

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 75/PV

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75º período de sesiones

Rome, 11-22 June 1979

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL
PROCES-VERBAUX DES SEANCES DU CONSEIL
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DEL CONSEJO**

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18ª SESION PLENARIA
(22 June 1979)

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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 75/PV/1

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(11 June 1979)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours,

B. shaib. Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

de B. shaib président indépendant du Conseil

/?/ planaria a lae 10.13 horae bajo là presidenciaaili /?/ ./?/ /?/ Independiente a las /?/ /?/

I INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

I INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

CHAIRMAN: Honoxirable Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to welcome you to our Seventy-Fifth Session which is starting this morning.

Before we proceed with our business, I would like to say that this is the most important session that the Council ever had in a biennium because during this session we are going to consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget prepared by the Director-General in accordance with the wishes of the Council and Conference, and as you will agree with me the whole purpose of the existence of FAO is for the Programme, and the Programme will have to be financed by the Budget and therefore this is a very important session for which I am very glad to see we have a very full house and I am sure that when we come to debate the Programme of Work and Budget there will be a lot of understanding because we have already seen in the Programme and Finance Committees, COAG and so on, the very good response that the Members have given to the Director-General's proposals.

Before we go on I would also like to welcome Dr. Sen who is again with us here to grace the opening of our Seventy-Fifth Session. I would like to thank him very much for the continuing interest which he has shown in this Organization of which he can be very well said to be one of the founders.

Now we will go on to the Order of the Day and proceed with our business this morning. The first item we have is Adoption of the Agenda and Time-Table but perhaps before that I should welcome the new Members who are joining us and also those Members who have been re-elected to continue. These are sixteen member countries who are joining the Council at this Session, that is they came in as from the 1st of January 1979. These countries are Australia, Botswana, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Kuwait, Madagascar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Of these 16 Members 8 are joining the Council after prolonged absence and I wish to welcome those countries who have joined us now.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

CHAIRMAN: In connexion with this item, I have been informed by the Secretariat that Item 16.2, Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend the FAO Session, there is nothing to report on this, and therefore there is no document. We would like also to insert a new item, 16.2, which is Appointment of Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. This item will be for decision and the relevant document is CL 75/19. This item was not included in the original agenda, but due to circumstances explained in the document it has become necessary for the Council to appoint new Members to this Committee. Unless there are any objections it will be considered that the Council approved the item instead of the previous 16.2 to be discussed towards the end of the Session in order to allow for consultations.

There is nothing else to add from the Secretariat and the Chair, and I will therