important car la faim est le premier besoin, le besoin essentiel de l'homme, car sans nourriture nul de nous ne vivrait aujourd'hui.

Beaucoup ont parlé de ce problème de la faim. Je citerai un exemple: en 1925, je crois, lorsque la Tanzanie était encore sous domination, certains prisonniers à l'époque avaient été affectés à des tâches très dures et un taux de mortalité important avait été enregistré. La puissance coloniale adopta alors une législation spéciale pour qu'une alimentation particulière soit octroyée à ces prisonniers affectés à des tâches très dures. Le taux de mortalité diminua à telle enseigne que la puissance coloniale étendit cette législation à tous les ouvriers agricoles, uniquement pour qu'ils rapportent davantage à cette puissance coloniale. Je crois qu'il y a d'autres exemples de ce genre dans l'histoire que nous pourrions citer.

Je voudrais simplement, pour terminer, que certains d'entre nous qui n'ont pas eu connaissance du discours prononcé à Boston par Monsieur MacNamara lui-même, essaient de prendre connaissance de ce discours; ils se rendraient compte que les pays, que je n'appelle plus développés, mais que j'appelle matériellement nantis par rapport aux pays démunis, ont vis-à-vis des autres une très grande responsabilité et il est regrettable qu'ils soient obligés, pour des raisons fallacieuses, de mettre en cause le niveau d'un petit budget d'une organisation aussi importante pour l'humanité tout entière, car la nourriture c'est la vie.

Je rappellerai aussi ce que Raoul Follereau disait en demandant aux Etats-Unis, par exemple, et à l'URSS (qui n'est pas membre de notre Organisation) qu'ils consacrent le budget d'un seul de leurs engins de destruction pour combattre la lèpre, et ce fléau aurait disparu de notre monde. Mais, hélas! ces puissances n'ont pas compris cet appel et la lèpre existe encore.

Aujourd'hui, nous sommes en train de discuter sur un budget de 206 millions de dollars, qu'est-ce, pour combattre la faim dans le monde entier? Qu'est-ce pour doter la FAO de maigres moyens pour que, dans quelques années, des dizaines, peut-être même plutôt des centaines, compte tenu de ce faible niveau de budget, le monde n'ait plus à connaître ce phénomène honteux qui est la disparité entre certains nantis qui veulent que l'asservissement continue par le biais de la faim? J'appelle cela une nouvelle façon d'asservir nos pays, car ne pas vouloir octroyer à la FAO les moyens nécessaires, c'est vouloir nous rendre dépendants et continuellement dépendants, ne jamais nous donner la liberté d'être nous-mêmes, de pouvoir créer.

La Conférence qui se tiendra dans quelques jours enregistrera certainement des notions qu'elle n'a jamais enregistrées et cela simplement parce que l'histoire nous prouve encore aujourd'hui que, même cinq ans après la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, le Sahel souffre encore de la faim. Les pays dits développés - car la notion de développement n'existe pas pour moi, il n'y a pas d'unité de mesure - n'ont pas compris qu'il fallait faire quelque chose et ils se sont cantonnés dans leurs problèmes internes, qui sans les pays pauvres n'existeraient pas pour eux, d'après eux, problèmes qu'ils ont créés eux-mêmes dans leur enceinte et qui n'existent que par eux-mêmes. N'oublions pas aussi que l'homme a asservi la nature et que si l'homme souffre par l'homme, c'est à cause de l'homme, et qu'il faut arriver à dépasser ce stade et donner à la FAO une nouvelle dimension qui corresponde à la dignité de l'homme.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Let me first say that my government supports in principle the proposed programme for the next biennium. With regard to the budget level I wish to recall that in our case our contribution to FAO requires parliamentary approval. I have asked the pertinent committee for consideration of the proposal and will now pass on the additional information we have got this morning. With regard to that information my delegation would be very grateful if we could hear a bit more about the savings, about the 2 and the 5 million to which Mr West referred, a bit more information than has been given so far and a few more details than we can find in paragraph, 3.52 in the last report of the Finance Committee. There we have a figure of US\$7 million and we see there that earnings in interest contributed to the bigger inflow but perhaps we could get more details on that. Now as it is up to the Conference to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget and to decide upon the level, and I think it was the delegate of Jordan who reminded us of that fact, you will understand under the circumstances which I mentioned in the beginning that I have at this stage to reserve the position of my government.

As to the definite level as it appears on the programme as well as with regard to the exchange rate applied, I will at this juncture only touch upon some issues. First, rural development for a long time has had priority in our bilateral cooperation with developing countries and in our action in ' international financing institutions. We are therefore looking forward with great interest to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We have already contributed to its preparation by the holding jointly with FAO of seminars on integrated rural development and we are considering at home also how further support could be given, but with regard to the request for an additional amount of US\$1.2 million for the preparation, for the holding of the Conference, we ask whether part of that amount could not be absorbed by involving to a greater extent the existing Secretariat staff and perhaps also by the cutting-in of some programmes of less priority. Room for further savings we could see in reconsidering the proposed up-grading and also in the extremely large increase of 43 percent for travel.

With regard to the proposal to apply a new exchange rate, my delegation will inform our government which will give its position at the forthcoming Conference. In the view of my delegation, this proposal has to be seen in connexion with the proposal for the setting up of a new Suspense Account which would give protection against currency fluctuations. The Finance Committee at its Fortieth Session touched apparently briefly upon the question of the exchange rate and a change in the exchange rate, I refer to paragraph 3.8 and to 3.5, but refrained from giving a pertinent recommendation to the Council. Perhaps the Chairman of the Finance Committee would be kind enough to give us some further information in this respect.

H. MAURIA (Finland): We have listened with great interest to the debates here today about the level of budget. Regarding the position of my own country, we do not really see any great problem in this regard. When we came here to this Council meeting we had instructions to the effect to support the level of the budget which was indicated in the document Programme of Work and Budget for the next Biennium. Of course, however, we have heard today here some proposals about the additional increases in the budget but at the same time we have got very useful information from the Director-General and Mr West, which indicates that the implications on the whole will make, in our view, the burden of the next budget not too problematic, so I could say at this stage we would be ready and willing to support the proposed budget.

As regards the proposed increase for the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, we are also inclined to say that this fund was necessary because of the very great importance for the World Conference to be held in 1979. We think that all means and all ways should be used to make it a good conference and of course preparations need money. In view of the debate here today which has shown that there are some difficulties involved in supporting the budget level on every part of the member nations, we just wonder whether it would be a feasible proposal to come back once during this

Council meeting at an appropriate time, for instance tomorrow, or on Thursday, to have a short final discussion. This would give those countries who have need to contact their capitals and to consult on this matter. It would give them time maybe to reach a better position to make decisions.

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): Hemos escuchado atentamente las diversas opiniones vertidas sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto propuesto por el Sr. Director General, tanto en favor de la aprobación de su nivel general por este Consejo, como en pro de una demora en su consideración hasta recibir instrucciones o un mayor análisis por parte de los respectivos gobiernos.

Debo confesar que la delegación argentina también se encuentra en algunas dudas respecto del análisis de este incremento, pero si tenemos en consideración los índices de inflación que se registran en el análisis de este presupuesto, considerándolo desde el punto de vista de la variación de los tipos de cambio, sin lugar a duda las variaciones propuestas resultan aceptables. Numerosos organismos internacionales deben enfrentar este proceso y la FAO no es una excepción; pero tampoco creemos en soluciones mágicas, como puede desprenderse de las esperanzas que pueden haber depositado algunas delegaciones en eventuales resultados de una conferencia u otra. Creemos, eso sí, que no debe desconocerse ninguna posibilidad de profundizar el estudio de problemáticas que pueden contribuir a encarar de un modo constructivo, y dentro del ámbito del organismo en que se realiza, algunos aspectos del desarrollo rural.

Creemos que en ese sentido una adecuada preparación y los medios necesarios para ello serán de vital importancia y estimamos que dentro de este espíritu se ha presentado por intermedio del Director Ejecutivo esta propuesta.

En general, la delegación argentina no es proclive a contribuir al incremento de los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales y piensa que en algún momento debe atenuarse esta carrera en el presupuesto. Pero en este caso consideramos que podemos aprobar en líneas generales el nivel del presupuesto haciéndonos las reservas de una opinión definitiva para desarrollarla dentro de la Conferencia.

A. MACHAYO (Observer for Kenya): I want to join the other delegations which have spoken in support of the Director-General's programme of work and also the level of budget. This has already been explained to us by the Director-General. We are aware of the circumstances which have led to a number of adjustments on the budget as previously prepared.

We also consider that among the overall objectives of the world community is the provision of food for all and that FAO is charged with this responsibility. We have therefore learned that this budget aims mainly at improving the food conditions in the world which as we know are not wholly satisfactory.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président a.i. du Comité financier): Je vais être excessivement bref pour répondre à l'honorable délégué de l'Allemagne qui a demandé quelques éclaircissements supplémentaires concernant le paragraphe 3.7 et le paragraphe 3.8.

Ma réponse sera très simple: il suffit que je renvoie M. le délégué de l'Allemagne au paragraphe 3.27 du rapport de la 39<sup>e</sup> session du Comité financier où il a bien précisé que le taux choisi n'était autre qu'un chiffre arrondi: 900 liras. Et nous avons bien précisé qu'au stade actuel - et je me réfère à la période de mai - il était inutile de rechercher plus de précisions.

Cependant, nous avons également, dans notre rapport, noté le fait qu'au cas où la situation évoluerait dans un sens ou dans un autre, il faudrait recalculer le niveau du budget.

Le Comité financier, ayant comme constance d'être conséquent avec lui-même, ne fait, dans le rapport de sa 40 session, que recalculer le chiffre pour la différence qui va s'effectuer entre le niveau proposé en juin et celui qui est discuté actuellement. En n'adoptant plus le chiffre arrondi de 900 liras et en considérant le taux de 880, le Comité présente un montant pour éclairer le Conseil sur les conséquences financières et l'augmentation du budget.

Maintenant, il n'appartient pas au Comité de décider, c'est à la Conférence de décider si elle veut adopter le chiffre de 880.

J'espère avoir répondu au délégué de l'Allemagne.

J. BAKER (United States of America): My delegation appreciates the clarifications which the Director General and Mr. West have offered this morning and this afternoon in support of the readjustment of the budget which was first presented to us this morning. Those who seem to have had the opportunity of prior consultation on this matter may have no problems, but I assure you, Mr Chairman, our difficulty is quite real and I have no alternative but to reserve my government's position,

I can equally assure members of this Council that our reservations, which may relate to the means by which we move toward our objectives do not relate to our objectives and least of all to the objective we share: pursuing an energetic campaign against hunger. We have no reservations on that score, and we should be happy to provide the evidence of that to such delegations as have put it into question.

We have taken note of the very relevant points made in this discussion this afternoon, particularly by the United Kingdom, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, many of which we consider worthy of further examination before the United States can take a position with respect to the budget,

Therefore, if this Council is now to make a recommendation to the Conference, the record will have to show that the United States cannot be associated with the decision to recommend a budget of \$211 350 000 to the Conference.

G. ESCARDO PEINADOR (España): Después de oír las razones que han aducido unos y otros, y dándonos cuenta principalmente de los fines que tiene encomendados la Organización, nosotros apoyamos el nivel de presupuesto que ha presentado el Director General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to thank very much the many delegations, the majority of the delegates, who have spoken and who have supported the revised level of the budget which I had the honour to submit this morning. Two or three delegates have opposed this level, five or six have reserved the position of their governments, but not one of those delegations, Mr. Chairman, has ever indicated to us, at least here, what were the instructions of their government or what was the level of the budget they were authorized to approve.

I do not see how a dialogue can take place between those who are in favour of \$211 million and those who are not in favour of anything and are just against the level of the budget. In any case, I should say that any level other than \$211 million for the same programme is completely unrealistic.

To the minority, to that small number of countries which is, however, important in many ways, I would like to ask what figure they have in mind if they want to have a lower budget and what activities they propose to cut. I have heard some advice given to me by one delegation to the effect that, by not upgrading my staff, or by cutting travel, we can find some money, make some savings; this is not clear.

Mr. Chairman, I have been encouraged by the majority of the delegations who have clearly, without reservation, given support to the level of the budget which I have proposed. Should the Council recommend to the Conference to adopt that resolution, I hope that those delegations which have reserved their position will be able to come with a clear position when we discuss it in Commission II, and I hope that they will join the other delegations, so that, this year also, the budget is approved unanimously.

I have noted that Indonesia said this morning that the same governments have unanimously approved, in November 1975, a budget for last biennium which called for an increase of 52 percent, of which 26 percent for substantive increases. This time, we are confronted with 17 or maybe 18 percent, and only 7 percent substantive increase, of course, for two years.

The Observer of Guinea has said that the FAO budget is less important than that of WHO. This is true, since WHO has a budget of more than \$300 million. The budget which is now proposed to you is the first which reflects all the policy decisions and the new strategy which you have yourself approved last July. It is a package of policies and, even this time, I was again able to cut 5 percent on publications and 5 percent on meetings. It calls for practically no new posts at Headquarters. However, as the Ambassador of Peru has said very rightly, when you prepare a Budget 16 months in advance, it has to be revised and we had an appointment today. Last June, I told you that we would have to fix the rate of the dollar at the time of the Conference. The time has come, it is today and, like every two years, we must now talk about the Budget. At what other time could we do so?

It maybe that some countries were disappointed that the lire stood so well; as far as I am concerned, I wish to congratulate the Italian Government for this progress in their economy. It remains, however, that it may be a matter of disappointment for some countries that, when we have to gather today, the cost of our programme has increased.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to appeal to all delegations to try to convince their Ministers of Finance, because it seems to me that it is essentially there that the problem lies, to accept to join the majority in approving this Budget. I hope, in particular, that the Netherlands, which have always been generous with FAO, after having heard that the final result of the operation is positive, since the 4.5 million increase is more than offset by the 7 million decrease, will be able to join Finland in a positive stand. So, maybe, when we meet again to discuss the level of the Budget in Commission II, we can have a unanimity, as we have had in the past, although, as I said, this should have been more difficult last biennium.

T. IWATA (Japan): I am certain my delegation is counted as a country which reserved its position, and we reserve our position only from the view point that the procedural matters are not fulfilled in this case. We should also like to reserve our position to make some comments on each item in the Commission II of the Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tenido un intenso debate sobre el nivel del presupuesto, en el cual han intervenido 36 oradores.

Creo que lo más práctico por mi parte es tratar de limitar el resumen a los aspectos esenciales de nuestras discusiones, en el entendido de que en el Comité de Redacción se agregarán aquellos otros asuntos que expresaron unos y otros.

Podríamos decir que el Consejo recomienda a la Conferencia que apruebe el nivel del presupuesto como aparece en el proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 77/INF./17 y agregar luego "pocos miembros del Consejo reservaron su posición hasta la Conferencia."

En mi opinión ese es el estado actual de los debates. Sin embargo, yo creo que todos nosotros apoyamos el llamado constructivo que hizo particularmente la delegación de Finlandia. Si antes de concluir nuestro actual período de sesiones los delegados de aquellos países que reservaron su posición cambiaran de actitud, esto se reflejaría en el documento final cuando discutamos el proyecto de informe.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, we have no problem with your summation but it may be the interpretation said in English what you did not say in Spanish. I had the impression only those delegations who have a change of mind will be able to speak on Thursday. The possibility is for those who are not able to speak today for very good reasons get a clearance to make their own statement as they see it about the Director-General's statement about the Programme of Work and Budget.

There is a new situation now. I had instructions on 2.06.8, and there is no point in having instructions on 2.06.8 if we have a different situation. What are we allowed to say on Thursday? Do we wait until the Commission and play around with 10, 15, 20 million dollars, which is an ugly situation. Can I ask for clarification as to procedure? I am not talking about substance, only procedure.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo veo así el estado actual de nuestras discusiones. El resumen que yo me permití hacer, refleja en la primera parte la opinión de la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo, y por eso encabezé mi resumen con las palabras "el Consejo ...", porque mi opinión es que ése es el resultado práctico. Y la segunda frase contiene la reserva de aquellos países que en ese momento no pudieron adherirse a la aprobación de ese nivel del presupuesto. De acuerdo con la costumbre, este resumen del Presidente pasará al Comité de Redacción. Normalmente, como en todas las sesiones anteriores, discutiremos el proyecto de redacción.

Lo que agregué en relación con el llamado del distinguido colega de Finlandia, se refería en mi opinión a que si antes del jueves, aquellos pocos países que reservaron su opinión cambian de actitud, pues lógicamente la consecuencia será suprimir la segunda parte de mi resumen. Así veo yo la situación.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): In effect, Mr. Chairman, what you are saying is - and I am not trying to pre-judge what will happen - that only those delegations who get instructions to change their positions will get a chance to speak, and the other delegations will have to await the Conference. In fact, what you are saying is there is no further discussion today.

I will be able to tell the people in Ottawa today there is no further discussion until the Conference.

C.V.K. RAO (India): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to speak. You have admirably summed up the conclusions. I was only tempted to intervene in view of the fact that practically everybody here including the countries who have reserved their positions are in favour of the Programme, and the difficulty only appears to be somewhat procedural.

We should fully appreciate a decision, as the distinguished delegate from Finland put it, but we should leave it to make an appeal to them, particularly to the delegates of the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Canada, that they put pressure or make recommendation in favour of the Budget being accepted in toto, taking into account the feelings that have been expressed by the large majority of the people here.

After all, the so-called increase is extremely minor, and the views of the large majority of the delegates have been taken note of by them, and if they put their weight in favour, ultimately it is their views which count back at home too, and if they do this we should be able to arrive at a unanimous conclusion in supporting the level of the budget. It is an appeal I would make on behalf of my delegation, on behalf of those countries who have moved fast in the past, to get the level of the budget approved which has been supported by practically everybody in this House.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario, sólo quería manifestarle al distinguido colega y amigo Sheffin del Canadá que él ha interpretado en su última intervención muy bien mi intención, que entiendo es la del Consejo. Si antes de terminar este período de sesiones, el Gobierno de Canadá cambiara de opinión, desde luego estoy seguro que todos los miembros del Consejo oíríamos con placer la rectificación de la posición de Canadá.

- 10. Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 including (continued)
- 10. Programme de travail et budget", 1978-79 et notamment (suite)
- 10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 con inclusion de: (continuación)

Evaluation of AGRIS

Evaluation consacrée à AGRIS

Evaluación de AGRIS

FAO Internship Programme

Programme d'internat FAO

Programa de Internado de la FAO

Future of "Review of Programmes"

Avenir de "l'examen des programmes"

Futuro del "Examen de Programas"

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): After this quite intensive debate on the question of the level of the Budget, anything I may say either on that subject or on the related subjects may be a bit of an anti-climax.

However, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee gave considerable attention to the documents before you, and there are some things which at least should be called to the attention of the Council, recognizing of course as the Chairman pointed out this morning, that the detailed discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget will take place in Commission II of the Conference.

I will therefore go through this document rather quickly from the Programme Committee's standpoint, just pointing out those things which it appears the Council should be informed about and might wish to react to at this Session. There are, in fact, five sections of the document which relate to the item before you, and I will go through those as quickly as possible.

The first of those is the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, which I will just refer to in passing on behalf of both Committees, where you will see that the Committees, recalling that this Council had in fact approved the broad outline and content of the Programme of Work when it reviewed the summary programme earlier, agreed the full Programme as now presented merited the re-affirmation of the Committees' support.

These Committees also welcomed the new format of the Programme of Work and Budget. They welcomed the manner in which the Programme presented the Field as well as the Regular Programme aspects, but of course fully recognized that the Field aspects were a projection as compared with the more precise terms that were possible for the Regular Programme.

Under the General section of the Programme Committee's Report on the Programme of Work and Budget, which begins with paragraph 2.4, you will see that the Committee in particular reaffirmed its view that the programme level should be protected from the consequences of unbudgeted inflation, or unfavourable currency fluctuations. It welcomed the presentation of the Programme in three main aspects - programme, region and organizational units. Here again the Programme Committee in particular welcomed the inclusion of as much detail as was practicable on the projected Field Programme.

In connexion with the drafting of future programmes it is pointed out in paragraph 2.8 that the Conference should be informed of any significant changes and the causes for the revisions in the changes in the Programme of Work and Budget as approved by the Conference for the past biennium. The Committee considered that the Director-General's introduction was very helpful in giving an overall picture of the re-orientation of priorities. It considered that the proposed organizational changes, which were minimal, were desirable but, as it had indicated earlier, it welcomed the fact that the Director-General is not proposing any major organizational changes.

The Committee made many detailed suggestions, as you will see, beginning with paragraph 2.12. I will not make any attempt to review those suggestions since those are points that delegations may, if they choose, take up in Commission II of the Conference.

I will just point to a few problem areas. First, at the bottom of page 7 in the English version, beginning with paragraph 2.45, you will see, particularly in paragraph 2.46, a reference to a proposed International Service for National Agricultural Research, which arose in a recent meeting of the CGIAR. The Committee felt that the mandate of FAO had long included the kind of activities which such a service might provide, that FAO was fully equipped to provide those services, and therefore - paragraph 2.48 - the Committee wished to advise the Council that it believed this new development could not only detract from the Organization's role and mandate but could also contribute to further proliferation of international agencies, unproductive administrative costs, and partition of valuable resources needed for agricultural development in developed countries. I just flag this as a potential problem: it remains to be seen whether the idea is pushed.

In paragraph 2.57 I would point out that the Committee enquired about progress on the new institutional arrangements for nutrition in the UN System recommended by ACC. Members of the Council will recall that this will comprise an ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition, an Advisory Group on Nutrition and tripartite meetings on the Sub-Committee, its AGN, and representatives of bilateral donors and institutions from developing countries. The Committee recommended that the Council should concur in these arrangements and in FAO's participation therein.

In paragraph 2.60 you will see reference to this Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies. We questioned the future of that Committee, suggesting that the Committee might well review this question at its next meeting, which we understood would be held early in 1978, and make recommendation to this Council whether or not it should be continued and if so what its role should be.

It is perhaps also worthwhile to call attention to the section on Food and Agricultural Policy which begins at paragraph 2.70, where the Committee gave some attention to the project "Agriculture: Towards 2000" which was to be FAO's primary contribution to the work on development strategy for the 1980's. You will see that the Committee cautioned against a theoretical approach to the study and was informed that the scope and content of this study were currently being re-examined. This is something which I think the Director-General will wish to inform the Council on in due course, but it does not require any action at this time.

We turn now to paragraph 2.89, where the Committee included a notation to bring to the attention of the Council the fact that within the UNDP sector a serious problem was facing FAO which could have repercussions for several years. Apparently, as a consequence of the UNDP financial crisis, a couple of years back, project approvals and work on the project pipeline were now extremely small and far from enough to maintain a normal flow of projects and a normal delivery rate. Consequently, there was considerable danger in a further falling off of those activities even though the funds were available to maintain them. I just flag that as a point about which the Council should be informed.

In paragraph 2.93 I would just flag the fact that the Committee included some figures on the work of the Investment Centre missions and the project approvals which have grown out of those missions' activities. You will see that a very substantial amount of funds has been channelled into agricultural development programmes as a result thereof, also that there have been very few abortive missions which have not led to any constructive projects.



This morning some reference was made by one or two speakers to the Industry Cooperative Programme. In this connexion I would draw your attention to the paragraphs beginning at paragraph 2.98 and running to 2.101, which give a brief resumé of the Director-General's concerns in this regard and the Committee's concurrence in those concerns, and as a result a recommendation to the Council that it request the Director-General to submit to the 1978 spring session of the Programme Committee a detailed analysis of the matter and a proposal for a change in the status of the Programme.

The paragraphs beginning at paragraph 2.102 and running to paragraph 2.108 will provide you with a status account of the development of the FAO country representatives' activities as they were roughly five weeks ago. I assume that in due course the Director-General will update those figures and lists of countries, but I just flag it as a point of interest to many members of the Council.

Under the Technical Cooperation Programme beginning at paragraph 2.109 you will see an account of the status of developments in that programme at the time of the Programme Committee's session. Here again I assume that you will be given an updated account at an appropriate time during the Conference. I would point out only in paragraph 2.114 that the expected carry-over of uncommitted funds at the end of the biennium was expected to be somewhere between \$2 million and \$3 million.

In paragraph 2.124 on pages 18 and 19 you will see a number of suggestions which the Committee felt it might put forward in the thought that this Council might wish to suggest this approach as a means of handling the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget in Commission II of the Conference. Since most delegations have had this document only a few days, obviously they could not take these suggestions into account in their preparations up to that point. At the same time, the Committee did feel that initially the Commission might concentrate on the Director-General's Introduction and on the Explanatory Notes and then the various Chapters 1 to 8, concentrations on the broad aspects of the Programme rather than the detailed aspects of it. We listed a number of suggestions which delegations and the Chairman of Commission II may wish to take into account.

Turning now to the Review of Evaluation of AGRIS, I would recall when referring to paragraphs 2.125 to 2.128 that four years ago the Conference approved the continuation of AGRIS on an experimental basis for a four-year period subject to review at the end of that time. That review has been carried out, as you have been informed. In the meantime the Director-General has made arrangements for the AGRINDEX costs to be deleted from the FAO budget and taken over by a private printer. The Committee is in general agreement with the findings of the review and with the inclusion in the Programme of Work and Budget of the costs other than those for AGRINDEX. I will not go further than that at this stage of the afternoon.

I should now like to turn to page 23, paragraphs 2.156 to 2.158, where in accord with an earlier request by this Council the Committee have reviewed the FAO Internship Programme. This was included in the Programme of Work and Budget and will also be before Commission II of the Conference as a whole for approval. You will see that the Committee in paragraph 2.157 made a number of recommendations regarding the future of this Programme, including a proposal that it should cater for professionally more mature and experienced trainees; that it should reduce the total training period from the present eleven months to six months; that it should emphasize the substantive and practical aspects of the technical training; and that it should be renamed to indicate more appropriately the purpose of the programme; and in (d) you will see a proposal as to one possible name.

If you will turn back to page 21 in the English version, paragraph 2.147 to paragraph 2.153, you will find reference to the "Review of Programmes" exercise which the Programme Committee has been carrying out for many years now on behalf of the Council, with a view to facilitating the work of this Council by keeping it informed of progress made in the various programmes and activities of the Organization. In discussing this question the Committee agreed that the exercise had been useful to the members of the Committee. On the other hand it had observed that the Council had made relatively little use of the results of those reviews, at least in its public discussion. Maybe members read them privately and did not wish to discuss them publicly.

The Committee also noted that, with regard to the proposed new system of Regular Programme Evaluation which would be instituted at the beginning of the next biennium, this might possibly have some effect on the nature of the Committee's reviews, although the form and timing of the two exercises were different. Further, as the Council well knows, there are proposals for some restructuring of the Programme Committee which may have some influence on the nature of the reviews that the Committee might undertake. Therefore, the Committee suggested some alternatives.

In paragraph 2.153 it indicated that one alternative would be to follow essentially the present arrangement but adapting it to the new programme structure. Another alternative might be for the Committee to review certain specific programmes on a selective basis and not try to cover the whole Programme in the course of every couple of bienniums. This is something the Council may wish to

react to, or it may wish to leave it until the new Programme Committee - in whatever form the Conference finally agrees on - is in place, and that Committee has a chance to react to this proposed exercise. My personal feeling is that the exercise has been a good one but I am a bit uneasy as to how far it has been useful to the Council itself.

I think I need say no more at this stage by way of introduction. I apologize even for saying that much this late in the afternoon but there were a number of things which seemed worth drawing to the attention of the Council without going into the detail of the Programme of Work and Budget itself.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias doctor Phillips por esa presentación muy completa que nos ha hecho.

Como habíamos decidido tomaremos en conjunto tres subtemas del Tema 10: "Evaluación de AGRIS", "Programa de Internado de la FAO" y "Futuro del Examen de Programas".

Está abierto el debate.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I shall limit my delegation's comment to two of the three sub-items, namely, first, AGRIS and then to "Review of Programmes" exercise. First, as to the evaluation of AGRIS, my delegation would also like to express appreciation for the report of the Independent Appraisal Team. We agree with the Director-General that this report gives an adequate picture of the present level of development of AGRIS. We support in principle the recommendations of the appraisal team. We do this gladly because we find a number of remarks and suggestions in the recommendation of the appraisal team which we made in preceding discussions on the further development of AGRIS.

In this connexion I think in particular of the refined categorization and indexation or of the necessary intensification of communications between the input centres and the coordination centre. In the discussion on AGRIS we feel it should also be pointed out that the range of subjects and literature density of AGRIS do not yet meet the requirements of our industrialized country. For our own information and documentation system, AGRIS is not yet equivalent. It still has to be regarded as an additional task which national documentation agencies have to fulfill with regard to making inputs available.

However, there is no need to stress the importance AGRIS has for developing countries; where no, or only inadequate, documentation and information services exist, AGRIS is of great benefit and closes a real gap indeed.

Summing up, let me state that the Federal Republic of Germany continues its efforts to cooperate in the existing framework of AGRIS. My country's inputs have reached in 1977 the Objective of 10 000 documents. The further work on AGRIS should, in our opinion, be devoted in particular to increasing its usability which means that AGRIS has to be transferred as soon as possible to the operational effective phase, so that the earnings from the publication of AGRINDEX by APIMONDIA will also increase. So much, for the first item, AGRIS.

As to the future of "Review of Programmes" exercise, I can be very brief. Pending the final decision of the Conference and also pending further consideration which might be given to the future work of the Programme Committee, pending that decision we would at this juncture of the discussion indicate that we could go along with the proposal for the future "Review of Programmes" exercise which is spelt out in paragraph 2.153 of the document before us.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président a.i. du Comité financier): C'est uniquement pour compléter par quelques points spécifiques la présentation faite par Dr Phillips. Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur les remarques du Comité financier concernant le Programme de travail et budget, figurant du paragraphe 3.4 au paragraphe 3.30. A cet égard, je voudrais préciser que le Comité s'est penché en particulier sur le grand programme 5.2 ainsi que sur les chapitres 6, 7 et 8. D'une manière générale, le Comité a estimé que ce premier Programme de travail et budget qui nous est présenté a reflété pleinement la nouvelle politique adoptée par le Conseil en 1976 ainsi que les recommandations que le Comité financier et le Conseil ont présentées lors des dernières sessions.

Au paragraphe 3.7, le Comité attire l'attention du Conseil sur le fait qu'il y a des engagements supplémentaires qui ne sont pas encore couverts par le budget proposé en juin dernier.

Au paragraphe 3.8, le Comité souligne les conséquences financières pour notre budget si on adopte un taux différent de celui sur lequel nous avons calculé notre budget en juin 1977.

Pour ce qui est des paragraphes 3.9 à 3.11, le Comité a tenu à souligner la discordance qui a existé entre la méthode de calcul du budget concernant le PAM entre New York et Rome. Vous trouverez ces commentaires spécifiques au paragraphe 3.9. En outre le Comité réitère au paragraphe 3.11 la recommandation qu'il a faite à sa 39ème session, et qui concerne la nécessité de créer un compte de réserve. Ce compte sera alimenté (cela figure au paragraphe 3.10) par 5 millions, qui seront pris sur le surplus que nous allons avoir à la fin de notre biennium et qui est dû à l'évolution favorable du taux de change.

Aux paragraphes 3.12 et 3.13, il s'agit de la politique concernant les postes. Le Comité n'a pas cessé d'appuyer cette politique qui consiste à réduire le nombre des postes au Siège. Vous avez d'ailleurs des chiffres éloquentes qui figurent dans notre rapport, à savoir que 34 postes du cadre organique ont été supprimés et uniquement 15 postes ont été créés.

Au paragraphe 3.14 le Comité a relevé que le pourcentage du budget total consacré aux postes tombera dans le prochain biennium et passera de 67, 8 pour cent sous le biennium actuel à 62, 2 pour cent pour le prochain biennium.

Au paragraphe 3.15 le Comité a appuyé également l'emploi un peu plus élargi des experts-conseils, car il estime que cela pourra fournir à notre Organisation beaucoup plus de compétence. De même le Comité se félicite du fait que le Directeur général fait davantage appel aux institutions nationales des pays en développement.

Je voudrais maintenant me référer au programme 5.2.1 qui concerne les services administratifs. On constate pour ce programme une certaine réduction. En plus, nous notons que le Secrétariat déploie des efforts pour maintenir les coûts à un niveau minimum en ce qui concerne l'achat, l'entretien du matériel et les fournitures. Ce point sera repris d'ailleurs demain quand on discutera le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes. En effet, à cet égard, le Comité s'est déclaré partisan d'une politique d'achat massive lorsque les économies réalisées l'emportent sur les coûts supplémentaires de stockage, et surtout le Comité recommande de ne pas consacrer l'usage qui veut qu'on amende très souvent les contrats une fois adjugés. Comme je l'ai dit, nous reprendrons cette question demain.

Concernant le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes, le Comité a relevé certaines erreurs et certaines omissions dans les services financiers. Force détails ont été fournis en réponse à ces questions, et le Comité considère qu'en général il faudrait essayer, non pas de fournir plus de personnel ou d'augmenter automatiquement les effectifs pour donner plus d'efficacité à ces services, mais d'essayer de simplifier les méthodes dans le cadre des ressources existantes et en particulier de maintenir tous les contrôles rentables. Il recommande l'utilisation du personnel affecté à d'autres secteurs pour renforcer ces services, dans la mesure où ce personnel n'a pas assez d'activité.

Je passe directement au chapitre 6, qui concerne les charges communes, uniquement pour attirer l'attention sur le fait que le véritable taux d'inflation se remarque surtout dans les dépenses concernant ce chapitre.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Bel Hadj Amor por su presentación muy útil.

Señores, son las 5 y media. Tengo en mi lista por lo menos cuatro oradores anotados, mas Canadá y Gabon. Hemos tenido hoy un día de intenso trabajo y creo que conviene ahora levantar nuestra sesión para seguir mañana por la mañana.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): After having listened to the introduction given to us by the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees I wonder whether it would be possible to get some detailed information on the subject which I mentioned earlier, namely the miscellaneous income and then about how it occurred and some detail about the 5 million and the 2 million which I had asked for. I have not had an answer yet from the Secretariat, perhaps this could be taken into consideration tomorrow. I refer to paragraph 3.52 and perhaps the Secretariat or the Finance Committee could give us that information.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Sr. Director General le suministrará a usted mañana las informaciones pertinentes.

India ¿quiere hablar ahora o mañana por la mañana?

S.S. MAHDI (India): Just to seek some clarification because I am a little confused. We have heard two very excellent introductions from the two chairmen on the entire reports of the Programme and the Finance Committees respectively. Now I am not sure whether we are supposed to discuss now the entire report or certain items which have been identified on the Order of the Day today. In other words are we expected to confine our comments to the specific items of AGRIS, FAO Internship Programme and the future of "Review of Programme" Exercise, or are these interventions supposed to cover the entire span of these two reports?

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr Mahdi, delegado de India; creo que ha hecho una intervención muy útil para la Presidencia. Yo pensaba aclarar la situación. Los dos Presidentes se han referido en general a los asuntos que contienen los informes de esos dos Comités, pero bajo el tema 10 sólo vamos a discutir concretamente los 3 subtemas que aparecen allí; el resto de los informes será discutido en el tema 15, que son asuntos dimanantes de los informes de esos mismos dos Comités.

Si no hay ninguna otra observación por parte de los miembros del Consejo, estaba diciendo que mañana seguiremos con el siguiente orden del día: en la mañana, conclusión del tema 10; luego temas 13, 14 y 7; y en la tarde, temas 8, 11, 12, y si fuese posible, con un poco de optimismo, también el 9.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario y la Secretaría no tiene ningún anuncio, levantamos la sesión y nos reuniremos de nuevo mañana a las 9.30, puntuales, por favor.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La seance est levée a 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/3

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1977)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
10. Programme of Work and Budget, 1978-79 (continued)
10. Programme de travail et budget, 1978-79 (suite)
10. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1978-79 (continuación)
- Evaluation of AGRIS
  - Evaluation consacrée à AGRIS
  - Evaluación de AGRIS
  - FAO Internship Programme
  - Programme d'internat FAO
  - Programma de Internado de la FAO
  - Future of "Review of Programmes" Exercise
  - Avenir de "l'examen des programmes"
  - Futuro del "Examen de Programas"

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a iniciar la sesión de esta mañana, como ya acordamos ayer con el tema 10, que como ya dije, tiene tres subtemas a tratar conjuntamente que son la Evaluación de AGRIS; el Programa de Internado de la FAO; y el Futuro del "Examen de Programas".

H. MAURIA (Finland): On this occasion I just want to flag our interest for one of the items on the list, namely FOODAGRIS. We have taken note of the views of the Programme Committee regarding the appraisal of AGRIS made by a team of consultants.

I can say that my delegation is satisfied to see that the results of the activities of AGRIS during its first years have been encouraging and that they have received full support.

My delegation is ready to recommend further support for AGRIS, particularly in view of the implementation in the future of level two, which we feel will provide specialized information and documentation material in various areas of interest. However, we see that the full benefit of AGRIS will obviously be gained first after the initial stage of some years' duration. Therefore, the AGRIS system should in our view be more on the medium-term basis to secure its development in the long run.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General in connexion with the programme of work proposed to us: it is a balanced programme in substance and in form and presents an obvious improvement over the previous programme. We wish to congratulate them on this noticeable improvement.

As for AGRIS, we wish to express our appreciation of the very careful steps which the Director-General has taken in the programme, which is in line with the wishes of the conference of last year.

We also wish to support the report of the Joint Committee, and the recommendations proposed. Although the programme has not satisfied all the requirements of the developed countries, as the delegate of Germany said yesterday, it satisfied most of the requirements of the developing countries, and this programme can give considerable service to these countries who are on their way in the development of agricultural research. We in Egypt, as one country of the Near East, have been forward in participating in this programme after the FAO Manfield Mission, which included Mr. and Mrs. Demetriscu. Egypt participated in this programme and has been participating for two years. There has been documentation of about two thousand researches which were published by the various Egyptian institutions in addition to the values gained through documentation at the international level. There is a great deal of benefit in the sense that it avoids duplication among the various research institutes. Egypt cooperated with the Canadian IDRC, which enabled us to obtain assistance in training workers in the project both in Vienna and at Sheffield University, so that we could train many of those working in agricultural information.

In connexion with future years, the programme should be directed toward a continued development in order to achieve more participation of FAO countries, particularly developing countries, who must become accustomed to participating in this programme by more training of people undertaking work in AGRIS. It should further lead to the exchange of documentation among specialized centres. This could be further achieved through the assistance and cooperation of FAO and Unesco.

The next point is the FAO Internship Programme, and here we disagree with the conclusion of the Joint Committee to change the name of the programme. It has deleted the name FAO: it has simply spoken of a professional training programme in the field of agricultural development. It does not clearly mention the nature of this programme. The United Nations initiated this programme in the early 1950s for the training of junior officers, particularly in the developing countries, in the way of work in the United Nations and its specialized organizations. Therefore we agree with the conclusions of the Commission in connexion with the particular objective of this internship programme, yet we do not believe that it relates to agricultural development, but it simply concentrates on the training in developing countries on the FAO procedures and systems. The objectives have been reflected in the proposal that the programme should be implemented through cooperation of the personnel division of FAO, in the sense that the greatest number of staff should be trained on FAO work, particularly in programming and not on agricultural development which involves planning and marketing which are not the purpose of the Programme. We therefore maintain that the programme should be called the FAO Internship Programme.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): We just want to make a brief reference to the future of the review of programme exercise. We think that the review of programmes is a very good exercise. As a matter of fact at one time the Council itself indulged in the exercise of looking at programmes in the form of the institutional structure of the organization. We recommend that this exercise should continue. Perhaps the Committee should take a hard look at whether they are doing it the right way and assimilating the results of their exercise. This is no criticism of the Chairman of the Committee, as each generation of committee has a different approach and now there is a new generation. We highly recommend that this exercise be continued.

As to the proposed programme of activities starting with the 1978 spring session I would have thought that special programmes would be high on the priority list and perhaps could be moved up to the spring of 1978 because of the special programme. This Organization has quite a large number of special programmes and I think it would be very useful and helpful if the Committee could undertake to do it in the Spring of 1978.

C.V.K. RAO (India): So far as AGRIS is concerned, we support the Programme and the new approach to financing. However, we would wish that the same kind of information should also be collected from the developed countries as is being asked for from the developing countries. It would be extremely useful to have this information because this is the best way of getting to know what is happening, and we would also benefit from it.

As for the questionnaire sent to us, our experts feel it asks for much more in-depth information than is being provided by the developed countries. This is also a matter which should be looked into.

So far as the future of the "Review of Programmes" exercise is concerned, we would prefer the first alternative which implies continuation of Programme reviews by the Programme and Finance Committees and the FAO Council on a systematic and sector by sector basis. Of course, there could be flexibility in the item suggested for 1978 to 1980. In the 1978 Programme it has been mentioned that rural development would be reviewed. We would like to revert to what we said yesterday, that agrarian reform merits a special review by itself. It is desirable that more attention be given to agrarian reform than has been done until now. If that could be fitted in, in one of those sessions, it would be extremely useful.

So far as the internship programme is concerned, we agree with the new orientation of the internship programme based on the experience and implementation of the past several years. We also agree with the objectives mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of paragraph 2.157 of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees. We would, however, like FAO to develop a follow-up also on the programme in order to ensure that the best use is made of the training when the interns go back to the respective countries. After going back to their countries the trainees could be asked to make their own evaluation of the programme which would serve as a feed-back to the FAO.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je ne voudrais pas anticiper, mais le débat que nous avons commencé hier a laissé l'impression que plus les présidents de comités s'évertuent à nous faire des commentaires clairs, plus les membres du Conseil s'évertuent à devenir obscurs. Il me souvient qu'à notre session de juin tous les délégués avaient appuyé le programme tout en félicitant le Directeur général; il me souvient également que le délégué de l'Italie avait en toute sincérité estimé que ce programme présentait une vision cohérente (et ce sont ses propres termes), une ligne politique active et pragmatique, par exemple; que

le délégué des Etats-Unis avait émis le souhait d'étudier en détail ce programme, non pas pour le programme lui-même mais pour apprécier les moyens de réaliser ce programme.

Je voudrais ici aussi rappeler une expression très encourageante du délégué des Etats-Unis qui nous avait déclaré que son pays essaie toujours de joindre le geste à la parole, et le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne estimait (je cite) que les principes étaient une bonne chose, mais qu'en ce qui concerne les problèmes de la faim, donc humanitaires, il fallait y accorder une attention particulière et des dérogations.

J'aurais cru que, à cette session, nous aurions proposé au Directeur général des points précis à sous-traire de ce programme. Malgré les efforts que nous avons faits et que nous avons loués à notre session de juin sur les aspects de ce programme, je crois qu'au niveau du Groupe des 77 tout a été dit.

Si vous le permettez, je voudrais présenter ici une seule observation qui n'a peut-être pas de liens directs avec les points précis que nous étudions, mais j'ai entendu - et je crois que le Dr Philips est assez intègre et nous le connaissons suffisamment pour apprécier ce qu'il dit - dans sa présentation, hier, le Dr Philips, nous faire une déclaration très dure s'agissant du danger d'une cessation des activités du PNUD.

En juin, Monsieur le Président, comme devait se tenir à Genève le Conseil d'administration du PNUD, vous aviez fait une proposition modifiant notre ordre du jour. Le représentant des Pays-Bas qui devait prendre part à cette réunion nous déclarait ici même que la question la plus importante résidait dans l'intérêt vital des pays bénéficiaires bien desservis par l'assistance technique fournie par le PNUD. Le représentant des Etats-Unis nous disait ici que les ressources du PNUD étaient en augmentation et que les inconvénients administratifs seront corrigés pour que le PNUD s'améliore et que ses résultats se concrétisent par un financement de plus en plus important.

Lorsque j'ai entendu le Dr Phillips nous dire que le PNUD allait être en cessation de ses activités, je n'ai pas manqué de relever cela car nous avons toujours demandé que le PNUD - que certains considèrent encore comme le centre unique de financement, et ce sont des expressions qui ont été dites en juin - ne soit pas pour la FAO un frein.

C'est pour cela que j'ai voulu insister sur ce point qui ne semble pas avoir retenu l'attention, mais si M. Yriart nous disait qu'il fallait une coopération avec le PNUD dans un esprit de franche collaboration, il ne fallait pas considérer le PNUD comme le seul organe de financement, et il faut que la FAO puisse, dans son budget ordinaire, prendre en compte certaines activités qui ont coûté très cher par la cessation de certaines opérations, à des pays pauvres.

Tous les programmes nécessitent des moyens d'action, et je ne peux pas dissocier le Programme des moyens financiers qu'il faut que la FAO demande. Ces moyens financiers ne sont pas énormes.

Lorsque l'on parle du Programme d'internat, je vous dirai que je suis d'accord avec ce que vient de dire l'honorable délégué de l'Inde. En effet, il y a là les éléments d'information et de formation que les pays pauvres ne doivent pas laisser, étant donné qu'ils en ont énormément besoin.

Pour ce qui est du Programme AGRIS, je rejoins son observation, car le questionnaire qui nous a été envoyé - et je crois que le Gabon n'a même pas répondu - était un questionnaire destiné aux pays riches, disposant de moyens, disposant de techniciens, disposant de cadres pour répondre à ce questionnaire.

Nous ne sommes en ce qui concerne AGRIS qu'au stade de l'exploitation; nous ne pouvons pas encore coopérer activement. Cependant, nous sommes d'accord que le Programme AGRIS soit continué et surtout que la phase 2 soit entreprise non pas dans une optique très longue mais à moyen terme, car les problèmes de la faim sont des problèmes à moyen terme, et nous voulons essayer de disposer des éléments nécessaires pour que notre contribution ne soit pas considérée comme une petite contribution, mais qu'elle soit considérée comme la sueur des hommes; car il ne s'agit pas pour produire de lire les documents qui nous sont expédiés, mais de les exploiter et de mettre en pratique tout ce que nous pouvons en retirer.

M. le Président, en parlant du Programme et du budget, je regrette de lier les deux choses mais pour moi elles sont indissociables. S'il y a des objections, et en juin il n'y en a pas eu, je regrette; que ceux qui en ont, les formulent, mais que ce ne soit pas la critique pour la critique. Ils ont félicité le Directeur général pour ses efforts à nous fournir un programme qui leur convienne. Il ne suffit pas de dire: "le Programme est bon, il faut faire quelque chose, mais nous ne pouvons pas donner de tels moyens", car lorsque, dans nos Etats, nous étudions nos budgets, lorsqu'une opération ne peut pas être réalisée, lorsqu'elle ne peut pas être inscrite, donc bénéficier d'une ligne budgétaire, nous repoussons cette opération et nous envisageons de l'inscrire à une date ultérieure.



Pour l'instant, je crois que le problème qui se pose est de dire au Directeur général, pour ceux qui ont des observations, que dans le budget qui nous est présenté, compte tenu du fait que nous ne pouvons pas accepter son niveau, nous demandons de supprimer telle opération, et alors, le Conseil examinerait des propositions concrètes. Mais jusqu'ici, je n'ai entendu que des hommages pour le Programme, et j'aurais souhaité que ces hommages soient aussi faits pour le niveau du budget, car, ainsi que le disait le représentant des Etats-Unis, le programme était bon et il lui fallait les moyens. Mais ne soyons pas en contradiction avec nous-mêmes, continuons dans la ligne de nos déclarations, et s'il faut entamer une opération, demandons au Directeur général de la revoir, de la supprimer de son programme, mais n'acceptons pas le programme tout en laissant à côté le niveau du budget.

Je tiens à ce que le niveau du budget obtienne le consentement, l'accord, je crois le consensus de ce Conseil pour être présenté globalement à la Conférence. Il ne faut pas soustraire telle ou telle partie, en laissant le programme tel qu'il est présenté. Il faut soustraire une partie qui corresponde à une partie du programme. Dans ces conditions, nous pouvons examiner la proposition; mais si cette proposition n'est pas faite, je souhaite que ceux qui veulent réduire le niveau du budget essaient de revenir sur leurs propositions.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): We wish to offer the following comments on AGRIS based upon our own experience in Pakistan. AGRINDEX published by AGRIS is a useful tool for selective discussion of information and should be continued. However, we find that lack of appropriately and adequately trained personnel in participating developing countries like Pakistan inhibits these countries from securing and supplying the requisite inputs for AGRIS at the national level. We would therefore suggest that FAO should place more emphasis than has been the case so far on training personnel from developing participating countries in the use of AGRIS formats. Furthermore, FAO would do well to so organize AGRIS input centres in the participating developing countries as to reinforce and upgrade their capability to benefit from, by effectively and fully participating in, the AGRIS system.

As for the FAO Internship Programme and the "Review of Programmes" Exercise we support the continuation of both.

E. CAKAJDA (Tchécoslovaquie): Ma délégation se félicite du programme de travail de l'Organisation proposé par M. le Directeur général pour le biennium prochain.

Bien qu'un plan de travail de notre Organisation dans un délai objet de deux années ne puisse pas répondre à tous les problèmes qui se sont accumulés dans le développement agricole depuis une longue période sur le plan international, il s'agit là d'un pas important en avant et d'un pas concret et nous pensons aussi que les priorités proposées sont bien choisies et définies.

C'est pourquoi notre délégation, au cours de la Conférence, va voter pour le programme proposé, sans répéter les observations présentées ici par certaines délégations dans l'exposé que nous venons de suivre. Ma délégation voudrait néanmoins souligner deux points:

- Premièrement, soutien à la recherche et soutien au programme de la recherche fondée par la FAO en Europe dans un réseau de coopération qui est ouvert aux pays en voie de développement;
- deuxièmement, nous partageons les avis exprimés par le Comité du Programme, par la délégation de la Finlande, et les remarques de la délégation de l'Egypte. Nous sommes d'avis qu'il s'agit d'une activité généralement très utile.

Je voudrais signaler que, jusqu'à présent, nous avons évalué que la Tchécoslovaquie a contribué par son expert pour 4 pour cent aux informations utilisées par le système de l'AGRIS.

En ce qui concerne les possibilités techniques de la Tchécoslovaquie, pour contribuer au programme proposé par le Directeur général, spécialement sur le terrain, nous voudrions attirer votre attention sur certaines priorités qui existent pour la collaboration sur le programme de développement:

- Premièrement, en ce qui concerne les services vétérinaires;
- deuxièmement, en ce qui concerne le développement des ressources forestières et des industries des forêts;
- troisièmement, en ce qui concerne la formation des experts pour l'agriculture, pour les services vétérinaires et pour les forêts.

Sans vouloir précéder l'exposé du Chef de ma délégation auprès de la Conférence, je me suis permis d'exposer certains points d'intérêt pour ma délégation.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I just wanted to make a few comments on the concluding heads of item 10. I want to refer to AGRIS, to the Internship Programme and the "Review of Programmes".

First on AGRIS - while we have not made much use of the products of the system, we have been a major supplier, I want to make two points. The first links with the remark of the Indian representative and to the value of training and particularly the use of training when trainees return home. This is a point to which we also attach importance and I would make one comment on the high cost of training under this programme. It is that it should be closely related, to the particular circumstances of the particular requirement in question.

Secondly, we note the staffing implications of the Report on AGRIS. The detailed figures show a heavy staff commitment over the next two years. We would hope that FAO will satisfy itself about the meeting of these additional resources.

I would like to say very briefly on the Future of the "Review of Programmes" Exercise that we can support its continuation and we can accept the content and the timing of the proposal for 1978. We find the work of the Programme Committee in reviewing various aspects of FAO's activities valuable. The Committee's exercise takes place in a non-conference year when there is time and opportunity to carry out a thorough examination of the progress made in programme implementation and this we think should continue. On form and content, the continuation programme suggested by the Committee seems entirely acceptable and if there are any adjustments we think that these should take place in the 1980 Programme.

P. HALIMI (France): Pour répondre à votre appel, je limiterai mon intervention à quelques remarques sur le projet AGRIS.

L'enseignement des premières années de fonctionnement du système AGRIS ne peut que confirmer la continuation et la concrétisation de cette expérience. Les évaluations qui ont pu en être faites, notamment par le groupe d'experts indépendants constitué sous l'égide de l'Unesco, nous engagent toutefois à formuler un certain nombre de réflexions. Ces réflexions concernent en premier lieu les conditions de viabilité d'AGRIS pour que le projet confirme les espérances qu'il a fait naître.

Il est absolument indispensable que la totalité des pays qui adhèrent à l'Organisation des Nations Unies s'engage à participer effectivement au système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricole. Cela signifie que tous les pays qui jouent un rôle important dans le domaine de la recherche et de l'innovation agricole fournissent au système international de documentation une contribution à la mesure de leurs moyens. Cela signifie aussi que tous les pays dont l'apport est insuffisant - soit parce qu'ils ne disposent pas des moyens appropriés, soit parce qu'ils ne font pas l'effort qui leur incombe - de même que tous les pays qui ne participent pas au système AGRIS, s'engagent à s'associer au programme pour apporter une contribution à la mesure de leurs responsabilités. J'appuie sur ce point, sur ce qui a été dit avant moi par le délégué de l'Egypte.

Nos réflexions portent en deuxième lieu sur les aspects techniques du programme AGRIS, et sur les améliorations qui peuvent lui être apportées.

Dans l'optique de l'amélioration de la gestion et du fonctionnement du système, il s'agit de consolider les infrastructures nationales d'information et de documentation, d'aider leur création là où leur mise en place rencontre des difficultés, de façon à améliorer le champ couvert par la base de données pour faire d'AGRIS un instrument efficace du transfert technologique.

Dans l'optique du perfectionnement d'AGRIS, c'est le passage au niveau 2 qui est le progrès le plus significatif, car il permettra de passer d'un système simplifié de dépouillement de la littérature conventionnelle et non conventionnelle à une classification sélective des documents accompagnée de résumés analytiques simplifiant l'investigation des utilisateurs.

Mais avant d'accéder à ce niveau, des améliorations progressives devraient contribuer au perfectionnement du système et accroître son efficacité.

Ces quelques remarques exposent dans leurs grandes lignes le point de vue de la délégation française. Nous aurons l'occasion de revenir plus longuement sur ce point au cours de la Conférence.

La France souhaite que tous les pays membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies s'engagent réellement à contribuer à AGRIS, et elle forme le vœu que la FAO continue à en rester le tuteur afin d'être le garant de son épanouissement.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): We shall be very brief. We would just like to make a few comments and observations on the work programme. My country, like most other countries in the Sahel region, is now facing a renewed attack of a drought, and I think my delegation would like to express its thanks to FAO for the immediate assistance they have rendered to this area, primarily in food and food aid. My delegation therefore endorses and welcomes the 950 million approved by the CPA for contribution to the World Food Programme in the biennium 1979-80.

In addition, we would like to express our thanks also to the Commission for the International Fertilizer Scheme.

Before concluding I would like to comment also on the level of the programme budget. Our delegation has been very fortunate to be a party in the last Council in arriving at the level of the budget, which the Director-General has reviewed and which is presently before us. There are difficult points of principle which involve two different schools of thought. Some developed countries are not very happy about the transfer of monies from savings from one side to the other, and the majority of the developing countries, I would say the Group of 77, believes strongly that savings made from one of the sources of the budget should be transferred to augment another component within the budget that needs these financial resources. This we have debated at length, but it seems that there are certain groups that have strong principles in opposing the transfer of capital from one component to another. I am glad to know that the Director-General, as usual, is prepared to accommodate all schools of thought. The announcement that a saving of 10 million will be transferred to the governments, will be refunded to the governments and not totally transferred to other components shows that the Director-General is willing to cooperate with all schools of thought. This spirit of cooperation and this dialogue which we have started last year I hope will continue, and those who believe strongly that a precedent was being set by transferring funds from one saving to another and will be a continuous exercise, I am sure, will be glad to hear that the Director-General, in suggesting the transfer of such a small sum to the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development while at the same time reserving a saving from the miscellaneous of over \$10 million to be refunded to the governments is a compromise to satisfy all schools of thought, and I would appeal to Member Governments who strongly feel that this practice should be discontinued that they accept the solution that has been devised by the Director-General and let this amount earmarked for the Agrarian Conference be included in the component of the present level of the budget.

G. de BAKKER (Netherlands): Since the agenda invites us to speak on the AGRIS subject, I would like to say a few words on that. In the first place, since our delegation and our country has always very warmly supported this exercise, we are very satisfied to learn the judgement of the Appraisal Team was favourable for the AGRIS system. We could like therefore to give you a few suggestions for the future. The first one is - and I would like to mention that this is the point of view of France also - that this system can only be effective when as many countries as possible participate, and since we feel that the participation in the system of the United States is very vital because so many publications flow from the United States every year, we would like to call upon the United States delegation to reconsider their position toward AGRIS at home and also to ask the Secretariat if there are certain problems involved in the participation of the United States in this system, but we must understand or must believe that they are doing everything they can to overcome the problems for the United States to participate; otherwise the system can never be called a globally important system of documentation of the total agricultural results of research and whatever more there is.

The second remark I would like to make is that we would like to hear whether the efforts of the Secretariat and of the Director-General to get additional external financial sources available to finance for the future the full implementation of the AGRIS system, as to how far it has already been successful and what the Director-General feels could be done to get the money available for this full implementation, because we have the feeling that this is very important.

We have a few more remarks to make but we could do that perhaps during the Commission II session.

I would just add one sentence on the matter of the future reviews of the Programme Committee and we would like to assure the Chairman of the Programme Committee that our Government uses very much the different reviews that were made in the past by the Programme Committee, and we would very much urge that the Programme Committee, also, when there is a new group of people, members of this Committee, that they would continue the reviews proposed on the structure and timing, as given to us in paragraph 2.153 of this report.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Following your suggestion I will be very brief. Moreover, I will limit my comments to AGRIS.

My delegation is very pleased to see the results of the independent appraisal made of AGRIS and the evaluation of it presented to us by the Director-General. We agree with him that AGRIS is already having a significant impact in providing the type of technical information that developing countries require within the framework of the New International Economic Order. We also concur that AGRIS can be developed into a very valuable instrument in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries.

We feel that, as far as information is concerned, we often have a significant amount of data on development, but not necessarily on the means. This is particularly true in relation to agricultural development and food production, where account has to be taken of very different and complex factors. The issue has to be approached both in terms of information for production - and here I mean data on inputs, credit, technology, forecasts etc. - and information for marketing. In the latter case, the requirements are perhaps even more crucial, in particular for the small farmer who would not be able to take advantage of market conditions without adequate information on price levels, available stocks, cost of inputs etc. While this surely requires a major effort by each developing country, we are convinced that FAO can help those countries to build up their own information base by developing AGRIS. Support by AGRIS to the efforts of developing countries will, in our view, become particularly effective when the system progresses from the so called "Level I" to "Level II", that is into more specialized services, which, we feel, must be developed in such a manner as to maximize the aspects of technical cooperation among developing countries.

In assessing the value of AGRIS it might also be useful to note that if AGRIS already provides a very important reference base for literature in developing countries it is still lagging behind in the coverage of some developed countries, which so far have provided only very limited references on their own documentation. I would like to associate myself in this respect with the observations made just a moment ago by our Dutch colleague on the need for a more positive participation of the US in the work of AGRIS so that information on American literature can become available. In this connection it might be interesting to recall that the appraisal team, in paragraph 20 of document C 77/27, concluded that "a further barrier to the realization of the potential of AGRIS has been the uneven level of commitment to the programme by Member Nations of FAO, some countries being fully committed to securing full national input to Level I, some making token input only, and others essentially providing no input".

Although we are not reviewing national efforts, may I add, finally, that in its efforts to increase production and productivity, Brazil is in the process of setting up a very comprehensive national information and documentation system on agricultural development together with specialized services for rural extension. Cooperation with AGRIS for these purposes is certainly very much appreciated by our authorities.

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): I just have a brief word on AGRIS. New Zealand agreed to participate in AGRIS in 1974 in the firm belief that it would provide a valuable information link on an international scale and have undoubted benefits for New Zealand and other countries. This opinion has not changed, and after a difficult start, New Zealand is now participating fully in AGRIS's Level I.

The report of the independent Appraisal Team highlights several difficulties we have experienced in the initial stages of participation, for example, lack of software compatible with the use of the system and the lack of training, etc. In general we agree with all the recommendations made by the independent Appraisal Team. On Recommendation (1) I have a few comments. New Zealand very much appreciates the magnetic tapes which are provided free of charge, and sees many advantages in the revision of line research possibilities.

On Recommendation (2), we consider it vital to the continued success of AGRIS that the United States National Agricultural Library material is included, and on this matter we can associate ourselves with the comments of the Netherlands and Brazil.

Recommendation (3): New Zealand would find training sessions on the usage of machine-readable data bases very valuable.

Our final comment on the Recommendations is on Recommendation (4): a more refined approach to categorization and indexing is very important. The present categories are too broad for retrospective purposes and AGRIS is only useful for current purposes at present. The use of AGRIS resources would

be useful for providing a plainer vocabulary of terms.

On the standard Action Programme, we agree with the Director-General that the theoretical approach to Level One and Two is not necessarily the best way to achieve the aims of AGRIS, and we place importance on the mutually supportive programmes.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy ahora a conceder la palabra al señor Mandefield, Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Generales de Información.

H.W. MANDEFIELD (Sous-Directeur general, Département des Affaires générales et de l'Information): Douze orateurs depuis hier ont bien voulu présenter au Conseil des observations au sujet du "Système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricoles", dont le sigle AGRIS a déjà gagné droit de cité, ainsi, d'ailleurs, que le Système lui-même. De ces douze orateurs, aucun n'a estimé qu'il fallait mettre fin au programme. C'est là un premier fait qui doit retenir notre attention. Au nom du Directeur général et de ses collaborateurs, je voudrais exprimer notre reconnaissance pour l'appui qui nous a été donné aujourd'hui et qui ne nous a jamais fait défaut depuis neuf ans que le Système a été conçu et mis en marche.

Cinq délégations: Egypte, France, Pays-Bas, Nouvelle-Zélande et Brésil, ont souligné l'importance, comme l'a fait l'équipe d'évaluation elle-même, de la Recommandation N° 2. Cette recommandation appelle une participation plus complète, si possible une participation totale, de tous les pays développés au système AGRIS, étant donné l'importance qu'il y a à bénéficier des informations dont ils disposent, et à les diffuser.

Je crois ici pouvoir apporter un élément d'espoir sinon une assurance formelle. Le volume III No 11 d'AGRINDEX vient de nous parvenir de Bucarest, comme toujours de façon extrêmement rapide. Ce volume comprend 15 700 citations: 7 000 citations proviennent des Etats-Unis. C'est un fait nouveau, c'est un fait encourageant, et je devais le signaler. Ceci est l'effet d'une bonne volonté certaine de la part des autorités des Etats-Unis, qui ont dû, elles aussi, étant donné le volume de leur documentation agronomique, surmonter beaucoup de difficultés initiales. De plus, nos spécialistes ont mis au point certains procédés techniques qui ont permis de traiter une partie de la documentation des Etats-Unis et de transformer les références bibliographiques pour les rendre compatibles avec le "format" AGRIS.

J'ajoute que les conversations que j'ai eues récemment à Ottawa autorisent l'espoir que le Canada s'apprête à abandonner sa politique d'attentisme et à participer également à AGRIS.

Plusieurs délégations ont exprimé leur accord avec la partie du rapport du Directeur général (C 77/27) qui souligne que l'inventaire, le répertoire généralisé et rapide que constitue AGRINDEX, tant sous la forme de bandes magnétiques que sous la forme imprimée, ne constitue qu'un "semis", comme le dit le rapport d'évaluation, sur lequel pousseront les services spécialisés du "Niveau 2". Je voudrais à cet égard attirer l'attention sur ce qui est dit dans le rapport du Comité du programme au paragraphe 2.127. Ce paragraphe 2.127 énumère un certain nombre de services d'exploitations d'AGRIS qui d'ores et déjà font leur apparition: bibliographies régionales, centres de documentation spécialisés pour certains produits -manioc, maïs, légumineuses-grain- ou, dans certains domaines, tels que l'irrigation, les forêts, l'agriculture tropicale. Ces services spécialisés sont un produit presque spontané de la base qu'apporte AGRIS.

Quel sera ici le rôle de la FAO? Principalement, ce sera un rôle d'incitation, de coordination et d'aide technique. Il est évident que, si nous devons avoir dans le monde un service dit de "Niveau 2" pour le manioc, il convient que le Centre soit bien choisi, qu'il soit aidé et qu'il n'y ait point de double emploi dans une autre région. La FAO se propose donc de coordonner ces initiatives de façon que les différentes pièces de cette mosaïque mondiale forment un ensemble cohérent.

Plusieurs délégations, dont le Royaume-Uni et le Pakistan, ont parlé de l'importance qu'il convient d'apporter aux activités de formation professionnelle du personnel chargé de fournir la matière d'AGRIS et de l'exploiter. Je voudrais dire ici que, sur la somme d'environ un million de dollars prévue au Programme 5.1.3 pour AGRIS, moins de 40 pour cent représente des frais de personnel au Siège. Une proportion élevée a été prévue pour des missions, qui sont essentiellement des missions de formation. Nous enverrons nos conseillers techniques aux pays qui en ont besoin et qui le souhaitent.

Au cours de la première période expérimentale de trois ans, le Centre AGRIS a publié 22 manuels techniques à l'usage des fournisseurs et des utilisateurs de l'information, puis a envoyé des spécialistes

afin d'expliquer l'utilisation de ces manuels techniques. Tout ceci a constitué la phase de décollage. Dans la phase de croisière, nous pourrions -et ceci répond à la question posée par M. le Délégué du Royaume-Uni- réaffecter à des tâches de formation un certain nombre des spécialistes qui ont assuré le démarrage de l'opération.

Je pense que M. le Délégué de l'Inde a fait allusion aux questionnaires que nous avons envoyés concernant CARIS. CARIS est un inventaire des institutions et des programmes de recherche en cours. Ces questionnaires ont été renvoyés par une soixantaine de ces pays déjà. Dans le cas de l'Inde, on a fait observer qu'il conviendrait que les pays développés fournissent eux aussi les mêmes informations. Cependant, les informations concernant les recherches en cours dans les pays développés sont déjà publiées, par exemple, par le CRIS (Current Research Information System) et AGREP (Permanent Inventory of Agricultural Research Projects). Il s'agit donc ici de faire la même chose pour les pays en voie de développement, de façon que leurs travaux soient plus largement connus et ne fassent pas double emploi.

Je conclus que le système reste à perfectionner, à compléter. Le stade de l'exploitation, ou "Niveau 2", en est à ses débuts. Mais la participation active et souvent enthousiaste des pays en développement offre un exemple de coopération technique entre pays en développement. Ce dernier aspect revêt une importance particulière, car les techniques des pays industrialisés ne sont généralement pas adaptées aux pays sous-privilegiés des zones tropicales. Des informations sélectionnées par des spécialistes, accompagnées de résumés analytiques fournis dans la langue du demandeur, avec accès aux documents originaux: voilà ce qui constitue ce niveau d'exploitation dont plusieurs institutions ont d'ores et déjà organisé le service.

Encore une fois, je voudrais terminer avec mes remerciements à toutes les nations qui ont bien voulu nous apporter leur appui.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el Tema 10, está claro que el Consejo apoya la continuación de AGRIS y demanda la activa participación de todos los países a fin de lograr que AGRIS se convierta en un verdadero y eficaz instrumento de transferencia tecnológica en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Sobre el Programa de Internado de la FAO entiendo que, en general, el Consejo apoya las recomendaciones del Comité del Programa con la salvedad de que por lo menos dos miembros del Consejo se manifestaron en contra de cambiar y prefieren que se continúe con el actual Programa de Internado de la FAO.

En cuanto al examen de Programas, el Consejo recomienda que el Comité del Programa continúe ese examen y que periódicamente revise la manera de cómo se hace ese examen y difunda los resultados.

Pasamos al Tema 13.

- 13. Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses
- 13. Fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires
- 13. Fondo Especial para la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos

DIRECTOR GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates: It will be recalled that the subject was debated in the Seventy-First Session of the Council held in June of this year.

The Council unanimously approved the proposal for an Action Programme as outlined in the document submitted to the Council. This Action Programme is being submitted to the Conference in document C 77/19.

The large majority of the Council agreed with the need for a special fund to finance the Action Programme and the great majority - I insist, the great majority - of the Council agreed with the proposal to transfer up to \$10 million from the suspense account, as an initial contribution to the fund, in order to ensure that an early start would be made to the implementation of the Action Programme, pending receipt of voluntary contributions which the Council hoped would be forthcoming.

There was dissenting opinion on the proposed resolution, contained in Appendix F at the end of the report of the Programme and Finance Committees in May 1977 and submitted to the Council as CL 71/4. However, in an effort to ensure consensus, the Council decided to defer a final decision on the resolution to this session. It was decided, therefore, to include the resolution in the Agenda of this session.

The Council is now invited to assist in this, by agreeing to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the draft resolution on this matter. It was to be recalled also that the draft resolution was submitted by the spring session of the Finance Committee itself, to the June session of the Council. So it was originally a resolution prepared by the Finance Committee.

Document C 77/INF/18, which is in your hands, deals with this item and contains a new version of this resolution. You will see that paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 are new. They are intended to assist those governments who have problems - at least, those who have indicated that they may have problems - about the use of currency savings.

It is not really possible to go further than this without creating great controversy and confusion over the political and financial issues involved. I do hope, Mr. Chairman, that this draft resolution in its new form can be unanimously recommended by the Council for adoption by the Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como acaba de decir el señor Director General, la nueva versión del proyecto de resolución sobre este tema, está en el documento C 77/INF/18, que espero lo tengan todos ustedes.

Se inicia el debate sobre el Tema 13 y concedo la palabra al representante del Brasil.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I feel that we have followed quite a long process in discussing this issue. At the time of the last session of the Committee on Agriculture we had the opportunity to discuss at length the question of means to reduce harvest losses. It was the overwhelming feeling of that Committee - and I believe the unanimous feeling - that harvest losses constituted a major problem in efforts to increase food availability in the developing countries. A very considerable improvement could be secured in terms of food availability in developing countries and in terms of lesser dependence on imports if losses at the time of harvest and post-harvest could be reduced.

The proposal that we considered at that time in the Committee on Agriculture was later discussed at length in our Council. Again there was a clear convergence of views that FAO should respond in an appropriate manner to this very important problem.

The setting up of a special fund for the prevention of food losses was understood to be a very welcome and necessary measure. I feel that the records of the Council show that all of us around this table considered that initiative of great significance and importance. The Group of 77 supported the idea both at the time of the Committee on Agriculture session and at the time of the Seventy-First Session of our Council.

We discussed at length also at the time of the last session of the Council the means to start the operations of this special fund, and the Group of 77 instructed me at the time of the last session of the Council to state clearly our support to the proposal advanced by the Director-General to bring an amount of up to \$10 million from the suspense account established under Resolution 35/75, an amount that could be accrued at the end of the current biennium, to bring that amount as seed money for the Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses. Yesterday the Group of 77 again instructed me to bring to you our views not only that the Special Fund for the Prevention of Food Losses represents a very important and necessary initiative but also that the particular proposal to bring from the suspense account of the current biennium into the special fund an amount of up to \$10 million was appropriate and I would say even necessary at this stage.

In the name of the Group of 77 I would like to give full support for the resolution which is reproduced in document C 77/INF/18 which has been distributed to us. We feel that the time has now come for the Council to take a decision.

At the last session of the Council we understood that some of us felt that more examination at an internal level of their own administrations was possibly necessary and we informed the Council so that all of us could approach this issue with the full knowledge of the facts and after having completely matured our own ideas. We feel that the time has now come for the Council to take a clear decision by approving this draft resolution which we have before us in document C77/INF/18. We feel that in doing so the Council will simply be taking a necessary step, a very important step, in order to start the operation of a fund which we very much hope and believe will have positive repercussions in the efforts of the developing countries to cope with the major problems that face their development efforts. We very much hope that our Council will at this stage be in a position to approve this resolution unanimously: that is our wish, our appeal to all members of the Council.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): With your permission I should like to speak not in the name of Jordan alone but on behalf of the Arab countries' members of the Council, also on behalf of the Arab countries attending this meeting as observers. Although the delegate of Brazil spoke on behalf of the Group of 77, and the Arab countries are members of the Group of 77, we believe that the Arabic region is in a special position, namely the Arab countries are the countries that import the largest volume of foodstuffs, and although we have a large production this production could be doubled were we in a position to use modern harvest methods and modern production methods. This is why we supported this resolution when it was submitted to the Committee on Agriculture at its Fourth Session and also at the Council Session. Unfortunately, unanimous agreement was not reached in view of the fact that a number of delegations were surprised by this resolution. This is why we allowed these countries four months' time to discuss this matter with their respective governments, so that they would be in a position now to give us their final reply, be it positive or negative.

So then I believe it is necessary for us to take a decision straight away in view of the fact that any delay would be very harmful to all parties concerned. This is the major question that the general Conference will have to discuss, in view of the fact that here we have a new spirit, a new idea for FAO. Once we had a programme on technical cooperation; now we require other types of assistance. The programme for technical cooperation is financed by the Regular Programme, whereas the Special Fund for prevention of food losses after harvesting will depend on voluntary contributions that will be made both by the developing countries as well as by developed countries because a number of developing countries from the agricultural point of view are developed from the financial point of view, and I am convinced that the Arab countries, in view of their financial possibilities, will participate fully in this Special Fund, in view of the fact that it is beneficial to all countries of the third world which sorely need assistance from such funds.

Whether or not the financing of this Special Fund will depend in future on voluntary contributions, it is necessary for us to start somewhere; we have to start on the basis of something and this is why the proposal made by the Director General to allocate to the Suspense Account some \$12 million is, as we see it, a very effective proposal and it is our hope that this proposal will be accepted unanimously, so that the Director-General will be able to start implementing this programme under the best possible circumstances. I have no doubt that the developed countries might have to cope with the same problems as we but they will nevertheless participate in this fund.

In this connexion I would like to say that my country receives bilateral assistance provided by developing countries for this same purpose but, in view of the fact that the links among all countries are becoming stronger, it is necessary for this bilateral assistance to fit into a broader framework so that this aid is no longer given on a bilateral basis but rather should be given through a specialized body, more particularly FAO. This is the reason why we give our full support to the draft resolution when it comes up for discussion at the general Conference. It is our hope that this support will be unanimous, especially since this fund will not cost the Organization anything in the future, except for the \$10 million which will be allocated to it now.

Doña P. de CASTRO MONSALVO (Colombia): En el último período de sesiones del Consejo la delegación de Colombia apoyó el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia sobre el Fondo Especial para la reducción de pérdidas de alimentos que aparecía en el Apéndice E del documento CL 71/4, Informe de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. En esa ocasión entendimos también las razones que expusieron algunas delegaciones para que no se adoptara ninguna recomendación en junio pasado y nos volviéramos a ocupar de este asunto en el actual período de sesiones. Ahora, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia desea confirmar su pleno y entusiasta apoyo a ese proyecto de resolución.

J. BAKER (United States of America): I am glad to have the opportunity of speaking to this important issue. The Director-General has placed before us a very significant proposal. It is motivated by a desire to get started as quickly as possible on a programme we all recognise as being of crucial importance: the reduction of food losses. My delegation fully shares this objective. The Director-General with this proposal clearly wants to move into a position to attack problems identified at the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly and since, which are at the very heart of any effort to deal with the gap between food production growth and population growth, which may even widen in many parts of the world in the last decades of this century.

I can say with utmost confidence on behalf of the United States and on behalf of a number of interested countries with which our delegation has been in consultation, that our principal concern with respect to the Director-General's proposal is that it establish a programme to which Member States will



contribute not only this year but next year and in future years. The Director-General has made an important step today in moving to facilitate this by presenting revisions of the original proposal discussed at the last Council Session. His new draft accepts the voluntary nature of the programme, making it clear that this will be its character in the future. His draft urges contributors to respond and to support the programme in this spirit. We regard this as a constructive emphasis.

The Director-General's proposal still leaves us with several problems which relate directly to the question of voluntary contributions. The most important is that the voluntary principle of the fund appears to be somewhat contradicted in the proposal to have the Conference transfer a substantial sum from the Suspense Account we established in 1975, transferring this sum in order to get the programme started rapidly. A contradiction would not be present if every Member State of this Organization were in a position to support the Director-General's proposal on contributing voluntarily its share of \$10 million now in the Suspense Account funds which by the normal application of the financial regulations would otherwise be passed at the end of this year into the General Fund and reimbursed to the Member Governments before the end of 1978.

The problem for us here is not that we are dealing with sums which it would be unreasonable in any way to contribute to this important programme. My Government would in fact desire to contribute a larger amount than we would receive from the normal treatment of a \$10 million portion of the Suspense Account. We expect, in fact, to propose that our legislative authorities authorize a \$3 million contribution in 1978. In addition, we are currently studying the financing of an important programme for the reduction of food losses in the Sahel which the FAO would be asked to administer. Our problem, quite frankly, is that we are talking about sums which legislative authorities in a number of countries insist on appropriating and finance ministries in others insist on authorizing through regular governmental procedures. They are therefore facts of political life and financial regulation to which a number of delegations - certainly my own included - cannot be indifferent.

For this reason I would now propose, on behalf of my own delegation and after consultation with a number of other interested delegations which still have problems with the Director-General's revised text, some further amendments to that text. Some of these are designed to improve the sequence and force of the Director-General's proposals; others are designed to cope with key substantive issues such as whether or not to use monies in the Suspense Account. I have attempted to keep these amendments to a minimum by omitting some changes which my delegation and some other delegations with which we have consulted would have preferred, for example, referring throughout the resolution to "programme" for reduction of post-harvest losses, rather than "fund". Let me now, however, introduce the amendments which I would like to propose. Perhaps delegates would wish to have before them, as I do so, the Director-General's text because my amendments will relate to that. Had I had more time, I would have hoped to have them in written form before you. I hope we can do so fairly quickly but for the moment I shall have to depend on transmitting them to you orally, which I shall do slowly.

First, I would leave the initial paragraph as it is; my first amendment, then, which is essentially a stylistic one, would be to advance the seventh paragraph the one that begins with the phrase "Having regard"- to a more prominent position and make it paragraph three, thus grouping it in the usual fashion among the preambular paragraphs. In so doing I believe we would shorten it so as not to be repetitive. It could read as follows:

"Having regard to the particular merits for this purpose of the programme proposals put forward by the Director-General and endorsed by the Council; "

The impact of this change in the paragraph is simply to reduce, the phrase beginning "to the great importance" because we have just stated that in the initial preambular paragraph. So it would read "Having regard" and then pick up the words in the second line: "to the particular merits" and then insert the phrase "for this purpose" and then the rest is the same as in that sixth paragraph.

I would leave the paragraph beginning with the word "noting" as it is.

My second amendment would be to add to the paragraph beginning "Decides", the third paragraph of the Director-General's draft, the phrase at the end "with a goal of \$20 million". This would not be an amendment upon which I would insist but I think it useful when we are talking about an initial \$10 million fund to keep in mind that we originally and still are aiming higher than that.

I would then leave untouched the constructive paragraph that the Director-General has added which begins with the word "Considers".

My third amendment would be to advance the paragraph beginning "Recognizes" and put it after the paragraph beginning "Considers".

We then come to the paragraph beginning with the words "Invites Member Nations" and I would like to add a phrase to the end of that. The phrase would read "and in particular to make available promptly a sum equivalent to at least \$10 million".

My final amendment would be to delete the paragraph beginning "Further decides", thereby omitting utilization of the Suspense Account.

In offering these amendments it is not my intention to state a final position but to underline a point. A voluntary programme must be built on the basis of voluntary acts by member governments. If we can find a way to achieve the implementation of this principle in drawing on part of the Suspense Account and do so without creating financial confusion to which the Director-General has made reference my delegation would be willing to do so. In fact, we have tried in various ways to find a way to do so. However, it is a problem to which perhaps none of us have at this moment a solution which would be satisfactory to all. I hope very much that we shall be able to find a solution. My amendments are offered in this spirit.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think it is necessary for me to comment on the amendment proposed by the United States representative, in consultation with other delegations. As I do not know the names of those other delegations, nor whether they have sponsored that amendment; I shall consider it therefore for the time being, as a United States proposal.

It is easy for me to comment, in view of my talks with some delegations, especially with those which found it difficult to accept the resolution which was submitted to them last June; so I needed only a short time to react.

Words are beautiful, but are not a guarantee of cash. This is my first reaction. Furthermore, it would be unprecedented to have a resolution which could be interpreted in different manners by different governments. If such were the case, some governments might decide to request the Director-General to return to them their share of the \$10 million, which they could very well do, according to the new proposed text. Then we should be reverting to the concept of charity, according to which it would depend on the good heart of those countries whether they decide to give the money to the developing countries, to the Programme, to FAO.

I do not think this acceptable. It would put me in an absolutely impossible situation. I should be unable to initiate any Programme, since I should need a crystal ball to know what the 140 countries were going to do, who would pay, when, how much, through which channel, and how long I should have to wait. Furthermore, I know very well that some countries, under the influence of their Ministries of Finance, would decide to pay nothing at all to this Fund. Even the delegate of the United States of America acknowledged that risk himself, when saying that, in his country, they had already approached their legislative body. It follows that we should have to await the decision of Congress to know whether they agreed to pay \$3 million, through which channel, and when - hopefully, in 1978.

It is clear, therefore, that the amendment proposed would create a very dangerous precedent in FAO, since I have never heard of a resolution on programme and budgetary matters which could be interpreted in different ways. This is unprecedented: I have been attending FAO Conferences for the last 22 years and I have never heard of a resolution like this. We are already going to save the Member Countries \$10, 800, 000 through economies and miscellaneous income, but we do ask, in this case, that \$10, 000, 000 should be put aside for this important programme. I am not responsible for calling the proposed arrangement a special fund instead of a programme: at the World Food Council, it was the developing countries who asked for a special fund; later, it was the FAO Council which, in the autumn of 1976, again suggested the establishment of a fund.

The amendments proposed by the delegate of the United States of America to move two paragraphs from one place to another in the text are acceptable. The same applies to his amendment according to which paragraph 3 would read: "decides to establish a Special Fund for Prevention of Food Losses under Article 6.7 of the Financial Regulations, with a goal of \$20 Million", provided it specifies "a minimum goal". As the delegate of the United States himself stated, some countries will be particularly generous and make large contributions; so why prevent them from exceeding \$20 million, if they so wish? We have just heard the representative of Jordan stating that he is confident that Arab countries may, also make substantial contributions.

The last proposed amendment would completely destroy my proposal. It is not, in fact, an amendment to my proposal, but something quite different: that we should merely implement the resolution of the 1975 Conference, according to which the \$10 million should be distributed to Member Countries on a pro rata basis, according to their contributions.

Quite frankly, I see no way to achieve a dialogue in this case and no possible compromise between the two resolutions. My proposal is straightforward and calls for the transfer of \$10, 000, 000. The other resolution would create a very dangerous precedent; it would lead to confusion; it would prevent me from implementing any programme at all; and it would introduce here that concept of charity, about which I have reservations. Part of the programme will be on a voluntary basis, yes; in my proposal, it is said that this programme will be funded, in principle, by voluntary contributions. Perhaps: I can satisfy the delegate of the United States of America by saying that it will be funded partly by voluntary contributions.

I know that the Ministries of Finance of some countries have other opinions. Any country, however, when it becomes a member of FAO, accepts the "rules of the game"; that is to say, accepts the Constitution of our Organization and the decision of the majority. Accordingly, I think that delegations here will have to tell their Ministries of Finance that this matter has been decided by the FAO Conference and is therefore binding. When we discuss a subject, we cannot always ascertain whether our decisions on budgetary and programme matters can be reconciled with the practices of the legislative bodies of any particular member country,

I do not think that this is warranted and we cannot tackle our work in such a way. I appeal again, therefore, to the delegate of the United States of America, who said that his stand was not final, to reconsider it with those friends he has consulted, to enable us to reach a unanimous decision on this matter.

H. CUEVA (Ecuador): La delegación de mi país que está de acuerdo y apoya el programa de labores presentado por el señor Director General así como el nivel del presupuesto por él propuesto, no quiere dejar de prestar su más decidido apoyo a la creación de un Fondo Especial para la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos tal cual se nos presenta en el Proyecto de Resolución constante en el documento C 77/INF/18; y apoya, luego de oír sobre todo la clarísima exposición que acaba de hacer el señor Director General, apoya especialmente que el saldo, eventualmente, de la Cuenta Transitoria creada en virtud de la Resolución 35/75, después de transferir la suma de 5 millones de dólares a la Cuenta Especial, se traslade al final de 1977 al Fondo que crea el Proyecto de Resolución hasta un total de 10 millones de dólares, y pide al Consejo que lo recomiende, si es posible unánimemente, a la aprobación de la Conferencia.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, mi país como miembro del Grupo de los 77 apoya todo lo dicho por el señor delegado de Brasil sobre este tema a nombre de dicho Grupo; así como apoya lo dicho por el honorable delegado de Jordania.

A. FERNANDEZ (España): Mi delegación considera que este tema de la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos que se producen posteriormente a la recolección ha sido ya tratado adecuadamente por nuestros órganos asesores, por el Consejo y por el propio Director General hace unos minutos, lo cual me evita de argumentar nuevamente acerca de la imperiosa necesidad que tenemos de reducir la enorme cuantía que actualmente suponen estas pérdidas. Por ello, mi delegación ve con el espíritu más positivo, la constitución por la FAO de un Fondo Especial para la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos en el mundo para que se cumpla el triple objetivo de producir más, almacenar mejor y distribuir más justamente los alimentos entre nuestros pueblos.

Estimamos, por consiguiente, que la propuesta de resolución que nos ha sido sometida en el documento C 77/INF/18 refleja perfectamente ese espíritu de ayuda al desarrollo agro-alimentario sobre la base de contribuciones voluntarias tanto de los Estados Miembros de la FAO como de otros posibles contribuyentes, y por consiguiente, apoya su aprobación por el Consejo para sea elevado a nuestra próxima Conferencia, incluyendo el traslado de fondos que se propone desde la Cuenta Transitoria creada en virtud de la Resolución 35/75.

Claro es que aceptando algunas correcciones de estilo que no estén en contradicción con los principios que acabo de exponer; como por ejemplo, el que el párrafo que comienza: "Teniendo presente... etc.", se coloque en tercer lugar en lugar de en séptimo, o que se agrupen todos los Considerandos al principio de la Resolución dejando los párrafos propiamente decisorios para el final.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): The Director-General has proposed an Action Programme to reduce harvest and post-harvest losses in response to resolutions of the World Food Conference, the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Seventeenth FAO Conference, and to the specific request from our Council. We have unanimously approved this proposal and endorsed the guidelines presented for loss reduction activities by Member Countries.

A 50 percent reduction of post-harvest losses for cereals and coarse grains, even if there is a waste of 10 percent, will mean savings of 40 million tons of cereals or equal to half of the import need of developing countries by 1985, as the experts predicted.

The FAO Programme of Action that the Council has approved, which consists of model projects to be implemented in Member Countries together with their national programmes is in need of initial funds to start with. The majority of the Council agreed to the need for an FAO Special Fund to finance this programme and they also agreed with the Director-General's proposal to transfer up to \$10 million from the 1976-77 Suspense Account as an initial contribution to the Fund pending receipt of voluntary contributions which the Council hoped would be forthcoming.

We believe it is right to assume that all member countries underlined the need for this activity and urged its implementation as soon as possible. We all see the possible effect of this programme on the food supply situation, particularly in the developing world, which is in dire need of any savings or any additional supply of food. This together with an increase in their food production will really enhance this food security.

Now the questions seem to be on the procedure of how the initial funding could be established. Many of us feel that whatever money is saved by the FAO will be used for programmes related to the efforts to improve the food and agricultural situation of member countries. Now this programme is the one that really can help improve the food situation and on which the Council gave its highest priority.

We feel it is wiser for us to use the money for this purpose than to return it back to our treasury. When we all pay our contribution to this Organization we consider that in some way or other each of the member countries plays an important role in helping humanity and the world to achieve their basic human need for food. Would we like to receive back again from FAO a few hundred or thousand dollars and just forget the goal or objective when we give our contribution?

Relatively speaking, we feel that each member country contributes equally, especially when we relate the contribution to their potentials. It also means that if we decide not to receive the money back and to use it for a high priority Action Programme, that is also justified and right.

Indonesia therefore would like to support the revised resolution submitted by the Director-General for a Special Fund for Prevention of Food Losses.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): Pakistan has already given its detailed views on the Director-General's action-oriented strategy for the reduction of post-harvest food losses during the 71st Session of this Council. In recognition of the vital importance of not only producing but also conserving food, the Council has already endorsed the proposed FAO Action Programme. The only outstanding question now, therefore, is the financing of the scheme, which question we do hope will be settled quickly and in this Session.

Pakistan fully and whole-heartedly supports the Director-General's proposal for the establishment of the Special Fund and the mode of its implementation through the financing of \$10 million from this Account. The programme proposed by FAO is essentially of a catalytic nature which would serve as a model and hopefully stimulate further assistance. The modest \$10 million sum proposed to be earmarked for the Special Fund from the Suspense Account should be regarded as seed money meant to attract additional investments from bilateral and multilateral sources.

The reduction of food losses is recognized by all of us to be an activity of the highest priority. As such, FAO must be provided with the full resources to play its rightful leadership role in this campaign. The transfer of savings from the Suspense Account to the Special Fund should enable the new programme to get off to an early start, and as a possible resolution of the situation with which the Council is faced right now, may I in all humility suggest for consideration of the United States delegation the addition of the following words. What I am suggesting is that we accept all the amendments proposed by the United States delegation with the following addition of words after the words "at least \$10 million". The paragraph beginning with "Invites" would therefore read:

"Invites Member Nations of FAO and other contributors accordingly to make contributions to the Fund and in particular make available promptly a sum equal at least to \$10 million", and now I propose the following addition: "by transferring, notwithstanding the financial regulation 6.1b, an amount of \$10 million from the Suspense Account established under the Resolution 35/75 to the Fund established by this Resolution".

M.A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Grèce): Pendant la dernière session du Conseil, la délégation de Grèce a eu l'occasion de porter à la connaissance du Conseil l'importance que la Grèce accorde aux efforts à déployer pour contrecarrer le grand danger des pertes des produits alimentaires. Nous considérons que c'est une grande question qui préoccupe tous les pays, surtout les pays en voie de développement pour lesquels ces pertes sont très importantes et qui souffrent beaucoup de ce problème. L'initiative de consacrer à cette direction des moyens économiques appropriés ne peut être que chaleureusement accueillie par tous.

La délégation de Grèce voulait souligner aujourd'hui, comme nous l'avons déjà fait à la session précédente du Conseil, qu'elle appuie la constitution d'un fonds spécial pour la réduction des pertes alimentaires. Notre délégation appuie donc le projet de résolution présenté par le Directeur général, résolution qui sera soumise à la Conférence. Nous croyons que ce projet de résolution, contenu dans le document C 77/INF/18 est très clair et correspond parfaitement au but recherché.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): Le délégué du Brésil et S.E. le Ministre jordanien ont déjà pris la parole au nom du Groupe des 77 et au nom des pays arabes, mais je me permets d'insister sur ce point au nom de la délégation tunisienne.

Je voudrais d'abord insister sur le fait que notre délégation considère que la prévention des pertes alimentaires doit constituer l'une des actions les plus importantes et c'est peut-être l'action la plus urgente en ce sens que, de toutes les actions tendant à accroître la production, c'est peut-être l'action qui assure au moindre coût une disponibilité supplémentaire des produits alimentaires. Le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis est basé sur deux idées essentielles, matérialisées par le paragraphe 3 et le paragraphe 8. Le paragraphe 3 décide de la création d'un fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes d'aliments; le paragraphe 8 insiste sur l'urgence du démarrage de l'action et autorise le versement du solde inscrit au compte d'attente à ce compte.

Ce sont deux actions très importantes qui, à notre avis, ont été largement déformées par la proposition du délégué des Etats-Unis.

Pour le paragraphe 3, il est proposé de limiter ce fonds spécial à 20 millions de dollars et il est proposé tout simplement d'annuler le paragraphe 8. Quant à nous, nous considérons que l'adoption à l'unanimité de ce projet de résolution ne constitue pas une contradiction avec le principe d'une contribution volontaire. C'est tout au plus l'expression d'un intérêt unanime pour un démarrage rapide de l'action par une avance à laquelle tous les pays membres participent. Ce projet permet aussi d'espérer que le niveau global du Fonds spécial dépassera, et de loin, la somme de 10 millions de dollars qui ne devrait, à notre sens, que constituer une avance permettant d'assurer une avance rapide de l'action en attendant que ce fonds soit alimenté par des contributions volontaires. Même s'il s'agissait d'un ordre de grandeur, pour ces 20 millions de dollars, même si on insistait que c'est un minimum de 20 millions de dollars comme le proposait le Directeur général, nous pensons qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'indiquer, à quelque titre que ce soit, un objectif de 20 millions de dollars, même s'il est précisé que c'est un minimum. Nous pensons au contraire que les 10 millions de dollars comme contribution volontaire, du fait de l'adoption de la résolution par tous les pays membres, donnera une indication sur un niveau qui devrait être beaucoup plus important que 20 millions de dollars et ceci aura un impact sur l'action elle-même, sur le programme d'action et sur l'accroissement des disponibilités alimentaires qui est un point très important.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): La délégation de Guinée-Bissau, qui n'était pas présente à la dernière session du Conseil, saisit l'occasion qui lui est offerte de suivre le délégué du Brésil, président du Groupe des 77, et les autres délégations en donnant son total appui à ce projet de résolution révisé sur la création d'un Fonds spécial pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires présenté par le Directeur général.

H.L. CLAVERIE RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela): Seré muy breve y concreto pues ya hemos manifestado nuestra opinión sobre este punto en otras circunstancias y en esta sala desde que el mismo fue expuesto inicialmente por el Director General. Hoy solo deseo reiterar a este Consejo la simpatía con que nuestro Gobierno ha visto desde el principio, y continua manteniendo hoy, por el proyecto de creación de un Fondo Especial para prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos.

Hoy el señor Director General ha tenido la amabilidad de presentarnos concretamente un proyecto de resolución a la Conferencia dirigido en el sentido de la creación de dicho instrumento. Agradecemos esta iniciativa del Director General a la que no ponemos ningún obstáculo ni tampoco a posteriores correcciones de estilo siempre que no cambien en nada el fundamento básico de la resolución.

Deseo expresar enfáticamente la simpatía de nuestro Gobierno y el apoyo del mismo por el proyecto de resolución.

H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I would not like to dwell on the merit of the Action Programme which has been discussed at length by the Committee on Agriculture at its Fourth Session. I will confine my comments and observations to the revised Draft Proposal of the Director-General and the amendments proposed for AGRIS.

The revised Draft Proposal of the Director-General has a significant element, which is recognizing the voluntary aspects of the Fund while emphasizing that it must be immediately started by transferring the money available in the Suspense Account. The difficulties we see, as has been shown by the intervention of some countries, are those of accounting. We all know that the money in the Suspense Account is ours. The contribution to the FAO was ours. That is the reason why we have sat here to take a decision on whether we would allow the Director-General to transfer or whether we would not.

In this regard I would once again, as I mentioned yesterday, remind the Council that contributions from all countries are proportionate. What is \$1 million to one country with \$100 billion of GNP is \$1,000 to a country with \$1 billion GNP. This is perhaps an understatement. As you know, Mr. Chairman, many of us have a GNP of less than \$1 billion, while many of our more fortunate countries have a GNP of much more than \$1 billion.

The question is why the Director-General proposes this immediate transfer of \$10 million from the Suspense Account. We have all recognized the importance of the scheme, the gigantic level of the scheme and the project we are undertaking. We can briefly recall the total food loss in the world and the total food gain. It was stated in the World Food Conference as exactly the same, 80 million tons, and the call in the 77th Special Session of the United Nations was to reduce it by half by 1985, that is by 40 million tons. In my country the food losses are exactly the same as our food gains, 13 percent. If you could reduce the food loss by 50 percent, we could immediately, overnight, meet the food gap by 50 percent. This is the urgency. This is why we have been urging the Director-General to immediately take up the food programme and go into action straight away.

The proposal and amendment of the United States and the proposal of the Director-General is not one of drafting, it is very much one of assistance. In the main paragraph the reason which led the Director-General to transfer \$10 million is embodied. We believe for a good cause accounting periods should be overlooked or should be circumvented or compromised if necessary. All of us, all our countries, have their Ministers of Finance with very strict regulations, but under certain circumstances of magnitude and importance these regulations have to be flexible, and we see this is one cause for which the regulations ought to be flexible. We further believe that in this particular case the bird in the hand is better than two in the bush.

In some countries some generous donors will come forward to make a donation. There may be others who will go through a procedure taking years. We have experience of the latter. In spite of the distribution of responsibilities, it has taken us two years to find the funds. In this proposal, the responsibility is diffused; it is not distributed.

In the proposal to transfer \$10 million immediately from the Suspense Account the responsibility is proportionate and is distributed, and we all take part willingly in that. It is the proposal to magnify the fund beyond \$10 million and I am sure there will be generous donors who will come forward to contribute much more and the fund may go beyond \$20 million - it could be \$100 million, but let us make a start with the modest sum of \$10 million.

As my colleague from Pakistan said, this is the seed money. We have been contributing for three years since the last World Food Conference. Very little has been done in recognition of this great menace. I would therefore urge upon my more fortunate colleagues from the developed countries to reconsider this proposal, to agree to transfer the money which is handy, which is almost a windfall to us due to favourable current fluctuation of dollars at the cost of the Italian lire. Let us make this money available. Let us not prove to posterity that after identification of the great menace we have been doing lip service to it.

Until we have this Fund the Director-General cannot make any programme; he would not know how much money is coming forward. He could not take up the programme in the current or the next biennium, or the biennium next to that. Let us give him the money immediately to make a start.

With this appeal, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you very much.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): The importance of the provision of the Food Losses Programme is recognized by all. The Canadian Government has consistently supported activities for reducing food losses. Our delegation is aware that there are other international agencies who are involved in the Post-Harvest Losses Programme. One example is the work undertaken in Latin America by the IGAD/LA Organization.

Canada has for several years bilaterally assisted a number of countries in their efforts to reduce the losses, so this is not a new activity so far as we are concerned. This morning we are not discussing the merits of the programme, there are no controversial views in this respect. We are at present considering the ways of financing the FAO programme. The proposals of the Director-General were very carefully considered in Ottawa by the departments concerned, and I want to stress this as I do not want to go home and tell my Government that the Director-General feels that the views of the Canadian delegation only reflect the views of the Minister of Finance. This would not be good for our delegation or for anybody else concerned, so I want to stress when delegates talk they reflect the views of the governments and not any individual Cabinet Minister.

We have been spending considerable time among departments and have had some active discussions as to the procedures of finding the way of financing this programme. It is not an easy question. There are other programmes as well to be looked at.

We also appreciate the Draft Resolution provided by the Director-General in which he has added a number of additional paragraphs which have modified the original text and allowed for voluntary contributions. But quite frankly, there are still two paragraphs in the Resolution provided by the Director-General which we find difficult to accept. These are the eighth and the last paragraph: the eighth paragraph is the one that starts with "notwithstanding" and the eleventh is the very last paragraph.

On the basis of the instructions which have been given to our delegation we still have difficulties in accepting the Director-General's Resolution. The Canadian preference would be for a UNDP voluntary fund to finance the FAO activities. However, after listening to the various statements we realize our approach is not acceptable to some delegates. We are also realistic.

The Canadian delegation is prepared to accept the amendments proposed by the United States delegation. We do not consider the amendments as implying charity. I think that is an unfortunate word to use. We never consider our work in the FAO or any other international organization as charity. To me, charity is not a nice word. I think that the efforts made by the United States delegation are an attempt to be helpful. There is some difference of view and we must seek ways of solving this. This is one suggestion. I appreciate the suggestion made by Pakistan but that suggestion would completely destroy the intention of the United States.

We have considered a number of alternatives. We realize that we also must make some concession on the subject. In a spirit of cooperation our delegation is prepared to accept the establishment of an FAO voluntary fund with the option of using the suspense account portion of the assessment left to the decision of these countries. I think the Director-General could get a very prompt response from many countries, but we feel that it should be a voluntary approach rather than a compulsory approach.

To be consistent with our proposal I would like to say that Canada, subject to parliamentary approval is prepared to make a voluntary contribution. On the assumption that the suspense account is treated on a voluntary basis, Canada is prepared to make a voluntary contribution at least equal to its share of the suspense account, likely more than that, but we prefer to have it on a voluntary basis.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I am taking the floor at this point in the debate because of the very difficult position that my delegation finds itself in, that as Chairman of the Drafting Committee we were instrumental in referring this draft resolution to this Council. If we had not intervened at this time a decision would have been taken which would have reflected a clear division among members of Council. For that reason in the last paragraph of the report on that we carefully stated that in the light of dissenting opinion on the proposed resolution and in an effort to assure consensus the Council decided to defer final decision on the resolution to its Seventy-Second Session: it was decided therefore to include the resolution in the Agenda of the Seventy-Second Session.

My delegation will not go back into the argument about financing food losses; that debate has been adequately provided for in the last session. What we are considering now is the resolution put forward by the Director-General which in my view has tried to balance the views that were stated during the last session. There those who felt that the nature of the fund should be entirely voluntary and those who felt that the nature of the fund should initially be financed from the Regular Budget by utilizing the suspense account and that it should be supplemented by voluntary contribution. In view of that my delegation cannot see how the United States amendment would help to bring this balance. The proposal made by the United States delegation is to remove fund for programme. On this issue there were two subjects that were treated: the draft resolution which was presented by the Group of 77 to create a special fund for the reduction of food losses and the aim of that fund was to finance the FAO Action Programme; and, an Action Programme presented by the Director-General. To implement this programme the Group of 77 decided to establish a fund. If now, according to the United States amendment, we remove fund and have a programme, then we are departing from the majority decision.

I must say here that the spirit of cooperation and the agreement we reached during the last session was made possible by the help that the United States has given on this subject. I must compliment the United States for their efforts during the last meeting. It was through them that we were able to reach some sort of an agreement, an agreement to defer only the resolution of establishing the fund, but not the decision to create a voluntary or a compulsory fund, as my colleague from Canada has stated. We are not discussing the two sides. The decision to establish the fund was taken by the Council. It is the resolution which is to be recommended to Conference that this Council has to decide. Therefore I would appeal to Council again that the discourse in the Plenary Meeting makes it very difficult to arrive at a conclusion. For that reason I would suggest that this resolution and the amendment tabled by the United States should be considered during an adjournment. There are two important points that this Council has to reach: either we establish the fund as suggested by the Director-General on a majority vote, or we try to reach a compromise, establishing the fund as Canada has suggested in a way that some countries might decide to opt out. It would be difficult to reach this decision during the Plenary Meeting. I therefore suggest that we adjourn discussion on the resolution until this afternoon to allow consultation among the various delegations.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I thank the delegate of Gambia for his spirit of conciliation, in an attempt to reach an agreement which can never be reached. The decision to be taken, however, is quite different. There is, on the one hand, an overwhelming majority in favour of allowing the Director-General to start immediately to implement this programme; and there are, on the other hand, some very important countries who feel that such should not be the case and that you should leave it to their good will; to inform the Director-General, after the end of the Conference, whether they wish to make voluntary contributions.

Should we follow the Canadian and American suggestions, we would be left without one cent to start any programme. The World Food Conference recommended this programme, which was also endorsed by the 7th Special Session of the General Assembly. Three years have passed and, should we not take clear decisions, three more years may lapse before we make a start.

There is no possibility of reconciling those two resolutions; there is no way of trying to do anything about it; it would just be a waste of time! Let us record the majority decision of the members and, as we did yesterday, proceed with other issues. We cannot postpone this matter until the Conference. Four months have elapsed since it was decided to give time to enable some members to find a compromise and the same arguments could be put forward today. However, I believe that, if this issue is not solved today, it will not be solved by the Conference either.



I would also have liked to say something with regard to what the delegate of Canada stated this morning about the concept of charity. Since he is not here now, I will postpone that comment until this afternoon, because I wish to address my remarks particularly to him.

In summary, I cannot accept the resolution of the United States and Canada because it cannot be implemented. There cannot be any programme approved by me at any time until I have received some money. According to their proposal, I might receive \$500 000 one month and \$100 000 another month. How could I draw up a programme on such bases?

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I would like to correct a misunderstanding in the statement of the Director-General. My suggestion is not to postpone this decision to the Conference. It is for this session of the Council to postpone the meeting now so that members of Council can be given time to reflect on this and a decision will be taken by this Council in this session. I did not say transfer it to Conference.

WU TIEN-HSI (China) (interpretation from Chinese): On the question of the reduction of food losses we stated our views at the last session of the Council. Although the reduction of food losses will increase food supplies to a certain extent, the main consideration of the Third World remains the active expansion of food and agricultural production.

The savings from the Regular Budget of the Organization can only play a limited role in carrying out such a programme. In principle we did not agree to the use of savings from the Regular Budget for the establishment of such a fund for the reduction of food losses. However, in order to finance some model projects and experiments at the initial stage of the programme and speed up its progress, we agree to set aside some of the savings from the last biennium as part of the fund to be used in 1978-79, provided that the fund is properly allocated and utilized after adequate investigations and study are made.

Therefore, the Chinese delegation agrees to submit the draft resolutions proposed by the Director-General to the Conference for deliberation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Aún quedan pendientes en la lista 12 miembros del Consejo más 3 observadores. Hemos ya sobrepasado (Alemania se agrega a la lista), hemos ya sobrepasado el tiempo previsto para nuestras reuniones. Les propongo que antes de levantar la sesión, al final de la cual (Japon también se agrega), al final de la cual leer la lista de oradores, me permitan ustedes proponer al Consejo los miembros del Comité de Redacción, asunto que estaba pendiente desde ayer, cuando discutimos el tema 2 de nuestro programa.

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of Two Vice-Chairmen and Designation of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election des deux Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de dos vicepresidentes y nombramiento de presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Recordarán ustedes, que el Consejo decidió elegir por aclamación al señor Haque, Representante alerno de Bangladesh ante la FAO, como Relator y Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Ahora hemos concluido las consultas y estamos en condiciones de proponer al Consejo los siguientes 7 países para integrar el Comité de Redacción: Brasil, Checoslovaquia, Egipto, Estados Unidos, Filipinas, Nueva Zelandia y Túnez. Me permito informar a los miembros del Comité de Redacción, si el Consejo está de acuerdo en elegir este Comité propuesto, y entiendo que no hay objeción que de acuerdo con el Relator señor Haque, el Comité de Redacción celebrará su primera reunión esta misma tarde, hoy a las 5.30 en la sala de Etiopía.

Como sé que estamos en una semana pre-conferencia y que todos tenemos multiples actividades a fin de ir organizando el tiempo disponible, tal vez conviene que, de acuerdo con el Director General, informe yo a ustedes que parece imposible que mañana en la tarde terminemos nuestro período de sesiones tal como estaba previsto. Será necesario o celebrar una sesión nocturna mañana jueves, o reunimos el viernes proximo en la mañana. Para esta ultima alternativa se ha previsto ya que el Comité de candidaturas se reunirá el viernes en la tarde, a partir de las 14.30 horas. Esa es la situación. Creo que es conveniente para todos ustedes que sepan cuáles son las posibilidades que les confirmaremos más adelante.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.35 horas

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/4

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1977)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50  
sous la présidence de G. Bula hoyos, Présodent indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
  - V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
  - V. SUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)
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- 13. Special Fund for the Reduction of Food Losses (continued)
  - 13. Fonds special pour la reduction des pertes de produits alimentaires (suite)
  - 13. Fondo Especial para la reducción de las pérdidas de alimentos (continuación)

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): La República de Argentina, como país productor de alimentos, tiene clara conciencia de la importancia que revisten las pérdidas de alimentos durante y posteriormente a las cosechas. Por esa causa le asigna fundamental importancia a los esfuerzos que pueden realizarse en aras de la disminución de estas pérdidas.

Al someterse esta iniciativa en el 71° período de sesiones del Consejo, la delegación argentina apoyo entusiastamente la filosofía de la propuesta, así como el enfoque adoptado al identificar las causas principales que ocasionan pérdidas de cosechas y las posteriores a la recolección. En esta ocasión nuestra delegación formuló ciertas consideraciones sobre el enfoque y sugirió la conveniencia de llevar más allá la iniciativa y explorar la posibilidad de obtener el apoyo de instituciones internacionales de financiamiento para obras de infraestructura tendientes a evitar las pérdidas posteriores a la cosecha.

Asimismo, nuestra delegación sostuvo en esa oportunidad, al igual que otras delegaciones, ciertas reservas con respecto a la utilización de los fondos de la cuenta transitoria y la creación de un fondo ad hoc para esta iniciativa por la amenaza que conlleva en cuanto a la fragmentación de programas y recursos; sin embargo, las aclaraciones que en su momento expresó el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, así como los debates que tuvieron lugar en el 71° período de sesiones del Consejo, han satisfecho varios reparos de los que mi delegación mantenía; asimismo el objetivo de programas, sus potencialidades para posibilitar un principio de solución a un problema que comprometía seriamente los progresos que los países en desarrollo efectúan para acrecentar su capacidad de producción de alimentos, nos lleva a superar las reservas que aún puedan persistir.

Por ello, y sin perjuicio de los debates de más profundidad que tendrán lugar seguramente durante la Conferencia, deseamos anticipar nuestro apoyo al proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 77/Inf.18.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): Agradecemos al Sr. Presidente la oportunidad de concedernos una vez más el uso de la palabra, y en esta oportunidad nos dirigimos al Consejo en forma por demás breve en nombre del GRULA, y en especial de aquellos países de nuestra América que no son miembros del Consejo, que se hacen presentes a esta iniciativa del Director General, para reafirmar tal y como fue apoyada por el grupo latinoamericano durante el debate sobre las pérdidas de las cosechas en el cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y en el 71° período de sesiones del Consejo; queremos reiterar y hacer expreso el apoyo del grupo latinoamericano a la creación del Grupo especial para la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos y por ello el grupo latinoamericano, al cual tengo el honor de representar, apoya la propuesta del Director General tal y como aparece en el proyecto de resolución presentado en el documento C 77/Inf.18.

G.V.K. RAO (India): The subject of food losses, to quote from the document itself, has been on the agenda of many meetings of the FAO and other bodies, such as the World Food Conference in 1974, which gave due attention to it and to the possibility of increasing food availability by drastically reducing losses. The FAO Council at its 70th Session last year recalled the Resolutions passed by these bodies, in particular that of the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling for a 50 percent reduction of postharvest losses by 1985 and -- it is important to note it -- requested the Director-General to prepare an action programme to reduce post-harvest losses and to present a proposal for a \$50 million fund for this purpose. The Director-General was specifically asked by the Council to do this job; in fact, he has no option but to do it. The action programme was discussed at great length by the 4th Session of the Committee on Agriculture which made many suggestions to improve it. The FAO Council at its 71st Session unanimously approved the action

programme as endorsed by the COAG, and a large majority of the Council also agreed with the proposal for an FAO special fund for reduction of food losses. A resolution to establish the fund presented by the Finance Committee was discussed with the Council which deferred a final decision to its 72nd Session. It is desirable to recall these things, because we appear to have departed from all of this and tried to open the subject de novo.

I submit that it would not be quite correct for the Council, let alone any individual members, to reopen all that has been decided. The Director-General had no alternative but to present a proposal for creating the fund. The Council has gone ahead with a number of steps and it is only the passing of the formal resolution that is now being considered. In fact, so far as the prevention of food loss is concerned, and as Canada has quite emphatically pointed out, there is no difference of opinion at all on the merits of the programme. There is no controversy at all about the details of the programme.

But somehow we have brought ourselves to a position where there is a feeling that there is a very severe and strong difference of opinion. I would submit that the time is too late to take such an attitude. If any stylistic amendments to the Resolution are necessary, this is the time to seek to have the amendments accepted. But stylistic amendments surely cannot go in a particular direction which takes away the substance. Style should only improve the substance; style does not take away the substance.

I would therefore submit if the Council in its wisdom decides to improve the style the stylistic amendments should be accepted. And the delegate for Pakistan has brought back the Resolution by way of suggesting further amendments, and if any amendments have to be made, the amendments made by the delegate for Pakistan should be accepted.

I would therefore submit that the Resolution as now proposed is a continuation of a number of steps which have been taken in the past, and it is not desirable to go slowly in these matters. People outside want to know how we function.

Losses, so far as food is concerned, are very great, and it is not desirable for us to postpone matters on the grounds of style or for any other consideration. Food loss covers a lot of things such as fish, fruits, vegetables, etc. These are subject to losses also. Fish is a perishable commodity, and the loss there is very great.

In my view, the Programme does not go far enough. It is only a token attempt to tackle the problem of food losses. We are also not quite happy that an amendment should have been suggested that the Fund will be financed from external sources, in particular voluntary contributions from member nations. We think this should be a subject which should find a place in the budget of FAO year after year.

It is also not quite correct to say that the monies in the Special Fund will be carried on until the Conference decides to close the Special Fund. We will have food losses for a long time to come, and it is necessary to pay attention to this. In making compromises many a time we give up the substance, and it is not desirable to do this. So far as the Special Fund is concerned, this also is a subject which merits deeper consideration by all of us. Somehow we have come to the conclusion that any savings should be given back in proportion to the member countries. This was done when we were not quite clear about the kind of role the FAO itself would have to play.

What we are contributing is something like what may be called a planetary income tax. We have to pay taxes on our income. It has to be distributed and equitably used by all the countries in the world. What applies to the people of a nation also applies equally to nations. When we pay expenditure tax to the governments under whom we serve and live, the governments have their budgets - sometimes a surplus budget and sometimes a deficit budget. There are many countries in the world with a surplus budget, but the surplus is never distributed to the tax payers, it continues to take care of the deficit which may come later or is invested to be used for a rainy day.

I would insist there should not be a refund at all. The whole concept is wrong. The contributions of all countries are in the nature of a planetary income tax which I hope will come sooner or later. It will lose all its grace if we ask for a refund.

I submit the Draft Resolution which has been produced by the Director-General should be accepted by us all unanimously.

E. CAKAJDA: (Tchécoslovaquie): La délégation tchécoslovaque déjà, à la session précédente du Conseil, a appuyé les efforts du Directeur général pour que la FAO, dans l'esprit de la septième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale, contribue à la solution du grave problème des pertes alimentaires dans tout le processus de la production agricole. Notre propre expérience dans mon pays nous démontre qu'une possibilité technologique se manifeste pour diminuer essentiellement ces pertes et trouver une réserve importante pour améliorer le bilan mondial de la productivité dans le secteur agricole alimentaire. La nouvelle formule proposée par le Directeur général dans le projet de résolution, y compris le paragraphe 8, va rencontrer l'existence de différends dans le système d'administration financière des Etats Membres. Nous ne partageons pas l'avis qu'il s'agit là d'une nouvelle destination des contributions des pays membres mais objectivement du regroupement, du reclassement des moyens disponibles à l'intérieur du programme approuvé par le Conseil, et du programme qui est recommandé pour l'approbation de la Conférence de la semaine prochaine.

Lorsqu'il s'agit de certains objectifs dans le sens de financement de ces activités, nous sommes d'avis qu'il s'agit là d'un programme à longue durée, et que limiter d'avance les programmes futurs ne serait pas avantageux.

Nous sommes satisfaits de voir reconnu le principe de contributions volontaires dans la proposition.

En résumant nos arguments, nous tenons maintenant à nous déclarer d'accord avec le projet de la résolution, tout en étant persuadés qu'un consensus à ce sujet est possible et souhaitable.

G. de BAKKER (Netherlands): I would like to contribute to this discussion which we feel is a very important one as much for the substance as for the mode in which we work in the future. In our delegation without any doubt we do endorse the statement of the Director-General in the Draft Resolution recognizing the crucial importance, for the purpose of meeting the food needs of the world, of preventing food and particular post-harvest losses. We fully endorse that, we have always approved the idea of having a special programme for this important issue. We also note with satisfaction that the Director-General has taken action to implement the words of the World Food Conference suggesting ways of doing this.

When we come to the problems of today we must study and report on some of the principles we see are involved in this matter - issues of principles on which our government has certain views and which I want to state again. In the first place, during the last Council meeting we made it clear - our Director-General on Foreign Affairs spoke himself about this - that next to the central role of the UNDP we see a place for FAO also. Whenever a special problem arises they should have their own programme with its own special funding. We see a reason for that, especially for the problem areas which are common for many nations for which overall planning and overall preparation are more appropriate than waiting for the request from individual countries to come through the IPF to UNDP. FAO may be in a better position to initiate and develop programmes more naturally in close contact with the countries where the programmes must be executed, at their own request and according to their own priorities. We feel that this is the right approach although in general and in principles we still do subscribe to the consensus of a few years ago that UNDP plays a certain coordinating role.

We want to make that quite clear, first because it is a bit of a change of our attitude to the special funding by Specialized Agencies. Our position is that we feel for those kinds of programmes and also for the UNDP programmes the contribution of countries is most important, and we do not like to call that charity. The whole system of the post-war period of technical assistance has been based on the voluntary contributions. There is a very practical reason for this to continue, because for historic and philosophical reasons - sometimes for religious reasons, there are great difficulties for countries to make large contributions to some kind of programme in a certain area; they want to do it their way they like it and have done it in the past. To contribute through United Nations agencies with great amounts of money is only done by quite a small number of countries, and it would be harmful for the total amount of money to be collected if it is done through assessed contributions.

We feel voluntary contributions for programmes like this are also quite important for the future. To come more down to earth again I can announce to you that the Netherlands Government has authorized me to state here that they are willing to contribute to this Programme for Prevention of Food Losses quite substantially in principle. We cannot yet announce the amount of money, as first we want to hear about what other people think about it, and you will understand in principle why I want to come back to that. Secondly, when we give that contribution we want to consult with the FAO Secretariat about the projects and the aims of the projects for which the Dutch contribution money is spent. We would like to have some influence on the way the money is spent and indicate that if it is possible we would like to contribute our share to the personnel who are used for these programmes if we have good enough people available. In this context we can quote the role we play in the Food Security Assistance Scheme which is developing quite nicely with the Secretariat and in which the consultations take place without any problems.

Now for the issue of today - the big problem of the Suspense Account. We feel it is mostly a problem that must not stand in the way of coming to a conclusion today or tomorrow, it must be solved, it is not a matter on which you can change your opinions or you can divert your opinions so much that you cannot come to a conclusion. It must be possible. Therefore, we appreciate the attempts of the Director-General to meet some of the objections on some of the major contributions to FAO and also most probably to this programme. The objections are based on the generally accepted rules of financing the governments and the management of financing the governments. We have those rules. They are generally accepted and we feel that we cannot divert from them.

The Netherlands would like to make a contribution to this fund on the understanding that we are quite willingly giving part of our suspense account to this fund, but first in principle get it returned and then give it back the same day, the same second, if you wish. We would like to contribute a much higher amount than our share in this suspense account but we say that the total contribution must have the character of a voluntary contribution. I repeat, we must find a solution to meet the concern of the Director-General that he must have the money available readily and speedily, that he must know about the order of magnitude of the money so that he can know what kind of programmes he can start. We must make sure that the resolution is so clear that the Director-General can go ahead from the beginning of January next. On the other hand, there are objections by several countries. We cannot overlook them, so we must try to find a solution. I do not feel that this is altogether impossible. In matters like this we must not use the word impossible. It was used here this morning. I do not know whether it was really meant. It is not necessary to use the word impossible in policy matters like this, because we always find solutions to problems of this kind and I would regret it if this led to real controversy. The Finance Committee is a very small body, a few people sitting around a table for two or three weeks. I regret that they did not try to come up with a compromise formula that we could have discussed here because it is my strong conviction that we will never solve this problem in a Plenary Meeting. This is the kind of problem that can only be solved when the people most involved have the gift of formulating well and have a feeling for the positions of other people and will give in a little without giving up their own position altogether. This work ought to be done in a small group. Therefore, since this has not been tried in the Finance Committee I feel that I must support very strongly the suggestion made by the delegate of Gambia this morning. I admired this way of stating matters and of urging us to come to a solution. Perhaps I could make what he said a little more pointed by suggesting that the Chairman sets up for discussion this afternoon a small contact group in charge of finding a solution and not going to bed before it is found. I think the Director-General would like to have a representative there to help to come to a formulation that is also acceptable to him. I am sure there is a man available who I see at the podium who would be eminently suited to do this kind of job. I feel that when we return tomorrow morning and that small group has done its homework well we can carry on with the rest of the programme so speedily that perhaps we will finish the same day. When this big problem has been solved the rest will go much faster.

I would like to finish with a little comparison. We must find a solution, and this food losses programme is in the springtime. You know how it is, in spring sometimes there are beautiful days and then suddenly the clouds come and take away the spring feeling. I would feel very sad if the cloud of this suspense account took away the nice springtime feeling that we all have. A few small white clouds make the day even more beautiful, so I can accept a few small clouds because the blue sky becomes more beautiful with that contrast with the white. So I hope that tomorrow morning we will find a nice springtime day and blue skies, perhaps with a few little clouds which will later disappear.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais, tout d'abord, répondre à une remarque qui a été faite ce matin par le représentant du Canada. Je suis content de voir qu'il est ici, parce que je voulais déjà lui répondre ce matin. Cette remarque, qui a été reprise par le représentant des Pays-Bas, se réfère à la notion de charité que j'ai mentionnée ce matin.

Le concept de charité est particulièrement noble et humain et je ne vois pas pourquoi ces deux délégations m'ont reproché d'avoir employé ce terme. Si je l'ai utilisé, c'est que je ne pense pas qu'il soit possible de fonder des programmes internationaux sur le bon vouloir d'un nombre limité de pays, quelques généreuses que soient leurs intentions. Une telle pratique ne serait pas conforme aux règles d'une bonne administration et ne respecterait pas non plus la dignité des pays en voie de développement.

Je voudrais également rendre hommage à l'appui que la Chine et la Tchécoslovaquie, pays qui contribuent tous deux d'une façon très importante au budget de la FAO, ont apporté à mes propositions. La République populaire de Chine paie 7 pour cent de notre budget et n'accepte aucune aide de la FAO. La situation est analogue pour la Tchécoslovaquie, qui ne s'attend pas non plus, je pense, à recevoir une aide de ce programme.

Mais je dois dire que j'ai été particulièrement impressionné par l'intervention du délégué des Pays-Bas. Après avoir écouté ce délégué, je crois qu'il n'est pas impossible d'arriver à un accord, surtout après avoir entendu la phrase dans laquelle il a dit que, si une formule pouvait être trouvée, par laquelle les pays pourraient retirer leurs fonds et remettre les sommes qu'ils auraient retirées dans le fonds commun, son pays serait prêt, le jour même où il recevrait la part des 10 millions de dollars qui lui reviendrait, à la remettre dans le fonds commun; je ne sais si j'entendrai de telles paroles de la part de ceux qui se sont opposés à ma proposition. De plus, je voudrais indiquer qu'une formule encore plus attirante serait de ne pas permettre le retrait des fonds avant qu'il y ait une garantie en ce qui concerne la mobilisation des 10 millions. J'espère qu'une formule de ce type pourra être trouvée.

Il appartient au Président de décider maintenant s'il faut continuer à écouter les autres pays très importants qui ont certainement des positions à exprimer. Il vous appartiendra aussi, Monsieur le Président, de décider avec le Conseil du moment auquel un groupe de contact pourrait être établi. Je serais moi-même heureux d'y participer. Nous pourrions partir de la déclaration de Monsieur le délégué des Pays-Bas, qui nous a assurés que son pays est prêt à reverser immédiatement la somme qui lui revient.

De plus, le Délégué des Pays-Bas a également promis que son pays verserait une contribution plus importante que sa quote-part des 10 millions de dollars. Je sais que son pays est très généreux, comme en témoignent nos programmes sur la production laitière, la sécurité alimentaire et la production de la viande, qui ont tous été essentiellement financés par des pays tels que les Pays-Bas, les pays nordiques et l'Allemagne.

Mais je dois mettre en garde Monsieur le délégué des Pays-Bas a propos de ce qu'il a dit sur l'influence que son pays voudrait avoir sur les types de projets qui pourraient être financés dans le cadre de ce programme. Dans le cas de ce programme particulier, la procédure ne sera pas la même que dans d'autres cas. Il ne s'agit pas d'un programme "multi-bi". Une fois que les fonds seront disponibles, le Directeur général aura besoin de toute la flexibilité possible pour répondre aux demandes qui seront formulées par les gouvernements. Ensuite, il ne sera plus tenu de demander à chaque pays s'il est d'accord sur l'utilisation qu'il est envisagé de faire de la partie du fonds provenant de sa contribution et s'il est d'accord sur le pays qui en bénéficiera. S'il en allait ainsi, il s'agirait d'une aide liée.

Je tenais à attirer l'attention du représentant des Pays-Bas sur ce point. Il doit bien être entendu toutefois que, si son pays envisageait d'apporter des fonds allant au-delà de sa contribution normale, les conditions d'utilisation de ces fonds supplémentaires constitueraient une autre question.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo comparto la opinion del Director General sobre el espíritu constructivo de la propuesta que acaba de hacer nuestro distinguido colega y amigo de Países Bajos, la cual podría contribuir a que desaparezcán las nubes, como él ha dicho. Le propongo al Consejo que conservemos en nuestra mente con ánimo favorable esa propuesta; que si los demás oradores que están inscritos en la lista quieren intervenir, lo hagan así, naturalmente, de la manera más breve y concreta posible y que al final de la lista de aquellos miembros del Consejo que quieren intervenir, procedamos a la constitución del grupo de contacto. Naturalmente, aquellos oradores que están en la lista que no quieren intervenir ante esta situación, pues contribuirían positivamente al avance satisfactorio de nuestros trabajos.

Si el Consejo está de acuerdo con esta propuesta, vamos a llamar a los oradores inscritos en el orden que están, rogándoles que contribuyan a que avancemos satisfactoriamente.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I am happy to speak at this stage and by pure chance I speak after what are the new developments. I was already going to start my statement by making the remark that, if I understood correctly, our colleague from the United States made, who made it clear that he had an initial position. His position was not final and therefore he was also open to a dialogue, and the intervention of our colleague from the Netherlands - although I have a specific point which, by the way, the Director-General made, on which I really could not quite agree - the intervention of the delegate of the Netherlands surely helped us to come to a conclusion. At this stage I should like, very briefly, to make just three points.

First, the question of urgency. I think it is very important that we realise that we have a programme which has to be implemented now. We all know the vagaries and uncertainties of voluntary funds. A number of voluntary funds have been established in the past and never seen the light, and here we need action,



initiatives to be taken right now. We need a programme to be started and therefore it causes us considerable difficulty to accept an approach which will leave completely in the air, with no guarantees, the question of when the real programme will start. There is thus a matter of urgency here which is important.

The second basic point is the question of the principles. Many references have been made to principles. Well, Sir, we also have our principles. May I say in this connexion that, as far as essential elements of international cooperation for development are concerned, the payment for them should, as a matter of principle, be by the international community. If harvest losses are so fundamental in solving the problems of food in the world, then it will be only reasonable that harvest losses be paid for by assessed contributions. Therefore, what we have here before us right now is a compromise. You have a voluntary fund and only the seed money started with an amount of money which comes from windfall gains. But in principle we could very well argue that the whole programme should be paid for - being so important and essential - by the Regular Budget, and therefore we are moving in a matter of compromise to a formula by which the fund is voluntary; just the seed money to permit to start immediately is coming from what is not even really assessed contributions because it is windfall gains more than anything else. That is the second point, the question of principle.

The third point is the question of efficiency. In terms of efficiency we need to plan, and I think the Director-General has made this point quite clear. Anybody who plans needs to know with a certain degree of assurance what is the amount of money you have at what time, and for that purpose the proposal before us is quite wise. While keeping respect for the preference of some donors to keep the fund voluntary as a whole, it gives a minimum basis for planning.

Finally, I come to the point which was already taken by the Director-General, and I must say it was the only point really causing me a certain concern in the intervention of the delegate of the Netherlands. I can agree on many points he made, and I can agree on that: our reluctance to accept the voluntary approach, because we disagree with the privileged condition of the influence of donors when we refer to programmes of development. We are prepared to discuss equally programmes of international cooperation for development, but as equal partners, and not from a position in which some countries, because of their sheer economic power, have a privileged position in this case, influencing perhaps in a very significant manner decisions affecting other people and other countries. Therefore, this is a point of principle, since we are speaking so much about principles, and I hope our Dutch colleague will understand the constructive way in which I am making my comments to his observations.

I must say, however, that we very much hope - as has just been expressed by the Director-General and by the delegate of the Netherlands - that a solution can be found. I think in fact a compromise is already the position presented before the Council since last June and, in fact, as many have said before me, it is a rather surprising tenure whereby we are supposed to act on a decision which has just been deferred; but we are very happy to continue the dialogue in the manner the Council might feel was the best one.

SRA. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Trataré de abreviar mi intervención; pero es el sentir de mi delegación exponer que el Gobierno de mi país ha sentado ya una postura muy clara en lo que respecta a la creación del Fondo Especial para la prevención de las pérdidas de las cosechas. En este sentido tengo instrucciones de apoyar en la forma más amplia la resolución propuesta por el Director General que está a la consideración de este Consejo en el documento C 77/INF/18.

Señor Presidente, no escapa a mi Gobierno la necesidad de que la FAO institucionalice cada vez más sus actividades alejándola de la posibilidad de verse afectada por variaciones en los juicios sobre el beneficio o no de sus Programas. Mi Gobierno considera que la creación de este Fondo permitirá al propio Director General llevar a cabo Programas dentro de los objetivos precisos que le vayan señalando las necesidades de los países más necesitados de la participación de la FAO en materia concreta de las pérdidas postcosechas, pues sabemos que los países más necesitados con estas pérdidas merman en forma considerable sus ya raquíticas y en alguna ocasión miserables cosechas agrícolas.

Mi delegación ve como un punto de partida sumamente positivo la transferencia de los 10 millones de dólares de las cuentas de excedentes motivados por los cambios monetarios para crear este Fondo, suma que esperamos sea debidamente incrementada en el futuro a fin de iniciar una nueva forma de acción mucho más moderna y dinámica por parte de la FAO. Esta acción moderna y dinámica que el Director General está empeñado en desarrollar, sólo podrá llevarse a cabo con el apoyo de todos los países miembros de la Organización aportando, como lo dijera ya el delegado de la India, su impuesto planetario, frase que me ha parecido acertada y feliz. Pues bien, este impuesto planetario, aportado a los Programas de la FAO tendrá una incidencia directa en el desarrollo rural de los países que, como México, son relativamente menos desarrollados que otros y todos sabemos, además, que luchando al lado de los otros países del mundo se obtendrá de ellos el apoyo en la cooperación técnica, tanto a nivel internacional como a nivel horizontal que México está en posibilidad de ofrecer. Con ello se mejorará la situación alimenticia de los

campesinos, a lo que indudablemente también va a ayudar el Fondo; Fondo que deseamos desarrolle una acción de considerable importancia y con mucho mayor efecto de lo que ha sido hasta ahora la cooperación técnica en los países con menores recursos y que están clasificados como los más necesitados de ayuda alimentaria urgente.

La posición de la delegación de México, y pido disculpas, señor Presidente, por haber hecho uso de la palabra después de su atenta invitación, no puede pasar desapercibida en este debate donde se están poniendo en juego posiciones de principio y posiciones de ideologías que nosotros sabemos debemos apoyar, como lo hemos hecho.

SRA. C.I. DOMINGUEZ (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá apoyó en el 71 período de sesiones del Consejo pasado la propuesta para la creación de este Fondo Especial para la reducción de las pérdidas posteriores a las cosechas. En esta ocasión nuestra delegación, siguiendo instrucciones de su Gobierno, desea confirmar una vez más el apoyo para la creación de este Fondo Especial y dar el apoyo a la resolución que aparece en el documento C 77/INF/18.

A. BAOUA (Níger): Tout comme l'ont souligné certaines délégations qui ont précédé mon pays au micro, ma délégation soutient pleinement le projet de résolution concernant la création d'un fonds spécial en vue de prévenir les pertes alimentaires, notamment les pertes après récoltes, qui grèvent nos faibles productions déjà insuffisantes pour subvenir aux besoins alimentaires de nos populations. Il faut ajouter qu'il est complètement irrationnel de redistribuer ces sommes aux donateurs, vu l'effet négligeable qu'elles auront dans leur budget et, par ailleurs, nous pensons que ces économies reviennent de droit à la FAO parce qu'elles ont été réalisées sur des fonds mis à sa disposition.

En conséquence, le Niger se rallie à la déclaration du Groupe des 77 et des autres délégations qui sont intervenues dans ce sens. Nous proposons aussi que si une solution heureuse n'est pas trouvée au niveau du Conseil, la résolution soit transmise en tant que telle à la Conférence pour décisions finale.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): Until the intervention by the delegate of the Netherlands and the Director-General's reaction to that intervention, together with the remarks made quite recently by the delegate of Brazil, I had begun to think that we were in the middle of one of the more peculiar discussions that occur in United Nations fora. I say peculiar because in the course of the long discussion I have not heard anybody say that the establishment of a special fund or programme for the prevention of food losses is a bad thing. On the contrary, we have nearly all said how urgent and important it is. Nor have I heard anyone argue against the draft resolution on the grounds that his government wants to get back its share of the \$10 million, and I am not going to argue on behalf of the United Kingdom that I will oppose the resolution because we want our money back. It had therefore seemed to me that it ought to be possible to arrive at a consensus and that there were two essentials. One, the urgency of the need that we have to start meeting, and the Director-General said this morning that he wanted to be sure immediately of the \$10 million; and a purely voluntary process could not give him a guarantee of getting the money. I began to wonder what the meaning of the word 'immediately' in this context is, and I imagine that it means a start within the next few months, or certainly within the course of the next twelve months, but not a start by the day after the end of the Conference; and so, in terms of time there is little to be obtained.

The other important thing, and let me just add that I fully agree with the Director-General that he should be assured immediately, in the sense that I have just given to the word, of his \$10 million for a start but the other important ingredient is to retain some concept of a voluntary decision to enable money to go into the fund. I fully understand and sympathize with the views expressed this morning by the representatives of the United States and by Canada. I understand them because in my country we have something of the same problem and additionally I have technical problems that I will not bore the Council with but perhaps to enshrine the voluntary principle in quite the way that was suggested first by the representative of the United States does not go far enough to meet the clear, and I would add, the right wish of the Group of 77 to see that we have the money and get on with the important task. It may be possible, and I think this is also what the representative of the Netherlands had in mind, to do this in a reverse fashion and have a phrase in the resolution which in effect says to individual member states your money, your share of the \$10 million, will go into the fund unless by a certain date you have done something to say that you do not want that to happen and that dateline

could be just long enough to allow any state to say no, although in the circumstances it would probably require a very brave member state to say no, and at the same time sufficiently immediate not get in the way of what the Director-General wishes to do and so I am very grateful to the suggestion of the representative of the Netherlands, the Director-General's very sympathetic response to it and similarly to the spokesman of the Group of 77. I would hope now that the Contact Group that has been suggested can get us all out of this last difficulty.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): je crois qu'il est inutile que je formule la déclaration que je me proposais de faire, car le délégué des Pays-Bas a quelque peu sorti la situation de l'impasse, je dis bien de l'impasse. Par conséquent, nous pouvons considérer que les problèmes sont bien compris des uns et des autres, les deux volets sont très nets et le Directeur général aura l'assurance, après le groupe de contact, de disposer de ces 10 millions. Si ce groupe de contact n'arrive pas à ce résultat - je ne le souhaite pas, je dis "si" - à ce moment-là, je me réserve de faire une déclaration beaucoup plus forte, reprenant en cela certains avis qui ont été exprimés, certaines contradictions qui n'existent pas. Au sujet des "contributions volontaires", je crois que le représentant des Pays-Bas a été assez clair: il reprend et il donne tout de suite, mais c'est volontaire. Je ne vois pas la contradiction qui existe dans le paragraphe 8 de la résolution qui nous a été présentée, et je veux espérer que le groupe de contact nous proposera une résolution qui ira dans le sens que nous avons compris depuis l'intervention du délégué des Pays-Bas.

L. VELAY (France): Je pourrai être très bref car, lorsque j'avais demandé d'intervenir dans ce débat, j'avais l'intention de suggérer moi aussi la création du groupe de contact. L'intervention de l'honorable délégué des Pays-Bas me facilite donc beaucoup la tâche, et je ne crois pas utile de revenir une fois de plus sur le fond du débat.

Certes, la négociation au sein du groupe de travail sera difficile, mais nous considérons que, même s'il n'y avait qu'une chance sur dix d'aboutir à un consensus, il faut tenter cette chance.

Nous pensons très fortement que, si ce Conseil ne parvient pas sur chaque problème important à des consensus, alors, je le dis avec quelque solennité, ce sera très grave et pour la FAO et pour l'avenir de la coopération entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

C'est pourquoi j'appuie très fortement la suggestion de désigner un Groupe de contact, Je souhaite qu'il se mette au travail le plus tôt possible et que, demain, nous puissions nous prononcer sur un texte qui pourrait faire l'accord de tous et permettre aux uns et aux autres de résoudre leurs difficultés présentes.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I believe there is nobody amongst us who does not give high priority to the proposed programme to reduce food losses. I would therefore refrain from going into detail. Let me only mention two aspects again, first this task is, in the view of my Government, of such importance that it must be given priority within overall development efforts of the national effort of developing countries.

Secondly, for my Government I can state that we have already given high priority to measures and programmes to reduce food losses within the framework of our bilateral projects. In addition to the measures taken so far under our Technical Cooperation Programme we have now drawn up a regional programme to protect small farmers in Africa against post-harvest losses.

With regard to how the proposed programme for reducing food losses could best be financed, it is quite natural that there are different views around the table. It is not a question of a good heart or of charity. I have touched already very briefly upon our positive attitude towards this crucial area. It is in the case of my Government rather a question of maintaining financial principles. The Suspense Account in question has been established by the Conference Resolution 35/75 with specific terms of reference. If such agreements are changed later on one can expect that governments will in future act rather reluctantly on similar proposals.

With regard to financing the action programme my Government still holds the view that the basic preparatory work for the programme should be financed through the regular FAO budget, if necessary by postponing other activities. For the project as such, in view of the priority importance of the

programme and its future magnitude, financial support should be separate from international financial institutions and their bilateral donors. These will act, without doubt, positively upon specific project requests. Under these circumstances the preparation and implementation of the programme could start very soon or immediately.

Having said this you will realize my Government's position differs in principle from the proposed resolution, in particular because the voluntary action upon the Suspense Account's individual's share is not taken into account sufficiently but if it were done so in the way of the United States and Canada's proposals my delegation would propose to its Government to reconsider its position.

R. TANABE (Japan): Since the time is late and my position is quite similar to that of some other delegations, I hope everybody knows the position of my delegation, I will refrain from speaking more at this moment if the dialogue will continue to take place.

L. PURMESSUR (Mauritius): We have listened with great attention to the various interventions made on the draft resolution submitted by the Director-General on the establishment of a special fund for the financing of the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses. There is no argument as to the necessity for such a programme. It has the support of all the delegations. The argument is on the method of financing the action programme. We do appreciate the difficulties certain delegates have in accepting the Director-General's proposal in starting the implementation of the programme by transferring an amount of up to \$10 million from the Suspense Account in the 1976/77 biennium, but what is the alternative we have: only voluntary contributions and we rather suspect from our experience voluntary contributions only come after some time, months or years may elapse. On the other hand, time is essential for starting a programme which is designed for food and harvest losses and thus reducing the food gap for many countries in the third world. It is difficult to see how the Director-General can implement a programme which we all consider to be very important and urgent if we do not provide him by this implementation with the resources necessary. My delegation hopes that following the proposal made by the delegate of the Netherlands it will be possible to reach a consensus on the establishment of the special fund.

J. LEIDO, Jr. (Philippines): We have listened very carefully to the interventions of various delegations on the very important question under the consideration of this Council. We have noted the unanimity of opinion regarding the importance of the programme for reducing post-harvest losses. Nobody has questioned the merits of the programme. Not a single delegation has questioned the validity of the programme proposed by the Director-General and for the urgency of its implementation and for this we have to commend the Director-General. All delegations have agreed its importance and it should start soonest. There seems to be consensus therefore on two things, the importance of the programme and the need to get the programme off the ground at the soonest. We appreciate, however, the very real apprehensions of the Director-General. The nature of the problem is such that the Director-General must have the available force of funds so that he can start the programme and respect his commitments. No administrator would like to be in the position of having a mandate to accomplish a programme and not know whether the funds would be available, but we have also noted the reservation of certain countries of the methods of meeting the resources due possibly to certain legal and policy matters. There is now a polarization of opinion on how to finance the project but probably a stalemate is not necessary since we are all agreed that the programme is needed and that it should start soonest. Any suggestion to work out a way to iron out the differences and the way to get the programme off the ground soonest should be considered. Our delegation would therefore urge the Council to consider the suggestion so well initiated by the delegate of Gambia, that we pursue the task of resolving this issue in hand in the spirit of consensus and further articulated by the delegate of the Netherlands with the concrete proposal that a Contact Group be formed for the purpose, to be composed of members of the Council with the number that this august body may deem appropriate.

J. O. ALABI (Observer for Nigeria): Coming at this stage of the debate, many of the views we wished to express have been mentioned by other delegates. The Netherlands has put the idea very clearly. We were worried that we were heading for a deadlock. We are happy to note that things have changed for the better since the Netherlands spoke.

My delegation is happy to note the general support given to the Special Fund for Preventing Food Losses. From the statistics we have been given, effective control of food losses will mark the beginning of the elimination of hunger and malnutrition from the face of the earth, and that is the aim of this Organization. The fund will be financed mainly by voluntary contributions from Member Nations. The Director-General has suggested that \$10 million from the Suspense Fund which is available now should be used in starting the Fund. Because of financial regulations by the treasuries of Member Governments, this idea does not appeal to delegates whose governments have in the past been very generous in contributing to all such funds. It is not that such delegates do not want to give up their share of the money due to them from the Suspense Account, but they want this money to be returned to their own treasuries first and then some other funds, which might even be lighter than the shares they have received, will be made available.

We share the Director-General's anxiety that once we dispose of this bulk sum which we have on hand it may be difficult and may even take a long time to build up the funds again. Let us all remember that it takes a long time to get funds at all. It has taken us over two years to put IFAD into operation. It is a golden opportunity we have to start this programme now with the \$10 million from the Suspense Account. There are several millions of people who are starving and who need assistance. Let us not let them down.

Because we are all interested in establishing this fund to prevent food losses, my delegation has a humble suggestion to make for the consideration of the honourable delegates. We will not want them to stop giving us money when we ask. In view of the urgency of the programme, we recommend and urge Member Governments to take the money due to them from the Suspense Fund before we come for the next Conference. At the same time, the Conference should authorize the Director-General to go ahead with the programme for the prevention of food losses with the \$10 million which is now available. That will enable them to pass a resolution urging Member Governments to contribute generously to the Fund. When the contributions start coming in, funds will be available to give back to the Governments the shares due to them from the Suspense Fund which they can return to the Fund if they like. This way we will be able to start the Fund immediately and we will also have something to show our treasurers that their share of The Suspense Fund is forthcoming.

This suggestion may not be perfect, but we can perfect it according to the various points of view. Let us remember the hungry millions all over the world who are in need of assistance. We suggest a Contact Group be set up to dissolve the disagreement. We hate to see this issue being put to votes. The support of all Member Governments is needed. Our humble suggestion is put to the honourable delegates for favourable consideration.

O. LUCA (Observador de Chile): Mi delegación considera de la mayor importancia la iniciativa del Sr. Director General encaminada a realizar un programa especial con la finalidad de contribuir a reducir en lo posible las pérdidas que ocurran durante y después de las cosechas, y estima que el mecanismo propuesto por el Sr. Director General para iniciar esta acción es el más adecuado.

Al recurrir para iniciar este programa a una parte de los fondos acumulados por conceptos de fluctuación de los tipos de cambio, se dará a estos recursos un destino muy útil que redundará en un mayor beneficio para todos.

Hay que tener presente que la negativa al establecimiento del fondo en los términos propuestos por el Director General debilitarían considerablemente la acción que se desea realizar dentro de este programa y, además, podría conducir a un menoscabo de las facultades y de la independencia del Sr. Director General para administrar estos recursos en una forma concordante con las necesidades reales de los países eventualmente beneficiarios.

Por estas breves consideraciones mi delegación espera que el Consejo preste su aprobación a la creación del fondo propuesto por el Sr. Director General con esta finalidad y está dispuesta a apoyar en la Conferencia la resolución que se presente autorizando el establecimiento del fondo en los términos que figuran en el proyecto presentado al examen del Consejo.

B. E. PHIRI (Observer for Zambia): So many suggestions are now floating in the air, and one does not really know which one we must finally take. They are good suggestions in a number of cases. I was particularly interested in the suggestion made by the United Kingdom as well as that suggested by the Netherlands. The way I looked at it was that we could ask Member Governments to contribute on a voluntary basis to this Fund, which in fact is what is advocated by the people who would like to take the money back. My suggestion was why can we not ask the Conference to discuss this along the lines that the \$10 million which is carried with the Organization should be the first contribution of the member states? In other words, if we could find a way of resolving that, we would ask the Member

Nations to contribute voluntarily their shares' which are in the Suspense Account, the \$10 million, and that they are asked to put further contributions so that we attain the minimum of \$20 million. In other words, both this amount of \$10 million which the Organization has will be a voluntary contribution, and then we should ask the Member Nations to make a further voluntary contribution so that we attain the \$20 million. In that way, the Suspense Account will not have been used in a manner contrary to the financial management of governments.

The second option possibly is along the lines that was suggested by the Netherlands, that is, if governments could undertake that they are going to take their share back from the \$10 million Fund, and at the same time they will have already gone through their legislative bodies and put in back at the same time, but that is more complicated, because, as we know, legislative bodies take very long to make decisions of this nature.

With all good intentions, you may find that one country is able to put back this money in January another will not be able to do so in December, and therefore the Fund, although we have agreed to have it set up, will not become operational in the near future. Therefore, I suggest another possibility and that is if this money at all costs must be taken back by member states, then we might as well as that let the whole \$20 million be contributed on a voluntary basis but pledges must be made now that we are going to put in some money, and if we find the Fund can be set up, we decide on a date that these pledges must be paid to the Organization by such a date so that we know that by that we have the \$20 million, and the \$10 million can be withdrawn whenever the states are ready to take it back. But we need to be assured that a Fund is going to be set up and if it is to be pledged, then we must set a date, we know we shall have a Fund, or else we can say let the \$10 million which is there be regarded as our first contribution to this particular fund and that in the meantime we should go out and fight it out with the legislative bodies for further funds to swell up this \$20 million.

N. EL-SALEH (Observer for Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): On several occasions we have tried to avoid taking part in the discussion because we are Observers, and I promise that I shall avoid taking the floor as often as I can. However, this time I must. This is a very important question. What we find important is the experience that we have acquired in the past. We thought of the programme, it is obvious that the initial amounts in the beginning were small, then they had to be expanded. We all know that. What we find important in Saudi Arabia is that we are going to be amongst the countries that have been requested to take part in the programme, as we have taken part in other programmes that involve considerable, not to say exorbitant, sums of money. Therefore, we feel obliged to speak on the matter.

We would agree to try to reduce post-harvest losses and to set up a special account or fund for that, but the sums of money involved concern countries, and for countries to want to withdraw sums of money is a perfect right. We must find out whether the countries really want to withdraw the money or not. Each country will have to decide whether it is going to do that or not. One day perhaps we shall be able to set up a far greater fund to cover post-harvest losses. The proposal of the Netherlands, that of the Contact Group, is a very useful one I am very happy that most of the delegations feel the same.

The point that we would like to raise about the Suspense Account for financing the Special Fund is as follows: the Director-General must be allowed flexibility of action. However, the paying-over of sums of money must be done in a proper fashion. The procedure must be well defined, and the Contact Group must take all this into account.

T. GLASER (Observer for Switzerland): I have asked for the floor to inform the Council that my government does not approve the manipulation of the Suspense Account as proposed in document C 77/INF/18.

But since the programme to better the reduction of food losses started to take shape, my Government planned in its budget a certain amount of money in order to be able to contribute fast to this action against food losses, which we welcome very much. This amount is a multiple of our share of the Suspense Account, but we would like it to be a voluntary contribution.

For the rest, I can stop here by saying Swiss views are very close to those so well expressed by the delegate for the Netherlands and also by Germany. If that sounds somewhat rude, it is just because I am trying to be brief.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président a.i. du Comité financier): Je me suis permis de vous demander la parole pour répondre au délégué des Pays-Bas qui a fait mention du fait que le Comité financier ne s'est pas penché de nouveau sur cette question pour proposer d'autres mesures ou bien d'autres systèmes de financement.

Je voudrais remonter au mois de juin, et rappeler au délégué des Pays-Bas que le Comité financier a demandé expressément au Conseil à sa 71ème session s'il y avait des propositions concrètes. Aucune proposition n'a été avancée.

De même, je voudrais préciser que le Comité s'est réuni à huit clos, sans secrétariat ni interprètes, non seulement pour discuter de la question, mais pour revoir les déclarations qui ont été faites par les délégués. Nous avons constaté qu'il y avait des réserves, mais pas de positions définitives. Nous n'avons aucun élément nouveau qui mettait le Comité à même de faire de nouvelles propositions.

C'est pourquoi, après cette discussion, nous avons décidé de maintenir la recommandation que nous avons présentée à notre 39ème session et qui figure aux paragraphes 3.132 et 3.133.

Nous avons également estimé qu'il faudrait peut-être préciser dans la résolution le principe du volontariat pour ce qui est des contributions à ce fonds, et je crois que cela figure dans le projet de résolution révisé qui vous a été présenté.

Enfin, et je vous le dis très sincèrement Monsieur le délégué des Pays-Bas, le Comité a nourri l'espoir que nos délégués, qui connaissent bien la maison et qui ont tous souligné l'importance de ses activités, arriveraient probablement à convaincre les services financiers.

Voilà exactement quelle était notre position. N'ayant aucun élément nouveau, nous n'avons présenté aucune nouvelle proposition.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en acoger la propuesta de Países Bajos en el sentido de integrar un grupo de contacto. Me permito proponer los siguientes países: Brasil, Jordania, Gambia, Pakistán, Estados Unidos, Reino Unido, Países Bajos, Finlandia y parece ser lógico y conveniente que en este grupo de contacto participe igualmente nuestro Relator y Presidente del Comité de Redacción, señor Haque de Bangladesh. Espero que todos hayan captado bien la propuesta que les hago y si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, entiendo que todos ustedes están de acuerdo en que se establezca ese grupo de contacto.

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y EL PMA (continuación)

- 7. World Food Programme
- 7. Programme alimentaire mondial
- 7. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

- Draft Resolution on Target for WFP Pledges 1979-80
- Projet de resolution concernant l'objectif des contributions au PAM pour l'exercice biennal 1979/80
- Proyecto de Resolución sobre el objetivo de las promesas de contribución al PMA para el período de 1979-80
- Adoption of the WFP's Revised General Regulations
- Adoption des Règles générales révisées du PAM
- Aprobación de las Normas Generales Revisadas del PMA

EL PRESIDENTE: Para el Programa Mundial de Alimentos hay dos subtemas que están especificados en el Orden del Día. Se trata de un Proyecto de Resolución sobre el Objetivo de las promesas de contribución al PMA para el período de 1979-80, y la Aprobación de las Normas Generales Revisadas del PMA.

Creo que conviene tomar conjuntamente los dos subtemas del tema 7. Concedo ahora la palabra al señor Ustün, Director Ejecutivo Asistente del PMA.

F.M. USTÜN (World Food Programme): The Executive Director, Mr. Vogel, is at present in New York for a discussion of the WFP in the United Nations General Assembly. He regrets his inability to be with you this afternoon and has asked me, on his behalf, to read to you the text of the statement which he had prepared for this meeting. I quote:

"Mr. Chairman, on the occasion of my first statement to the Council, I wish to express my pleasure and commitment in looking forward to close collaboration with you in the years to come. As the work of WFP and FAO continues to run a close parallel, we will I am sure continue to profit from many opportunities for reciprocal reinforcement and cooperative execution of our assistance to developing countries in tasks of rural development, agricultural expansion and nutritional improvement. Although the WFP has grown to be a very substantial source of such assistance, and the FAO is well established as a pillar of strength in the world of food and agriculture, we know that the problems before us of development and the combatting of hunger, are so great and growing that we must continue to act in combination: indeed, the whole United Nations system must integrate its effort to the maximum as it is now doing, for example, in the field of rural development to be able to respond adequately to the needs we exist to meet."

The size of the challenge before us leads me immediately to the question of the pledging target for contributions to the resources of WFP during the biennium 1979/80. I believe that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, after a careful review of the WFP, has been very wise in recommending to you and to the other international bodies concerned the target of \$950 million. Let me indicate to you briefly some of the considerations which have given strength to the Committee's conviction on this point.

Significant supplementary pledges were announced during the meeting of our Committee and, as a result of this, pledges made for the 1977/78 pledging period have already amounted to 82 percent of the target. In the remaining 13 months of the period it is hoped that the target of 750 million dollars will be reached.

The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was informed that even if the proposed target of \$950 million for 1979/80 is endorsed and actually attained, it will only enable the Programme to make yearly commitments during each of the three years 1978/80 at a level of \$300 million, which has been the average of annual commitments during the last seven years. This level is very modest in relation to the total requests for food aid received by the Programme from the recipient countries and corresponds to almost one-half of the commitments which were made during the 1975/76 biennium.

The Committee recognized that the WFP in its short existence had proved to be one of the most effective development programmes within the United Nations system. It agreed that any decision on the target figure must be viewed in the light of the needs of the developing countries for project-oriented food aid and the managerial ability of the Programme to administer efficiently increased food aid. In this respect, there was agreement on the pressing and urgent needs of recipient countries for food aid and on the Programme's ability to handle a much greater volume of resources. Serious doubts have been expressed by a number of delegates to the effect that the proposed target could not be attained unless not only the existing donors increase their pledges but also new potential donors participate in supporting the Programme financially. Several delegates stressed on the other hand that the adoption of the proposed target was imperative in the light of proved requirements of recipient countries and their actual absorptive capacity as well as in view of the expected level of commitments throughout the remainder of the decade. Such a decision was also fully warranted in the light of the delivery capacity that the WFP has already acquired and of the small proportion of the global food aid channelled through the Programme. The consensus of the Committee was that the recent average annual commitment level of \$300 million should not be allowed to diminish in the coming years; otherwise the momentum gained by the Programme would suffer, with the attendant consequences for developing countries. With this overriding consideration in mind and taking into account the overwhelming support of the members for the Executive Director's recommendations, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes agreed to adopt the figure of \$950 million as the pledging target for the 1979/80 biennium and to recommend it to the parent bodies of the Programme for final acceptance and subsequent endorsement by the United Nations General Assembly.



Kr. Chairman, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations has already endorsed the recommended target and I would now ask the Council not only to endorse the pledging target of 1979/80 but also to add to the terms of the draft resolution which you approved at your last session as an instrument for your endorsement, an appeal to all potential donors to assist in reaching the target as soon as possible. If most pledges can be made at the pledging conference early next year or soon thereafter, the Programme will be in a stronger and surer position to maintain the level of its commitments to needy countries for development projects.

In addition to regular pledges and the contributions received under the Food Aid Convention, another important resource of the WFP is the International Emergency Food Reserve established pursuant to a recommendation of the General Assembly at its Seventh Special Session. You will recall that the Assembly proposed that this reserve should be placed at the disposal of the WFP so as to strengthen the Programme's capacity to deal with crisis situations in developing countries and that the Reserve should have a minimum level of 500, 000 tons. Although the establishment of such a Reserve was unanimously accepted in 1975, the proposed level has not yet been reached.

At present, 258, 000 tons remain available to the Programme, taking into account also the contributions recently announced, a part of which will become available early in 1978. I should like to express the appreciation of the WFP to all countries which are already participating in the Reserve, namely: Norway, Sweden, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and the European Economic Community and to express the hope that they will soon be joined by others. In this appeal for wider participation, I would include countries able to make cash contributions as this would greatly increase the effectiveness of the Reserve.

Mr. Chairman, I wish in this connection also to inform the Council that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has decided to increase the annual allocation for emergency assistance from \$40 million to \$45 million in both 1977 and 1978. Allocations for subsequent years will be decided in the light of a review in the 1978 Autumn session of the Committee, based on a study to be conducted by WFP jointly with FAO and the United Nations.

The other major subject before you concerning the World Food Programme is the revision of its General Regulations. This question is presented in document CL 72/16. The CFA at its first session called for such modifications in the General Regulations as would be appropriate in view of the reconstitution of the former Intergovernmental Committee into the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. All of the revisions except paragraph 14 decided upon by the CFA at its fourth session, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes adopted the following wording for that paragraph:

"All States Members of the United Nations or Members or Associate Members of any specialized agency or of the IAEA shall be eligible to submit requests for consideration by the Programme."

In forwarding the text of the revised General Regulations of WFP to the UN Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council for approval, and after taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council, the Committee requested the two Councils to endorse also, at the same time, the following interpretative statement on paragraph 14 of said Regulations:

"The Programme may also consider other requests, including those from liberation movements recognized by the United Nations and the OAU, implemented with the agreement of the host countries, that are in conformity with specific resolutions of the United Nations and FAO, that meet the aims of WFP, the implementation being carried out in accordance with the criteria and procedures of the Programme, as appropriate".

This recommendation is shown in document CL 72/16 Supplement-1 which was circulated yesterday:

It is therefore for the Council, as it wishes, to approve the proposed revisions in our General Regulations.

Before closing may I be permitted to correct an omission in connexion with all language versions of document CL 62/16, Part B, paragraph 5(b) which appears on page A3. Since the word "cooperation" has inadvertently been omitted from the first line of the paragraph, the Council is kindly requested to insert this word so that the phrase will read: "... within the framework of emergency assistance cooperation in the United Nations system ..."

D. BASSIOUNI (Sudan): Before my delegation makes clear its stand on the position of the World Food Programme we would like to register in this Council our appreciation of the operations of the World Food Programme in our country. In several programmes, like the relief organizations, we must say that the World Food Programme has conducted a very impressive role. We think there is still a lot for the World Food Programme to carry out in the developing countries. In some of these programmes, as relief organizations or relief programmes, there are no difficulties, but we think there are areas where World Food Programme activities still need some improvement. In certain projects, projects which are oriented towards development, for example, afforestation, there are problems of technical assistance because the World Food Programme cannot conduct a number of these activities by itself. In such programmes I think assistance from specialized agencies like FAO is necessary. And in this particular instance, when we think of afforestation and other specialized programmes, I think the World Food Programme should be given special support in this particular programme to enable it to implement the objectives for which food for work is being used in a particular country.

In certain instances, when a country has an obligation to meet its own obligations, there are difficulties arising, for example, in inputs which a country cannot possibly provide. Let us say improvement of transportation in a certain country; we think an arrangement should always be worked out with the beneficiary government and WFP should work out a system whereby, in certain circumstances, a country can be assisted to improve the system of distribution. And what we would like to emphasize here is that the programme itself should not be looked at entirely as a programme for distributing food but that the objective for distribution should receive very adequate importance from both the recipient government and also from the World Food Programme itself.

Having said this, we would like to emphasize here that the role the World Food Programme is playing in the developing countries is important and should be given the support that it needs. My delegation wishes to state here our full support for the revision of the regulations and for the draft resolutions for 1979/80 target.

RAMADHAR (India): I should like to join the delegate of Sudan in complimenting the World Food Programme on improving nutrition and assisting the efforts of developmental projects in the developing countries. In my comment to Item 7 before us I will touch on two issues. The first one relates to the Draft Resolution on Target for WFP Pledges for 1979-80. In principle the text was already approved by the 71st Session of the Council and only the formal recommendation of the target was left to the 4th Session of the CFA and subsequently to this Council Session for final approval. Now, the CFA has considered this at its 4th Session and recommended a target of \$950 million. My delegation fully supports this recommendation and recommends its adoption by this Council.

The other issue before us under this item relates to the adoption of World Food Programme revised regulations. All the regulations except Regulation 14 were approved by the 3rd session of the CFA in May 1977. Now, the 4th session of the CFA which considered Regulation 14 recently proposed a draft. My delegation is of the view that these regulations are in conformity with the new responsibilities with which the CFA was entrusted; the proposed regulations remove many of the ambiguities and clearly demarcate the areas of responsibility, so that the programme will be able to achieve the objectives of securing the improvements in nutritional standards and enhancing the efficiency of food production and distribution.

My delegation, therefore, recommends that these new regulations be approved by this Council.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): On the question of target for the World Food Programme pledges for the period 1979-80, my delegation is pleased to note that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes has been able to propose unanimously a pledging target of \$950 million. We fully endorse this target which we think necessary in recognition of the World Food Programme's acknowledged capacity to operate at progressively higher levels, and the growing needs of developing recipient countries for food aid for development projects. We are confident that this target should not only be achieved but exceeded and would urge that not less than one-third of the resources provided should be provided in the form of cash and services.

Regarding the World Food Programme's revised general regulations, we approve their adoption, including the compromise text of paragraph 14 and particularly the interpretative statement. We feel that these revised regulations should enable the World Food Programme and its governing bodies to fulfill its enlarged new functions. We are also gratified to note the increase in emergency assistance and would commend the flexible approach adopted by the World Food Programme. Such a flexible policy, we are sure,

will enable the Programme to meet emergency needs whenever and wherever they arise. In particular, we would hope that the World Food Programme will pay special attention to the Sahel regarding which the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes heard and considered special reports.

E. HBAOUI (Liban) (Interpretation de l'arabe): Ma délégation voudrait parler de l'activité du Programme alimentaire mondial et de sa participation efficace au développement rural dans les pays en développement. Nous avons constaté les résultats du Comité du CPA et les résultats de la dernière session du CPA dans lesquels nous avons vu que l'objectif visé par le biennium 1979-80 sera de 950 millions de dollars. Nous avons grand espoir de voir le Conseil adopter l'objectif proposé et nous lançons un appel aux pays qui participent au financement de ce Programme d'augmenter leur participation, pour permettre au Programme de fournir des aides efficaces aux pays en voie de développement et ce, surtout, dans les cas d'urgence.

De même, nous appuyons les nouvelles propositions qui visent à améliorer les normes et les critères sur la base desquels les aides sont accordées.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia expresa su apoyo al proyecto de resolución sobre objetivos para las promesas de contribución del PMA durante el período de 1979/80 tal como aparece en el documento CL 72/10.

Asimismo apoyamos el documento CL 72/16 sobre la aprobación de las normas generales revisadas del PMA.

Nuestra delegación aprovecha esta oportunidad para expresar su agradecimiento al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, organismo que viene ofreciendo una valiosa contribución a nuestro país. En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia queremos agradecer a todos los miembros del PMA que en el último período de sesiones de este organismo ofrecieron su apoyo para la aprobación de un importante proyecto colombiano, así como a la Secretaría, y en particular a los señores D. Pascual Mon anaro y D. Claudio Chaves, quienes vienen dedicando especial atención al PMA en Colombia.

F. REDA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): We should like to state right away that we give our full support to the efforts made by the Secretariat of WFP which helped to carry out development projects in developing countries. There can be no doubt that these studies made by the Secretariat helped to reach the objectives which have been set. I also wish to say that we should like to give our support to the target determined for the period 1979/80 as it appears in document CL 72/10. This proposed target is of the order of \$950 million, as you all know.

We wish to add that we agree with the report of the 4th session of the CFA and in particular with regard to the amendments made in paragraph 14 of the General Regulations. We say this especially for the intention of those members of the Council who are not members of CFA. We should like to tell them that we reached a compromise solution there which was accepted by a consensus. Of course in the report of the CFA the Members of the Council are going to find all the details and explanations on paragraph 14.

Furthermore, we support the proposal on emergency aid for which \$45 million have been allocated instead of \$40 million and in the framework of which it is said that the Specialized Agencies should coordinate their activities in the case of emergency aid. Cooperation between these Agencies is considered necessary in all activities concerned with development in developing countries.

Finally, I also wish to express support for the orientation given by the CFA at its last session with regard to the effort to be made in order to solve the problems of the Sahelian countries.

Ms. C. IRGMAN (Finland): The Finnish delegation would like to comment briefly on the documents concerned. The two items, WFP's pledging targets and WFP's revised General Regulations, undoubtedly, in our view, belong to the most important issues deliberated upon by the CFA Committee in its 4th session which ended just last week. I will therefore limit myself to commenting on them.

First, concerning the question of the proposed target of \$950 million for the WFP pledges for 1979-80, my delegation has taken due note of the discussions in the CFA, taking into consideration the growing needs of food aid programmes and the growing number of requests received, and in view of the role of the WFP as a major multilateral food aid agency, the Finnish delegation would like to concur with the decision taken by the CFA and propose that the Council decide to approve the Draft Resolution in question. Naturally, Finland will also take part in the 8th Pledging Conference for the WFP.

Turning to the adoption of the World Food Programme's revised General Regulations, we note that these, as presented in document CL 72/16, were approved by the CFA at its 3rd session. Further, the CFA at its 4th session, after very thorough discussions, reached a compromise and approved a text on paragraph 14. The Finnish Delegation, conscious of the importance of this paragraph and willing to join the compromise spirit of the text, is ready to approve WFP's revised Central General Regulations as presented to the Council, and to endorse the interpretative statement quoted in paragraph 3 of document CL 72/16 Sup.1.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): I wish to put on record also my delegation's full support for the pledging target of \$950 million for the period 1979/80. We understand this target has been realistically appraised by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which met here last week. We feel it necessary to urge all donors, small and large, to put all their efforts together so that the target can be obtained, if not surpassed in view of the current supply situation in many food exporting countries and of the need of many developing countries for food aid and development.

My delegation expresses its appreciation for the work done by the World Food Programme and with the new Executive Director in office we have full confidence that the Programme will go from strength to strength and more food aid be channelled through this body.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): La délégation de Guinée-Bissau se joint aux délégations précédentes pour donner son total accord et son appui aux projets de résolution sur les objectifs des contributions au PAM pour la période 1979-80.

Rappelant la thèse que l'aide alimentaire du PAM est destinée aux pays en voie de développement jusqu'au moment où ils ont les moyens d'être auto-suffisants, notre délégation saisit cette occasion pour attirer l'attention du Conseil sur la situation des pays de la zone sahéenne et des pays voisins qui, par suite de la sécheresse de cette année qui a laissé des marques assez profondes (la pluviométrie est de 50 pour cent par rapport aux dernières années), voient leurs denrées alimentaires déjà presque perdues. Pour cette raison, notre pays et certainement les pays voisins, espèrent profiter de l'aide alimentaire du PAM et souhaitent que ce projet de résolution soit approuvé par tous les membres du Conseil.

S. SHAMMOOT (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): Because of the importance of the role that the World Food Programme plays in the giving of aid to developing countries so as to increase the food production in these countries and given the aid that my country has also received from that Programme my delegation would like to support the proposals made in document CL 72/10 to the effect that the target for the 1979/80 period be \$950 million.

Turning to the report of the last World Food Programme meeting we support the amendments made to the General Regulations, in particular paragraph 14.

H. CUEVA (Ecuador): No debo dejar pasar esta oportunidad para, en primer término, expresar en nombre del Gobierno de mi país su profundo agradecimiento por la magnífica labor que viene desarrollando el PMA en el Ecuador.

Igualmente, mi delegación quiere apoyar el objetivo de 950 millones de dólares para la contribución al Programa Mundial de Alimentos correspondiente al "bienio 1979/80.

Asimismo mi delegación pide al Consejo que apruebe las dos decisiones recomendadas por el CPA con respecto al reglamento del Programa.

SEÑORA G, RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Mi delegación desea en primer término felicitar al Sr. Vogel por su nueva designación, y considera que está realizando una labor eficiente y positiva al frente del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para nuestros países. Este grupo de personas se está dedicando con todo empeño a ayudarnos a mejorar las condiciones de vida en nuestros países y deseamos continúen con el éxito con que hasta ahora han venido realizando su labor.

Por otro lado, la delegación de México desea manifestar su apoyo al proyecto de resolución sobre los objetivos de promesas de contribución al PMA para el período 1979/80 y, asimismo, apoya el aumento del presupuesto que se ha planteado, esperando que este aumento no sirva para que se descuiden los compromisos básicos que ya están concertados, o sea la cantidad que ha venido a incrementar este presupuesto se pueda utilizar en nuevos proyectos en países que ya tienen una infraestructura debidamente establecida.

•M. VARGAS JORDAN (Observador de Bolivia): Gracias, Sr. Presidente, por haberme concedido el uso de la palabra. Los múltiples favores y la gran capacidad puesta al servicio de mi país por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos merecen el reconocimiento de mi Gobierno y del pueblo boliviano. Bolivia ha sido uno de los países que, sin duda alguna, está completamente convencido de que la capacidad puesta y la ayuda recibida por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha servido de incentivo y orientación permanente en lo que se refiere a nuestra capacidad productiva. En tal sentido, mi país, a través de su representación, hace suyas todas las manifestaciones de valor expresadas en este Consejo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos; se suma a ellas y presta su amplio apoyo al proyecto de resolución y a la meta de incentivación del presupuesto de 95° millones de dólares para el período 1979/80.

P.M. USTUN (World Food Programme): Firstly, I am most grateful indeed for the delegates who have intervened this afternoon and lent their support to the resolution submitted by the Committee on Food Aid. I wish also to extend the appreciation of the Programme for the complimentary remarks which have been made by those delegates. If the World Food Programme is a success this is not attributed only to the small and devoted staff alone but it is also attributed to the guidance which the World Food Programme receives from its Governing Body and it should also be mentioned the donors and the recipient countries which cooperate during the implementation of the projects.

The Secretariat will continue to do its best as long as it continues to receive the support from all the members in this Council and other bodies. Having said this, there have been two specific observations which have been made by Sudan and by Pakistan which I will briefly touch on.

I fully share the views expressed by the delegate of the Sudan that the chance of the success of the World Food Programme assisted projects can be seriously enhanced if the United Nations System can come into the picture and give the technical assistance required. The World Food Programme is doing its best to coordinate such activities at the planning level, at the country level, whenever a project is received but this should be done together with the recipient government, together with the World Food Council and involving the developing country at this stage and besides that the World Food Programme is giving from its cash resources substantial amounts of funds to the less developed countries to improve the transport facilities and to meet the transport needs.

As far as the remark that has been made by the delegate of Pakistan regarding the need of the Sahel countries I wish to inform this Council, the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director, of the Programme close watch on the situation in the Sahel countries. The World Food Programme has already-initiated action as late as a month ago to put nucleus stocks in two ports in the Sahel area, that is Dakar and Abidjan, so until the potential donors make their contributions any need that might come up immediately can be met from those stocks. The Executive Director, as directed by the Director-General of FAO, convened last week informal meetings with the potential donors during which the need of the Sahel has been reviewed and the coordination possibilities have been examined. I wish to inform the Council the Programme is very closely involved in this matter and we hope that the lessons we have learnt in the past will be applied this time in good time.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Consejo ha reiterado su pleno apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos que decide asimismo acoger favorablemente los objetivos de promesas de contribución para el período 1979-80, y también aprobar las Normas Generales revisadas del PMA, a la luz de las aclaraciones que hizo el señor Ustün, Director Ejecutivo Alterno, Asistente Adjunto, a quien agradezco su cooperación para la discusión de este tema, rogándole también que transmita al señor Vogel el nuevo Director Ejecutivo del PMA, nuestro agradecimiento por el mensaje que nos presentó por conducto del señor Ustün, con todos nuestros mejores deseos porque él obtenga todos los buenos éxitos en esa importante posición.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): If I understand correctly you are summing up, just to "be precise "because here we need to be precise, not only have we on the one hand adopted the resolution concerning the targets for the biennium 1979/80, on the other hand we have adopted at the same time the revised general regulations and we have adopted also the interpretative statement. There are two decisions there. My understanding hopefully is the correct one.

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (Continuación)

14. Budget for the Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South West Pacific

14. Budget de la Commission régionale de la production et de la santé animales pour l'Asie, l'Extrême-Orient et le Pacifique Sud-Ouest

14. Presupuesto de la Comisión Regional de Producción y Sanidad Pecuarias para Asia, el Lejano Oriente y el Sudoeste del Pacífico

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président a. i. du Comité financier): Monsieur le Président, je pense que notre Conseil a constaté avec surprise, mais également avec satisfaction, qu'il n'y a pas de document qui concerne ce point. La raison est très simple et je crois qu'il faudrait un peu expliquer ce fait.

Il y a quatre ans, le Conseil a délégué au Comité des finances le pouvoir d'approuver le budget des commissions régionales et des organes semi-autonomes. Le Comité a pensé qu'après quatre ans, ne serait-ce qu'à titre d'exemple, le Conseil voudrait revoir un de ces budgets, et c'est la raison pour laquelle je présente oralement le résultat de l'examen du budget de la Commission régionale de la production et de la santé animales pour l'Asie, l'Extrême-Orient, et le Pacifique Sud Ouest, en abrégé APHCA.

Cette Commission, qui est composée de 11 membres, a adopté à sa deuxième session, en août 1977, son barème de contribution pour 1978, son budget pour l'année 1978, ainsi qu'un budget indicatif pour 1979.

Le montant proposé pour le budget 1978 est constitué du montant des contributions de l'année 1978, des économies réalisées en 1976/77, ainsi que des crédits que fournit la FAO à titre de soutien pour la Commission. Le cumul de ces trois volets de financement nous donne, pour 1978, un montant total de 121 640 dollars à répartir comme suit: APHCA 51 535 dollars, soutien de la FAO 70 105 dollars. Ce budget a été adopté par la Commission. Il a été également approuvé par le Comité financier.

Cependant, il y a lieu de noter que la Commission a demandé à la FAO de lui fournir à temps complet le concours d'un spécialiste de l'élevage au grade de P3, ainsi que d'autres services de secrétariat. Ces nouvelles demandes ne sont pas prévues dans notre programme de travail de budget pour 1978/79. Aussi le Comité a-t-il estimé que ce renforcement de soutien demandé ne devrait pas figurer dans le budget de la Commission sans consultation et accord préalables du Directeur général. Actuellement, ces ouvertures de crédit supplémentaires sont à l'étude, et le Comité a estimé que si elles sont accordées elles devraient être couvertes par des économies.

Par ailleurs, la Commission a également adopté un budget indicatif pour 1979. Ce budget indicatif a eu l'approbation du Comité financier. Il est sensiblement le même que celui de 1978 et l'augmentation est très légère puisqu'elle ne s'élève qu'à 562 dollars. Le budget indicatif de 1979 s'inscrit ainsi 122 202 dollars qui se répartissent comme suit: fonds APHCA 52 097 dollars, soutien FAO 70 105 dollars.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la presentación que ha hecho el señor Presidente en Ejercicio del Comité de Finanzas sobre el tema 14. Se abre el debate.

G. SATARI (Indonesia): My delegation would like to thank the Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee for the information he has given concerning the Regional Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia, the Far East and the South West Pacific. This Commission came into force in December 1975 and is open to FAO members situated wholly or partly in the region, and at present the members are: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. These members contribute annually to the budget of the Commission, and for the year 1978 the total would be US \$33, 000. Under the terms of the agreement FAO provides the Secretariat of the Commission. We are grateful to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East which within its capabilities tries to help the functioning of the Secretariat for this Commission. However, we feel it necessary that we have a continuous and solid assistance for the Secretariat for the Commission, and in this connexion my delegation feels it necessary to have the full-time services of a livestock officer at P-3 level and the Secretariat services provided to the Commission Secretary.

We therefore support the request made that the costs be met from savings.

J. LEIDO, Jr. (Philippines): We have participated in the work of the Commission and would say that we are very much pleased with what the Commission has been doing during the short period of its existence. We are all very happy with the work performed by the programme.

However, under the terms of the agreement, due to the increased volume of work in response to requests of member countries, the Secretariat is now overburdened. We therefore join Indonesia in proposing that a livestock officer of P-3 level be added and that secretarial services be bolstered. This would be in line with the programme envisaged and would be support for regional and national institutions.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I will not take up too much of your time, Mr. Chairman, as I know that you are running behind schedule already so I will be very brief and simply say that my delegation fully agrees with what has been said by Indonesia and the Philippines.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario, entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en aprobar el presupuesto para esta Comisión Regional, e igualmente, el Consejo reconoce y destaca la cooperación que la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Asia y Lejano Oriente viene ofreciendo a esa Comisión, e igualmente, entiendo que se tome nota de la propuesta concreta de Indonesia sobre la posibilidad de que se materialice una ayuda continua por parte de la Oficina Regional al funcionamiento de la Comisión.

#### IV. INTER-AGENCY RELATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

#### IV. RELATIONS INTERINSTITUTIONS ET CONSULTATIONS SUR LES QUESTIONS D'INTERET COMMUN

#### IV. RELACIONES Y CONSULTAS CON OTROS ORGANISMOS SOBRE ASUNTOS DE INTERES COMUN

8. Questions Arising from Discussions in UNDP, ECOSOC, ACC, Other United Nations Bodies and the Specialized Agencies
8. Questions découlant des délibérations du PNUD, de l'ECOSOC, du CAC, d'autres organismes des Nations Unies et de leurs institutions spécialisées
8. Cuestiones dimanantes de los debates del PNUD, el ECOSOC, el CAC, otros Organismos de las Naciones Unidas y las Organizaciones especializadas

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ustedes observarán este es un documento para la Conferencia que va a empezar dentro de tres días. Corresponde a la costumbre de presentar documentos como éste, y salvo que algu' nos miembros del Consejo deseen plantear puntos específicos, podríamos tomar nota del contenido de este documento. Sin embargo, - ahora desea intervenir el doctor Phillips, Presidente del Comité de Programa.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): At this stage of the afternoon I do not really wish to take the floor, but perhaps I ought to say just a few things about the material in the Programme Committee report which relates to this item. This material begins on page 26 of the English version, paragraph 2.175, where in relation to UNDP you will find some more detailed updating of the situation to which I referred in an earlier connexion, namely, the falling off of the project delivery from \$120 million in 1975 to \$100 million in 1976, perhaps not in excess of \$85 million in the present year and with some indication that it may drop even lower in the following year.

The Programme Committee also concerned itself with the long-standing problem of the question of reimbursement of agency costs and reiterated its long-felt need of the necessity of arriving at a solution to this problem that would contribute to stability in planning and budgeting. This relates to the question of whether the 14 percent of reimbursement of delivery would be continued over the long term, to cover so-called overheads.

On the question of the relative roles of UNDP and other bodies in the system in channelling funds for development assistance, note was taken particularly in our discussion of the Council's view that although UNDP must be considered a main funding source, flexibility must exist for the use of other funding channels.

The Committee also took note of the generally satisfactory cooperative arrangements which have been developed involving the representatives of UNDP and FAO in countries. It expressed the hope, however, that in country programming, UNDP could be prevailed upon more than it had so far to ensure an effective utilization of the potentials of the partner organizations, and that, of course, included FAO.

I think I need say nothing about the brief section on relations with the World Food Council since that in fact relates more to the work of the CCLM to which you will come under item 16, and it also cites the Manila Communiqué which I am sure is available to all the delegations in other connexions.

Just briefly in regard to relations with IFAD, which begins with paragraph 2.182, here you will see that the Committee made a very few comments on points of detail in relation to the agreement between FAO and IFAD. This is a matter, of course, which you will also come to under Item 16.

I would only flag the point in paragraph 2.185 that, since the timing of the coming into existence of IFAD and the reaction of its Executive Board to the agreement will come after the 19th Session of the Conference, it would only be in the 20th Session of the Conference that formal confirmation of this agreement could take place.

However, the Committee noted with considerable satisfaction that it was not necessary to wait for the formal entry of the agreement into effect in order to have effective working relationships. In fact, these are already being developed.

Finally, I would only point to the last three or four paragraphs of that section, 2.188 - 2.191, which give a summary of that situation as it existed about five weeks ago regarding the bringing of IFAD into existence. That has changed in the meantime as other governments have taken further action.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban ustedes de oír la presentación que ha hecho el Presidente del Comité del Programa sobre las observaciones que ese Comité hizo en relación con este asunto, las cuales están contenidas en los párrafos 2.175 a 2.179.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (President a.i. du Comité financier) - Concernant cette question, je voudrais me référer en particulier aux remarques du Comité qui concernent les relations avec le PNUD et qui figurent dans les paragraphes 3.116 à 3.121. En général, le Comité n'a pas pu s'empêcher d'exprimer ses préoccupations quant à la baisse enregistrée par le taux d'exécution au cours des deux dernières années et qui risque de se prolonger. A cet égard, le Comité demande instamment au Directeur général de prendre toutes dispositions nécessaires pour des négociations avec le PNUD.

Concernant le problème du remboursement des frais généraux, le Comité confirme la nécessité d'une solution qui aide à planifier de façon stable les travaux de la FAO sur un nombre substantiel d'années. En attendant, la base de remboursement de 14 pour cent reste un compromis acceptable. A cet égard, je voudrais rappeler que le Comité a déjà eu dans ses sessions précédentes à exprimer ses préoccupations, pour ce qui est des conséquences financières, pour notre Organisation, de toute



reduction éventuelle de remboursement des frais généraux de l'agent d'exécution, A sa 38ème session, le Comité a précisé que cela influencerait également sur le taux du remboursement des coûts de soutien des programmes extérieurs financés par les sources autres que le PNUD, et surtout que les répercussions seraient assez importantes sur le contenu du programme ordinaire de l'organisation.

Enfin, le Comité a relevé avec satisfaction l'esprit de collaboration qui existe sur le terrain entre le PNUD et la FAO et reconnaît que le PNUD doit rester une des principales sources de financement sans préjudice de la souplesse nécessaire pour les autres sources de financement.

Je n'ai pas d'autres commentaires spécifiques concernant le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation ou le FIDA. J'attire uniquement l'attention du Conseil sur les observations du Comité au paragraphe 3.122 jusqu'au paragraphe 3.124.

I. HAKIM (Indonesia): My delegation would like to thank the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee on the report concerning the development of the relationships between the UNDP, the FAO Council, and IFAD. As you are aware, during the last Conference the Indonesian delegation expressed its view concerning this question. We are glad to know the Committee pressed the need for support and planning after the Programme support, especially from the UNDP and WFP for the full programme of FAO. We also noted that the Programme Committee had received with satisfaction the information that there was a common executive stand on the question of the 14 percent reimbursement to the effect that it should be continued.

We also notice that the delivery from the UNDP fund which had been projected is decreasing, and we join the Finance Committee to express our concern on this matter. We are also glad to note that the receipts from outside sources are also increasing, as we have seen from the report of the Secretary, especially when we read the review of the Field Programme.

At this stage again we would like to stress our support that this matter of the 14 percent reimbursement be continued at least for the next few years ahead so that we can have good planning and budgeting for FAO.

On the second point, the relationship with the World Food Council, we also agree with the report of the Programme and Finance Committees and hope after ECOSOC has endorsed the recommendations of the Manila Assembly and after it has been considered by the Council it will be possible to consider the the implementation for FAO and that action may be taken accordingly.

On IFAD we are glad to note that it is planning to have its first Governing Council in December. It means the criteria for the fulfilling of the coming into force of the Agreement are being followed and also that the \$750 million has been reached in Categories I, II and III as is stated in the Agreement. So this has also been fulfilled.

With this intervention we would like to thank again the Programme and Finance Committees.

E. LIPPONEN (Finland): My comments are very short. When studying document CL 72/4 and C 77/25, especially on the relations of FAO with the UNDP, my delegation notes with satisfaction that considerable efforts have been made by both the sides to improve the clarity of the United Nations Development System, to which my Government attaches great importance..

Especially I should like to welcome a mutually satisfactory agreement that was reached between the heads of UNDP and FAO on coordination and collaboration in relation to the implementation of FAO's corps of representatives in the Member Countries. I feel every form of cooperation which can be attained in the country level is very important to the overall coherence,

My delegation also welcomes the good working relations which have grown between UNIDO and FAO. Now that UNIDO is getting prepared for a third conference this cooperation between, if I may say so, the elder brother of the United Nations family and a new organization will be very fruitful for the development.

We also are glad to note the interest which FAO has shown in the Conference on Science and Technology which will be held in two years' time. All the help which can be given by an experienced organization such as FAO will be most conducive to the success of this very important United Nations Conference on Science and Technology.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, entiendo que se tome nota de las informaciones contenidas en el documento 77/25 y que el Consejo, en general, manifiesta su aprobación a las recomendaciones y comentarios de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y, particularmente, en relación con el PNUD el Consejo se adhiere a la preocupación que sobre el estado de cosas manifiestan esos Comités y, asimismo, considera que debe mantenerse la cifra del 14 por ciento para el reembolso de los gastos de ejecución.

La delegación de Finlandia hizo alguna observación pertinente que pasará al Comité y se tratará de reflejar los aspectos esenciales en el proyecto de informe.

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Review of Field Programmes, 1976-77 (Including Up-dating of Information on the TCP, and a Report on the Contribution of FAO to the TCDC)

11. Examen des programmes de terrain 1976/77 (et notamment mise à jour des renseignements concernant le Programme de coopération technique et rapport sur la contribution de la FAO à la CTPVD)

11. Examen de los Programas de Campo, 1976/77 (incluida la actualización de información sobre el PCT y un informe sobre la contribución de la FAO a la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo)

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): In its review of this basic Conference document, the Committee while examining many sections of it limited its report to a very brief set of comments which it felt might be helpful to delegations, and particularly to the Chairman of Commission II in dealing with it in the Conference, where of course the major discussion will take place.

The Committee did wish to report its feeling that this review had reached a better standard of presentation than in the previous two biennia while at the same time providing a basis for frank and constructive discussion in the Conference.

It welcomed the reduction in volume of the document and the selectivity and treatment of the subject matter. It did wish to suggest that in view of the wide audience reached at Conference by the review, and even after the Conference, consideration might be given to adding some charts and diagrams to increase the ability of the reader to comprehend the validity of the material and the statistical information contained in the report. It also felt that some statistical material might be shifted from annexes to the text so that the reader would not have constantly to shift from text to annex to get the full impact.

In paragraph 2.130 you will find the Committee felt the Conference, in reviewing the report, might place particular emphasis on the reassessment of field programmes in Chapter 2 since this treated issues which deserve serious attention by recipient governments as well as FAO, UNDP and other multilateral and bilateral agencies.

Also, in paragraph 2.132 you will see that the Committee felt that the issues raised in the conclusions of Chapter Three on Training deserved special consideration by the Conference; and finally, in paragraph 2.134, that the issues treated in Chapter Four, rural development and aid to agriculture, might be discussed in Commission I as well as in Commission II and therefore there would need to be cooperation between those Commissions to avoid any undue overlapping in the Conference discussions.

I think that is all I need to say on this, since basic discussion will of course take place in Commission II of the Conference.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Vice-Président du Comité financier): Je serai d'autant plus bref que cette question relève beaucoup plus de la compétence du Comité du Programme que de celle du Comité financier. Cependant, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le paragraphe 3.115 où figure le commentaire succinct du Comité financier qui relève en particulier le fait qu'il faudrait attirer l'attention de la Conférence sur l'orientation positive que prennent les activités de formation de l'Organisation et sur les progrès de l'effort de promotion de la coopération technique entre pays en développement qui sont décrits au chapitre 4 du document que nous avons examiné.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el tema 11 han oído ustedes la presentación de los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Se trata de un documento para la Conferencia. ¿Quién desea intervenir?

SEÑORA G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Sr. Presidente, permítame por su conducto felicitar a la Secretaría por el valioso documento presentado para actualizarnos en la información de los programas de campo y, asimismo, agradecerle al Sr. Director General por la sincera introducción que ha hecho a este tema, donde afirma que solo reconociendo las deficiencias y las virtudes de los programas de cooperación técnica se podrán mejorar las actividades de FAO en nuestros países en vías de desarrollo.

Debemos recordar cómo la crisis por la que atravesó el PNUD, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, durante el inicio de la gestión del Dr. Saouma como Director General complicó en forma considerable la reestructuración propuesta por él de los programas de campo a fin de que se hiciera más efectiva la labor de FAO cuando ésta trabaja a nivel del pequeño agricultor en los campos de los países en desarrollo.

Esta crisis del PNUD condujo al propio Director General a la creación de su programa de cooperación técnica, y en aquella ocasión la delegación mexicana le dio su franco apoyo. Ahora, tiempo después de su creación, vemos cómo este programa empieza a ser un éxito, pues el contar con recursos propios destinados a objetivos muy concretos permitió al Director General resolver problemas cuya solución hubiera sido sumamente difícil de encontrar si no se hubiera contado con la posibilidad de tener un fondo monetario a su disposición y, sobre todo, cuando se presentan crisis que por desgracia en la agricultura sabemos todos que son muy frecuentes.

El programa de cooperación técnica como un nuevo refuerzo a los programas de campo de la Organización ha demostrado ya su eficiencia y sus resultados prácticos en mi país; gracias a la acción inmediata de la FAO, a través del Director General, ha sido uno de los beneficiados con esta nueva iniciativa y actualmente se están implementando proyectos que, aunque en modesta escala por la limitación de los recursos ordinarios de que dispone el Programa, consideramos que en el futuro tendrán muchos mayores alcances. Ahora bien, resulta indudable que para que el programa de cooperación técnica refuerce su aportación a los esfuerzos que hacemos los países en desarrollo para alcanzar los objetivos de una mayor producción de alimentos y de desarrollo agrícola y rural, se requieren elementos financieros adecuados, los cuales solamente se pueden obtener a través de un presupuesto también adecuado de esta Organización.

Es por ello que reitero la posición del Grupo de los 77 y del Grupo Latinoamericano, de quien ahora soy portavoz, cuando deseamos manifestar como un consenso que consideramos que el nuevo nivel de presupuesto recomendado al Consejo por el Director General refleja las necesidades de la expansión de la propia FAO.

Deseo también hacer algunos comentarios respecto a los diferentes capítulos tratados al examinar los programas de campo.

Considero que respecto al examen de los programas en concreto podemos leer cómo en el Capítulo I el análisis que se presenta a nuestra consideración hace una exposición muy clara y acertada de los problemas del subdesarrollo, y entre ellos del problema de la aplicación de la tecnología adquirida por los jóvenes becarios o por los estudiantes postgraduados que acuden a los países desarrollados para prepararse y adiestrarse, y cómo estos jóvenes becarios al regresar a nuestros países se encuentran con que la técnica que han aprendido no puede ser aplicada concretamente en programas que nosotros necesitamos en el campo de la producción de alimentos y de mejora de la agricultura.

Esta presentación que se hace del problema se complementa con la presentación hecha en el Capítulo III de este documento acerca de las medidas para resolver el problema de los becarios, de la desigualdad entre la capacidad y la aplicación de los conocimientos de la técnica y de la tecnificación y además, de la solución propuesta a otros problemas, como es la mejor forma de utilizar las becas, la capacitación en las granjas y en los centros de capacitación para la agricultura.

Por último, deseo mencionar de manera muy especial el esfuerzo que se está realizando para ajustar los programas de capacitación agrícola a las necesidades de las mujeres campesinas, pues la mujer campesina de todos es sabido es un elemento de primera importancia en el renglón de la producción en el sector agrícola y, como dice el informe, si bien se ha tropezado con varios problemas, el proyecto para haber movilizó a las mujeres de una región en estudio presentó varios problemas, pero dio como resultado la movilización de estas mujeres y su participación en nuevas actividades. Sin embargo, mi delegación considera que el logro de movilizar a las mujeres de una región para que participen en las actividades regionales no debe quedar ahí, sino que antes bien los programas de capacitación técnica para la mujer

campesina deberán ser enfocados en un futuro hacia la integración de la mujer en todas las actividades del desarrollo rural, si bien recordamos que éstas constituyen el 25 por ciento de la población rural en la mayor parte de los países en vías de desarrollo y que hasta ahora han quedado como un factor relegado en el proceso de la producción.

Esta es una anotación, Sr. Presidente, que yo desearía pudiera ser tomada en cuenta para futuros programas de capacitación de la mujer en el campo.

R.TANABE (Japan): My delegation appreciates the fact that the Secretariat has prepared a document which contains very valuable and comprehensive information, not only on the FAO activities but on the bilateral and multilateral assistance for agricultural development.

The view of my delegation on this matter is that in the field programme the emphasis should be put on technical cooperation which aims at the increase of food production in developing countries. In the Asian regions in particular the core of the food product is rice, which is mainly produced by the small-scale farmers. Therefore the technical cooperation to the small-scale farmers should be fully considered.

AMIDJONO (Indonesia): With regard to the review of the field programmes 1976/77, my delegation would like to make a brief comment, particularly on the human investment, technical cooperation among developing countries and the technical cooperation programme. In this respect my delegation concurs with the views stated in the Programme Committee regarding the three issues. The success of agricultural development and increasing food production will depend on the effectiveness of the training of field workers and farmers. Training of agricultural workers and farmers will of course improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the field operations - that is, the implementation of agricultural development projects. Therefore, training should be at grass root level and it might take the form of training of agricultural extension personnel and/or group training of contract farmers. My delegation recognizes that the potential of technical cooperation among developing countries is indeed unlimited and in this context FAO could become a very effective party which will stimulate the operation in agricultural development and food crop production. My delegation is of the opinion that the Technical Cooperation Programme is the right arrangement for decentralization and wider means to assist developing countries to cope with their urgent problems.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to support the effort to improve and accelerate the implementation of the three issues mentioned above.

S.S. MAHDI (India): The hour is late, Mr. Chairman, and I take your hint when you mentioned that this item is before the forthcoming FAO Conference, by which perhaps you meant that a detailed discussion on the substance of the document and the related issues will more suitably and appropriately take place on that occasion. Therefore, I shall be very brief, reserving the tributes and the fires of my delegation for the Conference Session. Nevertheless, I cannot help but agree with the assessment of the Programme Committee that the Review of Field Programmes of this year has reached a much better standard of presentation than in previous biennia. This observation of the Programme Committee should be seen against the background of the positive assessments made about the Area II Field Programme reviews, which only shows that the document is getting better and better.

With these few observations about this document I should like to draw the attention of the Director-General to one particular aspect of this document, and that deals with technical cooperation among developing countries. It will be remembered that at the last Council we adopted a resolution requesting that this could be a separate topic for the Conference. Along with that request we had also made a request to the Secretariat that a separate document on the subject should be provided and we also, in a very broad way, outlined what issues we would like to see discussed in the document. We do have a section on TCDC in this document. It is an excellent draft, so far as it goes, but I regret to say that this does not foot the bill. We had expected much more on this and I am afraid that unless between now and the Conference we get something more, the discussions on TCDC in the Conference will not be as useful, or we shall not be able to go as much into depth as we had desired when we inscribed this item on the Agenda of the Conference.

We would particularly recall, Mr. Chairman - and that is the advantage of having a continuity in the chairmanship of the Council, that I can refresh your memory on this - that we had revised FAO's

reaction to certain studies that had been conducted under the auspices of UNDP. You will recall that more than a year ago a consultant was appointed by UNDP. He submitted a very detailed report analysing the present procedures of the Agencies of the United Nations system and making certain recommendations as to how these procedures, these rules and regulations, could be modified or interpreted for facilitating TCDC, for facilitating the use of national institutions, for giving a share to the developing countries in the supply of various inputs, both in terms of human resources and others in the implementation of developing programmes under multilateral auspices. All these problems have been discussed and we in the Council, I think, made a specific request that this aspect be examined.

We do find some mention of this in paragraph 4.55 of the report at page 69, which deals with a positive discrimination in favour of new and relatively weaker national institutions in developing countries. What has been given here has whetted our appetite for more information in this regard, so that this matter could be examined with the seriousness it deserves.

I promised that I would not be very long. Perhaps I have already exceeded the limit I had set for myself. With these brief remarks I would make the request that we have something more to discuss in the Conference which is coming next week, and especially on the aspects which we had underlined in the last Council. At that time we hoped to go in depth in analysing this excellent document. And finally, I should say that it has kept the tradition of its previous two documents which were presented in earlier biennia.

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): El examen de los programas de campo es un aspecto que debe atraer de manera preferente nuestra atención, dada la renovada vocación de la FAO hacia el terreno, hacia la labor concreta y de impacto inmediato en el desarrollo de la producción agrícola y en el mejoramiento de la nutrición.

El documento C 77/4 contiene importantes aspectos que deben ser objeto de amplio análisis a fin de extraer de él las conclusiones relevantes y útiles para la instrumentación de los próximos programas.

La delegación argentina tiene el propósito de contribuir a este análisis detallado durante el transcurso de la Conferencia. No obstante, deseamos destacar algunos párrafos del documento cuyos conceptos compartimos, como los criterios y procedimientos para la selección de participantes establecidos en el Capítulo 3 y otros, que, por el contrario, son para nosotros motivo de preocupación. Nos referimos a la baja participación de América Latina como destinataria de proyectos de asistencia técnica en relación a otras regiones, tanto en cuanto al número de proyectos como a la cifra de recursos totales asignados.

Sobre este tema, nuestra delegación ampliará sus consideraciones durante el transcurso de la Conferencia.

Ahora deseo referirme a un tema al cual mi país asigna particular trascendencia: la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Argentina trajo al 71 período de sesiones del Consejo una iniciativa que los países miembros tuvieron a bien respaldar, tendiente a enfatizar el apoyo de la FAO a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en general y en particular a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas que sobre el tema se realizará en Buenos Aires en 1978.

La Resolución C 71/1 es justamente la expresión de esa idea que esperamos se expandirá en dos niveles; en las tareas preparatorias de la Conferencia a fin de que en ella se tomen debidamente en cuenta los aspectos agrícolas y alimentarios; y en las medidas adoptadas y a adoptarse para hacer los reajustes adecuados en la política, procedimiento y programas de la Organización, con el propósito de acelerar la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el ámbito de la FAO.

En el primer aspecto señalado, tareas preparatorias a la Conferencia, mi Gobierno ha pensado en la realización de reuniones previas y paralelas que consideren en profundidad las cuestiones que en ciertas áreas pueden dar lugar a un provechoso intercambio de experiencias entre países en desarrollo. Para esto, la FAO ha proyectado una asignación presupuestaria que mi país confía, se aplicará a la adecuada preparación de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo para que los aspectos agrícolas y alimentarios, en los cuales muchos países en desarrollo han hecho progresos considerables y han elaborado técnicas adaptadas a sus características y modalidades, tengan debida difusión y repercusión y se identifiquen áreas inexploradas para la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I shall not hold up our proceedings; I shall be very brief. First of all, my delegation is in agreement with the observation of the Programme Committee, namely that the Review of Field Programmes 1976-77 has reached a better standard of presentation than in the previous two biennia. We are pleased to note, and we are grateful to the Secretariat for the document before us. We are also very grateful to the Programme Committee - and this is my second observation - which has drawn our attention, in the paragraphs already indicated by the Chairman of the Programme, to one of the very important issues within the document. We agree in general with these observations.

My third point is that I wish to draw attention to the third but last paragraph of the Director-General's introduction on page v of the English version of the document where he says:

"Finally, I commend to the attention of Member Nations the Review's general assessment of the Organization's field programmes, with the firm conviction that only by acknowledging our shortcomings as well as our successes can we continue to improve the quality of our technical cooperation activities. There are bound to be shortcomings and even, from time to time, failures." Then he ends that paragraph, "The important thing is to identify, correct and learn from difficulties, and to apply the lessons elsewhere." It is in this spirit that my delegation looks forward to a free exchange of views, a real dialogue between Member Nations on the activities in the field which will lead us hopefully to achieve even more in future results in our common struggle against hunger and malnutrition.

J. E. YRIART (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): Sere muy breve, limitándome solo a asegurar al Consejo que habrá un documento para la Conferencia sobre los programas de la FAO, el plan de acción de la FAO y la colaboración de la FAO para la preparación de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires en materia de Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Este documento llevará el numero C 77/LIM/17. Si el documento está demorado es porque hemos debido esperar la reunión de la reciente Comisión Preparatoria de la Conferencia de Buenos Aires y del Grupo interagencial preparatorio de la Conferencia que tuvo lugar a fines de septiembre, en Nueva York.

Justamente, es allí donde se ajustó el tipo de contribución que harían las diferentes agencias del sistema a la Conferencia. Estamos satisfechos, y creemos que podemos hacer una contribución sustancial a la Conferencia conforme a los lineamientos que expresó el Consejo debía de actuar la FAO. El documento que presentaremos a la Conferencia, con la esperanza de provocar una discusión que podamos tener en cuenta en la preparación de la contribución a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires, en grandes líneas, presentará la experiencia de la FAO que es una vieja experiencia, en cuanto a promoción de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Presentará nuestros planes y acciones actuales; presentará un capítulo sobre los problemas de las barreras tanto financieras como actitudinarias y desarrollará también modelos o ejemplos de posibles proyectos de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en el campo de la agricultura, la pesca y los montes.

Esto en general será el formato de la contribución a la Conferencia de Buenos Aires. Lo pensamos presentar como plan de trabajo en el documento que ustedes considerarán en la Conferencia y miramos hacia las discusiones que haya en la Conferencia en las próximas tres semanas, como fundamentales para permitimos terminar de orientar la contribución de la Organización a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que el Consejo estuvo en general de acuerdo con las observaciones de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas sobre este importante documento para la Conferencia, y destacando en particular la mejor presentación que ahora tiene ese documento, el apoyo reiterado del Consejo al Programa de cooperación técnica, y los importantes asuntos que se plantearon, particularmente en relación con la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, sobre lo cual tendrá lugar la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas, en el año entrante, en Buenos Aires.

Se tratarán de recoger en la mejor forma posible así como otras observaciones que plantearon delegaciones de Mexico, India, Argentina, etc.

A.R. MIHURA (Argentina): Le agradezco que me permita esta segunda intervención que tiene solamente el motivo de agradecer al señor Director General del Departamento de Desarrollo, el apoyo que brinda y la colaboración que compromete para la Conferencia a desarrollarse en Buenos Aires, en la que está sumamente interesada la Argentina, y que brinda grandes esperanzas sobre los resultados con que puede contribuir al incremento de la producción y de la existencia de alimentos en el mundo.

Solamente mi intervención era para agradecer la expresión del señor Subdirector General.

EL PRESIDENTE: Terminamos así el tema 11. Tal como les dije hace poco, será necesario que estudiemos esta noche los temas 12 y 9 que aparecían en el Programa para el día de hoy. De lo contrario nos retrasaríamos demasiado en nuestros trabajos.

12. Medium-Term Objectives

12. Objectifs a moyen terme

12. Objetivos a plazo medio

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Before I comment on the brief section devoted to Medium-Term Objectives in the Report of the Programme Committee I should perhaps recall that the Conference has had a medium-term document before it. I think over the last four Conferences beginning in 1969. I think it is also fair to recall that on each occasion the Conference has been quite unhappy with the document before it and on each occasion for different reasons. Consequently, the language of the document has shifted back and forth biennium to biennium and I give that background just to recall for those who were not through all those Conferences that there has been a rather chequered history of this medium-term objectives exercise.

Following the discussion in the last Conference, the Conference did in fact indicate to the Secretariat the kind of document it wanted for this up-coming Conference and the first point made in the Programme Committee Report in paragraph 2.135 is that in the Committee's view the document now before the Conference, or which will be before the Conference, is in accord with the suggestions and recommendations made by the Council and Conference two years ago and is an improvement over previous documents in this area.

Now the Committee did note a number of specific points that it wished to call to the attention of the Council and the Conference and those are contained in 2.136 to 2.143. I will not attempt to go over those points.

There are two specific comments, however, that I think should be called to the attention of the Council. First, in paragraph 2.144 you will see the reference made by the Committee to the fact that a number of United Nations bodies and committees are making efforts to harmonize medium-term planning work throughout the United Nations System. The Committee had made this point earlier but wished to make it again, while harmonization to the extent practicable and feasible was a desirable objective it should not be pursued for its own sake. Each of the organizations, and particularly FAO, has its own unique characteristics which could not be uniformly adapted to those of the United Nations and other organizations in the System.

Then turning to the final paragraph of this Section, paragraph 2.146 you will notice that the Committee felt that the document provided a useful basis for Conference discussion on the future activities of the Organization but considered that it should now be incorporated into the Programme of Work and Budget where it would be more obviously and conveniently related to the Programme proposals for the ensuing biennium. You will recall that in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium there is a section on Medium-Term Objectives at the beginning of each of the major programmes, for example, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. This is a proposal that these be expanded so that the whole of the Medium-Term Objective discussion could then be based on the same document as the Programme of Work and Budget and in this connexion, and here I am thinking back to some of the earlier exercises, the Committee wished to restate its opinion that in view of the evaluations of previous experiments in trying to quantify resources over the medium-term and the essential unreality of predicting programme growth for a period of six years in advance, there should be no attempt at quantification in the further efforts at improving the presentation of these Medium-Term-Objectives to the Council and the Conference. The validity, of course, of this recommendation contained in this paragraph can perhaps best be judged after the Conference has been through one more of these exercises but I call it to your attention since it is something that the Conference will want to consider at the end of its next round of discussion on medium-term objectives.

A. CRUIT (United States of America): I will be very brief but my delegation feels compelled to make a few comments on this item. We attach a great deal of importance to this subject and we will have extensive comments to make during the Conference. There are several paragraphs in this section of the Report that we will make some comments on during the Commissions at the appropriate time where we may not be fully in accord with the presentation here. In particular I refer to paragraphs 2.139, 2.144 and 2.146. I do not think we need to go into a discussion on this now and we will go into discussion during the course of the Conference.

W.A.F.GRABISCH(Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not like to comment now in detail on document C 77/23 but only wish to outline the basic attitude of my Government towards the future presentation of Medium-Term Objectives. In this respect the Director-General has made some suggestions in his introduction to the document and the Programme Committee was likewise dealing with that question. We support the recommendation to link in the future medium-term planning with the Programme of Work and Budget. This new presentation will allow us to discuss the future objectives of the Programme on the basis of the respective Programme of Work and Budget. However, we agree with the Programme Committee that no attempt should be made at quantifying the Medium-Term-Objectives. An estimate of the necessary funds as such as an indication, not binding, for a period of more than two years would be based upon substantial factors of uncertainty so that it could not provide a funded basis for a proper assessment. A discussion of such estimates would be of little help and would jeopardize the necessary flexibility of medium-term planning. Therefore, we feel we should also maintain the form of presentation of Medium-Term-Objectives which has proved useful so far when linking medium-term planning with the Programme of Work and Budget.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay más oradores, creo que se toma nota de las observaciones planteadas y concluimos así la discusión de este tema. Naturalmente aquellos miembros del Consejo que quieran referirse a este importante documento podrán hacerlo en la Conferencia próxima.

IV. INTER-AGENCY RELATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST(continued)

IV. RELATIONS INTERINSTITUTIONS ET CONSULTATIONS SUR LES QUESTIONS D'INTERET COMMUN (suite)

IV. RELACIONES Y CONSULTAS CON OTROS ORGANISMOS SOBRE ASUNTOS DE INTERÉS COMUN (continuación)

9. UN Joint Inspection Unit:  
9. Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies:  
9. Dependencia Comùn de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas

- Activities of the JIU, 1 July 1976 - 30 June 1977
- Activités du CCI, 1er juillet 1976 - 30 juin 1977
- Actividades de la Dependencia Comùn de Inspección, 1 julio 1976 - 30 junio 1977
  
- Evaluation in the UN system
- Evaluation dans le Système des Nations Unies
- Evaluación en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas
  
- Technical Cooperation Provided by the UN System to Regional and Subregional Integration and Cooperation Movements (Africa and Western Asia)
- Coopération technique du Système des Nations Unies en faveur des mouvements régionaux et sous-régionaux d'intégration et de coopération (Afrique et Asie occidentale)
- Cooperación Técnica prestada por el sistema de las Naciones Unidas a los movimientos regionales y subregionales de integración y cooperación (África y Asia occidental)
  
- Recruitment of Staff in the Professional Category in the UN System
- Recrutement des administrateurs dans le Système des Nations Unies
- Contratación del personal de categoría profesional en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas
  
- First Class Travel in the UN Organization
- Voyages en première classe dans le Système des Nations Unies
- Viajes en primera clase en las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas



R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr. Chairman, I take it that it would be your desire to have all of these introduced at one time rather than to try to take each of them separately. However, I would point out that the Programme Committee dealt with only the first four of these, the fifth one being entirely in the province of the Finance Committee. Taking these in turn so far as we dealt with them, I would first point out that the ninth report on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit for the past year is before the Council primarily for information. At the same time I think you should be aware that it does contain reference to the new statute which had been developed for the Unit and which of course would be before the Conference for concurrence or otherwise, depending on the Conference's judgment. In this connexion, however, you will see that the Director-General expects to recommend acceptance of the statute from FAO's standpoint but with a clarification or an interpretative declaration to the effect that for constitutional reasons the JIU could not be considered as a subsidiary organ of FAO's legislative bodies. Also it is worth recalling by the Council that the annual report of the JIU reflects a significant increase in the number of reports and notes being issued by the Unit. Also, I think if you had had a chance to examine these, you will see that they are for the most part fairly long documents and with the increased size of the JIU, it seems certain that there will be more activity in the future and that the staff and the governing bodies of this Organization will necessarily have to devote more time to them.

Also, as you will see in paragraph 2.163, there are quite evidently to be increased costs to FAO for the maintenance of the Unit. I would stress in particular the point made in paragraph 2.164 that the Committee expressed the hope that the Unit would in future use a degree of restraint in the preparation of its work programme and would direct its attention to subjects for inspection and evaluation which were of priority interest to the participating organizations.

Turning now to the report on evaluation in the United Nations system, the Committee was generally in agreement with the conclusions of this report. It endorsed the emphasis in the report on the gradual introduction of evaluation systems which were flexible, based on pragmatic considerations, and also it agreed on the need for internal and external evaluation, and of course with the conclusion that internal evaluation should be a part of the management of supervisory functions of each executive head.

The Committee did share the Director-General's reservation about the advisory and overseeing task which the JIU felt it might undertake. It also felt that there was some advantage in the participating organizations agreeing on some commonly used terms but that it would be unwise for the JIU to engage the entire UN system in endless discussions with the hope of arriving at a single and complete set of commonly agreed terms. The Committee endorsed the Director-General's comments on this report and welcomed the Director-General's intention to place primary responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of the regular programmers well as for the activities directly on the heads of departments, division directors and their staff.

Regarding the note on the recruitment of staff in the professional category in the UN system, which is the fourth one but it is third in the report of the Committee so I will take it next, the Committee noted that the recommendations were focused on junior professionals in certain general occupational categories and that for their recruitment there was recommended the establishment of a rather complex interchange system involving the creation of rosters, organization of examining panels and so on. In this connexion the Committee fully endorsed the position taken by the Director-General that since FAO would be making relatively little use of such a system because of the nature of its establishment that this was not something which FAO should become involved in on a fully participating basis. It might prove, however, useful to participate on a fee basis, on a limited basis, if the system appears to provide services that could be effectively utilized to some extent by FAO.

Finally, so far as the Programme Committee is concerned, I would mention the report on technical cooperation provided to integration and cooperation movements in Africa and Western Asia. Here I am afraid the Committee considered that this document, which is the third and last report in the series of documents on this general subject, had major shortcomings and was of limited use to FAO. The report of course did contain some useful information about cooperation provided by the UN system in some of these schemes. But the information was judged to be incomplete, not presented in a systematic manner and did not give due recommendation to FAO's increasing involvement in support of these

integration movements. This of course reflects one of the problems which the Committee has referred to in the past, the tendency of the JIU to tackle global problems instead of the more specific kinds of things where their judgment would be of greater use to the Organization, and so with these general observations the Committee did wish to express its agreement with the Director-General's comments on this report. As I mentioned at the beginning, the Programme Committee did not deal with the fifth of these reports, which is the one on first-class travel.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (President a.i. du Comité financier): Je voudrais également, à part la question des voyages, présenter les points de vue du Comité financier concernant les autres rapports. Je vais les prendre dans l'ordre où ils sont mentionnés sur l'ordre du jour.

Concernant le rapport des activités du Corps commun d'inspection, le Comité a jugé particulièrement utiles les résumés des rapports qui sont publiés et note que l'inclusion de tels résumés dans les rapports futurs faciliterait énormément l'étude. Le Comité attire l'attention sur le fait que le renforcement de l'effectif des inspecteurs qui est prévu pour le début de l'année prochaine va entraîner un accroissement du programme de travail du Corps commun et par répercussion un surcroît de travail pour notre Secrétariat.

A propos du choix des sujets, le Comité estime que la FAO doit donner son avis sur les questions auxquelles elle porte un intérêt prioritaire, et ce d'autant plus que nous sommes parmi les plus importants contributeurs.

Pour ce qui est des recommandations contenues dans les rapports, le Comité estime qu'elles ne sont pas toutes valables, pratiques et applicables à notre Organisation, et il appartient au Directeur général de déterminer l'utilité et l'opportunité de leur mise en oeuvre. C'est pourquoi le Comité, en conclusion de ses observations concernant ce rapport, estime que le Corps commun d'inspection devrait exécuter des enquêtes sur des sujets présentant une utilité et une importance actuelles pour le système des Nations Unies. Le CCI devrait consulter les secrétariats sur le choix de sujets et produire des rapports brefs et contenant des recommandations qui soient précises, techniquement valables et surtout financièrement applicables.

Concernant le rapport sur l'évaluation dans le système des Nations Unies, le Comité, tout en souscrivant aux grands principes énoncés dans ce rapport, rappelle notamment le rôle de pionnier de la FAO en la matière. Certes, il juge qu'une certaine évaluation externe pourrait s'avérer utile, surtout si elle complète le travail fondamental d'évaluation interne. Cependant, le Corps commun d'inspection ne devrait pas se mêler de ce type d'évaluation et le Comité partage à cet égard les réserves du Directeur général, étant souligné que ces nouvelles fonctions du CCI entraîneraient pour la FAO un surcroît de dépenses que le Comité ne juge ni nécessaires ni souhaitables.

A propos du rapport concernant la coopération technique, le Comité financier relève que ce rapport présente de graves lacunes, aussi bien dans l'approche conceptuelle que dans la couverture du sujet. Il éclipse, entre autres, la participation croissante de la FAO au soutien des mesures d'intégration et de coopération dans ces régions. Quant aux recommandations présentées, le Comité juge qu'elles restent trop générales et n'offrent aucune aide à la FAO dans ses initiatives en faveur de cette coopération technique.

Néanmoins, le Comité, tout en souscrivant aux observations du Directeur général, retient que ce rapport pourrait servir de base à une étude ultérieure approfondie des mouvements d'intégration.

Le quatrième rapport concerne le recrutement des administrateurs dans le système des Nations Unies. Le Comité estime que ce système de recrutement de certaines catégories de jeunes cadres est complexe et son application à notre institution s'avérerait difficile vu le nombre limité des postes en cause et en particulier le coût de sa mise en oeuvre qui ne pourrait se justifier sur le plan de la rentabilité.

Enfin, j'arrive au cinquième rapport qui concerne les voyages en première classe dans le système des Nations Unies. Examinant ce rapport, le Comité a estimé qu'il convient de conserver une certaine souplesse touchant le droit aux voyages en première classe et ne recommande aucun changement des pratiques actuelles de l'Organisation, dont les principales lignes sont rappelées au paragraphe 3.108.

Le Comité financier estime que le véritable problème ne porte pas sur la classe du voyage, mais sur le nombre et les buts de l'ensemble des voyages des membres du Secrétariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ha sido costumbre, si los miembros del Consejo lo estiman conveniente, sus observaciones sobre este punto podrían referirse a los comentarios del Director General que normalmente aparecen en el comienzo de estos informes, así como también a las observaciones de los dos Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, Si no hay ningún comentario, entiendo que el Consejo manifiesta su acuerdo con las observaciones del Director General y las de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

S.S. MAHDI (India): In view of the fact that the timetable of the Council does not allow any discussion of many of the important issues which have been commented upon by the Programme and Finance Committees, we would assume that a summary of this non-discussion will be reflected in the report by saying that the Council just took note of these two committees' comments, without any comments, because it would not be proper to say that the Council agreed with these comments.

There are a number of important issues which have been raised and commented upon, and without a discussion there should be no question of agreement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Este tema como aparece en el orden del día era para debate.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I believe that it is not right that the Programme and Finance Committees should present a report on this matter and that we say the Council has simply taken note of this report. The Council has to express an opinion, and the fact that they do not have a great deal of time does not justify the fact we are only taking note of the report. We should say the Council adopted the recommendations in the report of the Programme and Finance Committees, or the Council could say it does not agree with these recommendations, "but to leave things vague is going to lead simply to endless debates in the Conference.

So it would be good if we were to say that the Council adopts the points of view expressed by the Programme and Finance Committees, and adopts what is contained in this report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay otro comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo yo creo que el distinguido Ministro de Agricultura de Jordania confirmó lo que yo estaba empezando a decir; de manera que corresponde, como lo había dicho anteriormente, decir en nuestro informe que el Consejo está de acuerdo con las observaciones del Director General y de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. En caso contrario, naturalmente, el miembro del Consejo que no esté de acuerdo podrá decirlo. Procederemos así.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I would again like to express the reservation of this delegation on this procedure. Without any discussions it is very difficult for the Council to agree in toto, word by word, what has been presented to us by the Programme and Finance Committees. It is not fair to the Council and not fair to a number of important issues which have been commented on by these two very important Committees.

S. JUMA.A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I am very sorry to disagree with my colleague from India. We have the possibility of speaking now. If the delegate for India has any comments to make on this he can make them now. But to say that we have not the right to discuss the question, or the question is not before us for discussion is not in line with reality.

You are the Chairman of the Council and have told the Council what they have to say. If they have not said anything it means they agree. Silence spells consent. If members of the Council have anything to say they can say it now otherwise we will assume they all agree. There is no reservation. If any member of the Council has any reservation he should tell us what he does not like or agree with, what question, what page. But to say the question is not before us for discussion is not true.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo trato de entender la posición del distinguido colega y amigo de India. Asimismo soy consciente de que todos estamos un poco fatigados al final de un día de intenso trabajo, pero igualmente me permito recordar a todos los miembros del Consejo que en determinado momento yo dije que hoy trabajaríamos hasta las 7 ó 7 y media de la noche y agotaríamos el programa previsto para hoy; de manera que los miembros del Consejo tuvieran así ocasión de prepararse. Si no intervienen no es culpa ni de la Secretaría ni del Presidente. Naturalmente, si el distinguido colega de India insiste en la reserva que él expresó constará en las actas.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I never implied that this Council does not have a right to discuss. I am implying just the contrary. In that case, in spite of the lateness of the hour and the fact that in the next few minutes we cannot do justice to these reports and about 10 pages of comments on them, I would like to submit a few remarks.

First of all, I would like to thank the members of the Programme and Finance Committees who had the patience and application to go through the reports of JIU which by their very nature are rather dry and take time to be comprehended. We are very grateful to them, and while we agree with many of the comments on the individual reports, we are a bit concerned about the general approach towards JIU.

In paragraph 2.164 the Committee has expressed the hope that the Unit will in future use a degree of restraint in the preparation of its work programme, etc. I am also joining the hopes: of the Committee, and at the same time I hope that there will also be a certain degree of restraint exercised in our comments on some of these reports.

It has been mentioned in the Committee reports that the work of the Joint Inspection Unit has increased. The work of all the secretariats of international organizations has increased. Once we create an institution it has a tendency to grow. This necessarily does not cause any concern to our delegation. At the same time, we agree that the presentation of JIU reports should be concise, the topics relevant and of current importance.

The basic question that arises is as follows: FAO is a participating organization in the Joint Inspection Unit. It is up to the Secretariat as well as this august body, the Council, to decide whether we remain a passive observer to what the Joint Inspection Unit does or whether we take some more active interest and suggest specific steps or topics which are of concern to us on which we need some kind of external evaluation. Unless we have discharged that part of the function we perhaps cannot complain too much that some of the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have not been of much relevance to us.

Secondly, a unit which is dealing with matters of system-wide concern obviously will not always deal with subjects which are of valid concern to each and every one of us. This is in the nature of things. So the remedy is that we take a more active and constructive part in the work of JIU and we suggest things which should be examined or reported upon by the Joint Inspection Unit. It is altogether essential because no one in this Council or the Programme and Finance Committees denies the usefulness of external examination on a selective basis. This point has been conceded. We have an institution, the Joint Inspection Unit, it costs a lot to this organization, and it is up to us to make good use of it.

There are two courses open to us: either we make greater use of it or we opt out, but the situation of criticizing it and at the same time continuing to remain in it and continuing to bear the costs of the institution, is not acceptable.

In view of the lateness of the hour, I will confine myself to these general observations, and I hope that now that a discussion has taken place our observations as well as the observations that these comments might provoke will find reflection in the report of the Council.

A. STOFFELS (Pays-Bas): Comme vous Pavez demandé, je serai très bref.

Je voulais seulement dire que les observations de ma délégation vont dans la même direction que celles de notre ami de l'Inde.

R. TANABE (Japan): First I have to apologize for taking the floor at this late stage, I would like to express the view of my delegation on JIU matters. My delegation appreciates the role which JIU has played and considers that its activity should be improved in order to make the activities of the United Nations agencies more efficient.

Turning to the report of the JIU my first comment is on the report as operated within the United Nations system. I think this report is very timely and very valuable and the implementations of the proposals which are contained within the document is essentially required, FAO and other agencies should tackle the establishment of the evaluation system bearing in mind the proposals in the document.

My second comment is on the coordination with country representatives. This matter is very important in view of the effective use of the limited resources. In FAO the increase of country representatives is proposed. My delegation is of the view that in dealing with this country representative matter the proposals which are contained in the report should be fully reflected.

E.M. WEST (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme and Budget): I am in a little difficulty in replying because I think the majority has been silent except for the voices of the Programme and Finance Committee and those who have spoken have been those who wished to register a slightly different point of view. So if I reply just to those three it is because they have spoken; there is nothing I can say to the majority that have not spoken, except that I welcome their support for the Director-General's comments. Of those who have spoken, although they have expressed different points, I think there is no difference in principle between the majority and minority: it is only a question of to what extent the actual recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in these reports, as distinct from the feeling on the Joint Inspection Unit, is important, feeling that it ought to be able to produce effective recommendations which hitherto have been found rather disappointing. There is no difference on that. The question is whether the actual recommendations in regard to this organization are or are not effective.

For example, on evaluation Japan said that we ought to take into account the recommendations. I think the real factors are that they are going to take into account our experience and try to apply some of the lessons that we have discovered to other organizations which do not have evaluation systems. So I think it is rather unfair to FAO to suggest by implication that we are doing something that the Joint Inspection Unit has told us to do. On the contrary, they themselves admit that they have much benefit from what FAO has done in order to apply it to other organizations.

On the question of coordination at the country level, again assessing this in principle, there is a question of detailed machinery, are the details of what the JIU propose practical, do they meet with the realities of development, and in particular, do they meet with the fact of life that it is the country itself which is the sovereign, which is the master, of how it wants its development carried out and how it wants to consult the organizations of the United Nations system. We will do what the countries want us to do, not what the JIU orders us to do. This is the reality of life as we see it.

On the question of the work programme of the JIU, here there is no difference of principle. We will when we think it opportune and desirable and practical make proposals to the JIU. The problem so far has been that they have decided such an enormous work programme that they can scarcely cope with what they have already decided to do, let alone other jobs which we might have thought of asking them to do.

May I point out that over 50 percent of the pages of documentation placed before this Council are pages of the JIU reports. This is a burden which you obviously cannot cope with, let alone the Secretariat. The amount of labour going into this, most of it wasted, is enormous. Perhaps it would be better if they gave us a greater opportunity to think of what might be done instead of deciding to do things that the Council obviously does not find either very relevant or very helpful to FAO in its tasks on the ground.

In conclusion I want to make a more constructive comment, A few weeks ago we had a visit from one of the inspectors. We had very useful and constructive discussions with him and we sincerely hope that with the changes taking place in the unit at the beginning of the year we shall have a more fruitful relationship next biennium.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan) (interpretation from Arabic): I am sorry to ask for the floor after Mr. West has spoken. I believe that what Mr. West said confirms what we have already said as members of the Programme Committee. I did not have an opportunity to go to the Programme Committee but I had to read these reports which really are not worth the paper they are written on. Some of these reports are very bad and they are certainly not useful in the organization and certainly not useful for the members of the Programme Committee - it is just a waste of time and money. Nevertheless we have to read these reports, to study them and present our conclusion and comments in detail.

It is regrettable to have to say that the majority of the opinions contained in these reports are academic and theoretical and not applicable. They may be applicable in one or other of the Organizations but certainly not in all. We therefore felt that these opinions were not getting any better. On the contrary, all these reports are very bad - worse, than bad. A great deal of the opinion contained in the reports did not express the views of the authors, knowing that an Organization such as ours has to submit to the wish and the opinion of the majority of member countries of the Organization and not to someone who sits in Geneva and emits theoretical pronouncements. After all, we are dealing here with a unit which is completely useless, which has been imposed on the United Nations and we suggest that we should no longer cooperate with this unit.

Mr. West has told us that perhaps this Joint Inspection Unit may change its point of view in future. Let us hope for that, but our experience in the past has been bad, the representatives have gone from bad to worse. They have never been useful to anybody. On the other hand they have always been a great burden on the finances and on the Secretariat of the organization, and this happens every year without any justification.

Furthermore, most of the questions which have been raised by the Joint Inspection Unit are matters which they were not asked to study. It is the author who raises these questions, who presents resolutions and recommendations, but these authors were never asked to do this work, it is just volunteering information, this kind of work is simply a burden on us. Simply reading these reports was excessively boring. They were drafted in a style that was meagre, which was of no value. They were sometimes difficult to understand because they were so badly written. I think my colleagues who spoke if they had studied the reports as fully as I did would never have given their support to these recommendations. I therefore recommend to them to try to read these reports and I am sure that their review of the reports would be worse than mine.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but having listened to the delegate of Jordan I must say that I could not agree with him when he said that the reports of the JIU are of no value whatsoever. I think it has been proved within the United Nations system that it was necessary to have some sort of evaluation service which might have been necessary for other organizations rather than for FAO, but the need has been acknowledged by the majority of the Member Nations of the United Nations.

I am very much in agreement with the delegate of Jordan that the reports of the unit, which I had the honor to read when I was a member of the Programme Committee, are rather boring and are a burden, but on the other hand I think that they open up our minds to some crucial issues which can and could be improved amongst the United Nations system and also within the work of the organization as such.

For example, one recommendation which was given was as a common standard for travel use. There are others, of course. But I am in full agreement with Jordan that the reports as such need to be improved. Perhaps the work of the Joint Inspection Unit needs to be improved and particularly the coordination between those experts and the organizations to which they go and work with and evaluate, that should be very much improved.

I heard in the past that those visits were all rather a burden to the organization, and this should not be the case. But we learn from Mr. West that FAO by giving its own evaluation system as an example to authors contributed and gave a good feedback to the JIU which then was taken into consideration in other international organizations. So I do believe there is a good reason for having that Unit, for continuing the collaboration with that Unit, very close collaboration within the United Nations system and for improving its work, and in particular also its reports.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): It is really not the place of the Chairman of the Programme Committee to try to participate in a discussion of the Council's evaluation of the Programme Committee's work on JIU reports. Neither is it the place of the Chairman to try to arbitrate between the somewhat differing views of two members of the Committee. But I did want to give just a few comments that may be helpful to the Council in explaining the problem with which we are currently dealing.

Certainly, to my recollection there has never been any question in the Programme Committee nor in the Finance Committee, as far as I know, about the importance of evaluation exercises, including the value of outside inspection, someone looking over the shoulder, as it were, to help ensure that things were being done efficiently and in proper order. That is not the point at issue here, I think. If the Committee's report seemed a bit testy, I would think this is perhaps the result of an accumulation of irritations, irritations with overly long reports. Someone referred to the Council's documentation being over fifty per cent JIU reports. If I recall correctly, some of the recent sets of Committee documentation have been about nine-tenths JIU reports and one-tenth other things, and yet we had to devote most of our attention to the other things. So there has been an irritation with the unduly long reports, some of them useful, some only moderately useful, some not useful at all; some well written, some poorly written, some very badly written. So that there has been quite a mixed bag of products from the JIU.

Also, the Committee has frequently encountered the complaint from the Secretariat that the JIU staff make demands on the staff without advance consultation. They just say: we are coming on a certain day, be ready to receive us and discuss certain issues, and this kind of thing. So it is an accumulation of these various irritations and unhappiness with the usefulness of the output in a number of cases that perhaps led the Committee to be a bit testy in its comments, and I give that only as background so that the Council will in particular appreciate the fact that the Committee never intended to question the value of evaluation and the value of outside inspection, but has always striven with the hope of getting it done in a more effective way in relation to FAO's needs and desires.

PARVEZ MASUD (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, you warned us about a night session but now it is becoming a midnight session, so I wonder how long we are going to continue. I also have a point of procedure to bring to your notice: most of the members of the Drafting Group are not here, so I wonder what they will have to record about all this, but perhaps it could be something on the following lines: The Council thought the reports to be of great volume but of little value. I think this would be an adequate summing up of the discussion that has taken place so far.

A. CRUIT (United States of America): I do not want to prolong this at all but I think that what is really coming out here in this discussion is that the reports are of some value. There is a need to reduce the number of reports. There is a need to concentrate on priority items and I think this is really what this Council is saying; and that, I think, is what should be reflected in the report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Consejo en general está de acuerdo con las observaciones del Director General de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

Naturalmente, se plantearon algunas observaciones que ha tratado de resumir el distinguido colega de Estados Unidos (gracias por su ayuda) todo lo cual pasará al Comité de Redacción con la esperanza de que esto se refleje en el Proyecto de Informe en un lenguaje mejor que el que parece que se usa en la redacción de algunos de estos informes.

Gracias por su cooperación por haber cumplido el Programa durante este día de trabajo tan intenso.

The meeting rose at 19.20 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.20 horas





## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/5

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1977)

The Fifth Plenary meeting was opened at 10.00 hours  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

V. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

V. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

15. Other Programme, Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters Arising out of the Thirty-Third Session of the Programme Committee and the Fourtieth Session of the Finance Committee, including:

15. Autres questions concernant le programme, le budget, les finances et l'administration découlant de la trente-troisième session du Comité du programme et de la quarantième session du Comité financier, y compris:

15. Otros asuntos del Programa y asuntos presupuestarios, financieros y administrativos dimanantes del 33º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 40 período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas, incluso:

- Amendments to the Financial Regulations

- Amendements au Règlement financier

- Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero

- Financial Position of the Organization

- Situation financière de l'Organisation

- Situación financiera de la Organización

- Audited Accounts

- Comptes vérifiés

- Cuentas comprobadas

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, les ruego tomen sus puestos. Vamos a empezar nuestra sesión de esta mañana. Ayer tarde el Comité de Redacción sesionó y evacuó todos los asuntos pendientes hasta ese momento. Ese Comité tendrá que reunirse hoy al mismo tiempo que la sesión del Consejo y, por lo tanto, continúa invariable nuestro plan de trabajo, es decir, sólo discutiremos el proyecto de informe mañana por la mañana.

Antes de empezar nuestros trabajos tengo el honor y el placer de presentar a ustedes al nuevo Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, quien está aquí en el podium, a la derecha del Sr. Jackson. Es la primera vez que se presenta ante el Consejo. Como todos ustedes saben se trata del Sr. Nathaniel Vogel, del Canadá, uno de los países que ofrecen una contribución positiva y eficaz a nuestra Organización y particularmente al Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros del Consejo al presentarle a usted, Sr. Vogel, nuestro más cordial saludo de bienvenida, deseándole todo éxito profesional en la importante posición que usted ocupa y toda felicidad personal en Roma y en los distintos países del mundo que usted visitará en el ejercicio de sus elevadas funciones.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président a.i. du Comité financier): En ce qui concerne le point d'amendement au Règlement financier, je n'ai aucun commentaire spécifique à ajouter au document qui est présenté au Conseil, c'est-à-dire CL 72/13, ainsi que le correctif en français, CL 72/13-Correctif 1. Le Conseil est prié de transmettre à la Conférence le projet de résolution qui figure au paragraphe 2 du document CL 72/13.

A présent, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais passer au deuxième point, c'est-à-dire la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le fait que la situation des contributions qui figure au paragraphe 3.35 et arrêtée au 29 septembre 1977 a évolué depuis. Les nouvelles contributions qui ont été versées figurent sur le document CL 72/LIM/1 qui a été distribué hier ou ce matin. Nous constatons qu'au 31 octobre le recouvrement des contributions a augmenté, et par conséquent les chiffres qui figurent au paragraphe 3.35 doivent être rectifiés.

Il faudrait également ajouter qu'une autre contribution a été versée depuis le 31 octobre. Il s'agit de la contribution du Souaziland pour l'année 1977. De même, le Lao a également effectué un versement qui concerne ses engagements pour 1976 et 1977.

En général, Monsieur le Président, nous constatons que l'évolution favorable que nous avons relevée au mois de juin concernant l'amélioration du taux de recouvrement a continué encore pendant les mois qui ont succédé. Ceci est dû au fait que certains des principaux bailleurs de fonds se sont acquittés de leurs obligations en totalité ou en grande partie bien plus tôt que les années précédentes. Je crois que le Conseil doit relever ce point.

Mais j'attire également l'attention de nos délégués sur le fait qu'il existe encore des arriérés et je crois que le Conseil voudra bien souligner à la Conférence le fait que les Etats demeurant redevables de contributions devraient s'acquitter le plus tôt possible car il est nécessaire que notre Organisation reçoive ponctuellement les contributions échues.

A cet égard, je voudrais également appeler au Conseil et le prier de transmettre à la Conférence la recommandation qui a été faite par le Comité financier à sa 39ème session et qui figure au paragraphe 3.50. A ce propos, je voudrais relire au Conseil ce paragraphe: "Rappelant qu'à sa 70ème session (29 novembre - 9 décembre 1976) le Conseil a exhorté tous les Etats Membres à modifier le cas échéant le système de vote des crédits afin de pouvoir s'acquitter à échéance de leurs obligations envers l'Organisation, le Comité exprime l'espoir que tous les Etats Membres qui ont actuellement des arriérés voudront bien se libérer le plus tôt possible de leurs engagements." J'espère que le Conseil attirera l'attention de la Conférence sur ce passage.

A présent, je voudrais me référer aux arriérés de contributions et faire part à notre Conseil des préoccupations qu'éprouve le Comité concernant ces arriérés. Le Comité a prié le Directeur général d'exhorter une fois encore les Etats Membres en question à se mettre en règle dans les moindres délais avant la 19ème session de la Conférence de manière que la question de leur vote ne se pose pas. Ceci figure au paragraphe 3.40 du Rapport du Comité financier. Cette préoccupation se manifeste de nouveau dans le paragraphe 3.44 et j'espère que notre Conseil insistera sur ce point en transmettant son rapport à la Conférence.

Au début de mon exposé, j'ai souligné le fait que le Lao a réglé ses versements. Ainsi le Lao ne figure plus dans la liste des huit pays qui risquent de perdre leurs droits de vote s'ils ne règlent pas leurs arriérés de contributions.

Enfin, un dernier point qui concerne la contribution de Djibouti qui a demandé son admission à notre Organisation. Je me réfère au paragraphe 3.46 de notre rapport où le Comité financier précise la contribution qui serait due par ce gouvernement.

Avant de passer aux comptes vérifiés, je voudrais m'arrêter un moment au paragraphe 3.52 qui concerne les recettes accessoires. Dans ce paragraphe, il est dit que le Comité "note avec satisfaction que le montant des recettes accessoires encaissées, exigibles et échues au 31 août 1977, était de 7 124 835 dollars", c'est-à-dire presque le double des crédits qui étaient inscrits au budget pour l'exercice 1976/77. Si mes souvenirs sont bons, le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne avait demandé des détails concernant le total de 7 124 835 dollars. Je vais lui donner ces détails et au cas où ma réponse ne le satisferait pas complètement, je le prierais de demander d'autres éclaircissements au Secrétariat.

On peut répartir le montant de 7 124 835 dollars de la manière suivante:

Première rubrique: les intérêts sur les dépôts bancaires et les placements. Le chiffre qui correspond est 5 306 338 dollars;

Deuxième rubrique: remboursements de dépenses afférentes à l'exercice précédent et obligations de l'exercice précédent devenues caduques. Le chiffre correspondant est 1 001 410 dollars;

Troisième rubrique: recettes du groupement d'achats du personnel: 35 588 dollars;

Quatrième rubrique: solde du fonds des publications: 49 579 dollars;

Sixième rubrique: arriérés de contributions: 37 147 dollars;

Septième rubrique: divers: 694 773 dollars.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne sur le fait que sur le premier chiffre indiqué, à savoir les 5 306 338 dollars, il y a déjà 3 638 398 dollars qui ont été recouvrés. J'espère que la République fédérale d'Allemagne est satisfaite de cette réponse.

Je voudrais à présent passer aux comptes vérifiés qui se trouvent aux paragraphes 3.57 à 3.92. Concernant les procédures de contrôle financier qui ont figuré dans le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes, le Comité a insisté sur le fait que le contrôle financier doit être rigoureux. A cet égard, il n'a pas manqué d'exprimer sa satisfaction pour les mesures qui sont prises en vue d'améliorer ce contrôle et qui sont mentionnées dans le paragraphe 3.59.

Concernant le chapitre "Achat de fournitures et services", le Comité a souligné le fait que le principe de la concurrence et de la compétition doit être respecté. A ce propos, et j'en ai déjà parlé il y a deux jours, le Comité a estimé que le nombre des contrats et des achats conclus sans appel d'offres doit être maintenu au strict minimum et qu'il est dangereux d'accepter des augmentations après la signature du contrat. Je dois souligner le fait que le Comité a posé énormément de questions concernant les processus d'achat de fournitures et de services et force détails lui ont été communiqués.

A propos de l'application des conseils de gestion relatifs à l'amélioration de la productivité et à l'amélioration des services du Secrétariat, le Comité a surtout été informé de la politique en matière de personnel du Secrétariat pour le cadre organique. Il a estimé au paragraphe 3.67 qu'il faut maintenir l'équilibre entre les diverses unités de l'Organisation en déplaçant des ressources vers les services qui ont toujours beaucoup de travail. D'ailleurs, cette idée a déjà été mentionnée auparavant quand on a parlé des difficultés dans certains services financiers.

Le Comité estime également qu'il est opportun d'entreprendre dans toute la maison une évaluation de la charge de travail.

Il juge aussi - et là il est d'accord avec le Directeur général - que les enquêtes ont fait apparaître la nécessité de mettre en place un procédure officielle pour veiller à ce que les conseils de gestion soient dûment suivis d'effet et à ce que les recommandations acceptées soient rapidement mises en oeuvre.

En ce qui concerne les intérêts des soldes du fonds fiduciaire, le Comité a été satisfait de la situation favorable des placements des fonds de dépôts en 1976. Cependant, il a relevé le fait que cette situation risque de ne pas durer, et c'est pourquoi il reconnaît qu'il serait imprudent de modifier la pratique qui consiste à créditer aux fonds des dépôts un intérêt sur les deux tiers des soldes.

Pour ce qui est du Programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais, le Comité a fait des observations concernant les commentaires du Commissaire aux comptes. Cependant, il a relevé que déjà le Secrétariat avait pris les mesures nécessaires pour pallier à certaines lacunes et surtout pour donner plus d'efficacité à ce programme en stimulant la collaboration des pays intéressés. Vous trouverez ces commentaires dans les paragraphes 3.74 à 3.77.

A propos du Programme numismatique de la FAO, le Comité a exprimé beaucoup d'inquiétude pour ce qui est des carences des méthodes de comptabilisation, d'inventaire et de contrôle signalées dans le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes. Certes, il a noté le côté positif de ce programme qui a permis de financer 18 projets de terrain. Il a également pris note des mesures qui ont déjà été prises ou qui sont en cours actuellement pour améliorer la comptabilisation ou le contrôle des stocks au bureau numismatique. De toute façon, le Comité continuera à examiner la situation de ce programme.

Pour ce qui concerne les comptes vérifiés pour le PNUD, le Comité a noté que les difficultés qui ont été soulignées dans le rapport du Commissaire aux comptes sont pour la plupart temporaires et surtout émanent des mesures introduites à la suite de la crise financière du PNUD. A la suite de l'examen de certains projets et des difficultés qui y ont surgi, le Comité a décidé de souscrire aux recommandations du Commissaire aux comptes tendant à ce que:

- 1) On évite de formuler des projets sur des bases trop ambitieuses;
- 2) on insiste davantage pour que les gouvernements fournissent des experts de contrepartie du niveau voulu chaque fois que possible.

Ces recommandations figurent au paragraphe 3.85.

Le Comité a également pris note du fait qu'il y avait des difficultés administratives, surtout des difficultés de coordination. C'est pour cela qu'il a jugé opportun de mettre dans son rapport "qu'il faut améliorer la coordination administrative au jour le jour entre le siège du PNUD et les administrations spécialisées ainsi qu'entre les sièges et le terrain dans tout le système du PNUD".

A la suite de cet exposé, notre Conseil est prié de présenter un projet de résolution pour la Conférence concernant ces comptes vérifiés. Ce projet de résolution figure au paragraphe 3.92.

Avant de clore mon exposé, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur certains ajustements et virements (paragraphes 3.31 à 3.34), car il faut son approbation. Comme on peut le constater, certains ajustements et virements budgétaires se sont avérés nécessaires. Il faut noter que ces ajustements et virements peuvent être couverts par des économies au chapitre 3, ainsi que d'autres économies qui ont été réalisées par les postes vacants des classes supérieures du cadre organique. Pour ces virements, dont les détails figurent au paragraphe 3.34, il faudrait souligner un cas qui présente des obligations de caractère continu. Il s'agit des crédits fournis à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Le Comité recommande l'approbation de ces virements, tout en mettant en relief la nécessité de surveiller soigneusement l'ordre de grandeur de ce soutien.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Most of the points that require attention on this occasion under Agenda Item 15 arise from the work of the Finance Committee. However, there are two points arising from the work of the Programme Committee to which I refer. One of these relates to the last point made by the Acting Chairman of the Finance Committee relating to programme and budgetary adjustments, and you will see from paragraph 2.159 that the Programme Committee did review the programme changes and was satisfied with the proposals, and it so informed the Finance Committee.

The other matter is of a quite different nature and one which arose out of the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees. If you will turn to paragraph 1.12 on page 2 you will find a brief notation under the heading "Tribute to Señor Gonzalo Bula Hoyos". The Council will no doubt be making its own comments on the work of its retiring Chairman at some later stage, but the members of the Committees did wish to record their sincere appreciation for his valuable contributions to the work of the Committees over the past four years, as well as his warm-hearted and positive attitude towards members of the Committees and staff, both collectively and individually.

I take the time of the Council just to make this point, as it is a sincere comment of the two "Committees and one which should not pass unnoticed, Mr. Chairman.

M. BEL HADJ-AMOR (President a.i. du Comité financier): En contrôlant mes notes, j'ai constaté qu'il y a deux points que je désirais encore souligner au Conseil et que j'ai omis de faire; l'un d'eux, surtout, demande l'approbation de notre Conseil pour sa présentation à la Conférence. Il s'agit des paragraphes 3.35 et 3.37, c'est-à-dire les émoluments du Directeur général. Le Conseil est prié de recommander à la Conférence le projet de résolution qui figure au paragraphe 3.37, car on se rappellera que le Comité, à sa 39<sup>ème</sup> session, avait estimé nécessaire de prendre des mesures pour aligner les émoluments du Directeur général sur ceux des chefs de secrétariat des autres institutions. De même, le Comité a estimé que l'indemnité de représentation du Directeur général devrait également être alignée sur celle des chefs de secrétariat des autres institutions. Le projet de résolution qui vous est présenté concerne ces deux points.

Un autre point sur lequel je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil concerne le rapport de situation sur les locaux de la FAO. Cela figure du paragraphe 3.125 au paragraphe 3.133. Les deux recommandations du Comité sont les suivantes: le Directeur général devra poursuivre ses efforts en vue d'améliorer les locaux. Par ailleurs, le Comité s'oppose à toute hausse des loyers des bâtiments F et G si la législation italienne permet de l'éviter.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han escuchado ustedes la presentación que de este tema han hecho los Presidentes de los Comités, presentación que nos ayudará a discutir este Tema 15 que, como dije ya, tiene tres subtemas que van a ser tratados conjuntamente.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je m'excuse de prendre la parole alors que personne ne la demande, mais les discussions que nous avons eues au cours de la dernière séance m'amènent à poser un problème plus large que celui qui nous est soumis. En effet, il nous est proposé, en ce qui concerne les amendements au Règlement financier, quelque chose de très réduit. Je voudrais ici que le Conseil prenne conscience de la situation qui a prévalu au cours de nos dernières discussions et je voudrais proposer que le Comité financier soit chargé de revoir entièrement le Règlement financier de l'Organisation. Je citerai quelques exemples:

A l'article IV, par exemple, il est prévu un compte de recettes accessoires. Il y a là une notion à définir avec beaucoup plus d'exactitude.

A l'article IV.3, paragraphe c)ii) le Directeur général peut virer, au chapitre Imprévus, toute somme économisée au cours d'un exercice financier. Je voudrais que ce chapitre "Imprévus" puisse être considéré et qu'on puisse y trouver des opérations plus concrètes telles que la politique actuelle de la FAO sous l'impulsion du Directeur général le veut, c'est-à-dire dynamique, concrète, et que ces imprévus puissent aboutir à des opérations.

En ce qui concerne l'article V, par exemple le V.2(b) ne correspond plus à la structure et à la conjoncture fluctuante des monnaies. Par conséquent, il est entièrement à revoir, comme l'article VI.1(b) et je souhaiterais que dans cet article soit éliminée la notion de répartition entre Etats Membres des excédents d'un exercice et que la FAO trouve une solution plus dynamique pour utiliser ces excédents, car, comme nous le savons tous, les budgets des Etats Membres sont, pour la plupart, déjà

arrêtés lorsque la Conférence se réunit. Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait un seul ministre des finances qui, en préparant son budget, en le proposant à son gouvernement - parce que beaucoup ont fait état de leur gouvernement et de la position de leur gouvernement - et ensuite aux instances législatives, prévoient une ligne budgétaire qui fixe une ristourne provenant de la FAO ou d'une autre organisation internationale. Par conséquent, ces excédents, dus à des économies réalisées parce que la situation qui a prévalu à la rédaction de cet article n'existe plus, parce que les monnaies sont de plus en plus fluctuantes et que bien souvent c'est à cause de ces fluctuations que ces économies sont réalisées, je voudrais qu'on autorise le Comité financier à repenser le Règlement financier de notre Organisation et à trouver des solutions pratiques, des solutions qui permettent à la FAO de prouver sur le terrain que les sommes qui sont mises à sa disposition et les efforts réalisés par le Directeur général pour faire des économies peuvent être à l'honneur de tous.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, creo que se toma nota de lo que ha pedido el propio delegado de Gabon, de las observaciones que él ha planteado y sobre el primer subtema del Tema 15: "Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero", el Consejo decide recomendar a la Conferencia la aprobación del proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento CL 72/13.

Sobre la: "Situación financiera de la Organización", el Consejo toma nota de esa situación y apoya el llamado que debe hacerse a los países para que cumplan con el pago de sus contribuciones, así como señalar a la Conferencia aquellos aspectos esenciales que fueron presentados por el Sr. Bel Haoj Amor en nombre del Comité de Finanzas.

Respecto a las "Cuentas comprobadas", entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en recomendar a la Conferencia la aprobación del proyecto de resolución que aparece en el párrafo 3.92 del informe del Comité de Finanzas, así como también el proyecto de resolución que aparece en el párrafo 3.137 del mismo informe.

#### VI. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

#### VI. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

#### VI. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

#### 16. Report of the CCLM (35th Session, Rome, October 1977) including:

#### 16. Rapport du CQCJ (trente-cinquième session, Rome, octobre 1977), y compris:

#### 16. Informe del CACJ (35º período de sesiones Roma, octubre de 1977), incluso:

- Draft: Supplementary Arrangement with the United Nations Regarding Cooperation between the World Food Council and FAO
- Projet d'accord additionnel avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies concernant la coopération entre le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et la FAO
- Proyecto de acuerdo complementario con las Naciones Unidas relativo a la cooperación entre el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO
  
- Amendments to Rule XXXVII.4 of the General Rules of the Organization
- Amendements à l'Article XXXVII. 4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation
- Enmiendas del párrafo 4 del Artículo XXXVII.4 del Reglamento General de la Organización
  
- Relationship Agreement between FAO and IFAD
- Accord régissant les relations entre la FAO et le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA)
- Acuerdo de relaciones entre la FAO y el FIDA
  
- Amendments to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries
- Amendements à l'Accord portant création du Conseil indo-pacifique des pêches
- Enmiendas al Convenio Constitutivo del Consejo de Pesca del Indo-Pacífico
  
- Amendments to the International Plant Protection Convention
- Amendements à la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux
- Enmiendas al Convenio Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria

O. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):

Pour traiter le premier point à l'ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire le projet d'arrangement complémentaire entre les Nations Unies et la FAO, je noterai tout d'abord que le Comité a été saisi du document CL 72/5 contenant le texte d'un projet d'arrangement complémentaire entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) concernant la coopération entre le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et la FAO. Le Comité rappelle qu'à sa dix-huitième session (1975), la Conférence a demandé entre autres au Directeur général de préparer et d'élaborer des projets d'arrangement avec le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation afin de définir clairement la répartition des responsabilités et les méthodes de coopération entre la FAO et cet organisme à la lumière de sa Résolution 3/75.

Le Comité note que l'arrangement complémentaire en question a été négocié par le Directeur général selon le vœu de la Conférence et qu'il lui est à présent soumis aux fins d'examen sous l'angle juridique et constitutionnel. Il note aussi que ce document a été soumis au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier, lesquels ont émis un avis favorable au sujet du projet d'arrangement complémentaire.

Le Comité relève encore que le Conseil a estimé qu'il ne serait pas pratique actuellement de vouloir établir une démarcation rigoureuse de fonctions entre le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, d'une part, et le Conseil de la FAO et ses organes subsidiaires, de l'autre. Il note entre autres que le Conseil a décidé de conserver les dispositions souples établies à sa soixante-cinquième session en ce qui concerne la présentation au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation des rapports des organes de la FAO.

Le Comité ayant examiné le projet d'arrangement complémentaire, à la lumière de ce qui précède lui donne son approbation, considérant qu'il reflète les décisions prises par le Conseil et qu'il est rédigé dans la forme juridique appropriée.

Le deuxième point, c'est l'amendement à l'Article XXXVII.4 du Règlement général de l'Organisation. A la demande du Directeur général, le Comité a examiné, conformément à l'Article XXXIV.3(h) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, une question soulevée à propos des immunités à accorder aux personnes participant à des réunions convoquées par la FAO qui semblait indiquer la nécessité d'amender l'Article XXXVII.4 du Règlement général.

La lettre d'entente conclue entre la FAO et les gouvernements hôtes pour toutes les réunions de la FAO tenues hors du Siège se réfère à l'Article XXXVII.4 du Règlement général. Selon cette lettre, le Directeur général, lorsqu'il arrête le lieu où se tiendra une session, s'assure que le gouvernement hôte est disposé à accorder à tous les délégués, représentants, experts, observateurs et membres du Secrétariat de l'Organisation participant à la session, les immunités qui leur sont nécessaires pour exercer en toute indépendance les fonctions qu'ils sont appelés à remplir à l'occasion de la session.

A ce propos, le Comité note que l'Article XXXVII.4 du Règlement général vise expressément les sessions d'organismes établis en vertu des Articles VI et XIV de l'Acte constitutif. Interprété littéralement, cet article signifierait que le Directeur général n'est pas tenu de s'assurer que les immunités voulues sont accordées aux personnes participant aux réunions des types suivants: sessions de la Conférence et du Conseil et de leurs organes subsidiaires; conférences, groupes de travail ou consultations, convoqués au titre de l'Article VI.5 de l'Acte constitutif.

L'Article XXXVII divise apparemment les sessions des organismes établis en vertu des articles VI et XIV de l'Acte constitutif; il est évident que la tenue d'autres réunions hors du Siège ne saurait être envisagée sans que le Gouvernement garantisse que les immunités nécessaires seront accordées aux participants. Le Comité a été informé qu'en pratique, le Directeur général assure que les participants bénéficieront des immunités que leur sont nécessaires pour exercer en toute indépendance les fonctions qu'ils sont appelés à remplir à l'occasion de la session, chaque fois que des réunions de la FAO se tiennent hors du Siège. Néanmoins, vu la portée limitée qui peut être attribuée à l'Article 37 sous sa forme actuelle, la procédure suivie par la FAO ne s'appuie pas sur des bases juridiques aussi solides qu'on pourrait le souhaiter. Compte tenu de cela, le Comité convient qu'il y a lieu d'étendre la portée de l'Article 37.4 du Règlement général à toutes les réunions convoquées par la FAO.

Il recommande en conséquence au Conseil que l'Article XXXVII.4 du Règlement général soit amendé sous réserve de l'approbation de la Conférence comme il est dit au paragraphe 22 du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Amendements au Règlement général de l'Organisation touchant la composition du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier

(Malheureusement, M. le Président, sur ce point je devrai être un peu plus long puisque la question est très compliquée).

Le Comité rappelle que le Conseil, à sa soixante-huitième session, a établi un groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): With all due respect to your ruling, Mr. Chairman, I find that the dish of food being presented by Ambassador Borin is a very big one. I cannot follow quickly enough. There are certain items which are not necessarily related to each other. Perhaps this could be broken up a little; otherwise I am chasing the Ambassador, and his horse is faster than mine. Could we have a break somewhere? I leave it to your judgement. If we fall behind we really are lost.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. El distinguido colega de Canadá ha hecho una propuesta cuya inquietud yo comparto. Tal vez pueda proponer a los miembros del Consejo, a la luz de lo que ha dicho el colega Shefrin, una transacción. Sobre el tema 16 podríamos estudiar, con excepción de la enmiendas al Reglamento sobre el Comité de Programas y de Finanzas, los demás subtemas; dejaríamos Comité del Programa y de Finanzas para el final de la discusión del tema 16. Así me permitirá ganar un poco de tiempo y aislaríamos este subtema de los Comités, que es más importante. ¿De acuerdo? Gracias.

O. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques):

Si je vous ai bien compris, M. le Président, je procède en laissant de côté la question des amendements pour le Comité financier du Programme à la fin de la discussion. Je passe alors à l'autre point, c'est-à-dire: Accords régissant les relations entre la FAO et le Fonds international de développement agricole.

Le Comité a été saisi d'un document contenant un projet d'accord régissant les relations entre la FAO et le FIDA.

Il note que, selon le vœu exprimé par la Conférence en sa dix-huitième session, le Directeur général a négocié un projet d'accord avec le Secrétariat de la Commission préparatoire du Fonds, laquelle en a amendé le texte à sa quatrième session.

Le Comité note également que, lors de ladite session, la Commission préparatoire a adopté une résolution autorisant son Président à poursuivre les négociations au sujet du projet d'accord réalisé, et qu'à l'issue de pourparlers qui ont eu lieu en septembre, l'entente s'est faite sur la nouvelle série d'amendements indiqués au paragraphe 8 du document 72/15.

Toutefois, la question du remboursement à la FAO des frais afférents aux services assurés par celle-ci au Fonds n'a pas été définitivement réglée.

La position du Directeur général sur cette question est exposée au paragraphe 9 du document en question.

Sous réserve des observations formulées aux paragraphes 29 et 30 des documents que nous avons sous les yeux, le Comité juge acceptables, du double point de vue juridique et constitutionnel, le projet d'accord figurant à l'annexe B du document, ainsi que les amendements à ce texte, contenus dans le paragraphe du même document.

En ce qui concerne d'autre part la question soulevée au paragraphe 9 du document 72/15, le texte négocié du projet d'accord prévoyait que, sous réserve des arrangements sur le partage de frais qui pourrait être conclu, le FIDA rembourserait à la FAO les "frais directs et indirects" des services exécutés par celle-ci pour le compte du Fonds. Tandis que la Commission préparatoire a remplacé les mots "frais directs et indirects" par "frais additionnels".



Le Comité note à cet égard que les Comités du Programme et Comité financier se sont tous deux prononcés en faveur du maintien des mots "frais directs et indirects". Le Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles partage cet avis, car il convient d'employer l'expression "frais directs ou indirects" à laquelle une longue pratique confère un sens bien plus précis dans le cadre de la FAO. En outre, l'expression "frais additionnels" pourrait prêter à différentes interprétations et constituer une source de malentendus futurs.

Le Comité soumet donc à l'examen du Conseil étant donné que, dans le texte, la version française et espagnole du projet d'accord adopté par la Commission préparatoire du FIDA appelle du point de vue linguistique des modifications destinées à l'harmoniser avec le texte original anglais du projet révisé d'accord. C'est une question mineure de linguistique mais qu'il fallait rappeler.

#### Amendements à l'accord portant création du Conseil indo-pacifique des pêches

Le Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles a été informé qu'à sa seizième session le Conseil indo-pacifique des pêches a examiné la question de son efficacité en tant qu'organe chargé de l'aménagement et du développement des pêches, et qu'il a jugé le moment venu de réexaminer l'accord de 1948 en vertu duquel il avait été créé.

Tenant compte des propositions formulées par le Comité ad hoc chargé de procéder à cet examen par son Comité exécutif, le Conseil indo-pacifique a adopté à sa six-septième session une série d'amendements à la Charte de 1948, amendements ayant pour objet d'établir clairement que le Conseil doit s'occuper de tous les aspects de l'aménagement et du développement des pêches et s'orienter davantage vers l'action.

Conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XXXIV.3(b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Comité a donc examiné les amendements adoptés par le Conseil indo-pacifique. A cet égard, le Comité note que la plupart de ces amendements sont soit identiques soit très semblables à ceux qu'a adoptés en juillet 1976 le Conseil général des Pêches pour la Méditerranée en ce qui concerne l'accord dont il est issu et que le Comité a examinés à sa treize-deuxième session. Il constate toutefois que les amendements adoptés par le Conseil Indo-pacifique ont une portée plus restreinte que ceux qu'introduit le Comité des Pêches pour la Méditerranée puisqu'il ne comporte pas de dispositions stipulant les conditions dans lesquelles les recommandations concernant des mesures d'aménagement pourraient prendre force obligatoire pour les membres, et leur mise en oeuvre faire l'objet d'un contrôle international.

Le Comité note en outre qu'en vertu du même article de l'Accord, tout amendement entraînant de nouvelles obligations pour les membres, n'entre en vigueur pour chacun d'eux qu'à compter de son acceptation.

Cependant, le Comité suggère au Conseil d'adopter la Convention.

#### Amendements à la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux

Le Comité a examiné les aspects juridiques des projets d'amendements proposés par une consultation gouvernementale à laquelle ont participé des experts représentant le gouvernement des parties contractantes.

Le Comité note que, conformément à la procédure d'amendement établie par la Convention, le projet de texte amendé sera soumis à la dix-neuvième session de la Conférence de la FAO puis transmis aux parties contractantes sous la forme qui aura été approuvée pour l'examen aux fins d'acceptation.

Le Comité note que la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux, contrairement à d'autres conventions et accords approuvés au titre de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO ne prévoit pas la création d'une commission ou autre organe habilité à adopter des amendements et que, en conséquence, elle laisse à la Conférence de la FAO le soin de fixer le texte définitif à transmettre aux parties contractantes lorsqu'elle approuve le texte.

A ce propos, le Comité souligne qu'il convient de transmettre de nouveaux textes proposés non seulement aux parties contractantes mais aussi à tous les Etats Membres de la FAO, y compris ceux qui ne sont pas parties à la Convention.

L'objet essentiel, il est important de le rappeler, de l'amendement de la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux, est de l'adapter aux besoins actuels de la lutte contre les ennemis et maladies importants des végétaux et produits végétaux, de l'action préventive pour éviter leur propagation et leur introduction à travers les frontières nationales.

Une innovation importante proposée à cet égard consiste à remplacer le certificat phytosanitaire type annexé à la Convention, par deux nouveaux modèles, ceux-ci faciliteront le commerce international en favorisant une harmonisation dans les cas où les pays exportateurs pourraient certifier que des végétaux ou des produits végétaux sont exempts d'"ennemis" et surtout d'"ennemis visés par la réglementation phytosanitaire" .

De l'avis du Comité, certaines modifications rédactionnelles, sans effet sur le fond du texte amendé, s'imposent notamment pour harmoniser l'expression et éliminer les risques d'ambiguïté.

L'annexe D au document que nous avons sous les yeux contient une version du texte de la Convention présentant à la fois le texte actuellement en vigueur et les amendements proposés, agréés par la Consultation gouvernementale ainsi que les modifications de rédaction suggérées par le Comité lui-même. Ces amendements et modifications ont été signalés en plaçant entre crochets droits les parties de texte existant qu'il est proposé de supprimer, et en soulignant les mots qu'il est proposé d'ajouter.

Les débats du Comité ont essentiellement porté sur la question de savoir si les amendements proposés entraîneraient de nouvelles obligations pour les parties contractantes. Cette question qui a été évoquée lors de la consultation gouvernementale est surtout importante pour l'entrée en vigueur du texte amendé. L'Article XIII.4 de la Convention prévoit en effet deux procédures différentes pour l'entrée en vigueur des amendements. Normalement, les amendements prennent effet pour toutes les parties contractantes après qu'ils ont été acceptés par les deux tiers des parties contractantes. Toutefois, dans le cadre de ce qu'impliquent les nouvelles obligations des parties contractantes, si l'approbation des deux tiers de ces dernières reste nécessaire pour qu'ils prennent effet, seules celles qui les ont implicitement acceptés sont liées par eux, de sorte que le texte non amendé de la Convention reste applicable aux autres.

Pour permettre au Directeur général de savoir laquelle des deux procédures doit être appliquée en l'espèce, le Comité estime que la Conférence de la FAO devra déterminer, au moment de donner son approbation, si les amendements proposés impliquent ou non de nouvelles obligations.

Le concept des obligations nouvelles peut donner lieu à des interprétations extrêmes. L'une consiste à ne considérer comme telles que ces obligations qui sont réellement "nouvelles" - une telle interprétation semble excessivement restrictive, l'autre extrême permettrait de considérer comme une nouvelle obligation toute modification d'obligation actuelle si elle a des conséquences financières pour des parties contractantes ou si elle appelle un amendement du droit national. Cependant, on ne peut guère dire d'un amendement entraînant le déplacement ou une légère augmentation de dépenses, ou encore de petits ajustements du droit national qu'il implique de nouvelles obligations.

A la lumière de ces considérations, le Comité a conclu que les critères donnés pour déterminer si les amendements impliquent de nouvelles obligations, offrent une solution qui tient compte des droits et des intérêts légitimes des parties contractantes tout en évitant de perturber sans nécessité l'application de la Convention. Si, à la suite des amendements, la charge globale que doivent supporter les parties contractantes pour honorer leurs obligations existantes reste pratiquement inchangée, les amendements seront considérés comme n'impliquant pas de nouvelles obligations. Si la charge est modifiée de telle façon que les tâches à accomplir sont intrinsèquement différentes de celles que supposent les obligations existantes, les amendements qui en sont cause peuvent être considérés comme impliquant de nouvelles obligations. On ne saurait d'autre part considérer que toute extension d'une obligation existante constitue en soi une nouvelle obligation; mais il peut se présenter des cas où une telle extension peut être considérée comme équivalant à une obligation nouvelle - lorsque, par exemple, elle a nécessairement des conséquences financières importantes pour les parties contractantes, ou lorsque la charge qu'elle impose est disproportionnée par rapport à celle que celles-ci supportent déjà.

Ayant examiné les amendements proposés qui pourraient avoir une influence sur les obligations existantes, le Comité estime que deux seulement méritent d'être pris en considération à cet égard.

L'un de ces amendements est la nouvelle définition proposée pour les "produits végétaux". A l'Article II.1 de la Convention, plus large que l'actuelle définition en ce qu'elle englobe certains produits manufacturés qui ne sont pas visés jusqu'à présent. Bien que la définition en elle-même ne puisse pas donner lieu à des obligations, puisque le texte proposé précise explicitement que les définitions de la Convention sont réputées ne pas affecter les définitions données dans les lois nationales, l'amendement pourrait toutefois avoir pour effet d'accroître des obligations résultant d'autres clauses de la Convention relatives aux produits végétaux.

Le Comité a été aussi informé que la consultation gouvernementale, en recommandant les nouvelles définitions, a exprimé l'avis que l'amendement n'aurait pas pour effet d'accroître les obligations existantes.

Le Comité estime enfin que la convention laisse une large discrétion aux parties contractantes quant aux mesures à prendre et que les obligations relatives aux produits végétaux, en vertu d'autres clauses que la convention, ne sont pas changées par la nouvelle définition ou ne sont accrues que dans des proportions minimales. En outre, on a observé que dans le texte actuel de la convention, rien n'empêche une partie contractante d'imposer unilatéralement pour des raisons sanitaires des restrictions à l'importation des produits auxquels il est proposé d'étendre la définition.

En conséquence, les pays exportateurs pourraient obliger à inspecter et à certifier ces produits pour que ceux-ci soient admis dans les pays d'importation.

Le Comité estime enfin qu'il est nécessaire que de nouvelles obligations ne surgissent pas et souhaite que le Conseil puisse adopter, pour transmission à la Conférence, le projet de convention sur la protection des végétaux.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor Presidente del CACJ por su intervención que nos permitirá discutir este tema 16 sobre el cual, como hemos convenido, se tratarán conjuntamente todos los subtemas, con excepción del que aparece en tercer lugar del Orden del día, o sea: Enmienda sobre la composición de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, respecto al cual volveremos inmediatamente después.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Lamento haber desconocido el recurso de Punto de Orden del distinguido delegado de Canadá en cuanto se refería a ese tema del Orden del Día. Ciertamente, observé que se prefirió que el Embajador Borin diera la presentación del informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Pero ahora ya bien para el examen de los diversos aspectos que comprende este informe, nosotros deseáramos, como más conveniente, que aunque fuera brevemente, aunque pasemos de uno a otro aspecto de forma breve por cuestión de orden, se tratara uno por uno y en forma diferente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Cuando acogí parcialmente la propuesta de Canadá, lo hice porque consideré que en realidad entre todos los subtemas del tema 16, sea aquél referente a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas el que más difiere de los otros subtemas que como usted ve, todos se relacionan con acuerdos o modificaciones legales.

Naturalmente, yo estoy en las manos del Consejo y si alguien quiere apoyar la propuesta de México, pues procederemos tema por tema entre los 7 subtemas del tema 16. ¿Qué opinan los miembros del Consejo?

Si no hay ninguna otra opinión, entiendo que todos están de acuerdo con la posición de México, y así tomaremos en primer lugar el Proyecto de Acuerdo Complementario con las Naciones Unidas relativo a la cooperación entre el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO.

C.D. SANCHEZ AVALOS (Argentina): Mi delegación desea formular su aprobación expresa al texto del acuerdo complementario con las Naciones Unidas relativo a la cooperación entre el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO. Los términos de dicho acuerdo satisfacen convenientemente las inquietudes de mi gobierno sobre la necesidad no sólo del funcionamiento coordinado de los organismos internacionales sino también respecto a la economicidad que implica la cooperación en materia de servicios y medios administrativos, tal como se ha previsto en el Artículo 3° de este Acuerdo.

Confiamos que esta previsión tenga una eficaz vigencia futura.

Sra. M. HERNANDEZ (Observador de Cuba): Sólo voy a referirme al Proyecto de Acuerdo. En este caso en el que se está planteando el Acuerdo Complementario con las Naciones Unidas respecto a cooperación entre el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y la FAO, deseo proponer a este Consejo una enmienda a este proyecto en el Artículo 5, Sección III de dicho Artículo.

Dicho Artículo deberá quedar redactado de la siguiente forma. Se eliminará "de cuando en cuando", y quedará redactado como sigue: "Podrán adoptarse medidas apropiadas por mutuo acuerdo respecto de la representación del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación en otras Conferencias o reuniones convocadas por la FAO, siempre que se trate de asuntos que tienen interés para dicho Consejo."

EL PRESIDENTE: En primer lugar, quiero pedirle al Secretario que indique exactamente el sitio y el texto de la enmienda propuesta por Cuba, y luego veremos.

SECRETARIO GENERAL: En el Apéndice B del documento CL 72/11 Apéndice B que en el texto es el final, en el Artículo V, el párrafo 3, que empieza: "De cuando en cuando ...", se suprimen esas palabras y empieza el párrafo con "Podrán adoptarse medidas apropiadas ... etc.", y a la penúltima línea se suprimen las palabras "cuando en éstas", y se pone "siempre que se trate de asuntos ...etc.".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que sobre esta propuesta hay dos aspectos sobre los cuales tiene que decidir el Consejo. El primero de estos aspectos es la función de los observadores en el Consejo, y el segundo es el contenido mismo de la propuesta. Si entiendo bien la enmienda de Cuba al Artículo 3 de la parte V, esa no entraña modificación sustancial al texto. Sin embargo, ustedes tienen la palabra.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Nosotros en realidad no observamos ningún cambio sustancial a esta Sección III, según ha sido propuesta por la distinguida delegación de Cuba. No creo que cambie de intención. Tal vez la preocupación de la delegación de Cuba sea simplemente la cuestión de redacción en el idioma español, hasta donde nosotros podemos observar; así que, si no insistiera demasiado en la propuesta o si es asequible al Consejo, simplemente reflejar en los demás idiomas en la forma que quedaría el idioma español de acuerdo con la propuesta cubana, pues nosotros seguiríamos la decisión del Consejo. Nosotros no vemos que tenga mayor alcance.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Since agreements are initiated between the bodies, it is not unilateral and obviously what we have in front of us is a text that has been agreed to by the Director-General of the FAO and the Executive Director of the World Food Council. These are two parties negotiating. What can we do? First of all making changes, if they are substantial ones they still have to be resubmitted for renegotiation, if I am clear on this. I do want to be clear on how we handle it. If they are not major changes do we want to start the machinery up with words because the World Food Council has to approve this also. I want to get some understanding of the procedure. Perhaps you, Mr. Chairman, or the Secretariat could explain what happens when we start making changes here when an agreement is negotiated by two parties.

EL PRESIDENTE: A la luz de las dos declaraciones que se han hecho, del hecho cierto de que la propuesta de Cuba sólo tiende a mejorar la redacción particularmente en el idioma castellano, pero también ante la realidad de que éste es un acuerdo que debe definirse entre las dos partes interesadas y que ha pasado ya por los trámites correspondientes, si no hay ninguna otra opinión de los miembros del Consejo, creo yo que podríamos agradecer a la distinguida Observador de Cuba el espíritu constructivo de su propuesta y seguir con la discusión de este tema.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): No sé si se haya advertido tal vez, no lo dudamos puesto que este tipo de acuerdos normalmente se negocian con minuciosidad y con calma, pero tal vez usted me dé alguna explicación de por qué en el Artículo VI únicamente se habla de que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación incluirá en su programa provisional todos los temas que la Conferencia o el Consejo de la FAO proponga o recomiende, pero no se establece la reciprocidad.

Yo creo que también es en interés de la FAO que el Consejo y la Conferencia introduzcan en su programa provisional aquellos temas que recomiende el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación para su inclusión.

D. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The provision in Article VI which has just been referred to by the representative of Mexico picks up a specific provision in the Rules of Procedure of the World Food Council itself. In general terms the agreement which is before the FAO Council codifies a series of existing decisions and does not in itself incorporate new decisions and that is the case in this particular article, Article VI also.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si esta aclaración satisface al distinguido colega y amigo de México, podemos continuar la discusión.

I. OROZCO GUZMAN (México): Agradezco por su conducto, señor Presidente, al señor Walton la explicación. No es que quedemos completamente satisfechos puesto que si es así que en el Reglamento del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación no haya una cláusula que prevea precisamente el recomendar a la FAO la inclusión de temas que le proponga para que sean tratados por el Consejo de la Conferencia, pues mi delegación se permite hacer esta observación porque sí consideramos que va en interés mutuo, en el interés común que todos perseguimos de que este Consejo y la Conferencia, traten, examinen estos temas que propone el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. El Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación tiene sus funciones, aun cuando no sean consideradas en toda su validez, pero nosotros nos permitimos hacer esa observación tendiente precisamente a reforzar la cooperación entre los dos organismos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Consejo toma nota de la observación planteada por usted, y naturalmente, usted mismo sabe que se trata de una relación entre dos organismos que se seguirá desarrollando en el futuro.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario sobre este primer subtema del tema 16, creo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en recomendar a la Conferencia, entiendo, la adopción de este proyecto de acuerdo.

Pasamos ahora a la enmienda del párrafo 4 del Artículo XXXVII del Reglamento General de la Organización. Ya el Presidente del CACJ se refirió a esta cuestión. Están los párrafos 19 a 22 del documento CL 72/5, Informe del CACJ.

R. TANABE (Japan): We have received the report of the CCLM only a short time in advance and we did not have enough time to examine this report carefully. My government feels that this programme is very important and they would like to examine it fully. Therefore my delegation cannot decide our position at this moment and I would like to reserve our position until the Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que la actitud del colega del Japón es adecuada. Como ustedes saben, este asunto pasará a la Conferencia en la Comisión Tercera, y luego, en la Plenaria, cada representante de gobierno podrá expresar su punto de vista.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario, tomamos nota de la posición del Japón y recomendamos a la Conferencia la enmienda que aparece propuesta en el párrafo 22 del informe del CACJ. Hemos convenido que las enmiendas sobre la composición de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas las discutiremos más adelante, cuando oigamos la explicación del Presidente del CACJ.

P. ALPEN (Observer for Australia): May I crave the indulgence of the Council in making a very short suggestion on behalf of a number of countries, members of IFAD, some of which are members of this Council and some of which are Observers like Australia is. I should like to refer the Council if I may to document CL 72/15. At page A3, under Article 6, Financial Arrangements, there is a reference to the sharing of the costs for services rendered by FAO to IFAD.

With the greatest respect to the CCLM and to its distinguished chairman, the countries for which I speak do not think that the phrase "direct and indirect costs" is quite precise enough, and we should like to suggest that the Council give consideration to a slight amendment to this which we think would make the intent somewhat clearer.

What I should like to suggest, Mr. Chairman, is that before the word "indirect" the adjective "additional" should be inserted. We are not suggesting that we should go back to the text as originally proposed by the Commission of IFAD, but we are suggesting that the wording should read "direct and additional indirect costs of the services", etc. as follows in Article 6.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: First, as far as the form is concerned, it is not for me to comment on whether an observer is authorized to suggest amendments and make proposals, with a view to their discussion by the Council. I have my doubts about it, of course. Moreover, in this case, an observer is speaking about "countries". This is the first time I have heard an observer speaking about countries without naming them, though observers can always speak for themselves, and on behalf of others, if they wish.

I am surprised to hear this proposal and I do not know what is behind it, since the matter has already been studied by the CCLM, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee. "Direct and additional indirect" means, in my view, having to meet some indirect costs and being able to request reimbursement only of some additional indirect costs. Today, of course, we are in the FAO Council and things could be presented differently at the IFAD Conference; but I must say, in my capacity of Director-General, responsible for protecting the interests of the Organization, that I do not believe these proposals will serve those interests.

We are accustomed to the words "direct and indirect", and I repeat that this proposal would mean that FAO would have to meet certain indirect costs, while only some unspecified additional costs would be reimbursed. I must point out, furthermore, that IFAD is protected by the phrase in the text which states: "costs will be reimbursed in accordance with appropriate arrangements, to be agreed between the parties". So there will in fact be arrangements and this, therefore, provides sufficient protection.

N.O. AL SALEH (Observer for Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Actually, the point raised by Australia is extremely important to us, and we believe what was meant by the Representative of Australia is that he was talking about Observers like us, like Saudi Arabia, for instance, because we too have a basic role in the establishment of IFAD, and we play a basic role even though we are Observers in this Organization, so as Observers we should be allowed to express our point of view fully, Mr. Chairman.

Actually the point which I would like to stress is that in this document CL 72/15, item 6, the way in which this paper was presented was actually very confusing to the reader, because Appendices A, B and C have made it very difficult to understand the subject clearly, and in our view it would have been sufficient to confine ourselves to Appendix C and this would have saved time and effort and would have better served the purposes of clarity in reading this document.

As contributors to the Fund and as members of this Organization, we support the idea of approving the draft agreement reached in the Preparatory Committee of IFAD, because the 91 members who have participated in the Committee are also members of this Organization and of this Council, and therefore I do not believe this subject should provoke a lengthy controversy. Among the most important topics raised by the Director-General is paragraph 9 concerning the desire of the preparatory organization of IFAD to use the term "additional costs" instead of "indirect costs".

I would like to remind my colleagues here who had attended the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for IFAD that this subject was discussed at length at the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, and the members of the Preparatory Committee asked the Chairman to negotiate with FAO on the principle of additional costs instead of the principle of direct costs. This is so because in IFAD at the present time we do not have any experience as regards the quality or the volume of indirect costs, and it is necessary to leave these matters to the experience of the Fund while carrying out these initial projects. The Fund at present is utterly new and it has no experience at all as regards these indirect costs. Actually, the Fund is going to undergo a decisive stage, and we have to exert every possible effort to enable this Fund to serve countries of the Third World.

S.S. MAHDI (India): We are very happy to note that a relationship agreement between FAO and IFAD is nearing conclusion. I must emphasize the importance of IFAD for the developing countries and how much interest we have in this new Organization. At the same time, we are fully aware and we fully support a very active role for FAO vis-à-vis IFAD. We happen to be not only a member of this Council but an alternate in the Preparatory Commission of IFAD, and we take some satisfaction that we are able to contribute to the drafting which was recommended by the Preparatory Commission a few months ago. On the basis of this agreement, we look forward to a very constructive collaboration between the two Organizations and fully hope that the relationship agreement will come into effect at the earliest possible time to give the Fund a good start. Our only concern is that in this regard delays should be avoided.

We take note that there is some slight difference in the use of wording in paragraph 6(a). If it is a question of semantics, we are sure some solution satisfactory to both parties could be easily arrived

at, and we hope that this difference of use does not represent any difference in the concept of IFAD reimbursing the additional cost in relation to the work undertaken on its behalf by the Organizations concerned.

We fully realize -and this was the intent when we participated in the Preparatory Commission of IFAD-that the additional cost should include both direct and indirect costs. Of course, the computations of these costs is a matter of actual operational experience, and since we hope, and we very much hope that this hope will be fulfilled, that there will be very close and amicable relations between FAO and IFAD in the light of operational experience, these minor points could easily be settled. We could consider that if there is any ambiguity either with regard to the phrase "additional costs" or with regard to the phrase "direct and indirect costs" because this is a matter of terminology, certain of us use one phrase, certain others a different phrase, these could be easily reconciled perhaps by including an explanation while approving the agreement or some kind of a footnote or some kind of an interpretative text. We do not consider that this is a major issue, and we would like very much to appeal to the Council to keep it at that level.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have not much to add to the views just expressed by the Observers from Australia and Saudi Arabia. Just to make it clear -the Observer from Australia has also spoken for my delegation.

We fully support the formula proposed by him. We think this is a satisfactory solution as a combination for the ideas expressed by the Preparatory Commission and the Director-General. By using the words "direct or additional indirect costs" we have on the one hand the definition of the costs preferred by the Director-General and on the other hand the clear understanding that only those indirect costs are to be reimbursed which are additional because of services performed by FAO on behalf of IFAD.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): Like the delegate of India and the observers from Saudi Arabia and Australia, we are also in a position where we are members of both Organizations and contributors to both, so we do not suffer from any split personality, we have the objective of both Organizations trying to obtain the maximum benefit for the developing world.

However, we are faced with a problem of language, and it is a matter of interpretation. We have two situations: we have the Preparatory Commission and its President and the ACABQ saying the term should be "additional costs".

On the other hand we have the Director-General of FAO and the Programme and Finance Committees saying they prefer the other expression "indirect costs".

Then this morning the Observers for Australia and Saudi Arabia -I will not make the constitutional questions of observers making suggestions, this is not the first time they have done this- said instead of dropping one or the other we should tie the two together and have "direct and additional indirect costs".

Quite frankly in the Canadian delegation when we read the text and the report of the Programme and Finance Committees and the CCLM we cabled the text back to Ottawa to get the reactions of my colleagues there who have been involved in the discussions, and they cabled back they preferred "additional costs", costs". We can go along with the proposal of "direct and additional indirect costs", but the first thing to do is to suggest the Director-General meet again with the Chairman of IFAD, take into consideration the views expressed here and in the Preparatory Committee, and see if they can arrive at a language which is closer to the views of both parties. Just a little more of a semantic approach, that we are thinking in terms of the combined resources of both Organizations.

But however well intentioned you are, there must be a certain pattern of behaviour for both parties. Our delegation preferred the original language, but we can accept the language proposed by the Observer for Australia. However, my appeal would be that the Director-General meet again with the Chairman of IFAD to discuss the words, taking into consideration the views expressed by both parties sitting in both Committees. We are taking a consistent point of view.

The Indian delegate was being thoughtful, he said "We have made a commitment in IFAD, and we want to be nice to FAO", and he stepped round it. I am saying we take the same position and that is why we like the language proposed by Australia which is in the same concept and should be acceptable.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Shefrin first said that I should meet Ambassador Al-Sudeary and then expressed his approval of the proposal made by the representative of Australia. I have already explained, and perhaps I should repeat my statement now to all members and observers present, that the English version of Article 6 states: "Subject to such cost-sharing arrangement as may be agreed, " This sentence is clear in stating that everything, whether additional or not additional, is subject to the cost-sharing arrangement. I would consider, therefore, anything else as mere semantics.

I do not think that it is necessary to reverse a decision already made because two delegates have spoken; the Programme and Finance Committees have already spent some considerable time discussing this point! We should maintain the present wording; otherwise we should have to review our agreements with all other organizations and governments. Furthermore, I repeat that, when we say "subject to such cost-sharing arrangements as may be agreed" this gives ample opportunity for making any appropriate arrangement to cover additional or indirect costs. I maintain, however, that I interpret "direct or additional indirect costs" as meaning that our Organization would have to bear some indirect costs. In that case, I would request the delegate of Canada to define the costs which FAO would have to bear, as well as the additional ones for which we should receive reimbursement.

A. CISSE (Niger): Le Niger remercie le Directeur general de la FAO des accords intervenus entre la FAO et le FIDA, permettant ainsi au Conseil de voir dans quel sens pourra se faire la coopération entre ces deux Organisations.

Trois projets ont été signés; il serait bon que le Conseil précise quels sont les textes qui répondent le mieux à ses vœux. Pour sa part, le Niger maintient le texte négocié, Annexe A, article 2, des sections a.2 et 3. Nous estimons en effet que la FAO ou le Bureau d'études chargé de l'identification, de la préparation et de l'évaluation d'un projet dans un pays en voie de développement aura besoin de la participation des cadres nationaux pour la collecte des données nécessaires à la mise au point du projet. Il est par conséquent nécessaire que le gouvernement du pays intéressé soit avisé et donne son accord sur le choix du bureau d'études pour une meilleure garantie de l'étude et de l'application de ce projet.

Sur l'article 6 "Dispositions financières", le Niger soutient le texte du projet négocié, Annexe A, article 6 "dispositions financières". En effet, le terme "au coût additionnel" n'est pas suffisamment explicite, et pour éviter toute confusion lors de la prise en charge des études, il est préférable de dissocier les frais et le coût indirect.

Pour les autres articles et sections, le texte de la Commission préparatoire fera foi.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, hay todavía seis oradores inscritos para hablar sobre este tema. Como son ya las 12 menos 5 tal vez conviene, de acuerdo con el anuncio que apareció hoy en el orden del día, que yo ruegue a los distinguidos Vicepresidentes del Consejo, la Sra. Embajadora de México y el Sr. delega do de Países Bajos, que vengan a la Presidencia.

Señora Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe, First Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair Sra. Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe, Premier Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia la Sra. Doña Guadalupe Rivera Marín de Iturbe, Primo Vicepresidente del Consejo

UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL. Mr.

GONZALO BULA HOYOS

INAUGURATION DU PORTRAIT DE M. GONZALO BULA HOYOS, PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL

DESCUBRIMIENTO DEL RETRATO DEL SR. GONZALO BULA HOYOS, PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

EL PRESIDENTE: Señoras y Señores: A continuación llevaremos a cabo la ceremonia de homenaje al Sr. Presidente Bula Hoyos, que consistirá, de acuerdo con lo estipulado en el orden del día de esta sesión, en la develación de su efigie para que ésta pase a formar parte de la galería que se encuentra situada en esta sala.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs: Dans quelques instants, Monsieur Bula Hoyos, j'aurai l'honneur d'inaugurer votre portrait qui figurera désormais parmi ceux de vos illustres prédécesseurs dans les hautes fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil.

Cette cérémonie est particulièrement émouvante pour nous tous. En évoquant les étapes de votre remarquable carrière, elle nous fait revivre un chapitre important de l'histoire de notre Organisation.



N'avez-vous pas été associé pendant dix-neuf ans aux activités de la FAO? Certains d'entre nous se souviennent der. débuts, en 1959, du jeune Représentant permanent de la Colombie, devenu en 1965 membre du Comité du Programme, puis Vice-président du Conseil en 1968, et Président du Comité du Programme depuis 1969, jusqu'à son élection, en novembre 1973, comme Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO.

Cette brève évocation suffit à montrer combien votre activité parrai nous a été féconde. Vous avez su mener de front les responsabilités de ces postes délicats et vos fonctions dans la diplomatie de votre pays, en particulier comme Ministre conseiller de Colombie à Amsterdam, aux Pays-Bas.

Seuls ceux qui ne connaissent pas votre puissance; de travail et votre énergie débordante pourraient s'en étonner, Extrêmement actif, cloquent, vous laisserez le souvenir d'une Présidence empreinte tout à la fois de bonhomie et de fermeté, C'est avec un sens inné des débats parlementaires que vous avez ordonné et canalisé les délibérations, désamorcé les tensions. Vous possédez un art consommé pour démêler le fil d'Ariane de discussions parfois confuses, aller à l'essentiel et conclure par des compromis acceptables pour tous. Vous nous avez, en particulier, accoutumés à des résumés magistraux des débats. Démentant cet écrivain qui s'excusait de ne pas avoir eu le temps d'être bref, vous trouvez toujours le moyen d'être précis. Expert chevronné de la conduite des réunions, vous excellez à rendre simple le compliqué, clair le vague, convergent ce qui ne l'était pas.

Qui dira jamais le nombre d'heures que votre esprit de synthèse a pu épargner au Conseil, et, surtout, à son groupe de rédaction pour la préparation et l'adoption de ses rapports?

Monsieur Bula Hoyos, je rends ici hommage à toutes vos qualités, Je tiens à vous remercier vivement des éminents services que vous avez rendus à l'Organisation. Sans aucun doute, votre expérience trouvera encore à se déployer à son profit.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Señoras y Señores: Me permito indicar cuál será el curso que seguirá esta sesión.

En mi carácter de Primer Vicepresidente, tomaré la palabra en nombre del Consejo para hacer una alocución en homenaje del Sr. Presidente Bula Hoyos. Enseguida tomará la palabra el distinguido representante de. Países Bajos, Segundo Vicepresidente de este Consejo, y ruege may encarecidamente a los representantes permanentes o delegados que deseen hacer uso de la palabra en homenaje a nuestro distinguido Presidente, se sirvan reservar sus palabras para hacer uso de las mismas durante el curso de la Conferencia. Deseamos darle a esta sesión la brevedad que el caso amerita sin demérito de que les escuchemos en la Conferencia que se avecina, y en el momento de la toma de posesión de la Presidencia cuando asuma su nuevo puesto la persona que será elegida para sustituir al Sr. Presidente Bula Hoyos, cuando atentamente les encarecemos hagan uso de la palabra.

Sr, Presidente, en virtud de haber recibido el honor por parte de este Consejo de ser elegida para la Primera Vicepresidencia, me corresponde, en nombre de todos los distinguidos miembros que lo constituyen, tomar la palabra para hacer alguna alusión a su persona.

Distinguido Sr. Bula Hoyos: Estoy enterada que desde hace más de 20 años su actividad continua en el servicio diplomático de su país y algunos menos en el seno de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación se han caracterizado por una actividad enfocada siempre a buscar el desarrollo y mejoramiento de las funciones que el mundo entero, a través de sus representantes, ha encomendado a la FAO y que a usted le han sido encomendadas especialmente por su muy digno Gobierno.

Podemos así afirmar que FAO ha cobrado mayor importancia cada día y que en este ejercicio humano usted ha sido uno de los principales líderes. Esta labor, ya de por sí destacada, se ha acrecentado durante los últimos cuatro años en los cuales su actuación como Presidente independiente del Consejo no dejo dudas de su espíritu conciliatorio, buen tacto, y, porqué no decirlo, una gran elegancia en el manejo de las sesiones y de todas las actividades que en este carácter le ha tocado a usted relizar.

Sus características aquí enumeradas las complementan todas aquellas que como digno representante permanente de su país supo desempeñar en cumplimiento fiel del mandato de su Gobierno. De su experiencia mostrada en la Presidencia de este Consejo hemos aprendido cómo la paciencia y la sabiduría pueden ser los instrumentos más eficaces para resolver aun las situaciones más delicadas que se presentan a lo largo de los debates de este Consejo y cómo esas mismas características suyas le permiten en un momento determinado ofrecer un resumen veraz y fidedigno de las cuestiones planteadas para, en esta forma, capacitarnos a encontrar los medios conciliatorios que nos han de llevar a un acuerdo común entre los diferentes intereses puestos en juego.

Por ello, Sr. Presidente, usted ha contribuido en muchas ocasiones a despejar aquellas nubes grises, presagios de tormenta, mencionadas por el distinguido representante permanente de los Países Bajos y actualmente Segundo Vicepresidente, y a sustituirlas por pequeñas nubéculas blancas que logramos fácilmente hacer desaparecer cuando el consenso de nuestras voluntades y mandatos toman determinaciones positivas para el buen cumplimiento de los fines de esta Organización.

También quienes recientemente hemos asumido nuestras funciones como representantes permanentes ante la FAO hemos sido informados de toda la labor que usted como nuestro Presidente independiente realizó en beneficio de todos y cada uno de nosotros al iniciar nuestra labor en el seno de la Organización. Sabemos, pues aun yo misma he tenido esta feliz experiencia, cómo sus consejos y su ejemplo sirven para guiarnos en los intrincados corredores que conducen a las metas prefijadas, para el buen cumplimiento de nuestras labores; todo esto hace de usted merecedor de nuestro respeto y nuestro afecto pues además de conducir los debates del Consejo nos conduce estimulándonos cuando creemos haber perdido el camino.

Puedo afirmar, Sr. Bula Hoyos, conociendo el sentir de todos los aquí presentes, que al abandonar su mandato como Presidente independiente se extrañará su presencia, además de que también habremos de extrañar y tomar siempre como ejemplo y a ello nos habremos de referir constantemente, lo incansable de sus esfuerzos para lograr orientar las resoluciones del Consejo hacia la búsqueda de mayores beneficios en favor de los países aquí representados, pero con un énfasis muy especial y muy definido en favor de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Otro aspecto relevante de su personalidad, distinguido señor Presidente, ha sido su continua disposición de servir comunión entre las distintas representaciones relacionándonos por medio de la creación de lazos afectivos, y de lo que es más importante, de estrecha colaboración entre nosotros y los grupos de las diferentes regiones del mundo.

En esta forma, usted ha facilitado indudablemente la labor de los señores Directores Generales con quienes colaboro durante su exitoso mandato. Consecuencia lógica de esta recia personalidad como Presidente Independiente del Consejo aunada a la labor desempeñada cuando fuera miembro y Presidente del Comité del Programa, ha sido su contribución en el sentido de que la FAO tenga características que la distinguen del resto de las organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, entre las cuales destacan lo humano y real de sus Programas, apegados a la tierra tanto en el sentido real como en el filosófico de esta frase.

Todo ello, nos lleva a agradecerle a usted, distinguido señor Bula Hoyos, su actuación y a ofrecerle nuestros más fervientes homenajes, muestra de los cuales será la ceremonia en donde su efigie quedará formando parte de la galería de este salón, para acompañar a quienes, como usted, han sabido cumplir sus funciones con dignidad y altruismo, siempre al servicio de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación y del mundo entero.

G. de BAKKER (Second Vice-Chairman of the Council): I feel today at this moment very privileged, very fortunate, and very please to have now the opportunity to address you, Mr. Bula Hoyos, and congratulate you on behalf of the distinguished delegates here today, but also on my behalf, because we also had good contacts. We congratulate you on your most successful term of office as Independent Chairman of the Council. One needs to have a specially rich and resourceful personality, next to great experience on a high level, to succeed in this difficult job.

Since the former speakers have already mentioned your career let me venture to say a few words on your eminent personality. What is perhaps the secret of your success and strength in this job, Mr. Bula Hoyos, is that you are a Latin-American, and I must assume that with the background of the Mediterranean Latin race you must have inherited your highly imaginative resourceful personality and at the same time having a gay character, what we people from the Northern European countries envy always so much of the people from the Latin region. On the other hand, your long stay in the Netherlands may have added to this character of your some traits of the Dutch character, and since I am Dutch myself I may say a few words that some people may not like very much—stolid, tenacious, too frank sometimes, too straightforward, and even stubborn. The blending of those two different backgrounds made you into the pleasant, easily communicating, but at the same time strong personality that you have shown to us while conducting our meetings and also in private conversations intending to help to solve imminent problems.

Mr. Bula Hoyos, you showed wisdom courage and patience, all three very important character traits in these contacts, but also your strong hand, though covered with the famous velvet glove, in cases when you had to steer the meeting through sometimes tempestuous situations.

In short, what I want to say is that our Council was fortunate to have you as its Chairman during this very interesting period. You can certainly look back with great pride - and don't be modest! - and with great satisfaction on this period and on a job well done. Thanks again, and good luck to you! Tot ziens!

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Puis-je maintenant vous inviter, Monsieur Bula Hoyos, à venir avec moi dévoiler le portrait qui commémorera votre présidence?

(The Director-General unveiled the portrait)

(Le Directeur general a dévoilé le portrait)

(El Director General descubrió el retrato)

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente Independiente del Consejo): Señoras y señores: el retrato que acaba de descubrirse quedará en esta sala porque así lo quiere la tradición. Yo solo he tratado de ser fiel al propósito que enuncié hace cuatro años cuando asumí la Presidencia del Consejo. Dije entonces que sería simplemente el catalizador de las opiniones de los miembros de este organismo.

Creo haber sido imparcial y nunca he intentado imponer mis propios puntos de vista. Al límite de concluir mi mandato, me siento completamente sereno, tranquilo; tal vez será la sensación de creer que he cumplido con mis deberes, no obstante las naturales deficiencias y las humanas limitaciones, pero con toda mi buena voluntad.

El gran maestro Aligi Sassu, quien hizo el cuadro, me representa con la mano derecha en esa actitud. Tal vez quiso el pintor señalar así mi fe irrevocable en el porvenir de la FAO como importante organización al servicio de todos los Estados Miembros y particularmente de aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

Como Presidente ese es mi voto final; si las circunstancias lo permiten, muy pronto volveré a reiniciar el ciclo por donde comencé, hace ya veinte años. Seré de nuevo delegado de Colombia. Como representante de mi país, al igual que lo hice en el pasado, trabajaré por el fortalecimiento de esta organización y particularmente estaré siempre en favor de las aspiraciones y de los derechos de América Latina.

En el futuro, cuando asista a alguna de las reuniones que se celebren en esta Sala Roja de tan gratos recuerdos para mí, a lo mejor me voy a sentir un poco extraño al verme sobre la pared y al mismo tiempo estar sentado en el puesto de Colombia. De todos modos trataré de seguir, la sentencia bíblica que dice: "Volved a la fuente original. Encontrareis la luz que os ayudará a rectificar los errores que hayais cometido".

El cuadro que se ha descubierto esta mañana, cierra el espacio disponible en este sector de la Sala para los ex-Presidentes del Consejo. La nueva Galería de Retratos será sin duda iniciada por mi ilustre sucesor, el distinguido amigo Bukar Shaib a quien me complace ver al lado izquierdo de esta sala. Bukar Shaib de Nigeria, hombre inteligente, capaz, honesto, será el primer presidente del Consejo proveniente del gran continente africano.

Señor Director General: nuestra amistad data de muchos años y se prolongará en el tiempo. Sus frases generosas me emocionan y conmueven. Gracias a los dos distinguidos Vicepresidentes por sus discursos. Es una afortunada coincidencia que en esta sesión, mi última como Presidente, las dos Vicepresidencias estén ocupadas, la primera por la Embajadora de México, país de América Latina de mi región, en la cual México ocupa posición destacada por encarnar las más gloriosas tradiciones y la más alta fidelidad a los principios democráticos; y la segunda Vicepresidencia, ocupada por el señor de Bakker, de Holanda, país donde vivo desde hace doce años y de cuyas gentes altruistas y buenas mucho he aprendido como ha dicho usted, señor de Bakker,

Deseo, finalmente, agradecer a todos ustedes su asistencia p. este acto. El grupo representativo de colombianos, a la izquierda, que me acompaña en esta mañana, significa para mí el mensaje, la presencia calurosa y afectiva de Colombia, mi tierra lejana.

Deseo en particular agradecer la presencia de la esposa del Director General de la FAO, mi compatriota Inés Moreno de Saouma, verdadera honra de la raza colombiana. Gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Ruego muy atentamente al señor Presidente Bula Hoyos, pase a ocupar el sitio que le corresponde.

G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the chair

G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, la vida sigue su curso y nosotros continuamos nuestro programa. Se está discutiendo el subtema: "Acuerdo de relaciones entre la FAO y el IFAD".

VI. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

VI. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

VI. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

16. Report of the CCLM (35th Session, Rome, October 1977) including:

16. Rapport du CQCJ (trente-cinquième session, Rome, octobre 1977), y compris:

16. Informe del CACJ (35 período de sesiones, Roma, octubre de 1977), incluso:

- Relationship Agreement between FAO and IFAD (continued)

- Accord régissant les relations entre la FAO et le Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) (suite)

- Acuerdo de relaciones entre la FAO y el FIDA (continuación)

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would like to apologise for asking for the floor on a point of order but I feel that if I introduce this proposal this will rather solve most of the problems related to this coordination or cooperation between us and FAO and IFAD and the time is very late and I hope that my proposal will be acceptable to all of you and then we will ask our Chairman to postpone the meeting until 2:30. So if you will allow me I will just put my proposal. It is an amendment to Article VI which we are now dealing with under paragraph (vi) Financial arrangement, the second line I would like to delete four words "the direct and indirect" and replace these four words by one word "costs". So that we do not speak about direct or indirect, we do not speak about additional, since whatever costs there will be it will be agreed upon by IFAD and FAO in the future and the appropriate agreement reached between the two parties. So that if we say "the fund shall reimburse FAO for all costs of the services" this might solve the problem and our friends in the back seat as observers who made the intervention are kindly requested to accept this proposal because I feel this will rather solve our problem.

EL PRESIDENTE: Con ánimo constructivo el Ministro de Agricultura de Jordania ha hecho una propuesta que podría conducirnos a adoptar un texto satisfactorio del Artículo 6° que estamos discutiendo.

Quiero preguntar a los miembros del Consejo si esta propuesta de Jordania les parece satisfactoria. Tal vez lo mejor será continuar con la lista de oradores y aquellos que estén de acuerdo con la propuesta de Jordania que limiten sus intervenciones a decirlo.

Sra. I. DI GIOVAN DE SUAREZ (Argentina): En primer lugar le ruego, señor Presidente, me excuse porque mi delegación deberá analizar la propuesta de Jordania.

El sentido de mi intervención es poner en claro que entendemos que ésta no es una mera cuestión terminológica, reconozco que puede haber diferencias importantes de interpretación entre "costos adicionales" y "costos directos e indirectos". Entendemos las razones que tuvo la Comisión preparatoria del FIDA al proponer "costos adicionales", expresadas por el representante de Arabia Saudita; también entendemos las consideraciones que hace el señor Director General de la FAO sobre la ambigüedad de este término y la preferencia por referirse a "costos indirectos". Sin embargo queremos llamar la atención de que, evidentemente, éste es simplemente un acuerdo parco desde el punto de vista de la distribución de los costos y que necesariamente va a definirse, va a especificarse la distribución de los costos por instrumentos jurídicos complementarios que serán los que especifiquen y determinen la distribución. Por eso, si bien mi delegación comparte algunas de las razones que tiene el representante de Australia para hacer su propuesta, preferiría que esto no fuera una enmienda al acuerdo proyectado, sino que quedara como una recomendación del Consejo de la FAO para que al formularse o al acordarse estos instrumentos complementarios se tuviera en cuenta una pauta del Consejo.

Finalmente, deseo insistir en que, quizá, si lo tomáramos simplemente como recomendación o como pauta, podría concluirse, podría darse por definitiva esta negociación entre el FIDA y la FAO que, evidentemente, ha sido seguida con gran interés por todos los países miembros que entendemos que, por un lado, la FAO debe prestar su mayor colaboración al FIDA a través de los servicios, pero, por otro, quisiéramos que esto no se tradujera en una expansión desmedida de los gastos de la FAO a través de gastos indirectos en favor del FIDA.

EL PRESIDENTE: Ruego a los oradores que sean breves por favor y les recuerdo que la enmienda de Jordania consiste en decir en el Artículo 6º: "todos los costos de los servicios".

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je crois que, pour discuter valablement de cet article VI, il aurait été peut-être nécessaire de rappeler d'autres dispositions et surtout de bien préciser qu'un accord est un accord entre parties; par conséquent, il ne peut pas être proposé par une seule partie pour être accepté d'office. Ceci dit, lorsqu'on parle de "supplémentaires", comme cela a été proposé, le terme "supplémentaires" suppose qu'il y a eu d'autres frais, on ne partage que les frais supplémentaires, mais ces autres frais ne seront-ils pas partagés? C'est la question que je pose, et c'est là où je m'oppose fermement au terme "supplémentaires".

Pour revenir à l'article VI et à l'amendement proposé par M. le Ministre de la Jordanie, je suis entièrement d'accord avec lui, mais je proposerais que l'article soit rédigé d'une autre façon, car il est dit au début de cet article: "sous réserve des arrangements sur le partage..." et, à la fin: "conformément à des arrangements appropriés". Par conséquent, il y a là une répétition que l'on peut éviter et on peut simplement prévoir que le Fonds remboursera à la FAO tous les frais engagés par elle, conformément à des arrangements appropriés qui seront conclus entre les parties.

Ces arrangements seront pris évidemment avant que la FAO n'engage quoi que ce soit pour le Fonds et cela suppose donc que les parties se seront mises d'accord sur la forme et les modalités de partage des frais.

M.J. KANANURA (Rwanda): Suite aux interventions du Ministre de la Jordanie et du délégué du Gabon, je dirai que je suis tout à fait d'accord avec ce que vient de dire celui-ci et je pense qu'il faudrait supprimer la première partie de l'article VI et maintenir l'amendement introduit par le Ministre de la Jordanie en commençant le texte comme l'a bien indiqué le représentant du Gabon.

EL PRESIDENTE: La actitud constructiva de Pakistán: tal vez facilita mi intención. Quiero preguntar al Consejo si todos están de acuerdo en aceptar la propuesta de Jordania que, repito, consiste en decir "todos los costos de los servicios".

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I will not repeat what I said earlier, even for purposes of clarification but I have the feeling that we are getting into some technical discussion and there are agencies involved and I think we should not make any firm recommendation but merely make these proposals and the Director-General can send them back, have the views expressed by both sides, see if we can arrive at a language that is satisfactory.

"All costs" can mean a tremendous number of things. I do not want to get into any technical discussion here, it is not my function here at the Committee and my request is to avoid binding the Director-General or on the other hand my colleague attending the Chairman of IFAD, because there are two different views at the moment being expressed, one on the basis of the discussions being involved and also of the Committees, the ACABQ. This is my proposal. I find the word "all" a difficult one to accept also.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have been doing my best to understand the full implications of the wording "additional costs" and of the intervention by the delegate of Canada. I think he should state clearly whether he wishes this Organization to subsidise IFAD and, if so, to what extent. We have already provided subsidies to IFAD and are prepared to do so again, provided this is clearly specified. I can only take the words "additional costs" to mean that some of our services to IFAD should be subsidised by FAO. I am ready to do so if the Council so wishes, but, in such an event, I should have to review our agreements with a large number of other financing agencies. Though I am in the hands of the Council on this issue, I would nonetheless remind you that the proposal of the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and the CCLM is before you. I would agree to reopening the discussion, but I should need, in order to do so, a clear indication from this Council.

I consider acceptable, also, the proposal of the delegate of Jordan; but it is obvious that IFAD cannot be obliged to pay for services rendered unless they agree to do so. Everything has to be subject to agreement. There will be no forcing of any issue. The whole of Article VI deals with appropriate arrangements - cost-sharing arrangements. All this has to be agreed upon. I could even go so far as to accept any wording, since it would still be subject to agreement. It remains, however, that some delegates are apparently willing for this Organization to subsidise IFAD. This I would be prepared to do, provided it is stated clearly and I am informed to what extent such subsidies should be provided.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): In my long years of service in the Organization the word subsidies has always been present and we have subsidized many agencies one way and another but this is a different situation. First of all the Chairman of IFAD did not ask FAO to be subsidized by FAO and I do not think the impression should be left that IFAD is asking for subsidies.

My only proposal, and there is nothing behind it one way or another because we do not believe in organizations taking advantage of each other, sort of playing a game of higher up the ladder, all we are saying is the preparatory commission that IFAD proposes certain language, the ACABQ, which is also a very important finance committee, also agreed with the language.

Now, they are all honourable people and nobody is out to do us. All the delegates are honourable also. We have nothing behind the motivation. All we are saying here is an attempt to avoid a conflict appearing in the language between two agencies. Our appeal is go back on the basis of discussion and see what is happening. I do not think the President of IFAD is asking for subsidies. Nobody is giving subsidies. He has got a billion dollars to play around with, if that is what he wants. I want the money to be used in the most effective manner to help all the countries here.

What I say is let us go back and let the experts sit down and maybe they will arrive at the language the Director-General wants. I do not speak on anybody's behalf. We are speaking strictly on the basis of a telex which I have received from Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the last word on this subject.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It seems that, for the time being, the discussion is between me and the delegate of Canada.

I should like, therefore, to ask him a question. As he stated that no Organization would provide subsidies to another, would he agree that FAO should be reimbursed for the whole cost of the services which it is rendering to IFAD in this connection? Could he answer this question, please?

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I did not ask for the floor, the Director-General asked for the floor on my behalf; he asked a question.

It is not for me to speak on behalf of Mr. Sudeary and his staff, nor am I speaking on behalf of the Director-General. I merely noted there is a conflict of views between two agencies. Some delegates favour the Director-General's approach, some think IFAD has the right idea. We are only a minority of one, I am speaking for myself, and the Council can make any resolution it wants. We only asked two heads of agencies to discuss this. I do not want to get in any debates, and I must say, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would rather not be asked any more questions at this point. The Director-General knows very well I am not hesitant to get into any discussions, but it is a technical matter and that is not my function here. I would rather this be discussed between the Director-General of FAO and Mr. Sudeary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a cuatro oradores que tengo en mi lista ¿puedo hacerles una propuesta de transacción? Adoptaríamos la propuesta de Jordania, todos los costos de los servicios. El texto que refleja esa posición de la FAO, naturalmente, deberá ser considerada por el IFAD; si para el IFAD es satisfactorio, habremos arreglado el problema; si no lo fuera, entonces tendrán contactos, tal como lo ha solicitado el colega de Canadá, el Director General y el Presidente de la Comisión Preparatoria o Presidente del IFAD.

P.J. BYRNES (United States of America): I do not want to get too far involved in this dialogue, but I do think Mr. Shefrin is wise in suggesting to us that if we push this here today, some delegates are going to go away unhappy and we are going to have a problem, and goodness knows we have enough problems. Let us not go looking for more trouble.

It seems to me that since we all recognise and admit that the guiding part of this whole article is the cost-sharing arrangements, that we should put this aside for the time being and encourage the FAO Secretariat and the provisional Secretariat of IFAD to work out these detailed cost-sharing arrangements. When that is done, I suspect we can then find agreement among ourselves on the remainder of that particular paragraph.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je m'excuse de prendre encore une fois la parole sur ce point mais il faut sérier les choses. Nous sommes ici dans une enceinte qui est en quelque sorte l'organe directeur de la FAO; nous ne pouvons pas quand même nous défilier devant nos responsabilités en tant que responsables pour la FAO. Pour l'instant, nous sommes au niveau de la FAO, et, à ce niveau, ce que nous avons à faire, c'est de reprendre la position de la FAO. Maintenant, si les autres ne sont pas d'accord, c'est un autre point de vue. Nous avons quand même une responsabilité: celle de prendre une position FAO mais pas une position FIDA; nous ne sommes pas en réunion FIDA ici, nous ne sommes même pas en Commission mixte ou paritaire ou je ne sais quoi.

Je le disais tout à l'heure dans mon intervention, lorsqu'on parle de "supplémentaires", cela suppose qu'on a déjà certains frais: ces frais seront-ils remboursés? C'est là que vient le terme de "subventions" parce que cela correspond à subventionner en partie le FIDA. Or, le FIDA a utilisé du personnel de la FAO, et je crois qu'à l'article 4 dans les "dispositions administratives" on prévoit des modalités convenues pour mettre certains services à la disposition du FIDA. Par conséquent, tout le texte est basé sur les modalités convenues. Mais ici nous parlons de finances. Est-ce que les membres du Conseil sont disposés à faire une rallonge de budget pour permettre au Directeur général d'assurer le Secrétariat, ou tout au moins en partie certains frais du Secrétariat du FIDA?

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el distinguido colega de Gabon ha afirmado algo que es correcto. Nosotros como FAO tenemos que decidir una posición; por eso les insisto en mi propuesta que es, repito, que adoptemos el texto de Jordania y si la redacción por la otra parte no fuera satisfactoria, entonces entrarían de nuevo en contacto el Directeur General de la FAO y el Presidente del IFAD. Creo que sería una solución que podría ser satisfactoria para todos.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I fully go along with your suggestion, Sir. I just have a suggestion about Article 2 but probably you wish me to make my observation later on, after you dispose of this one.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que su actitud es constructiva. Nos permite, primero, adoptar una decisión sobre el Artículo 6. Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo creo que adoptamos la fórmula propuesta por Jordania con la aclaración que yo me permití hacer.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I did not want in any way to get involved in the controversy on this point. I wanted if I may, with your permission, to make one observation, namely, that our understanding that what FAO are seeking is the reimbursement of a percentage for overheads, which I believe is standard practice, and I would have thought that there would be general agreement that so far as IFAD are concerned, they would not be expecting any special treatment. I think this is the principle of the matter, and it certainly would have the support of my Government if that was the Director-General's intention.

If I may just add one other word, it seems to me the important thing is the spirit in which there is cooperation between the two bodies, and I would not wish to say any more.

EL PRESIDENTE: Faltan cinco minutos para la una de la tarde. Tengo en mi lista dos observadores; les voy a rogar que sean brevísimos, por favor.

B. MANSURI (Observer for Iran): It is a long time that I have been asking for the floor. However, I know I have a very difficult position as an Observer. We cannot accept anything, we cannot reject anything, we cannot make any proposals, but I think nobody can deny that we can make an appeal both to the Director-General and to the Council. My delegation is neither for FAO nor for IFAD; we are for the United Nations family. For our Government there is no difference between these two Organizations, and we do not see any reason to postpone the decision any further. I think all of us are here to reach an agreement. If we put all of these proposals in a pot and boil them, we can find a food which can be eaten by everybody.

There is a proposal by Jordan referring to all costs. There is a proposal by Australia referring to direct and additional indirect costs, supported by Saudi Arabia, and at the first instance it has also our support.

However, we are very open-minded. We have heard some other proposals going around in the room. If we put all of them together we may find a formula as I may propose like this: "all direct and additional indirect costs". The whole concept is the additional indirect costs. If IFAD is supposed to pay all costs, why does it need to go and seek cooperation from international organizations? The whole objective is seeking economy in the administration of IFAD.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tengo 4 oradores. Les agradecería que se refirieran concretamente a mi propuesta de transacción.

J.S. CAMARA (Guinée): Comme mon collègue de l'Iran, notre position ne m'a pas permis de prendre la parole plus tôt. Je suis Vice-président de la Commission préparatoire du FIDA et, en cette qualité, nous avons présenté un document par l'intermédiaire de notre Président au Directeur général de la



FAO et nous avons également souhaité que la FAO et le FIDA soient deux institutions qui coopèrent dans l'intérêt bien compris des pays en voie de développement. Nous avons recommandé, en tant que délégation guinéenne, que la FAO soit l'instrument du FIDA pour nous aider.

Tous les délégués qui ont parlé ont oublié la proposition du délégué de l'Inde, qui me semblait à un moment donné être une solution, à savoir qu'il fallait préciser l'interprétation de la proposition contenue dans le document de la Commission préparatoire ou du Conseil.

Le Conseil de la FAO doit prendre une décision conforme aux intérêts de celle-ci; le Conseil d'administration ou Conseil des gouverneurs du FIDA doit également prendre une décision. Les intérêts de ces deux Organisations sont ceux des pays membres, et il se trouve que ce sont les mêmes pays membres. Je pense qu'ici, l'aspect est beaucoup plus technique et financier que politique car c'est uniquement sur ce point qu'il n'y a pas un accord entre le Directeur général et le Président de la Commission préparatoire; pour le reste, je pense qu'il y a eu un accord. Cet accord est un accord cadre. Si le Conseil de la FAO doit prendre une décision, je pense qu'elle sera conforme à celle de la Commission préparatoire. Les deux chefs de Secrétariat devraient pouvoir se mettre d'accord car il serait vraiment difficile au Conseil de prendre une position qui retarde la mise en application de l'Accord entre le FIDA et la FAO. Je ne suis pas Shakespearien ici pour dire "To be or not to be" mais je crois qu'il nous sera difficile d'en sortir. Personnellement, je ne comprends pas très bien ce qui est "direct", "indirect", "supplémentaire", "additionnel", donc, je laisse au Directeur général et au Président de la Commission préparatoire le soin de nous sortir de cette situation; un accord entre eux sera, je pense, l'accord du FIDA et de la FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Puedo realizar un nuevo esfuerzo para ver si salimos del impasse, ya que el colega de Guinea nos recordó la propuesta de India sobre la interpretación. Podríamos, acaso, aceptar el texto que fue recomendado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y que es la posición del Director General y sugerí que como interpretación de esa expresión "costos directos e indirectos" se tenga en cuenta la propuesta de Jordania; es decir, que eso significa "todos los costos de los servicios", naturalmente ajustada esa expresión a las conversaciones posteriores que tendrán lugar entre el Director General y el Presidente del FIDA. ¿Están de acuerdo todos? ¿O quieren hablar los cuatro que tengo en la lista?

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): To be very brief, since it seems that more problems are involved in this question and it seems difficult to reach a common point of view my delegation would like to support the procedure proposed by Canada and the United States.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hasta donde yo recuerde, creo que los colegas de Canadá y Estados Unidos no han hecho una propuesta concreta. Yo he estado haciendo esfuerzos para obtener alguna solución.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais rappeler aux membres de ce Conseil que la FAO a déjà, durant la phase préparatoire, rendu des services au FIDA pour un montant de 150 000 dollars sans demander de remboursement. Nous avons déjà donné au FIDA 150 000 dollars avant qu'il ne commence à opérer; nous lui avons donné toutes facilités de travail ici et lui avons prêté des fonctionnaires hautement qualifiés. Je suis prêt, avec l'accord du Conseil, à continuer à fournir des services pour lesquels il se peut que je ne demande pas toujours de remboursement. Je pense que nous avons déjà manifesté notre bonne volonté, mais il ne s'agit pas ici seulement de mots, mais bien d'une question de principe.

Si votre Conseil veut que j'accepte les mots "additional indirect costs", il faudrait qu'il me dise aussi de quels coûts supplémentaires il s'agit. A quel niveau dois-je commencer à demander le remboursement de ces coûts supplémentaires ? Après 50 000 dollars ? Après 100 000 dollars? S'il en était ainsi, il faudrait inclure dans notre budget 50 000 ou 100 000 dollars comme "subvention au FIDA".

Je voudrais dire au représentant du Royaume-Uni qu'il ne s'agit pas de "frais d'agence" d'overhead costs; non, il s'agit du coût du temps que les fonctionnaires de la FAO consacreront à l'élaboration de dossiers de factibilité pour le FIDA. Il peut s'agir d'une mission d'experts que nous envoyons sur le terrain, à la demande du FIDA, ou de fonctionnaires apportant, à Rome, un appui logistique FIDA et consacrant un certain nombre de jours et de semaines à l'aider dans ses activités.

Si vous voulez que ces coûts soient supportés par la FAO, je les mettrai dans notre budget; comme je le disais au début, n'importe quelle terminologie est, en fait, acceptable pour moi puisque je rencontrerai de toutes façons l'Ambassadeur Sudeary qui, en tant que responsable du FIDA, sera le seul qualifié pour discuter avec moi des modalités de paiement, pour fixer les coûts. Bien entendu, il ne s'agit là que d'un cadre, d'un "framework" très général.

En tout état de cause, ce document ne sera pas ratifié officiellement avant deux ans; seule notre Conférence peut le ratifier et elle ne peut le faire avant que le Conseil du FIDA ne l'ait lui-même ratifié. Comme le Conseil du FIDA ne se réunit qu'en décembre, après notre Conférence, je crains que nous n'ayons "raté le coche". Nous allons porter ce document à la connaissance de notre Conférence, puis le Conseil du FIDA se réunira en décembre. Il nous faudra donc attendre 1979 avant que ce document soit ratifié, avant que les mots "additional costs", "coûts supplémentaires" ne deviennent définitifs.

Si j'ai cité cette question de "timing", c'est pour vous indiquer que nous n'allions pas attendre que ce document soit ratifié avant de commencer à travailler. Nous avons déjà apporté notre aide au FIDA, ils sont ici chez nous, nous avons les meilleures relations et, avec votre accord, nous avons déjà dépensé 150 000 dollars pour les assister sans demander de remboursement.

Je puis donc vraiment dire que cette discussion est sémantique, M. le Président, à moins que certains délégués, en dissimulant des questions de substance derrière des mots, ne veuillent dire réellement "Oui, nous souhaitons que la FAO engage des frais sans remboursement pour le FIDA". Je suis prêt à accepter la décision de la majorité, mais crois qu'il n'est pas question, aujourd'hui, d'aller plus loin que le texte qui a été proposé à l'origine, ou que celui suggéré par la Jordanie; en tout état de cause, rien ne sera final avant novembre ou décembre 1979.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que lo que acaba de decir el Director General permitirá que logremos un acuerdo. Hay un hecho evidente que fue señalado por el colega de Gabon. Nosotros como FAO debemos presentar un texto. Además, la propuesta transaccional de la Presidencia conlleva la posibilidad de los contactos posteriores entre el Director General y el Presidente del FIDA, tal como lo desean Canadá, Estados Unidos, República Federal de Alemania y otras delegaciones. Entonces, les propongo de nuevo que adoptemos el texto recomendado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y que el Director General, en sus conversaciones posteriores con el Presidente del FIDA, podrá comprobar si esa redacción es satisfactoria para ellos o no, si será necesario hacer una interpretación como lo sugirió el colega de India y más adelante tendremos ocasión de ver cuál es el resultado de estos desarrollos posteriores. Creo que en este momento cualquier discusión prolongada realmente carece de sentido práctico. Quiero preguntarle al Consejo si está de acuerdo con esta propuesta que les hago sobre el Artículo VI.

I.A. IMTIAZI (Pakistan): I am sorry to ask for the floor at a time when you are in a bit of a legitimate hurry to wind up the proceedings in the forenoon, but at this stage I must interject.

My delegation has listened to this somewhat long-winded discussion with a measure of bewilderment. It goes without saying that all of us here are as much interested in the successful and economical operations of the FAO as those of IFAD. At least, Pakistan is very much interested, and has been so as much in FAO as in IFAD. Our delegation wholeheartedly goes along with the principle enunciated by the delegate of Canada to the effect that whatever arrangement is devised should be such as would make neither IFAD rich at the expense of FAO nor will it enrich FAO at the expense of IFAD. It should be a reasonable balance and an arrangement on the basis of reciprocity.

If there are certain services rendered by FAO to IFAD, then IFAD should pay to FAO all direct costs and all additional indirect costs incurred by FAO on rendering such services to IFAD. If there is some vagueness or haziness as to how to determine additional indirect costs, that should be a subject matter for detailed discussion at the appropriate time between the two Organizations and I do not see why it should not be possible to arrive at some understanding mutually acceptable to both.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: To be quite frank, I should like to know why the delegate of Pakistan and other delegates place so much emphasis on "additional costs". What is the difference between "all indirect costs" and "all additional indirect costs"? That question has still to be answered. I maintain that this wording implies some indirect costs being borne by FAO.

I am prepared to accept this, provided it is specified clearly. I repeat that I have still received no explanation of the difference between "all indirect costs" and "all additional indirect costs". I hope, by speaking very frankly, that we may finally understand each other.

A.T. WADDA (Gambia): I will try to be very brief and I hope I will be helpful at the same time. Having heard all that has been said, most of our problem here is that there are many delegates who wear two caps. They sit in IFAD Preparatory Council and they sit in the FAO Council, so it makes it very difficult when you should take off one cap and retain the other. We have no dispute here.

Having heard all the speakers I think there is a general agreement. Here we are talking about financial arrangements which are to be agreed between the two Organizations. No one governing council can force the agreement on the other. So what we are doing here is to give the guidelines to the Director-General of FAO to negotiate with IFAD, and what the delegate from Canada is asking has definitely the same objective because whatever we decide here has to be agreed with IFAD.

I do not think we are being helpful if we are being helpful if we try to restrict the Director-General to specific wording. It would then be difficult to negotiate with IFAD. So coming back to the text, there are three issues involved. One is the cost-sharing arrangements, which I think has been agreed in principle between this Organization and IFAD. The reimbursement of additional costs I think is also agreed in principle. IFAD is saying reimbursement of additional costs. The Director-General is asking for guidance from here as to what the additional cost is composed of.

Here I come to the suggestion made by India and the amendment moved by the Minister of Jordan, which were married by the Chairman into his resolution.

To sum up, my intervention is entirely to support what the Chairman has suggested, that we adopt the suggestion made by India together with the amendment made by Jordan asking the Director-General to go ahead with the suggestion made by Canada to negotiate with IFAD and arrive at a conclusion. So I think that the Director-General has been given ample guidance to carry out negotiation with IFAD.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I think at this point we should adjourn for lunch and come back when we have calmed down. Right now there is a little tightening of the situation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Consejo podría acoger la propuesta de nuestro amigo Shefrin, de Canadá, en el sentido de que terminemos ahora la sesión de esta mañana y continuemos luego el debate esta tarde.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/6

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1977)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième seance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15 sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- VI. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)  
VI. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)  
VI. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)
16. Report of the CCLM (35th Session, Rome, October 1977) including: (continued)  
16. Rapport du CQCJ TTrente-cinquième session, Rome, octobre 1977), y compris: (suite)  
16. Informe del CACJ (35° período de sesiones, Roma, octubre de 1977), incluso: (continuación)
- Relationship Agreement between FAO and IFAD (continued)
  - Accord regissant les relations entre la FAO et le Fonds international de developpement agricole (FIDA) (suite)
  - Acuerdo de relaciones entre la FAO y el FIDA (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a comenzar nuestra reunión de esta tarde. Me veo obligado a asumir algún procedimiento fuera de mi acostumbrada manera de proceder, manera de proceder que ya explicaré al Consejo, pero por el momento voy a conceder la palabra a un solo orador.

C.J. VALDES (Filipinas): Siento que tendré que continuar en inglés, ya que no tengo el dominio del castellano como lo tiene el Presidente y me veo obligado a hacerlo en la lengua en la que aprendí a argumentar. (Continúa en inglés)

Apparently the supposed divergence in the approach to the terms "direct and indirect" are more under appreciation rather than of divergence. Whenever costs are given, and this by the way is both the position that I had in the committees while in FAO as well as the position of the Philippine government. Whenever we state an apportionment of costs we always use direct and indirect to determine those costs that are identifiable with any project and those connected with the project but not necessarily apportionable or identifiable and quantifiable.

We are advocating the preservation of the text in the way it is, to maintain the use of the words direct and indirect. The United Nations agencies accountancy in general and financial reports in particular always take those terms in parallel. Whenever you say direct then we mean those terms or those costs which are directly identifiable with a project. If I may be allowed to elaborate, for example, if FAO were to take six people, working six days in one week and doing nothing else but IFAD work, we would consider that as direct cost but the telephone operator that services those six people, the electricity that is used by those six people during the time that they work on the project, the messengerial work, the heating facilities, these are indirect costs which our colleague from the United Kingdom rightfully described as overhead. To say that they are additional, however, is a misnomer. But it is as if we were adding something else which was not there or agreed upon, but these indirect costs cannot just be apportioned in terms of dollars and cents, they have to be agreed upon. It is for that reason that the text calls for "subject to a sharing arrangement as may be agreed upon", because if they should be as we call them, overhead or indirect costs, you still cannot say so much in dollars because the basis of apportionment could be in terms of money, as for example if all direct costs are 100 percent then 10 percent of such direct costs would be indirect costs or an apportioned overhead. This could also be on a time basis. Supposing they were all agreed upon, that if the total hours identifiable with the project was 100 hours then 20 percent of those hours would be called indirect costs but always and only when there is an arrangement or agreement. It is possible that the head of the preparatory commission may say no, but the apportionment is too high. Then the Director-General or his representative may say no, this is equitable. So that it must always be upon prior arrangement but we maintain that the term direct and indirect is universally used to determine identifiable and non-identifiable costs, be they overhead or be they unidentifiable per quantity like stationery and supplies, the typewriters that would have to be used, the erasers, the pencils, all of these may be part of the cost of a project but not identifiable and therefore indirect costs which must be apportioned in the way the respective accountants and finance men would agree, but always upon agreement. We hope that we have shed a little light, or at least lighted a candle in the darkening horizons of the discussion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, la intervención del distinguido colega de Filipinas creo que ha tratado de dar un poco de luz y buena interpretación al Consejo sobre este problema de los costos directos e indirectos. Además conviene que tengamos en cuenta que todo esto está sujeto a los contactos posteriores y a los arreglos que seguirán adelantándose entre las dos organizaciones.

También debemos tener presente que la Conferencia tendrá que iniciar sus trabajos el sábado y nosotros tendremos que terminar mañana.

Igualmente, el Consejo ha elegido un Comité de Redacción en el cual están representadas todas las regiones y después de una breve observación a los países que integran ese Comité he podido ver que hay representantes también de las distintas tendencias que se han manifestado en este debate.

Me excuso con los miembros del Consejo que están en la lista como oradores, pero deseo hacer un último esfuerzo. Voy a leerles un texto muy breve y pediría al Consejo que me autorice a enviar ese texto como base de discusión, repito como base de discusión, no como conclusión, al Comité de Redacción; de lo contrario, creo que no terminaríamos ni hoy ni mañana.

De acuerdo con las últimas declaraciones, éste no es un texto perfecto, repito, es una base de discusión, podríamos tener en cuenta la propuesta que se ha hecho cuando se han referido a costos directos y adicionales indirectos y presentar una fórmula intermedia que dijera así: "reembolso de todos los costos directos e indirectos que de otro modo la FAO no tendría que cubrir."

Les ruego que acepten esto simplemente como base de discusión, que mandemos todo al Comité de Redacción y que volvamos sobre esto mañana cuando discutamos el proyecto de informe. Así queda decidido.

H. ABDALLAH (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): We thank you for your suggestion which is going to help the progress of our work but I believe that during the discussion the observer from Iran has presented a proposal which may be useful for the discussions of the Drafting Committee and also the Minister for Agriculture of Jordan and it may be useful to invite the representative of Iran and the representative of Jordan to attend the meeting of the Drafting Committee when it comes to discuss the proposal concerning this subject.

D. BASSIOUNI (Sudan): The proposal put forward by the observer from Iran in our view does merit the consideration of this Council and I would therefore join my colleague from Egypt in suggesting the observer be associated closely with the Drafting Committee especially on this particular issue.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think the last few words of your suggestion mean "which FAO would not otherwise meet". I am slightly lost on the last few words but I think it might help to say "which FAO would not otherwise meet".

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que usted prefiere que le lean el texto en inglés.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The text I have in English was "reimbursement of all direct and indirect costs which FAO would not have to incur otherwise".

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún otro comentario entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en enviar este texto como base de discusión al Comité de Redacción y que excepcionalmente en la discusión de este punto participen en el Comité de Redacción el miembro del Consejo Jordania y el observador de Irán. Así queda decidido.

Entiendo que hay un miembro del Consejo que desea hacer alguna declaración sobre otro artículo de este proyecto de acuerdo.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): Since we apparently got out of the problem on Article 6, we would like to make an observation. I will not make an amendment but an observation on one point. On Article II, Section 2 we observe perhaps a certain discrepancy between the first sentence and the second sentence. The first sentence states what we believe to be actually the correct situation,

"At the request of the Fund or" - and that is the important part - "or a government concerned FAO shall assist developing countries in preparing projects for submission to the Fund". The next sentence, however, follows a different procedure and requests specific prior concurrence of the Fund in the preparations by FAO of projects at the request of countries, the qualification there being projects specifically prepared for submission to the Fund.

Our feeling - and we made that observation at the time of the 4th session of the Preparatory Commission - our feeling was and still is that the recipient country, until a project is presented to submit it formally to IFAD or any financial institution, the recipient country makes the request, should be the sole in control. It can choose to make its own project preparation, it can ask a national consultant, it can ask an international consultant, it can ask FAO, it can ask anybody of its choice, and we feel that as a matter of principle, governments should be completely free in choosing who assists them; perhaps they do not need any assistance at all at the national level or otherwise, so we feel that the second sentence of that paragraph to be rather restrictive in the options of states and could be rather detrimental.

Obviously, depending on the nature of the project, quite possibly the recipient country or the prospective recipient country will be the first to establish contact with FAO, trying to see that the preparation of the project follows the concerns and the lines of thought of the Fund, that is quite obvious, in any similar financial institution that occurs, but we feel that the second sentence therefore is rather restrictive.

I would not present a motion on amendment, and I must say that the second sentence here came as a surprise to my delegation, because we thought in the deliberation of the 4th session of the Preparatory Commission of IFAD that that sentence had gone out, so we are rather surprised. I am not making a formal amendment but I would like to call the attention of our colleagues in the Council to this specific point, especially for those countries who have need to have recourse to FAO - especially those ones, which are not all of them.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que el colega del Brasil estará de acuerdo en que sus observaciones consten en las actas.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario podemos pasar al punto siguiente.

- Amendments to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (continued)
- Amendements à l'Accord portant création du Conseil indo-pacifique des pêches (suite)
- Enmiendas al Convenio Constitutivo del Consejo de Pesca del Indo-Pacífico (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Ya esta mañana el Presidente del CACJ se refirió a esta cuestión, que ustedes pueden encontrar en los párrafos 31 a 36. Está reproducido en el Apéndice C del Informe del CACJ y espero que no ofrezca dificultades. Repito que figura en los párrafos 31 a 36: Enmiendas al Convenio constitutivo del Consejo de Pesca Indo-Pacífico.

Si no hay ningún comentario entiendo que los miembros del Consejo están de acuerdo con esta parte.

R. TANABE (Japan): At the last session of the IPFC, at the time of the approval of this amendment, Japan gave a vote of abstention. My delegation cannot help abstaining again at this session. Having said this, the abstention of Japan does not mean that Japan is conservative or negative of the management of the fisheries.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma nota de las declaraciones que acaban de hacerse y si no hay ningún otro comentario, el Consejo está de acuerdo con esta parte del informe del CACJ.

Pasamos al otro subpunto.

- Amendments to the International Plant Protection Convention (continued)
- Amendements à la Convention internationale pour la protection de végétaux (suite)
- Enmiendas al Convenio Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (continuación)



R. TANABE (Japan): My delegation is of the view that the amendments of the substantive parts of the Convention are taking account of the changes in the conditions in which recent international/plant quarantine is involved, and therefore the amendments are reasonable from the technical point of view. My delegation goes along with the view of the CCLM that it would be necessary for the FAO Conference to determine at the time of its approval whether or not the proposed amendments involved new obligations. However, my delegation cannot necessarily concur with the views on whether these amendments impose new obligations on contracting parties, but this problem should be dealt with in the forthcoming Conference. I do not go further in detail, and my delegation will discuss this matter in detail at the forthcoming Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que es adecuada la posición del Japon y en la Conferencia tendrá posibilidad de expresarse sobre esto.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I would just like to reserve my position on this particular question of the amendments to the International Plant Protection Convention. My saying so means nothing more than reserving our position.

EL PRESIDENTE: Igualmente usted podrá expresar su opinion más adelante. Si no hay ningún comentario, terminamos así también este último subtema que figuraba en la lista del tema 16, pero naturalmente, recordamos que están pendientes aún las enmiendas del Reglamento General de la organización con relación a la composición de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

- Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization Relating to the Composition of the Programme and Finance Committees
- Amendements au Règlement general de l'Organisation touchant la composition du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier
- Enmiendas del Reglamento General de la Organización con relación a la composición de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas

O. BORIN (Président du Conseil des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques)• Je tâcherai d'être le plus bref possible, mais je dois demander pardon au Conseil si je ne réüssis pas à l'être autant qu'il le souhaiterait.

La question que nous allons discuter maintenant est importante car il y a plusieurs points qui doivent être examinés et l'exposition est nécessairement un peu longue.

Je rappelle tout d'abord que le Conseil, dans sa 68ème session, a établi un groupe de travail sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil, du Comité du programme, du Comité financier et du COCJ, en le chargeant de faire une étude et de soumettre au Conseil les recommandations appropriées sur la composition et le mandat du Conseil et de certains de ses comités permanents. Le Conseil, au cours de sa 71ème session, a approuvé les recommandations du groupe de travail et a décidé de soumettre les recommandations ci-après à l'examen de la Conférence:

- a) Le Comité du programme et le Comité financier devraient être composés de représentants d'Etats Membres, les gouvernements étant tenus d'indiquer, avant toute élection, le nom des représentants qu'ils désigneraient à ce propos, en fournissant le curriculum vitae détaillé de leurs candidats qui seraient par conséquent aussi élus en raison de leur compétence personnelle.
- b) Le nombre des sièges au Comité du programme devrait être augmenté de 4 unités, ce qui porterait le nombre de ses membres à 11, y compris le président.
- c) Le nombre des sièges au Comité financier devrait être augmenté de 4 unités, ce qui porterait le nombre de ses membres à 9, y compris le président.
- d) Il n'y aurait de suppléants ni au Comité du programme, ni au Comité financier.

e) La FAO devrait continuer à prendre en charge le coût de la participation (voyage et indemnité journalière) des membres aux sessions de leurs comités respectifs.

f) Le Conseil élirait tout d'abord les présidents des deux comités parmi les candidats proposés par leurs gouvernements.

g) En élisant les membres des deux comités, le Conseil devrait veiller à garantir une répartition géographique équitable au sein de ses organes. A cette fin, les élections à ces comités auraient lieu en deux étapes. La première consisterait à élire 8 membres du Comité du programme et 6 membres du Comité financier appartenant aux régions Afrique, Asie et Extrême-Orient, Proche-Orient et Amérique latine. Puis on élirait 3 membres du Comité du programme et 3 membres du Comité financier appartenant aux régions Europe, Amérique du Nord et Pacifique du Sud-Ouest. Bien entendu, les nombres précités seraient ajustés avant chaque étape, de manière à tenir compte de l'appartenance régionale des deux présidents élus.

Le Conseil a par conséquent invité le Comité à préparer les amendements aux textes fondamentaux qui seraient nécessaires pour donner effet aux recommandations ci-dessus et à les lui soumettre à sa prochaine session en vue de leur examen par la Conférence.

Le Comité, ayant pris connaissance du passage du rapport de la 71<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil, est convenu que ce texte énonce les principes essentiels qui doivent trouver une application dans les projets d'amendement aux textes fondamentaux demandés par le Conseil. Il estime que, pour donner effet aux recommandations du Conseil, des amendements pourraient être apportés aux Articles XXVI et XXVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation relatifs au Comité du programme et au Comité financier respectivement. Cependant, à son avis, certains points ne sont pas couverts ou ne sont que partiellement couverts par les recommandations du Conseil. En particulier, nous avons relevé la question de la répartition géographique des membres du Comité et celle du remplacement de représentants des membres. C'est pourquoi le Comité a examiné les paragraphes pertinents des Articles XXVI et XXVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation afin de préparer les projets d'amendements nécessaires pour donner effet aux recommandations du Conseil et couvrir lesdits points. Les amendements proposés par le Comité sont reproduits à l'Annexe A au présent rapport que vous avez sous les yeux.

Le projet d'amendement au 1<sup>er</sup> paragraphe des deux articles donne effet à la proposition d'élargir et de modifier la composition des Comités.

En ce qui concerne le 2<sup>ème</sup> paragraphe des deux articles, qui énonce la procédure de présentation des candidatures, le Comité s'est particulièrement attaché à la question de la communication au Conseil du curriculum vitae des représentants des Etats Membres candidats à l'élection au Comité du programme ou au Comité financier. Il reconnaît que, même si les deux comités doivent être composés de représentants des Etats Membres, le Conseil, au paragraphe 237 a) de son rapport, souligne que la compétence personnelle de ces représentants est importante. Le Comité estime qu'afin de laisser suffisamment de temps aux Etats Membres pour se consulter pendant la session de la Conférence qui précède la session du Conseil au cours de laquelle les membres des comités sont élus, il serait souhaitable de fixer un délai approprié pour la présentation des candidatures, accompagnées du curriculum vitae de chaque représentant désigné. Il estime qu'un préavis de 10 jours serait approprié à cet effet.

Etant donné les recommandations détaillées du Conseil concernant les modalités d'élection aux deux comités, le Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles juge nécessaire de rédiger un texte beaucoup plus explicite que l'actuel paragraphe 3 des deux articles, lequel serait incorporé à la fin du paragraphe révisé. En ce qui concerne le principe de la répartition géographique équitable, évoquée au paragraphe 237g du rapport du Conseil, la proposition d'incorporer au Règlement général de l'Organisation la recommandation du Conseil sur ce point, en précisant des groupes de régions à considérer lors des élections, a suscité une certaine inquiétude. Une telle incorporation s'écarterait de la pratique passée de la FAO et d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies et risquerait de constituer un précédent. Le Comité a donc examiné les diverses autres façons de donner effet à la recommandation du Conseil, par exemple une résolution de la Conférence. Il a enfin abouti à la conclusion que, comme le Conseil l'a invité à préparer les amendements aux textes fondamentaux pour donner effet aux recommandations du Conseil, et comme il serait souhaitable que la procédure d'élection des Membres des deux Comités soit énoncée en termes juridiques clairs, la meilleure solution consisterait à spécifier toute la procédure dans le Règlement général de l'Organisation. Il a donc décidé de proposer d'insérer dans les deux articles un nouveau paragraphe 3 donnant effet aux recommandations du Conseil sur ce point.

Le CQCJ a ensuite étudié la question du remplacement de représentants de Membres des Comités qui a été évoquée par un délégué au cours des débats, mais dont il n'est pas question dans les recommandations du Conseil. Le CQCJ s'est en particulier demandé ce qui se passerait si le Président ou représentant d'un Membre du Comité devait être absent pendant une session entière, plusieurs sessions ou la partie restant à courir du mandat du Comité.

Le CQCJ a étudié diverses options possibles dont les principales sont les suivantes:

- i) qu'une procédure soit établie aux termes de laquelle les Etats Membres souhaitant présenter leur candidature aux élections désigneraient deux représentants dont le premier serait le représentant "ordinaire", l'autre un remplaçant qui prendrait sa place chaque fois que le titulaire serait empêché d'assister à une session du Comité; ou
- ii) que les Membres du Comité aient la latitude de remplacer leur représentant chaque fois que celui-ci serait empêché d'assister à une ou plusieurs sessions ou à toutes les sessions du Comité; ou
- iii) que les Membres du Comité soient autorisés à désigner au moins une fois dans l'exercice un remplaçant de leur représentant, en donnant à la session suivante du Conseil des détails sur les qualifications et l'expérience dudit remplaçant - mais que des élections partielles aient lieu à la session suivante du Conseil si le représentant est absent à deux sessions successives du Comité ou pour la partie du mandat du Comité restant à courir.

En ce qui concerne l'option 1), le CQCJ note qu'elle consisterait en réalité à réintroduire un système de suppléants. Or, le Conseil ayant indiqué au paragraphe 237 d) de son rapport qu'"il n'y aurait de suppléants ni au Comité du programme, ni au Comité financier", le CQCJ estime que cette solution ne serait pas appropriée.

Quant à l'option ii), le CQCJ estime que le principe de la "compétence personnelle", souligné au cours des débats du Conseil et énoncé dans les dispositions relatives à la présentation des candidatures, ne serait pas respecté si les Membres de chaque Comité étaient autorisés à remplacer leur représentant désigné chaque fois que celui-ci n'assiste pas à une session du Comité. Cependant, il estime que comme il peut être inévitable, dans certains cas exceptionnels, que des représentants de Membres du Comité soient empêchés d'assister à une session, il conviendrait d'autoriser les Membres de chaque Comité à remplacer leur représentant au moins une fois pendant chaque période biennale. D'un autre côté, afin d'assurer la continuité de la participation aux sessions du Comité, le CQCJ juge que le siège d'un Membre du Comité dont le représentant n'a pas assisté à deux sessions successives est déclaré vacant et doit être pourvu au moyen d'une élection partielle. De même, une élection partielle aura lieu si, pour une raison quelconque, un représentant est empêché de s'acquitter de ses fonctions pendant la partie du mandat du Comité restant à courir. A la lumière de ces considérations, le CQCJ estime que l'option iii) est suffisamment souple pour permettre des remplacements dans des cas exceptionnels, tout en assurant une stabilité raisonnable de la composition des deux Comités. Des projets d'amendements reflétant cette option sont incorporés au texte des paragraphes 4 a) et 4 b) des deux articles.

Le CQCJ note que la question de remplacement se pose aussi pour le Président du Comité. Dans ce cas, le CQCJ reconnaît que le facteur "compétence personnelle" qui est un des principes énoncés par le Conseil, est encore plus important. Il prend note en outre de ce qu'aux termes du Règlement intérieur actuel des deux Comités, le Vice-Président élu parmi les Membres de chaque Comité remplace le Président lorsque celui-ci est absent à une session ou s'il n'est plus en mesure de s'acquitter de ses fonctions pendant le restant de son mandat.

Le CQCJ rejette l'éventualité d'inclure une clause permettant à l'Etat Membre dont le représentant a été élu Président de remplacer celui-ci s'il est absent pendant une ou plusieurs sessions ou pour le restant du mandat du Comité. Il estime en outre qu'une élection partielle tenue à la seule fin d'élire un nouveau Président prendrait du temps et donnerait un résultat contraire à celui qui est visé en raison du rôle important des Présidents de l'un et l'autre Comité.

Sur la base de ces considérations, le CQCJ décide de recommander au Conseil des amendements proposés aux articles XXVI et XXVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation contenus à l'Annexe A pour qu'il les examine et éventuellement qu'il les soumette à la Conférence en vue d'adoption.

J'ajoute que les dispositions des alinéas A et B s'appliquent également au Président du Comité, c'est-à-dire que, dans le cas où il serait dans l'impossibilité d'assister à une session du Comité, ses fonctions seront remplies pour la durée de la session par le Vice-Président élu par le Comité, conformément à son Règlement intérieur et, dans le cas de son absence pendant deux sessions consécutives, ou jusqu'à la fin du mandat, la fonction de Président incombe au Vice-Président.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos ahora a iniciar la discusión de este punto. No está en mi ánimo imponer ningún procedimiento, pero creo que conviene recordar que en nuestra sesión pasada del Consejo, ya nos ocupamos largamente y a fondo de esta cuestión, y que también todo esto pasará dentro de pocos días a la Comisión III de la Conferencia.

En base a ello, ruego a todos los miembros del Consejo que intervengan si lo desean, pero que sean muy breves y muy concretos, por favor. Ojalá que me atiendan.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I will do my best to follow your request, sir. My reaction first is to thank Ambassador Borin for the very illuminating exposition from the CCLM. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Members of the Committee for the very careful consideration they gave to the recommendations of the Council for restructuring the Programme and Finance Committees.

That being said, we would like to make two sets of observations on the specific suggestions. First -and I must say my observations apply almost equally to the proposals for both Committees - we feel that paragraphs 1 and 2 of each Rule reflect very well the decision of the Council which says whenever a Member Nation is elected that Member Nation should announce at the time of the presentation of candidature the name of the candidate it is intended to appoint.

Coming to paragraph 3 of both Rules, we have one question. First, in 3(a) to be precise it says in both texts "Member Nations shall present their candidature for election in respect of a specific region as determined by the Conference for the purpose of Council elections." We have doubts about that specific provision especially in relation to the Finance Committee, where from the developing regions we have four regions and six seats. We are not at all sure about how that specific provision will work. Second, we are not sure it is necessary. That is the first observation. It applies to both Committees, but especially to the Finance Committee.

The second set of observations relates precisely to one point elaborated at length by Ambassador Borin, the length of the term of office of the representative. We see in both rules, paragraph 4(a) and (b), we have rules for replacement of the representative and the formula for election of a new member. We feel that kind of procedure is not in line with the character of the representation. We have a Member State elected; that Member State indicates which person with full qualifications it intends to appoint. Normally it should state the whole mandate, as an expectation. Obviously there can be changes in administration, changes in the duties of the person, acts of God. The State has been elected, the Member Nation has been elected. The only thing to do is to allow it to present a replacement, informing the Council of his qualifications. We trust that the Member Nations will do this only in exceptional cases and will provide a person who is equally qualified. We feel that the formula which appears in the second half of paragraph 4(a) and in paragraph 4(b) of a by-election is a departure from the nature of the representation which the Council had to decide to enforce in both Programme and Finance Committees. We feel that the possibility should be given at any point for the State to make a replacement. Perhaps we could add an indication that all efforts be made to avoid any replacement at all costs. That should be enough. So my suggestion is that paragraph 4(b) will be deleted, and paragraph 4(a) will be reworded as a paragraph indicating that in exceptional circumstances a replacement will be permitted with careful selection of the person and due intimation to the Council of his personal qualifications.

E. SAENZ (Colombia): Siguiendo su sugerencia, señor Presidente, vamos a tratar de ser sumamente breves.

Ante todo agradecemos al Embajador Borin la presentación del Informe. La delegación de Colombia estima la conveniencia de que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas sean integrados por once y por nueve miembros, respectivamente, sin que para estos miembros que han sido elegidos haya suplentes y que sea, desde luego, un nombramiento personal e intransferible.

Nuestra delegación considera igualmente que los candidatos deben ser presentados por los Gobiernos, indicando el nombre de la persona el cual no podrá ser cambiado. Estimamos que esta práctica da mayor estabilidad y seriedad a la integración de estos Comités.

J.L. TOFFIN (France): Je voudrais simplement répondre à l'observation qui vient d'être faite par le représentant du Brésil en ce qui concerne les modalités qui ont été préconisées par le Comité juridique pour remplacer un membre du Comité du programme et du Comité financier qui deviendrait indisponible. Le représentant du Brésil indique qu'il suffirait, dans une telle hypothèse, de demander à l'Etat qui a présenté le candidat devenu indisponible de nommer un nouveau représentant sans faire appel au système d'une élection partielle.

Je reconnais évidemment qu'il est bien gênant de recourir à une procédure assez lourde pour procéder au remplacement du représentant devenu indisponible et qu'il faut l'éviter dans la mesure du possible; mais je dois rappeler quel a été le souci du Comité juridique en adoptant cette procédure, qui est limitée d'ailleurs au cas où l'absence du représentant se produirait pendant plus de deux sessions. Le

système qui a été mis en vigueur est une combinaison de répartition géographique et de représentation personnelle. On a voulu combiner les deux critères et, au cas où un représentant devient indisponible, il est évident qu'il faut, non seulement choisir un représentant de la même région, mais également un représentant dont on puisse apprécier la qualification personnelle pour remplir le poste.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons pensé que, dans le cas où il s'agirait d'une longue indisponibilité ou d'une indisponibilité définitive, il valait mieux recourir au système d'une élection partielle qui serait quand même limitée à des cas exceptionnels. Voilà l'observation que je voulais présenter.

MASUD (Pakistan): I had not wished to speak, but after hearing the delegate of France I am constrained to support my colleague from Brazil. There may be acts of God when a member on two occasions may fall ill at a time when the Committee is meeting, that out of no desire to be absent he is prevented from being present, and there is a by-election. It is not only an individual who has been elected but a nation. Therefore, we agree with Brazil that in this case we must make provision to enable that country to continue.

F. SHEFRIN (Canada): I am in the same position as Pakistan: I was not going to speak, and then I was encouraged. I think we are not being fair to ourselves and not being as honest as we might be. We have in effect changed the system of electing members of the Programme and Finance Committees. That is the wish of the Council and we are not going to get into any argument on that. The original basis was that people were elected in an individual capacity and not because of any specific government policy or any region. Having changed that you say the country chooses the man, you choose the country, but the man is being elected because of his ability. We have named the man and we know who has been elected. Then he has a honeymoon and says, "I have a more urgent duty to undertake, supposing you release me from that", and that is fine. Let us be honest: either we elect countries and we do not care who the individual is or we elect individuals. But let us not fool ourselves into pretending that we are electing individuals. Let us play it openly and say just country elections and forget the individuals, or stick to the concept of individuals.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Without wishing in any way, to take sides in this debate I might perhaps call attention to the fact that Council at its last session specifically said that the members would be elected also in the light of the personal merits of their prospective representatives whose curricula vitae would be submitted prior to elections. The possibility was envisaged, I believe, that, for the same region, there may be two or three competing countries presenting their candidature for election. In this case the decision of the Council, expressing preference in favour of one country as against another country, might be based on the various prospective representatives.

I should like to call attention to the fact that the CCLM has also been inspired to some extent by the procedure adopted in the case of the Council, which is laid down in the General Rules, where it is stated that if a member is absent from two consecutive sessions of the Council that member shall be deemed to have resigned.

There is also a provision in the General Rules to the effect that at a special session of the Conference any vacancy that has occurred in the Council is filled by a by-election held by the Conference. This might, in a way, be regarded as a precedent.

I might add that the Programme and Finance Committees normally hold four sessions between two regular Conference sessions. It is not very likely that the absences would be too frequent; the CCLM considered that to maintain a certain stability in the committees would be desirable.

These are merely some additional explanations which arise from the dichotomy with which the ad hoc working party was already faced, with which the Council was faced at its last session, and which has also characterized its debate at the present session. Of course, the possibility exists of changing the amendments proposed by the CCLM, and the secretariat in drafting its report will naturally endeavour to reflect whatever decision may be taken.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I asked for the floor when I thought that nobody was going to speak. I was going to make a proposal that we take note of the observations that have been made on the floor today and leave the final decision for the Conference, because we have had very little time to consider the proposals which have been made by delegates during this session.

E. CHELBI (Tunisie): Je voudrais simplement appuyer la proposition de M. Shefrin, représentant du Canada. Je ne comprends pas les dispositions de l'alinéa a) du paragraphe 4, qui précise qu'en cas d'indisponibilité de participer à une session du Comité, le membre a le droit de désigner un remplaçant. J'estime qu'il y a un quorum au niveau du Conseil et, s'il y a un absent, cela n'empêche pas le Comité de se réunir et j'estime qu'il n'y a pas lieu de nommer un représentant sachant que le caractère et la compétence personnels du membre sont les critères qui doivent prévaloir dans le choix.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I am afraid I do not agree with the eminent Legal Adviser when he drew a parallel between the Council and these Committees. In the case of the Council, a country can be represented by any individual and if for two consecutive sessions he is absent, one can presume that particular country has lost interest in the affairs of the FAO Council and therefore a by-election would be in order. But in this case it is one single individual and therefore to draw a parallel between a country and an individual - although he has been nominated by his country - is not strictly a parallel.

As for the rest, I would go along with what the delegate of the Philippines said, that we have had no time to really examine this, although that would not be quite true because actually we have had time. (Laughter) Nonetheless, we will have another opportunity to speak on the subject and therefore, for the present, I think we could live with this and express our views again during the Conference.

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Las observaciones del delegado de Filipinas me han parecido muy atinadas porque, aun como dijo el delegado de Paquistán éste es un tema que ha estado varias veces en la agenda del Consejo, por lo menos hoy creo que no tenemos el tiempo suficiente como para examinarlo en profundidad y en detalle. Ya la excelente presentación que hizo el Embajador Borin nos muestra que estamos en presencia de un tema que tiene una cierta complejidad y, por tanto, requiere un análisis profundo y serio, sobre todo porque es una materia importante, y es una materia importante porque tanto el Comité del Programa como el Comité de Finanzas han actuado, yo creo, como eficientes asesores del Consejo y el propio Consejo así lo ha reconocido en varios de sus informes. Creo por eso que es un tema importante, porque al modificar la estructura de esos Comités y sobre todo la forma de elección de sus miembros hay que tener la precaución de no desarticularlos de modo tal que puedan perder eficiencia. Yo creo que lo ideal sería que en nuestro informe se tome nota de las observaciones que aquí se han formulado, excluyendo una que hizo el Sr. Shefrin, que me hace pensar que quizá solamente los candidatos solteros podrían ser miembros de los Comités.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): It seems quite obvious that Mr. Shefrin was very clear when he said that we have an option: either it is countries or it is persons. It seemed -at least to us- that in June we made a clear choice. We feel there is a contradiction between paragraphs 1, 2, and 4. If a country is elected, then obviously it is up to the country ultimately to decide its representation.

May I also say that the concern of having a country represented, being duly qualified, of course, by duly qualified persons, is directly linked to the function of this Council. I think that for a number of sessions -in fact, for a number of years, but especially lately - we have seen a rather perfunctory examination of fundamental proposals such as the Programme and Budget and other policy issues, and there is therefore a feeling that a prior screening by governments is necessary. For instance, if there is a United States representative in the Programme and Finance Committees, it is important for us that it reflects the United States' thinking. I must say that very bluntly, but it is of very vital importance.

We wish to have coming from the Programme and Finance Committees something that already represents precisely a certain consensus of Member States, since we do not have a chance here in the Council to examine in any detail the reports of these two Committees and it is therefore important, in our view, that they reflect in the reports of the two Committees a balanced view of governments' opinions and trends. However, I would go along fully with the proposal by the delegate of the Philippines to let this go before the Conference without a decision.

Our friend from Pakistan suggested that perhaps we had had time, and perhaps he was not so sure that we had had time. This document of the CCLM report came out rather late, if I am not wrong, and since the issues are important and deserve consideration, I believe we do not want to impose views but we want to have our views considered. There are important questions involved and if we undertake a reform we should do so correctly.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenía, tenía, repito, un último orador que, como era Filipinas creo que ahora el colega de Filipinas me permitirá, gracias por su cooperación, que yo concluya el debate diciendo que tomaremos nota de las observaciones planteadas y que este asunto se pasará a la Conferencia. Espero que entonces tendrán tiempo y que se ocuparán de esto. Creo que ahora podemos, finalmente, liberar a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Borín, Presidente del CACJ, agradeciéndole su cooperación para la discusión de todos estos asuntos.

17. Other Constitutional and Legal Questions, including:

17. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, y compris:

17. Otras cuestiones constitucionales y jurídicas, incluso:

- Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions
- Invitations adressées États non membres d'assister à des sessions de la FAO
- Invitaciones a los Estados no miembros para asistir a los períodos de sesiones de la FAO
  
- Invitations to International non-Governmental Organizations which do not have status with FAO
- Invitations adressées à des organisations internationales non gouvernementales ne jouissant d'aucun statut officiel auprès de la FAO
- Invitaciones a las organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO
  
- Amendments to Agreements concluded under Article XIV of the Constitution
- Amendements aux accords conclus en vertu de l'Article XIV de l'Acte constitutif
- Enmiendas a los acuerdos concertados en virtud del Artículo XIV de la Constitución

EL PRESIDENTE: Tal como estaba previsto en el Orden del Día vamos a seguir ahora con el tema 17 que comprende tres subtemas: el primero, Invitaciones a los Estados no Miembros para asistir a los períodos de sesiones de la FAO. Sobre este subtema no hay nada que informar al Consejo. Aparece allí por costumbre estatutaria.

Seguimos luego con las invitaciones a las organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales, que no mantienen relaciones oficiales con la FAO. Espero que todos tendrán el documento CL 72/6, en el cual se consigna la lista de estas organizaciones. Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultad a los miembros del Consejo y que nos permita tomar nota de esa lista y estar de acuerdo con este breve documento.

Podemos, entonces, pasar al tercer subtema del tema 17: Enmiendas a los Acuerdos concertados en virtud del Artículo XIV de la Constitución. Tienen ustedes el documento CL 72/17. Creo que no necesita presentación, salvo que ustedes opinen lo contrario, porque en el resumen se explica muy bien de qué se trata y se invita al Consejo a que apruebe las enmiendas que trata este documento.

¿Alguien desea intervenir sobre este asunto? Si nadie quiere intervenir entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en aprobar estas enmiendas.

## II - PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE

## II - PRÉPARATION DE LA DIX-NEUVIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE LA FAO

## II - PREPARATIVOS DEL 19º PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA DE LA FAO

3. Nomination of the Chairman of the Conference, the Chairmen of the Commissions of the Conference and the Rapporteur of the Plenary to Commission I
3. Propositions de candidatures aux postes de Président de la Conférence, de Présidents des commissions de la Conférence et de Rapporteur de la Plénière à la Commission I
3. Designación de Presidente de la Conferencia, Presidentes de las Comisiones de la Conferencia y Relator del Pleno para la Comisión I
4. Election of the Nominations Committee
4. Election de la "Commission des candidatures
4. Elección del Comité de Candidaturas

5. Nomination of the Chairman of the Informal Meeting of Observers of non-Governmental Organizations
5. Designation du Président de la reunion officieuse des observateurs des organisations non gouvernementales
5. Designación de Presidente de la reunión oficiosa de observadores de organizaciones no gubernamentales

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, tenemos ahora el tema 3: Designación de Presidente de la Conferencia, Presidentes de las Comisiones de la Conferencia y Relator del Pleno para la Comisión I. Hay un documento, C 77/12.

Recordarán ustedes que en nuestra pasada sesión la reunión privada que se llevó a cabo con los jefes de delegaciones indicó las personas que debían ocupar algunos puestos en la Mesa directiva de la próxima Conferencia. Para Presidente de la Conferencia se acordó designar a Su Excelencia Toyib Hadiwijaya, Ministro de Agricultura de Indonesia. De acuerdo con la práctica vigente en esta casa, se consultó al Gobierno de Indonesia, quien dio su consentimiento para que el Sr. Hadiwijaya pueda desempeñar el cargo de Presidente de la Conferencia. En esas condiciones creo que para todos nosotros es muy placentero confirmar la decisión anterior del Consejo, en el sentido de que el Dr. Hadiwijaya, Ministro de Agricultura de Indonesia, sea el Presidente de la próxima Conferencia. El Dr. Hadiwijaya ya está en Roma. Ha venido con alguna anticipación para ponerse al corriente de los preparativos de la Conferencia y todos estamos seguros de que el cumplirá en la mejor forma posible las altas responsabilidades de ese cargo.

Para Presidente de la Comisión Primera, el Consejo había propuesto al Sr. Juan Carlos Vignaud, de Argentina, colega y amigo a quien ahora veo ocupando el sitio de su país en el Consejo. El Gobierno de la República Argentina otorgó su consenso por consiguiente, entiendo que el Consejo está de acuerdo en que el Sr. Vignaud, de Argentina, quede confirmado como Presidente de la Comisión Primera de la Conferencia.

Para la Comisión II habíamos propuesto al Sr. J.H. Dahl, de Noruega. El Gobierno de Noruega otorgó su consenso y, por consiguiente, el Sr. Dahl queda confirmado Presidente de la Comisión II de la Conferencia.

Para la Comisión III el Consejo había propuesto a Su Excelencia S. Boolell, Ministro de Agricultura de Mauricio. El Gobierno de Mauricio ha dado su consentimiento para que el Sr. Boolell sea Presidente de la Comisión II. Por tanto, esta designación, si el Consejo está de acuerdo, queda igualmente confirmada.

Realizamos consultas para el cargo de Relator del Pleno para la Comisión I. Como resultado de estas consultas puedo proponer al Consejo que el Sr. L. Rittershaus, representante alerno de los Países Bajos ante la FAO, sea el Relator de la Plenaria de la Conferencia para la Comisión I.

Pregunto al Consejo si está de acuerdo con que el Sr. Rittershaus, de los Países Bajos, sea el Relator de la Plenaria en la Comisión I. Entiendo que estamos de acuerdo.

Creo que así hemos terminado por ahora el tema 3.

Pasamos al tema 4: Elección del Comité de Candidaturas. Les ruego que tomen nota de la propuesta que vamos a hacerles después de haber consultado a numerosos miembros del Consejo y de los gobiernos interesados. Les propongo los siguientes 11 países que serían miembros del Comité de Candidaturas: Malawi, Rwanda, Japón, Malasia, Bélgica, Checoslovaquia, Venezuela, Uruguay, Líbano, Sudán y Canadá. Espero que todos hayan tomado nota de los nombres de estos 11 países y pregunto al Consejo si está de acuerdo en que estos países integren el Comité de Candidaturas. Así se procederá:

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo podemos pasar al tema 5: Designación de Presidente de la reunión oficiosa de Observadores de Organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Entiendo que hay un pequeño documento, CL 72/Inf. 7, en el cual aparecen algunos datos del candidato que se propone. Se trata del Sr. E. Querín, de Bélgica. Ha sido propuesto por la Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo Económico. Si no hay ningún comentario puedo preguntar al Consejo si está de acuerdo con que el Sr. Querín, de Bélgica, sea el Presidente de esta reunión oficiosa.

En espera de que esté presente en la Sala el Sr. Director General, quien está dedicado a facilitar los trabajos del Consejo, tal vez conviene que haga yo algunas explicaciones para lo que va a suceder a partir de mañana cuando se reúna el Comité de Candidaturas, a fin de que todos los miembros del Consejo estén plenamente informados.



El Comité de Candidaturas se reunirá mañana, viernes, por la tarde. Se ocupará de lo siguiente: de los 3 Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia y de los 7 países que formarán parte del Comité General de la Conferencia.

Conviene recordar que el Comité General, un organismo muy importante, está compuesto por 11 miembros, el Presidente de la Conferencia y los 3 Vicepresidentes, que son miembros del Comité General a título personal. El Presidente de la Conferencia preside el Comité General y además del Bureau, de la Mesa Directiva, integran el Comité General 7 países, 7 países, repito, que podrán designar al representante que ellos deseen. Este número total de 11 constituye el Comité General cuya integración deberá proponer el Comité de Candidaturas a la Conferencia.

Igualmente el Comité de Candidaturas propondrá a la Conferencia el Comité de Credenciales, que estará integrado por 9 miembros. El Comité General y el Comité de Credenciales serán los únicos de que se ocupará el Comité de Candidaturas.

Una vez que se haya elegido el Comité General de la Conferencia y que éste se reúna, el Comité General, de acuerdo con las disposiciones legales vigentes, propondrá los Vicepresidentes de las Comisiones de la Conferencia. Antes los Vicepresidentes eran dos para cada Comisión; en la última Conferencia se aumentó ese número a 3 Vicepresidentes por cada Comisión. Esto es sólo un dato informativo. Será el Comité General, de acuerdo con los Presidentes y con ustedes como representantes de los gobiernos, el que tome la decisión correspondiente.

Las Vicepresidencias de las Comisiones de la Conferencia serán elegidas a título personal, naturalmente; designación personal que conlleva la representación del país respectivo. Ruego, por lo tanto, a la luz de ese carácter personal, que aquellos países que estén interesados en presentar candidatos para las Vicepresidencias de las Comisiones, escojan personas capaces y competentes que puedan prestar servicio al Presidente de cada Comisión y a la misma Comisión.

Dentro de la estructura total de la Conferencia creo que quedaría sólo pendiente el Comité de Resoluciones. Entiendo que el Comité General tiene que pedir, en primer lugar, a la Conferencia que se pronuncie sobre la recomendación que este Consejo hizo en junio pasado acerca de la composición del Comité de Resoluciones. Recordarán ustedes que en la Conferencia pasada se cambió el sistema que venía rigiendo anteriormente y se acordó que el Comité de Resoluciones estuviera integrado por 7 países, uno de cada una de las regiones de la FAO. En esta oportunidad el Consejo ha hecho la misma recomendación a la Conferencia. Una vez que se decida por parte de la Conferencia el acoger esa recomendación del Consejo, el Comité General propondrá los 7 países que habrán de integrar el Comité de Resoluciones.

Afortunadamente, al final de mis aclaraciones ha llegado el Sr. Director General, porque sobre todas estas cuestiones relativas a la Conferencia falta un solo punto respecto al cual el Director General explicó al Consejo en junio pasado que no había sido posible tomar una decisión. En ese momento el Consejo entendió muy bien esa situación. Se trata de la persona que deberá pronunciar la disertación en honor de McDougall. Voy a dar la palabra al Sr. Director General para que se dirija al Consejo.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je m'excuse d'avoir été absent de cette salle; je suis encore en réunion avec le groupe de contact que vous avez nommé hier et qui cherche toujours une solution au problème qui lui a été soumis, ainsi, peut-être, qu'à d'autres problèmes, pour faciliter la tâche du Conseil et de la Conférence. Avec votre permission, je vais tout à l'heure retourner à cette réunion, mais peut-être aurez-vous terminé vous aussi.

Je serai très bref en ce qui concerne la Conférence Mac Dougall. Comme vous le savez, il existe un Comité, formé de l'Ambassadeur d'Australie en Italie, du Président du Comité du Programme et de moi-même, qui est constitutionnellement chargé de soumettre au Conseil le nom d'une personnalité éminente à qui l'on demandera si elle veut bien accepter de prononcer cette conférence. Cette année, la Conférence Mac Dougall aura lieu le lundi 14 novembre.

Le Comité s'est adressé à l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis auprès des Nations Unies à New York, Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Andrew Young, qui a bien voulu accepter notre invitation. Nous avons donc maintenant l'honneur de soumettre cette proposition au Conseil. Je sais qu'il est tard et que, si votre Conseil n'acceptait pas ce nom, il nous serait difficile de faire un autre choix. Malheureusement, votre dernière réunion a eu lieu au mois de juin et, à ce moment-là, nous n'étions pas encore en mesure de vous proposer un nom; je ne doute pas, de plus, qu'une personnalité aussi éminente ne recueille votre appui unanime.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias al Director General. Entiendo que todos ustedes han tomado nota de la propuesta que hace el señor Director General en el sentido de que el Embajador Andrew Young, Representante de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica ante los Estados Unidos pronuncie la disertación en honor de MacDougall. Creo que el Embajador Young es muy conocido; es una personalidad que ha sobresalido muy meritoriamente en la comunidad internacional, y estoy seguro de que todos registramos complacidos esa sugerencia con la cual estamos de acuerdo.

Comprendemos señor Director General que sus ocupaciones le requieren y le agradecemos las haya interrumpido para venir a ayudarnos un poquito más.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros del Consejo, pasamos ahora al tema 18.

- VII - OTHER MATTERS
- VII - AUTRES QUESTIONS
- VII - OTRAS CUESTIONES

- 18. Any other business, including:
- 18. Questions diverses, y compris:
- 18. Otros asuntos, incluido:

- Second Report on Unscheduled Sessions in the 1976-77 Biennium
- Deuxième rapport sur les sessions hors programme pendant l'exercice 1976-77
- Segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas en el bienio 1976-77

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay un subtema que se trata del segundo informe sobre las reuniones no previstas en el bienio 1976-77. Entiendo que sobre esto, no hay ningún comentario especial de los miembros del Consejo salvo que alguien quiera intervenir. Tomaremos nota sobre esas reuniones no previstas y naturalmente si alguien quiere intervenir, desde luego podrá hacerlo.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Alemania, República Federal de: Tengo la impresión, podríamos estar seguros, de que dos caras bien conocidas para todos nosotros, generalmente sonrientes, no veremos más en ejercicio de sus actuales funciones en el futuro en el forum.

Me refiero al Presidente Independiente de nuestro Consejo, Gonzalo Bula Hoyos y al Presidente de nuestro Comité de Programas, Dr. Philipps, los dos viejos compañeros de trabajo y amigos.

Permítanme por eso decir algunas pocas y simples palabras porque como paisanos no me gustan grandes elogios, y además soy demasiado directo para eso, teniendo en cuenta el deseo de ser lo más breve posible y constructivo.

Primero, Don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Una vez que fue elegido como Presidente del Comité de Programas en la 58ª sesión de nuestro Consejo, dije: "Mi delegación quisiera en primer lugar felicitar al señor Bula Hoyos, compañero de trabajo y amigo, por haber sido reelegido como Presidente del Comité de Programas. El aprecio de que goza ha sido demostrado por el consenso general del Consejo. Mi delegación aprecia especialmente en él su dedicación al trabajo y su honestidad. Estas dos virtudes son para nosotros una garantía de que el Comité de Programas seguirá trabajando en la forma eficiente observada en el pasado." Cuando Don Gonzalo fue elegido por la 17ª Conferencia de la FAO Presidente Independiente de nuestro Consejo decíamos: "La gran mayoría por la cual fue elegido demuestran más que palabras podían hacerlo, qué grande confianza ponen los países miembros de la Organización en el Sr. Bula Hoyos. Lo que apreciamos en el Sr. Bula Hoyos es su disposición a dialogar, sus esfuerzos por ser un buen mediador que lo resuelve todo, su caballerosidad y sus virtudes. Estas virtudes como también sus ricas experiencias en el trabajo internacional le ayudarán a cumplir con las grandes tareas con que se enfrentará en su nuevo puesto."

Sras. y Sres delegados. Nuestro Presidente respondió en forma muy positiva y constructiva al desafío que le presentó su función durante los cuatro años pasados. Con los discursos que nosotros hemos escuchado destacando la flamante actuación de nuestro Presidente Independiente es difícil de agregar algo más. Quizás solamente una observación. Yo hubiera preferido que del colorido cuadro que fue elevado esta mañana nos hubiera mirado la cara sonriente del Sr. Bula Hoyos que tantas veces habíamos visto en este Forum.

Siguiendo la tradición del Consejo, propongo que nuestro Comité de Redacción redacte un párrafo en honor del Presidente acogiendo algunas ideas que fueron expresadas en este día y tomando como ejemplo otros párrafos que quizás en otras ocasiones ya fueron redactados.

Espero que el Consejo esté de acuerdo con mi propuesta. (Continúa en inglés)

The other person to whom my delegation wishes to give its sincere thanks is the outgoing chairman of the Programme Committee, Dr. Ralph Phillips. Dr. Phillips who fulfilled this responsible and difficult task in the most magnificent manner. He could carry that burden because of his excellent and broad first-hand knowledge of almost all agricultural problems and because of his long experience with FAO.

He showed extreme patience towards his co-members of the Programme Committee; he never tried to impose anything upon them and motivated them to work very hard. We all appreciated his honesty and his impartiality which contributed so much to the deliberations in FAO and to the fulfilment of its crucial and important task.

Once more, many thanks to Dr. Phillips.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que todos los miembros del Consejo comparten plenamente las apreciaciones muy positivas y merecidas que el señor Grabisch ha hecho sobre el Dr. Phillips, quien dejará la Presidencia del Comité de Programas y quien ahora se dirige hacia la tribuna. En cuanto al procedimiento que propone el señor Grabisch, si esa ha sido la costumbre, supongo que el Relator y los miembros del Comité de Redacción tomarán nota y procederán de conformidad. Dr. Phillips, mientras usted está dirigiendo la presidencia, yo estaba diciendo que estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros del Consejo para reiterar a usted el reconocimiento y la gratitud que le debemos por todos los servicios invaluable y constantes que nos ha ofrecido en su calidad de Presidente del Comité del Programa. Así constará en el Informe de este período de sesiones según lo ha propuesto el distinguido colega y amigo Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania, propuesta que es plena y entusiastamente compartida por todos los miembros del Consejo.

R.W. PHILLIPS (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr. Chairman, I would only say that I very much appreciate the kind thought of my good friend Dr. Grabisch and you, Mr. Chairman, in making these observations regarding my service as Chairman of the Programme Committee. It has been a pleasure to serve the Council in this capacity these last four years. I trust that I had at least some approximation of the success that Dr. Grabisch attributed to me. Thank you.

M. VARGAS JORDAN: (Observador de Bolivia): Gracias señor Presidente por haberme concedido el uso de la palabra. Esta mañana debía hacerlo en nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano que me honro en representar y presidir. Pero, como hombre disciplinado que soy a los mandatos de la Mesa Directiva y a las innovaciones que se suelen hacer en determinados momentos por crearlas prudentes, no insistí en solicitar el uso de la palabra. Hoy sí lo hago, distinguido señor Presidente, con el mayor de los cariños y con el mayor de los agradecimientos.

Empiezo diciendo que el homenaje de reconocimiento y gratitud con las personas que se dan por entero al servicio de las nobles y provechosas actividades, debe ser una norma de conducta que permanente debería practicarse como justo premio al sacrificio y al desprendimiento personal que dichas responsabilidades entrañan.

No otra cosa es la que hoy, de manera personal, a nombre de mi país y a nombre de Latinoamérica me ocupa y debería ocuparnos a todos nosotros, señores Miembros del Consejo.

Se trata pues, de rendir un testimonio de aprecio, simpatía y reconocimiento de todos los países que se hacen presentes en este significativo evento para tributar al Presidente que cesa en sus funciones, a don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, hombre empeñoso, sincero amigo y digno Presidente, quien a partir del año 1973 hasta el presente ejercitara con eficiencia y sobrada capacidad la Presidencia del Consejo Independiente.

En el desempeño de sus funciones, ha podido demostrar palmariamente sus relevantes cualidades y excepcionales condiciones de hombre. Ha sido un fiel interprete de las sugerencias e inquietudes más elevadas de quienes como países o como regiones ciframos nuestras esperanzas en los organismos directivos de la Organización de Agricultura y Alimentación.

Don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos ha ejercitado múltiples y significantes funciones en su vida publica. Largo sería enumerar las situaciones de servicio que con calor humano y gran predicamento social dejan un recuerdo imperecedero en los anales de su vida. Hoy, al término de sus funciones, queda grabada una huella indeleble que ha de ser perdurable en el tiempo y en el espacio. Indudablemente, que el merecimiento que se le da a Don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos cuando se testimonia su presencia permanente en este Consejo, parte de un organismo internacional, queda para recuerdo de todos nosotros en aquel retrato que en la mañana de hoy fue descubierto. Pero considero yo, que esto solamente es un acto de tipo material. Creo que el recuerdo permanente y viviente de Don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos ha de estar en todas y cada una de las representaciones acreditadas en este Consejo y en cada uno de los verdaderos amigos a quien con capacidad y denuedo siempre supo dar orientaciones, directivas y sobre todo el consejo del amigo y del caballero.

A nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano que me honro en representar, recibe usted, Don Gonzalo Bula Hoyos el testimonio permanente del aprecio de ésta, su region latinoamericana.

J.S. CAMARA (Observateur de la Guinée): Monsieur le Président, je ne veux pas être très long car je pense que beaucoup d'autres orateurs voudront parler comme moi. Même s'ils n'en ont pas l'occasion aujourd'hui, nous pensons que pendant la Conférence générale tous les pays membres de cette Organisation vous rendront le témoignage que vous méritez.

Nous n'avons pas cherché également à écrire un discours, car nous n'aurions pas su exprimer ce que nous ressentons en ce moment et même maintenant nous ne pouvons pas exprimer de façon aussi pertinente que nous le voudrions les sentiments d'amitié et de reconnaissance que nous vous devons.

Je voudrais donc, au nom de la région africaine, vous exprimer nos sentiments de gratitude pour le travail que vous avez fait pendant ces longues années dans une Organisation qui est chère à nos pays.

Vous avez su lier à votre passion de servir les intérêts dans des pays en développement, et notamment les masses laborieuses de ces régions, à votre souci de concilier les points de vue de tous les Etats Membres du Conseil pour parvenir à un accord sur les différents points. C'est votre mérite essentiel. Après les discours de ce matin et ceux des délégués de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et de la Bolivie, je pense qu'il y a peu à dire. Je voudrais cependant rappeler un fait qui a été pour nous, représentants de l'Afrique, le témoignage de votre amitié pour notre continent; votre attitude courageuse dans l'admission de la République soeur de Guinée-Bissau qui luttait encore pour se soustraire à la domination du régime fasciste portugais. Cela ne s'était jamais vu dans l'histoire des institutions spécialisées, mais, à la FAO, la Guinée-Bissau, qui n'était pas reconnue par l'ensemble des Etats Membres de cette Organisation, a pu être admise et votre détermination, votre attitude courageuse nous ont aidés, et cela a été déterminant pour nous tous.

Votre succession ne sera pas facile, mais, en tant que représentants africains, nous sommes aussi fiers de savoir que c'est un Africain qui va vous succéder et cet Africain, nous le connaissons tous puisqu'il participe lui aussi aux activités de la FAO depuis de nombreuses années. Nous pensons et nous en sommes convaincus, que le marteau que vous donnerez au Dr Bukar SHAIK lui conférera également la ferme volonté de servir tous les Etats Membres et notamment ceux des pays en développement et ceux de l'Afrique à laquelle il est si fortement attaché. Nous sommes convaincus que lui aussi fera autant que vous pour notre Organisation.

Nous sommes également heureux de savoir que vous continuerez à participer aux activités des organisations en tant que délégué de la Colombie. Votre expérience, vos connaissances aideront beaucoup tous les Etats Membres de cette Organisation. Nous sommes donc très contents de vous retrouver parmi nous, sur les mêmes bancs. Même si vous quittez le fauteuil de président, nous continuerons, nous autres, à vous dire, Monsieur le Président: merci, Bula!".

EL PRESIDENTE: Mil gracias a los distinguidos colegas, Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, Vargas Jordán, del grupo latinoamericano y a Camara del grupo africano.

Tenemos ahora el último tema de nuestro programa: Tema 19.

19. Date and place of the Seventy-Third Session of the Council

19. Date et lieu de la soixante-treizième session du Conseil

19. Fecha y lugar del 73º período de sesiones del Consejo

El lugar es indiscutiblemente esta bella Roma y la fecha será el viernes 2 de diciembre, salvo que la Conferencia termine antes y el Consejo pueda reunirse el jueves 1º de diciembre. Naturalmente mi sucesor y la Secretaría estarán atentos para confirmar a los miembros del Consejo la fecha definitiva.

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours

La séance est levée à 17 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 17, 00 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 72/PV/7

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Seventy-Second Session

Soixante douzième session

72º período de sesiones

### SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1977)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours  
G. Bula Hoyos, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia  
de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACION DEL INFORME

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores vamos a comenzar nuestra reunión de esta tarde. Espero que todos ustedes tengan en sus respectivos idiomas los cuatro REP que han salido hasta ahora. Todavía falta otro material por llegar el cual se irá distribuyendo en la sala en la medida en que estén disponibles.

Voy a conceder la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Q.H.HAQUE(Chairman, Drafting Committee): I will be extremely brief. First of all, I on my part and on behalf of the Drafting Committee apologise to you, and through you to the Council, for taking so long in finishing our drafting. We have been taking pains to go into depth so that we can save the very valuable time of the Council.

The report of the Drafting Committee will be coming in eight REPs, but I would request the delegates not to get frightened by the number of REPs as these are very, very thin. The numbers have increased because as we have been working we have been sending them down for printing.

While presenting REPs 1-4 I have only one comment which is in the English text on REP/1. There is a correction which is one purely of grammar. On page 8, paragraph 17 - in the English text only - after the sixth line: "...high-level experts". Then add the word "Consequently". This is just grammar, and there is no other correction in the other REPs 1-4.

With these brief words I present the reports to the Council.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Haque. Yo creo que todos reconocemos la importante labor cumplida por el Comité de Redacción presidido por usted; el tiempo que tomaron se debe al deseo de facilitar los trabajos del Consejo.

Me permito recordar a los miembros del Consejo que estamos ahora en la etapa de la discusión del Informe y no es el momento de pronunciar discursos, de plantear elementos nuevos, de suscitar cuestiones de fondo, sino simplemente de tratar que nuestro informe refleje las conclusiones de nuestros debates. Les agradeceré que sean muy breves, muy concretos, que quienes propongan enmiendas, adiciones o supresiones se expresen claramente indicando el texto y el sitio donde vayan esas enmiendas y que si alguien tiene textos de alguna extensión, por favor, los someta por escrito a la Secretaría.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENERE - PARTIE 1  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 5 to 12

PARAGRAPHES 5 à 12

PARRAFOS 5 a 12

S.S. MAHDI (India): I will start with a very minor comment. The sub-heading of this item appears to be misplaced, so from the editorial point of view perhaps this should be deleted. We are discussing the Fertilizer Commission, I understand.

Paragraph 6: I have an addition after the second sentence which I will read out slowly, and if you wish I can explain the reason for this amendment also. After the second sentence we should add a sentence: "The need also was stressed of an efficient system of regular supply of data and information at shorter intervals to member countries."



I have another amendment, but I will move this later after this one has been discussed.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): So it would be in paragraph 6, which at present consists of two sentences. At the end of the paragraph after the present second sentence we would say: "The need also was stressed of an efficient system of regular supply of data at shorter intervals to Member Nations.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If the Council adopts that we will have no objection because it is a useful and good statement.

EL PRESIDENTE: De momento vamos a limitar nuestras discusiones al párrafo 6.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I am very grateful that this amendment has been found useful. My only point is that this should have been after the first sentence of paragraph 6 and not after the second sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si entiendo bien, la última intervención del colega de India querrá decir que la enmienda que él propone se agregaría al final del párrafo 6, ¿no es así? No. Me excuso. La enmienda de India se agregaría inmediatamente antes de la frase que empieza por "Pidió asimismo". Si no hay ninguna objeción por parte de los miembros del Consejo puedo entender que adoptamos el párrafo 6 con la adición de India.

Así se decide.

Pasamos al párrafo 5.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Creo que es una cuestión de forma para que sea más explícito en español el párrafo 5 y es en el sexto renglón del texto español, donde dice "se tomaran disposiciones para celebrar reuniones anuales"; mi propuesta es añadir seguidamente después de una coma "y si fuera necesario con más frecuencia, y se aportararan recursos adecuados para el desempeño de su labor". En concreto, yo quiero que se agregue la letra "y" antes de "si fuera necesario" y después de "si fuera necesario" añadir las palabras "con más frecuencia".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos hayan entendido la enmienda que propone México. Al final del párrafo 5 se diría: "y a este efecto se tomaran disposiciones para celebrar reuniones anuales, y si fuera necesario con más frecuencia" y el párrafo seguirá como está. ¿Es así? Gracias.

¿Se puede aceptar la enmienda de México?; además ha sido propuesta por el Presidente de la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

Queda adoptado el párrafo 5 con la enmienda de México.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Me parece que para dar también una mayor claridad al párrafo 7, en el octavo renglón del mismo, en el texto español, en donde dice "para los productores y equitativo para los consumidores, deberá seguir formulando propuestas", yo propongo que se eliminen las palabras "como las del Irán, los contratos a largo plazo y las propuestas de opciones" y se ponga en su lugar: "debe seguir formulando otras propuestas que lleven a la estabilización de los precios", porque estas propuestas ya han sido discutidas anteriormente en la Comisión de Fertilizantes y se seguirá trabajando y creo que lo importante sería presentar nuevas propuestas que lleven a la estabilización de los precios.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el párrafo 7 el delegado de Mexico propone la siguiente enmienda: Al final del párrafo 7, en la penultima línea se diría: "debe seguir formulando otras propuestas". Se suprime todo lo que hace referencia a "como las del Irán, los contratos a largo plazo y las propuestas de opciones" y sigue así: "formulando otras propuestas que lleven a la estabilización de los precios".

Espero que todos tengan el texto de Mexico,

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): On this we had rather detailed discussion. We wanted to reflect the discussions in the Plenary meeting truly and faithfully. The idea of Mexico is also covered in the last sentence, where it says proposals such as', which does not preclude other proposals, and at the same time states, "the proposals considered in the Council and discussed in the Plenary meeting". So if we retain the sentence we believe it will be a true statement of the discussion, as well as not precluding the ideas of Mexico. I hope this will be acceptable to Mexico.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I wanted to speak on paragraph 8, but since I have the floor I might as well speak on paragraph 7 also. I am not inclined to agree with the Rapporteur. I am more inclined to agree with Mexico. The idea that is reflected in paragraph 7 is that the Commission should further examine proposals such as the Iran proposal, long-term contracts and the option proposal. This it is already doing. What we wish to do is to examine further proposals. If that could be reflected along with this I think the problem would stand solved.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I understand the concern of the Mexican Chairman of the Commission on Fertilizers, but the problem is that the Commission on Fertilizers suggests that these three proposals should continue to be developed. Those are the proposals on the spot that we are discussing. In paragraph 8 there is an elaboration about one of them, the option proposal. Perhaps we could take the point of Mexico by adding at the end of paragraph 7: " without prejudice to other proposals which might emerge". It is important that we should continue on the three proposals which are before us, especially if it is long-term contracts, where the Commission manifested the wish to have a new version of the contract because it did not like the present suggestion. Perhaps we should say, "The Commission should continue to develop such proposals as the Iran proposal, long-term contracts and the option proposal without prejudice to the proposals that might emerge, which would be equally oriented towards price stabilization.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): If I may say so, I agree with the Rapporteur. I think that the existing wording is not exclusive in any sense. It reads, "to develop proposals such as" and then cites three cases. I think that is perfectly adequate and that there is no need to go into further elaboration.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the alternative suggestion, to replace 'such as' by 'including' might satisfy my friends from Pakistan and Mexico. Then we might add at the end 'without prejudice' as Brazil says.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que haya entendido bien al distinguido Relator, quien ha secundado la propuesta del Brasil. Parece que entonces, al final del párrafo 7, si entendí bien, podemos decir: "Debe seguir formulando propuestas como las del Irán, los contratos a largo plazo y las propuestas de opciones, incluyendo otras que lleven a la estabilización de los precios."

El Secretario va a leer el texto correcto.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): The proposal from the Rapporteur was to the effect that starting with the phrase "the Commission should continue to develop" we would say something like, "the Commission should continue to develop proposals, including the Iran proposal, long-term contracts and the option proposal, without prejudice to other proposals that might emerge equally oriented towards price stabilization".

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je trouve que le paragraphe tel qu'il est rédigé est très bien. En effet, le paragraphe commence en précisant qu'il s'agit bien de la recherche d'une plus grande stabilité des prix et la proposition de notre collègue du Mexique ne fait que répéter la première partie de la phrase. Je ne crois pas que l'on puisse aller au-delà. Le paragraphe est très bien rédigé. Il s'agit de la recherche d'une plus grande stabilité. Cela est sous-entendu, il n'est pas nécessaire de le répéter à la fin du paragraphe.

EL PRESIDENTE: Después de lo que había dicho el Relator originalmente y la última intervención del colega de Gabon, pregunto al distinguido colega de México, reconociendo su actitud constructiva, si él y sus colegas tienen inconveniente en que dejemos el párrafo tal como está.

V. S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Tengo bastante inconveniente porque no estoy yo hablando ni tampoco quiero decir que la Comisión de Fertilizantes no está buscando la mayor estabilización de los precios. Creo que lo que yo quise decir es que deben de buscarse otras formas para llegar a la estabilización de los precios, y no podemos encerrarnos en un círculo de tres proposiciones únicamente. Ese es el sentido; no negar la estabilización ni hacerla redundante. Lo que nosotros queremos es que no se pierda la idea de darle oportunidad a otras propuestas.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I find myself in the happy position of agreeing with everybody on this, but perhaps from the drafting point of view just two words should take care of everybody's concern, I think, and the concern of the delegate of Mexico which I very much share. We could say "the Commission should continue to develop further proposals including" instead of "such as" and the rest of the sentence as it is. I hope that with these two words we can take care of all the concerns expressed; "the Commission should continue to develop further proposals including" etc.; if this is acceptable I think we can resolve this problem.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Perhaps in this case it is a question of translation or of different meanings. My delegation would also give preference to the text as it stands because we feel that the question of price stabilization is being covered. This is in the third but last line of the paragraph and "such as" is not "including", so that it means that other proposals are of course going to be studied by the Commission. But I think it was within the Commission's feelings that these proposals which are already on the table should first be further developed, or one should try at least to develop them further, with the help of the Secretariat and not just leave them and put others forward.

Therefore, perhaps we could overcome the problem, if "such as" is not enough, if one just puts at the end "including other proposals". But I think it is covered also by "such as".

G.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I seem to be in a position where I find that I too, like India, think we are saying the same thing but only want to emphasize others proposals. In that situation it can be left as it is; I shall be quite happy. But if you want to emphasize, just to meet the worries of the delegate of Mexico, and include the words of the delegate of Brazil exactly, "such as" as it is, comma, "without prejudice to other proposals that might emerge." Would that take away the worry of the delegate of Mexico? It seems that it does.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que esto es aceptable para todos. Se adopta así el párrafo 7.

Sobre el párrafo 8.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): In the sixth line of paragraph 8 I would propose the deletion of the word "possible". The sentence would then read: "The Council requested the Director-General to further develop the option proposal in cooperation with the interested parties with a view to its implementation" etc. Delete the word "possible" here and then: "once the commitments by fertilizer producers" and so on.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta de Pakistán es clara y sencilla. En la última frase del párrafo 8, propone suprimir la palabra "posible" que aparece antes de "aplicación". ¿Es esto aceptable para todos?

V S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Estábamos hablando nada más de una de las propuestas que ha sido aceptada. Tengo otra propuesta al inicio de la segunda oración, en el texto español, en el renglón quinto del español, donde dice: "El Consejo pidió al Director General que desarrolle ulteriormente", creo que reflejaría más los debates si en lugar de "desarrolle ulteriormente" pusiéramos, sustituyéramos estas palabras por las palabras "que pusiera en práctica".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos hayan tomado nota de la enmienda que México propone en la segunda frase del párrafo 8 para que se diga: "El Consejo pidió al Director General que pusiera en práctica", en vez de "que desarrolle ulteriormente".

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was going to intervene earlier. I had no objection whatsoever to the word "possible" being deleted. I should, however, I fear, see difficulties about the Mexican proposal because I do not think it faithfully reflects what was agreed in the Commission. It was most certainly stated that further work would have to be done. As I said a moment ago, I had no objection to the word "possible" being deleted but I could not, I am afraid, accept a change "to put into practice".

And while I have the floor, could I suggest in the third line of the English text, where the reference to domestic prices is a little unclear, that this should be replaced by "the prices ruling in developed countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el distinguido colega del Reino Unido me lo permite, vamos en primer lugar a ventilar la propuesta de México, y luego trataremos de que la Secretaría repite la suya.

La propuesta de México la captaron ustedes. A ella se opone el Reino Unido. ¿Quién desea intervenir sobre la enmienda de México? El Relator quiere desempatar la cuestión.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am in a difficult situation. Now, the proposals are as between the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Fertilizer Commission, or the Chairman of the Fertilizer Commission and also the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Fertilizer Commission. So it is a very difficult position but as regards the second amendment by the United Kingdom, yes, we could delete the words "those domestic" and say "to prices ruling in developing countries". That is all right but as regards these, too, I think it should be settled between them; but this was our understanding of the discussion in the Plenary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Un colega va a arreglar la situación.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): I have no comments to offer on the Mexican proposal; that should be considered on its own merits. But regarding the United Kingdom amendment, you will recall, Sir, - and I should like to draw the attention of the delegate of the United Kingdom to this - that the discussion revolved around domestic prices and not around ruling prices. The two are entirely different and therefore if the insistence is on including the word "ruling" it should be "ruling domestic prices".

S.S. MAHDI (India): I entirely agree with the last remark by the delegate of Pakistan. Throughout the discussions in the Fertilizer Commission we have been using this phrase without any objection being raised, of the domestic prices. So I am not in a position to agree with the amendment

proposed here and I will support what the delegate of Pakistan says. It could either remain as domestic prices or, even at the cost of some redundancy, you might say "ruling domestic prices". About the Mexican proposal, I find here that it is not a difference of drafting but it appears to be a difference of substance because this proposal has been discussed in the Fertilizer Commission at length and a number of countries here have shown their clear preference for implementation of this proposal. If I recall correctly, this was a part of the statement of the Group of 77 also. Therefore, if it is a total change, I have no strong feelings; but our understanding of the debate is that this proposal should now be implemented with all the provisos which are given in the draft.

In the light of this statement I can suggest a verbal change, but having what I have said in the background on substance: instead of saying "The Council requested the Director-General to further develop" we could say "to pursue" instead of "further develop", with the understanding that this proposal has now come to a stage where, with the provisos mentioned in the sentence itself, it should be implemented.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): I should like to support what the delegate of Pakistan and India said about the deletion of the word "domestic", because to my mind the very essence of the option proposal is to enable the MSA and developing countries to apply prices different to domestic prices in those countries, otherwise the whole thing falls down.

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I really suggest at this stage that we simply adopt paragraph 8 as it is, with only the deletion of the word "possible". I feel that that is the correct situation. Even those who feel that option proposals must be implemented, we agree there are some aspects even of an administrative nature which the Director-General has to develop; nobody disputes that. I think if we leave the paragraph as it is, without the word "possible", we are doing the correct thing. That is my suggestion to the Council.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I shall be very happy to second the proposal of the Chairman of the Group of 77. I would just make it clear that my suggestion about the omission of the word "domestic" was purely in the interests of clarity. I have no objection to its use as proposed by Mr. Brito.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (Mexico): Dispense que vuelva a insistir en mi propuesta pero yo creo que ya se había hecho eso dentro de un arbitraje que sucedió durante la misma presentación del Informe y discusión sobre él en cuanto a la presentación del Dr. Bommer, que está aquí en el Acta de las, sesión donde dice: "but possibly becoming operational" is the option, the proposals which will be pursued". Y esa es la palabra que creo es la traducción que se llevará a cabo o que se pondrá en práctica.

Por lo tanto, mi propuesta quiere unicamente reflejar lo que se llevó a cabo durante los debates, y aquí está: "In the light of the recommendations of the Commission". Creo que esto ya estuvo bastante claro, y aquí tengo el acta de la primera sesión de este Consejo.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je ne desire pas intervenir sur ce point parce que je suppose que tout le monde est d'accord, mais je voulais seulement faire une observation de forme.

Dans ce paragraphe, il est question des pays les plus gravement touchés. Je suppose que ce sont les pays touchés par la pénurie des engrais. Or, cette expression est très mal utilisée en français. Cela concerne une opération très précise. Il s'agit d'engrais, je suis d'accord, mais on utilise cette expression "gravement touchés" un peu partout. Que l'on dise "les pays les plus pauvres" pour appeler un chat un chat, parce qu'il ne faut pas se faire d'illusions parmi les pays en voie de développement, il y a des pays qui sont plus pauvres que d'autres. Mais dire "les plus gravement touchés" cela signifie qu'ils ne sont touchés que par la pénurie des engrais. Or ce ne sont pas les seuls. Tous les pays en voie de développement sont touchés par cette pénurie.

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): In order to meet the Mexican concern I would suggest that in line 5 we substitute the word "pursue", we delete the word "develop" and substitute the word "pursue". I think that would be in accordance with the verbatim statement that has just been quoted and I do not think it would cause too many problems anywhere else either.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): The proposal from Pakistan was simply that any sentence at issue, which begins "the Council requested the Director-General" simply delete the word "develop" and replace it by the word "pursue" so that would say "the Council requested the Director-General to further pursue the option proposal in cooperation" and so on.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Secretario leerá la última propuesta de Pakistán. El texto en español ha sido traducido en forma tal que los de lengua castellana no lo han entendido.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretario, Comité de Redacción): En español se diría (me refiero a la segunda oración): donde dice "El Consejo pidió al Director General que", poner, en vez de que "desarrolle ulteriormente" debería haber una mejor traducción y decir: "que prosiga ulteriormente". Es una palabra difícil de vertir al castellano.

El delegado de México podría sugerirnos alguna palabra.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Me parece que ya estamos llegando a un consenso. Yo creo que sería mejor decir: "al Director General que prosiga la propuesta de opciones", o sea, quitar "ulteriormente". Creo que es la mejor traducción que podemos tener.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se diría: "que prosiga la propuesta". ¿Es esto aceptable para todos?

M.R. LEAR (New Zealand): By going back to the report of the Commission on Fertilizers I see that we have substituted the word "develop" by the word "pursue". Now I would suggest that if we are all going to follow this to its logical conclusion that we need to put the word "possible" back in because you will find the word "possible", the possible implementation of the scheme' in the report of the Commission on Fertilizers. The problem as I see it is that by putting in the word "pursue" and cutting out the word "possible" that means that the Director-General is more or less required to implement the scheme as soon as fertilizer producers have put up 10 percent of Most Seriously Affected Countries' requirements and yet there were a number of countries which said that they had additional problems which they wanted to look at, financial problems, administrative problems, legal problems. So that it seems to me if you are going to put in the word "pursue" because that is going back to the Commission on Fertilizers' report you also need to put in the word "possible" which is similarly in the report of the Commission on Fertilizers.

S.S. MAHDI (India): I am afraid contrary to your instructions we are now entering into matters of substance. The logic is not that we are quoting verbatim what has been reported in the report of the Fertilizer Commission, the fact of the matter is that since the report of the Fertilizer Commission the discussions in the Council, which is a superior body, have reflected some progress. There were certain difficulties about this in the Fertilizer Commission and these difficulties are much less so far as the Council is concerned. So our reasoning is not that we want to put back all the phrases or words used in the report of the Fertilizer Commission, we want to understand from the report that there has been a further progress in the consideration of this proposal and a large number of countries had expressed support for the implementation of the proposal as early as possible and that is what we feel should find reflection in the report. Now I think that in the spirit of compromise we have deleted the word "possible" and we have substituted the words "further develop" with "pursue", instead of saying "practical implementation" or any such thing, so that perhaps this compromise would be acceptable to all of us.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que el texto pueda ser aceptado con la última redacción que presento Pakistán y con la supresión de la palabra "posible" que había propuesto Pakistán.

Espero que sea aceptada.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I very much regret that I must ask the third time on this. The representative of India was kind enough to inform me in advance of his desire to drop the word "possible". I was perfectly happy to accept that with the original wording but if that is to be changed then may I suggest constructively that we pass paragraph 8 while I have a chance to refer to the documents and press on with the further paragraphs.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podemos dejar por ahora el párrafo 8 y seguir con los siguientes. Les ruego a los más interesados en esta discusión que por favor se pongan de acuerdo y nos ofrezcan una solución.

Sobre los párrafos 9, 10 y 11.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would like to be permitted to speak on paragraph 11. I am not happy about this paragraph because it rather reflects many things which we would rather prefer to see changed. For instance, the first sentence, these words do not reflect exactly the feeling of the Council because the second sentence speaks about several things which are rather contradictory to the first one. At the same time on the third line we are requesting the countries, we cannot make a request to the country, we can make appeals to the countries.

The fourth observation, "The Council noted the pledge of the United Kingdom", I think we should change this in order to show that we are looking with satisfaction to this new pledge, not just noting the pledge. We feel that other donor countries should do the same thing. I am sorry to have to defend the United Kingdom this afternoon but I do not think it is fair to the United Kingdom just to say that the Council noted that they were going to pay more to this scheme. So I have a completely new paragraph to make which I feel may reflect the feeling of the Council and will keep the same meaning in general. My sentence is "The Council, while appreciating the contribution of donor countries to IFS, noted with regret the sharp decline in the quantity of fertilizer material made available under the IFS in 1976-77 as compared to previous years. The Council also noted, with satisfaction, the pledge by the United Kingdom to contribute an additional five million pounds sterling worth of fertilizers to this scheme in 1977-78 and appealed to other donor countries to increase their contribution to this scheme. I do not know whether this paragraph will be acceptable to the delegates but I feel it rather reflects more openly the feeling of the delegate who spoke on this subject.

EL PRESIDENTE: El señor Relator piensa que la sustancia del párrafo es la misma y que la redacción es mejor.

Pregunta al Consejo si tiene inconveniente en aceptar este nuevo texto del párrafo 11. ¿Ningún comentario sobre el párrafo 11? Se adopta. Ahora sobre los párrafos 9 y 10.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The contribution to the scheme is both in cash and kind so instead of "fertilizer material" you can say "contributions". Yes, it is acceptable to the Council.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Me refiero al párrafo 10 y es únicamente para el español. En este párrafo que es tan pequeño, dice: "Muchos miembros se declararon en favor de la constitucionalización permanente del Plan".

Me parece que en español sería lo correcto: "Muchos miembros se declararon en favor de la institucionalización del Plan".

EL PRESIDENTE: Se corregirá el texto castellano en este punto 10.

Paragraphs 5 to 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 13, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 13, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 13, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 23

PARAGRAPHERS 14 à 23

PARRAFOS 14 a 23

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Il s'agit au paragraphe 15 d'une petite mise en forme de la dernière phrase. Il est dit dans le texte français: "Il avait également noté que le dernier mot concernant le taux de change..." Je proposerais la formulation suivante: "Il avait également noté qu'il revenait à la Conférence de décider du taux de change."

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que la aclaración que hace el colega de Gabón se refiere sólo al texto francés.

Paragraphs 14 to 23, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 23, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 23, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

EL PRESIDENTE: Naturalmente, de este REP/1 queda pendiente el párrafo 8, sobre el cual ojalá nos ayuden los interesados en las discusiones.

Paragraph 8 not concluded

Le paragraphe 8 est en suspens

El párrafo 8 queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 a 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 15 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 15 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 20

PARAGRAPHERS 16 à 20

PARRAFOS 16 a 20

M.P. MASUD (Pakistan): On paragraph 19, I have a small change and it is in the first line: "In discussing the AGRIS activities, the Council expressed its appreciation" and the consequential changes that would be necessary, which I am sure the Secretariat can look after because there would be a change in the third line also, most probably, and this is simply my proposal.



EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos tengan el texto de la propuesta de Pakistán, que cree que en sí no ofrece dificultades. Si no hay comentarios, se adopta así con la propuesta de Pakistán el párrafo 19.

S.S. MAHDI (India): This is regarding paragraph 20, and this also is a very small change. Instead of saying "Some members also formulated specific" we could delete the "Some members also formulated" and start the sentence by saying "Specific recommendations were also made with respect" etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: La enmienda de India es la siguiente: En el párrafo 20 se comenzaría de la siguiente manera: "Se hicieron recomendaciones específicas". Se pone en neutro en vez de decir "Algunos miembros". ¿Es esto aceptable? Queda adoptado el párrafo 20.

Paragraphs 16 to 20, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 a 20, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 20, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 21

PARAGRAPHE 21

PARRAFO 21

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I would like to limit my observation as far as subparagraph (a) is concerned. The proposal to rename the programme was submitted by the Programme Committee, but it was never our intention that it should be implemented. If it is going to be changed to another organization it is going to be implemented within the scope of work of FAO, but I remember there was only one delegation which spoke about the name, and I feel therefore that this subject was not thoroughly debated.

I would rather prefer to delete the whole sub-paragraph than just leaving it in this report, because I do not think the renaming was thoroughly debated and discussed, so my proposal is to delete subparagraph (a) completely.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The delegate of Jordan is right, and that is why he will notice there is no recommendation of the Council in this paragraph. The Drafting Committee had to report what happened in the Plenary, so you will notice it is stated as the proposal of the Programme Committee. Then three members approved of this and one spoke against it, and that member fortunately was also a member of the Drafting Committee, and there is no recommendation of the Council on this. I hope that this explanation is satisfactory because we had to state what happened in the Plenary, so with that explanation, Jordan may accept the inclusion as it is.

S. JUMA'A (Jordan): I do not know whether it is the practice here in FAO to include in our report what every delegate has said about one problem related to a big subject, so the renaming was never discussed thoroughly. It is only Egypt who spoke against the new name and nobody else even supported his proposal, so if we are going to accept the normal procedure, then the Council has agreed in fact to rename the whole programme, because not a single one except one delegate spoke against the new name, but I do not know whether it is fair to include in our report what one delegate has said about one subject in a big programme.

M. DESSOUKY (Egypt): We can go along with the Jordanian proposal to delete the whole thing. We were the delegation which proposed that, but to facilitate matters we can go along with deleting this.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que ahora no hay dificultad, señor Relator, a que se suprima el subpárrafo a) del párrafo 21. Se adopta así el párrafo 21 con la supresión propuesta por Jordania.

Paragraph 21, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 21, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 21, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 22 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 24 sont approuvés

tos párrafos 22 a 24 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 25 to 27

PARAGRAPHES 25 à 27

PARRAFOS 25 a 27

J.C. VIGNAUD (Argentina): Con respecto al párrafo 26 nosotros teníamos una pequeña observación que pregunto si la ha recibido la Secretaría, en cuyo caso la podría leer. Es una adición al párrafo 26.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretario del Comité de Redacción): Sería una nueva redacción propuesta por la delegación de Argentina a este párrafo 26 y cuyo texto la delegación ha enviado a la Secretaría y que dice lo siguiente: "el Consejo, a la vez que recordó la importancia que adjudica a una adecuada contribución de la FAO a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo y Cuestiones afines, acogió favorablemente la declaración de la Secretaría en el sentido de que se proporcionaría información complementaria al 19 período de sesiones de la Conferencia para su examen."

S.S. MAHDI (India): While supporting the Argentinian amendment, I would like to substitute the word "welcomed" by "noted", because the tone of the debate was we wanted some more information on some of these things, and in response the Secretariat said something would be coming for the Conference which we have not seen yet. In any case we would substitute the word "welcomed" by "needed".

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban ustedes de escuchar la intervención de India y parece que Argentina estaría de acuerdo. Si ningún otro miembro del consejo tiene objeciones podemos entonces adoptar el nuevo texto del párrafo 26 propuesto por Argentina.

Paragraphs 25 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 28 and 29

PARAGRAPHES 28 et 29

PARRAFOS 28 y 29

P. HALIMI (France): Je voudrais demander une modification de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 29 qui laisse supposer que seuls certains membres envisagent d'examiner le Programme de travail et budget au cours de la Conférence; je crois que la rédaction n'est pas heureuse et qu'il conviendrait de substituer à la rédaction de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 29 la phrase suivante: "Certains membres ont rappelé qu'une discussion approfondie de ces objectifs sera effectuée pendant la Conférence".

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que todos tengan la frase sustitutiva de Francia para el final del párrafo 29 y que esto no ofrezca dificultades. Se adopta, modificado así, el párrafo 29.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je m'excuse; pour le paragraphe 29, l'amendement qui a été apporté par la France laisse entendre qu'il s'agit du rappel d'une "discussion approfondie de ces objectifs" qui sera effectuée pendant la Conférence. Je crois que ce n'a pas été un simple rappel, mais un report. Certains membres ont préféré dire clairement qu'ils souhaitaient reporter la discussion de ces questions pendant la Conférence. Ce n'est pas un rappel, ils ont préféré reporter cette discussion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podríamos decir "Se observo que" y agregar al texto de Francia, en vez de decir "algunos miembros recordaron". ¿Sería esto aceptable para Francia, Gabon y todos los miembros del Consejo? Sería encabezar la frase con que "se observo que", en vez de decir "algunos miembros recordaron que" ¿Es aceptable? Creo que esto no tiene mayor diferencia, en fin, ustedes dirán. ¿Es aceptable así, Sr. colega de Francia?

P. HALIMI (France): Je vous remercie. Je n'ai pas pris note de la demande de notre collègue du Gabon. J'aimerais connaître la rédaction complète.

EL PRESIDENTE: El colega de Gabon, en realidad, no hizo propiamente una propuesta concreta, sino que dio una explicación. Yo traté de adaptar lo que dijo Gabon a mi interpretación. Voy a pedir al Relator que lea la propuesta suya a la luz de mi última intervención.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secrétaire, Comité de rédaction): La proposition de la présidence tendait à remplacer le membre de phrase "certains Membres....." par une phrase telle que "il a été fait remarquer qu'une discussion approfondie de ces objectifs....."

EL PRESIDENTE: Queda adoptado así el párrafo 29 y terminamos el REP/2.

Paragraphs 28 and 29, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 28 et 29, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 y 29, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 30 to 39, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 30 à 39, y compris 1<sup>o</sup> Annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 y 39, incluida el Apéndice, son aprobados"

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - 2ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 3

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3

Paragraphs 1 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9 son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 and 11 approved

Les paragraphes 10 et 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 y 11 son aprobados

Draft of Plenary - Part 3, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - troisième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 4

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4

Paragraphs 1 to 11, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 12 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 4, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - quatrième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 4, es aprobado

Les ruego un minuto para ver cuál es la situación y proponerles el itinerario futuro. Esperamos ahora la información que vendrá del sector de la Secretaría que está preparando la parte restante del Informe. Les ruego que tengan paciencia dos o tres minutos para informarles a qué hora vamos a continuar nuestros trabajos.

The meeting was suspended from 16.30 to 17.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 30 à 17 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.30 a 17.30 horas

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, vamos a reiniciar nuestros trabajos; espero que todos hayan recibido los REP/5 y 6.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENTERE - PARTIE 5

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 5

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have read carefully the draft report dealing with the Relationship Agreement between FAO and IFAD and I have noted, in paragraph 6, that you requested me to enter into further negotiation with Ambassador Sudeary, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of IFAD, in order to settle the pending problem and, thus, to submit an amended draft agreement to the Council in autumn 1978. Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that I met this morning with Ambassador Sudeary and I am happy to inform you that, after discussion on the meaning of "additional indirect costs" I am in a position to accept the wording proposed by the Preparatory Commission of IFAD. In doing so, I consider that FAO will be serving the interests of the recipient countries, who will, ultimately, have to bear part of the cost of the feasibility studies and other reports leading to obtaining IFAD loans. I therefore recommend the Council to endorse my proposal and amend the text accordingly. This will have the advantage of avoiding any misunderstanding about the excellent relationship existing between the two Organizations and, more particularly, to speed up the approval of this agreement, thus permitting a quick start to be made on the activities of IFAD,

As I said yesterday, I have, under your instructions, provided up to now all assistance required by IFAD and I will continue to do so. Just now, I have a request to provide on loan for three years a large number of FAO staff, who have to be seconded from the FAO Investment Centre. I will examine this request with full sympathy, since this is one of the main priorities of FAO's new policy, as approved by the Council in July 1976.

The Council has also recommended to heads of delegations to include this subject in their addresses to the Conference.

I am very happy to see Ambassador Sudeary with us. He and his country have played an important role in the creation of IFAD. His presence is further evidence of the good relationship existing between FAO and IFAD, and I assure you that I will do everything to ensure that this close cooperation will continue.

After all, the success of IFAD will permit the implementation of many FAO studies and projects which, otherwise, would remain obsolete and only pieces of paper to be shelved.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros del Consejo al expresar nuestra más cordial bienvenida al señor Embajador Al-Sudeary, Presidente de la Comisión Preparatoria del FIDA, a quien concedo la palabra.

A. AL-SUDEARY (Chairman, Preparatory Commission of IFAD) (Interpretation from Arabic): Please allow me, sir, to express my warmest thanks to the Director-General of FAO for the facilities he has provided on the IFAD Preparatory Commission. He has helped us considerably in enabling us to launch the fund. What is more, I would like to express my sincere thanks once more to the Director-General for the positive way in which he has provided a solution acceptable to all parties. This surely is tangible evidence of his spirit of cooperation, just as it is a sign of the collaboration that exists between FAO and IFAD.

I wholeheartedly agree with the Director-General when he says that this is living evidence of the collaboration that binds us, and now I look forward to even closer collaboration. It is true that all of us wish to serve the interests of international cooperation between IFAD and FAO in the interests of developing countries in order to finance agricultural projects and overcome the problems facing us - that is to say, problems of food and hunger throughout the world. It is for these reasons that on behalf of the IFAD Preparatory Commission I wish to thank all the Members of the Council for this support and the spirit of cooperation which they have shown.

The meeting of the Governing Board, which will be in December, is part of this framework of technical cooperation, and I am proud to see that all countries are competing in their efforts to consolidate the fund, not only in material terms but also morally speaking. I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Director-General and Chairman of the present Session.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I find myself in a very happy position now; consequent to this agreement there have to be a number of changes in the draft presented in REP/5. I propose that on page 2, paragraph 3, after the word "IFAD" in the second line, from the word "The" up to the end of it, be deleted. It is not now necessary. We can also delete paragraph 4 altogether because this is perhaps not now relevant. We can go over to paragraph 5 which can be re-numbered paragraph 4 and keep the first sentence up to "manner" and put a period in the second line: "The Council considered that it was important for the resources of FAO and IFAD to be used in the most effective manner." And then delete from "while" up to "other". Then pick up the sentence "The Council accordingly examined a number of formulae designed to define clearly the costs that would be reimbursed to FAO for the services it rendered to, and performed on behalf of, IFAD". Then the next sentence is deleted and we go over to paragraph 6 which will be renumbered paragraph 5, and delete the first sentence. Then we say: "After a lengthy debate the Council concluded that the word "additional" be accepted." Delete the rest of it and go on to paragraph 7 renumbered paragraph 6: "The Council observed", delete "in any case" and then "that all reimbursements would be based on specific agreements to be concluded between the parties." That would make the draft clear and simple, and I hope this will be acceptable to the Council.

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Chairman, Group of 77): I had expected to speak before the Rapporteur; the fact that I speak now allows me to agree with this proposal. However, although the applause we heard was quite significant in itself of our feelings here in relation to what we have just heard from the Director-General of FAO and from the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission of IFAD yet I think perhaps it is nevertheless appropriate for us "to stress, in the name of the Group of 77 our satisfaction

at noting the effective cooperation between IFAD and FAO which has existed from the beginning of the negotiation of the agreement, and that now that cooperation is still continuing and blossoming. We feel that this cooperation is essential. The Director-General of FAO referred to the emphasis on investment. We are now at a time of really bringing resources into practical action and practical application. It is therefore important that FAO and IFAD work together; it is important in the interests of developing countries and we could not be more happy to see it.

What we have just written is particularly positive and is another demonstration of cooperation when IFAD is just at the beginning of its official life. We already know that much work has been done and it could not be more positive an indication of the fruitful cooperation that will surely continue to be fruitful and positive for both Organizations. The single objective, after all, is to promote agricultural development in developing countries, and this single objective must determine our whole behaviour and all our initiatives in both Organizations. We in the Group of 77 are therefore particularly pleased to see that these particular issues which were discussed, on the relationship between IFAD and FAO, were able to find such a happy and such a satisfactory solution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que hay dos hechos que me permito señalarles. Primero que el señor Director General de la FAO ha declarado que acepta la terminología propuesta por la Comisión Preparatoria del FIDA, y que el señor Relator propuso las enmiendas que estaban dirigidas a eliminar aquellos aspectos que antes no habían permitido el acuerdo a que ahora vamos a llegar. En esas condiciones, pregunto a ustedes si estarían de acuerdo en que adoptásemos toda esta sección hasta el párrafo 10, para evitar mayores discusiones y conformar así nuestro acuerdo.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We are equally happy to note that the issue seems to have been settled, but could we get at least the wording of paragraph 5 again as it would stand now? I was not in a position to take a note of that and perhaps the Secretariat could kindly repeat slowly once again how it would stand.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): We are now repeating only the text of the new paragraph 5; you do not want all the deletions which you have understood. You delete the first sentence as it is now and start with the second sentence saying: "After a lengthy debate the Council concluded that the words" then you delete what is in the quotes and you put in " 'reimburse FAO for all direct and all additional indirect costs' should be used in the Agreement" and you delete the remainder of the paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entiendo que este sería el nuevo párrafo 5 que reemplaza al actual párrafo 6. ¿Satisface esto al colega de Alemania y a todos los miembros del Consejo? Adoptamos entonces en bloque esta sección. Quiero agradecer muy sinceramente al Embajador Al-Sudeary su cooperación y destaco ante el Consejo el hecho de que este acuerdo logrado entre el señor Director General de la FAO y el Presidente de la Comisión Preparatoria del FIDA confirma nuestra esperanza en que estas Organizaciones complementarán sus esfuerzos en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 TO 15, INCLUDING APPENDIX

LES PARAGRAPHES 11 A 15, Y COMPRIS L'ANNEXE

LOS PARRAFOS 11 A 15, INCLUIDO EL ANEXO

B. DE AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): I see that the footnote here which appears in relation to paragraph 14 does not seem to reflect precisely what transpired within the Drafting Committee. There was an observation that the reservations were relative to the whole context and not necessarily only to the new obligations and, as far as my recollections go from the Drafting Committee, we had agreed to

rephrase the footnote and make it in relation to the transmittal of the proposed amendments to the Conference. That was my recollection of what went on in the Drafting Committee: a rephrasing of the footnote so as to refer not only to the new obligations but to the proposed amendments in general, linked, of course, not to paragraph 14, but to paragraph 15. It is a minor question because I understand that only two delegations - Japan and Brazil - referred to this matter. I feel that the deliberations of the Drafting Committee in the way I have indicated constituted the correct approach to dealing with this matter.

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The footnote will read: "Two delegations, however, reserved their position". Delete "on the question of new obligations" and then continue: "until the matter was discussed in detail in the Conference". You will have it with paragraph 15.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Esto satisface a Brasil?

Adoptamos así los párrafos que habíamos leído y creo que con esto concluimos el REP/5.

Paragraphs 11 to 15, including Appendix, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 15, y compris l'Annexe, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 15, incluida el Anexo, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 5, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 5, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 6

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraphs 2 to 5, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 2 à 5, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 2 a 5, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 6 and 7 approved

Les paragraphes 6 et 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 y 7 son aprobados

Paragraph 8, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 8, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 8, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 9 and 10 approved

Les paragraphes 9 et 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 y 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

Paragraphs 12 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 14 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 6, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 6, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 1 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1 (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 8

PARAGRAPHE 8

PARRAFO 8

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): A compromised draft has been worked out and I would request the Secretary to read it out.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secretary, Drafting Committee): You will recall that it was in REP/1 paragraph 8 and it was the second sentence of that paragraph where two or three delegations were asked to work out a mutually acceptable wording. Since that wording has been worked out in English and in Spanish, in two equivalent texts we shall now read out, first the English text as agreed, and then the equivalent Spanish text as agreed, so that it is quite clear in English. Paragraph 8, the sentence starting on the fourth line: "The Council requested the Director-General to complete" instead of "further develop", "to complete the option arrangements in cooperation with the interested parties to facilitate their implementation" - "their" because now you have "arrangements" - "to facilitate their implementation once the commitments" and then it goes on without change to the end of the paragraph. This is the wording in English and we shall now give you the equivalent wording in Spanish. Continues in Spanish.

En español el texto equivalente sería, tal y como se ha acordado, el siguiente: "El Consejo pidió al Director General que finalice los arreglos relativos a las opciones en cooperación con las partes interesadas para facilitar su aplicación una vez que se hayan obtenido..." y sigue la oración hasta el final del párrafo sin ningún otro cambio.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que ahora todos los miembros del Consejo estén de acuerdo con este nuevo texto en todos los idiomas.

¿Alguna observación para el párrafo 8?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Just to place on record that it was not a compromise, it was an improvement in the text suggested by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee!

S.S. MAHDI (India): I am very happy that a compromise has been arrived at between Mexico and the United Kingdom. It is a measure of their maturity, but I am a little foggy at this hour of the evening and I would just like an explanation, it is not a criticism or objection, to point out why "the option proposal" has been substituted by "option arrangements". Maybe Mexico can provide this clarification, maybe the United Kingdom.



A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Well, if I may, perhaps on behalf of both the United Kingdom and Mexico, because we were closely involved in this, it is simply to leave it a little wider. The point is that the thing is not cut and dried. Perhaps my Mexican friend could care to add his comment.

S.S. MAHDI (India): As you know, I am not a great one at semantics and I do not want to prolong the discussion if it is a question only of words. I am very grateful for the explanation which has been given and we accept this compromise in the hope that the implementation of this option proposal or option arrangement, whatever it is, will be expedited.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a todos por su cooperación para arreglar este asunto.

Paragraph 8, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 8, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 1, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 1, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 7

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 4 to 9, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 4 à 9, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 4 a 9, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Il s'agit d'un tout petit détail. Dans le texte français, à la troisième ligne, on parle de "pertes après récoltes d'aliments".

A mon avis, en français, on ne récolte pas les aliments. Je pense qu'il vaudrait mieux supprimer purement et simplement ce membre de phrase, et l'on dirait "pertes après récoltes".

A. SOLE-LERIS (Secrétaire, Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit surtout d'une question de rédaction en français. Il y a là une idée qui est importante parce qu'on parle de pertes d'aliments de base. Si l'on pouvait dire "...les pertes d'aliments de base après récoltes", ce serait peut-être acceptable et cela n'entraînerait aucun changement dans les deux autres langues.

L. LAPEBY (Gabon): Je préférerais "produits de base" plutôt qu' "aliments de base" parce que l'aliment suppose une préparation.

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que el término exacto en castellano sería: productos alimentarios. ¿Esto satisfaría a Gabon? Sobre los párrafos 6 y 7 ¿algún comentario?

Pasamos a los párrafos 8 y 9, el 9 contiene un proyecto de resolución.

Paragraphs 4 to 9, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 4 à 9, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 a 9, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 12

PARAGRAPHE 12

PARRAFO 12

Sra. G. RIVERA MARIN DE ITURBE (México): Solamente para una cuestión de redacción en castellano. La segunda línea después del año 1977, diciembre de 1977, en mi versión en castellano dice: "y también el jueves 1 de diciembre de 1977". Nosotros creemos que debe decir: "o bien el jueves 1 de diciembre de 1977".

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que la versión española se corregirá adecuadamente. Se trata de expresar la idea que ha expuesto la Embajadora: el viernes 2 de diciembre o el jueves 1 de diciembre.

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 to 15 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 15 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 15 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 7, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 7, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 7, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 8

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8

Paragraphs 1 to 3, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 3, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 3, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 4 TO 16, INCLUDING APPENDIX  
LES PARAGRAPHES 4 à 16, Y COMPRIS L'ANNEXE  
LOS PARRAFOS 4 a 16, INCLUIDO EL APENDICE

Q.H. HAQUE (Chairman, Drafting Committee): On item 16, from paragraph 4 on page 4 up to paragraph 8, there is a statement of the history and recommendations of the CCLM. Just to help the delegates, the discussions in the Council are reflected from paragraph 9 onwards, so paragraph 4 on page 4 up to paragraph 8 on page 6 are the recommendations of the CCLM and the background. The discussion is reflected from paragraph 9 onwards.

Mr. Chairman, you can take paragraph 9 onwards.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el tema 16 entiendo que no hay inconveniente en que adoptemos los párrafos 4, 5, 6 y 7. Quedan adoptados. Párrafos 8 y 9. Quedan adoptados. Párrafo 10. Queda adoptado. Párrafos 11 y 12. Quedan adoptados. Párrafos 13 y 14. Quedan adoptados. Párrafos 15 y 16. Quedan adoptados con el Apéndice y creo que así hemos terminado la discusión del Proyecto de Informe.

Paragraphs 4 to 16, including Appendix, approved  
Les paragraphes 4 à 16, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 4 a 16, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 8, was adopted  
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 8, est adoptée  
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 8, es aprobado

AWARD TO G. BULA HOYOS, INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, OF THE  
DECORATION "GRAND'UFFICIALE DELL'ORDINE DEL MERITO DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA"  
ATTRIBUTION A G. BULA HOYOS, PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL, DE LA DECORATION  
"GRAND'UFFICIALE DELL'ORDINE AL MERITO DELLA REPUBBLICA ITALIANA"  
CONCESION A G. BULA HOYOS PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO, DE LA  
CONDECORACION "GRAND' UFFICIALE DELL'ORDINE AL MERITO DELLA REPUBBLICA  
ITALIANA"

O. BORIN (Italie): Dans l'antiquité, Monsieur le Président, Rome couronnait ceux qui s'appelaient alors citoyens du monde, qui avaient illustré leur vie au service de la République, avec le laurier du Capitole. N'oublions pas que le mot République, comme le dit le mot latin Rex Publica dont il dérive, signifiait la chose commune, les biens communs, la communauté.

Les temps, depuis lors, ont évolué, mais l'esprit en est resté et dans cet esprit l'Italie, sans faire aucune distinction entre ses ressortissants et les étrangers, a institué l'ordre au mérite pour honorer ceux qui ont bien mérité de la République dans leurs activités, c'est-à-dire de ces biens inestimables que sont la Communauté nationale ou internationale.

C'est donc à ce titre que le Chef de l'Etat italien, en signe de reconnaissance pour votre activité internationale, vous a décerné la croix de Grand Officier de l'Ordre, et je suis fier aujourd'hui, au moment où vous achevez votre mandat quadriennal comme Président du Conseil, de vous en remettre la décoration, en présence de tous les représentants de ses Etats membres.

Je suis sûr que dans ce geste tous voudront se reconnaître et s'associer puisque vous n'êtes pas seulement un citoyen de la République colombienne, vous n'appartenez pas seulement à la grande famille latino-américaine, mais vous êtes devenu par votre dévouement à l'activité internationale un citoyen du monde et un grand serviteur de la communauté de tous nos Etats.

En effet, Monsieur le Président, votre charge, vos fonctions, vous les avez toujours interprétées et appliquées comme idée de service.

Vous avez été en réalité le grand serviteur du Conseil et c'est là votre grand titre de mérite.

Vous n'avez pas simplement présidé nos débats, vous les avez efficacement dirigés, vous avez répondu avec patience à toutes nos requêtes d'informations, vous avez résumé avec un grand équilibre et une grande sagesse nos discussions, parfois passionnées, et vous avez toujours su éviter toute confrontation directe entre positions différentes en indiquant la voix de la raison.

Dans la mesure où nous pouvons nous féliciter du travail accompli par le Conseil, le mérite n'en revient qu'à vous.

Mais si nous admirons le Président que vous avez été, si nous vous sommes reconnaissants pour vos efforts, nous ne saurions pas taire aussi vos éminentes qualités personnelles, votre chaleur humaine, votre esprit d'amitié et de coopération, votre sensibilité, votre loyauté, et ce sont là d'autres motifs de gratitude et non des moindres. L'Italie est le pays hôte de la FAO et nous sommes très honorés d'être le Siège d'une Organisation à laquelle nous sommes liés par des liens de coopération, de sympathie et d'appréciation pour ses finalités et son activité, ainsi que d'estime pour l'œuvre si efficace de son Directeur général.

En vous décernant aujourd'hui, au nom du Président de la République italienne, cette décoration, nous voulons donc rendre hommage, à travers vous, à l'Organisation tout entière que vous avez servie avec tant de passion et de dévouement, et à tous ses Etats membres.

C'est dans cet esprit que je vous remet et que je vous prie d'accepter, Monsieur le Président, la Croix de Grand Officier de l'Ordre au mérite de la République.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Italia es el nombre que viene ahora a mi mente. ¡Cuán grata significación tiene para mí este lindo país! A principios de 1959 llegué a Roma, sede de mi primer cargo diplomático que desempeñé por siete años. Aquí me vinculé a la FAO, peldaño por peldaño hice la carrera que me llevo hasta la posición que voy a dejar dentro de pocos días. Mi admiración y simpatía por Italia y sus gentes la materialicé en el matrimonio con una dama italiana. Todos esos sentimientos se fortalecen esta tarde al recibir esta distinción, sobre la cual deseo destacar dos aspectos fundamentales: primero, proviene de Italia, esta gran nación, a la que me ligan tantos nexos de afecto y simpatía; y segundo, esta condecoración me ha sido ofrecida por Ottorino Borín, amigo fraterno a quien quiero entrañablemente y dignísimo Embajador que tanto ha hecho por estrechar las relaciones de cooperación entre el Gobierno Italiano y la FAO.

Querido Ottorino. Mil y mil gracias; mi conmovido reconocimiento al Gobierno y al pueblo italiano y a tí en particular. La insignia que he recibido esta tarde será otro motivo para que nunca olvide a Italia; la llevaré siempre muy dentro de mi corazón, en el fondo de mi alma y el recuerdo vivo y permanente de Italia lo tendré siempre a mi lado en la mujer italiana que escogió como compañera de mi vida y en la hija que ella me ha dado. Gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, bien que nos débats aient duré plus longtemps que prévu, je note sans surprise, mais avec satisfaction, que vous nous avez, une fois de plus, conduits à bon port.

Je ne pense pas, d'ailleurs, qu'il faille considérer le fait que votre session se soit prolongée comme signifiant que vos travaux aient été moins fructueux qu'à l'ordinaire. Tout au contraire, il me semble qu'il faut voir là une réflexion de l'importance des sujets que vous avez traités, ainsi que la marque du sérieux avec lequel votre Conseil aborde ses hautes fonctions.

Même s'il y a eu certains points, de première importance parfois, sur lesquels il ne vous a pas été possible d'arriver à un accord complet, je suis certain, néanmoins, que le sérieux avec lequel ils ont été abordés facilitera grandement leur considération par la Conférence.

Votre désir de conduire vos débats dans un esprit constructif, évitant toute confrontation inutile, a été illustré par la constitution du Groupe de contact avec lequel j'ai eu le plaisir d'avoir plusieurs discussions approfondies. Même si, en dépit de ces efforts, l'unanimité n'a pas encore été faite sur tous les points, je voudrais, néanmoins, vous redire ma conviction que vos travaux permettront à notre Conférence d'arriver, une fois de plus, à des décisions unanimes sur les plus importants des points qui lui sont soumis.

Finalmente, je ne saurais conclure, Monsieur le Président, sans vous redire combien j'ai apprécié la façon magistrale dont vous avez dirigé les débats, non seulement de cette session du Conseil, mais aussi de toutes celles qui, au cours des quatre dernières années, ont bénéficié de votre présence. La FAO n'oubliera pas la contribution déterminante que vous avez apportée à ses travaux et à son rayonnement !

Je voudrais aussi féliciter à nouveau les deux Vice-Présidents et le Président du Comité de rédaction qui vous ont secondé dans votre tâche. En les désignant, votre Conseil a voulu honorer les pays qu'ils représentent, mais il est certain qu'il a voulu aussi marquer la grande estime qu'il porte justement à des personnalités de premier plan, qui ont toujours apporté une contribution marquante à ses débats.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, chers Amis, je vous remercie très sincèrement de la compréhension et de l'appui que vous m'avez apportés une fois encore. Vos avis et votre confiance me seront précieux pour mener à bien ma lourde tâche.

Je vous donne rendez-vous à la Conférence pour terminer, dans le même esprit constructif, le travail que vous avez si bien commencé, pour le plus grand bénéfice de nos frères les plus déshérités.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos así llegado al final de este período de sesiones y para mí ahora sí es el verdadero final.

Deseo agradecer muy de veras a usted, señor Director General las frases generosas y reiteradas con que usted ha reconocido la labor que yo he desempeñado como Presidente del Consejo. Mil y mil gracias.

Quiero agradecer, en primer lugar, a la distinguida Embajadora de México y a mi colega y amigo de Bakker, de Países Bajos, su colaboración como Vicepresidentes. Al señor Haque su labor como Presidente del Comité de Redacción, así como a los miembros de ese Comité, que trabajaron ellos intensamente y han facilitado los trabajos; mil y mil gracias.

Realmente agradezco al Dr. Philipps, Presidente del Comité de este Programa; al señor Bel Hadj Amor, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas; al amigo y Embajador Borin, Presidente del CACJ; y al colega y amigo Virgilio Blanco Delgado, Presidente de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, su colaboración en la presentación de los Informes que discutimos.

Deseo en particular espresar igualmente, con su venia, señor Director General, mi reconocimiento a aquellos funcionarios de la Organización que tanto me han ayudado en mis tareas; al señor Jackson, quien ha sido el permanente compañero mío aquí en la mesa del Consejo y cuyos méritos he apreciado siempre muchísimo; a los colegas y amigos de Caprona, Tedesco, Solé Leris, Linley, Burroughs y a todos aquellos que han estado más cerca de mí durante los últimos cuatro años.

Permítame que haga mención especial de mi Secretaria, Constanza Iannicelli Boschetti, diminuta, sencilla, discreta, silenciosa y al mismo tiempo inteligente, eficaz y competente. Gracias.

También a los intérpretes y a todos quienes han hecho posible el buen cumplimiento de nuestros trabajos. A Vera Capitani, que ha alegrado y facilitado nuestras reuniones con el despliegue de lindas, simpáticas y eficientes mensajeras.

Los últimos cuatro años me han permitido confirmar la importancia que tiene el Consejo de la FAO en la actividades de nuestra Organización. Este organismo, eminentemente político, traza las primeras directrices y señala las orientaciones fundamentales que la Conferencia consagra como decisiones definitivas. Para mí fue una afortunada coincidencia el hecho de que el último bienio del mandato haya coincidido con el primer bienio de usted, doctor Saouma, como Director General de la FAO.

Desde el primer momento, por delegación de la Conferencia, correspondió a este Consejo estudiar las propuestas del Director General sobre la revisión de la política, los programas y la estructura de nuestra Organización. El unánime apoyo que el Consejo ofreció a los planes del Dr. Saouma, constituyeron una base sólida de importante respaldo político, que ha estimulado la progresiva transformación de la FAO, por la cual muchos veníamos clamando.

Al deja este sitio, mi mejor deseo, mi voto más sincero, es el de que los representantes de los Gobiernos continúen apoyando la magnífica tarea que viene realizando el Director General de la FAO, a fin de que se consoliden los cambios necesarios en la vida de esta Organización para beneficio de todos los Estados Miembros, y particularmente de aquéllos en vías de desarrollo.

Como Presidente, he tratado siempre de abstenerme de hacer referencias personales. Sin embargo, permítanme que ahora les agradezca profundamente a todos ustedes, como colegas y amigos, el apoyo, la colaboración, la asistencia, las críticas que he recibido de ustedes en el plano personal de la amistad, todo lo cual constituyó cada vez, la mejor base de mis actuaciones. En momentos difíciles me acerque siempre a cada uno de ustedes; encontré comprensión y tolerancia que me ayudaron muchísimo.

Por todo ello, quiero hoy hacer esta evocación de mis personales recuerdos porque considero que la amistad y simpatía que me unieron a todos ustedes, colegas y amigos, ha sido base fundamental de la manera como yo he presidido el Consejo.

Al margen de los aspectos oficiales de mi labor, cuántos buenos amigos y cuán gratos recuerdos yo tengo y conservaré siempre.

Mis últimas palabras, quiero dirigirlas aún en mi condición de Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a usted, doctor Saouma, para reiterarle mi agradecimiento por su cooperación y transmitirle mis más fervientes votos por la exitosa continuación de su magnífica labor como Director General, con la esperanza de que nuestra Organización trabaje cada vez mejor y más eficientemente.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

B. de AZEVEDO BRITO (Brazil): It is quite clear that during the few days of this week this Council has once more approved its ability to cope with the very important questions in preparation for the Conference. We feel that the Council has done its work well. It has proved an efficient body.

Sometimes one has doubts when seeing the debates, but it is in fact the debates which produce in the dialogue the necessary consensus and the necessary agreements. We feel the Council has performed its functions well.

We in developing countries are extremely grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for the manner in which you have conducted our work. We will expand this appreciation in the proper time in the Conference. At this stage perhaps it is useful, however, since it is the last session which you are chairing, to indicate our appreciation of the wisdom, the patience, and the ability you have shown. You have shown tremendous respect for the virtues of debate, and this Council is the meeting point of minds. Debate is necessary, and your patience in allowing us to take the floor and hearing us until the time has come for the consensus to emerge is very important and we very much appreciate your consideration. You have given us the floor time and again, knowing that sometimes it is not very easy to crystallize positions on which agreement can be formed.

We are approaching a session of Conference of the greatest importance, since the nature and re-orientation of the programme is taking shape. It is the first programme presented in its entirety by Dr. Saouma as the Director-General.

We feel a new orientation of great importance for developing countries is taking place, with fair and practical action in the development of the area of agricultural production and food production. We feel, Mr. Chairman, you made a great contribution to the success of this session, and therefore we would like to express once again here our feelings and of course our best wishes for you in the future - you and your family.

We heard many tributes and many words, we witnessed the very touching ceremony moments ago in which Ambassador Borin gave you a high decoration from the Italian Government. We fully understand this general feeling of appreciation for your work, and the Council will shortly go into history in acknowledging the high services you rendered to the Conference, the Council, the Organization, and the developing countries in our cause of promoting development in the world. I thank you very much, Sir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Mil y mil gracias de nuevo a todos ustedes, y hasta mañana en la Conferencia.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas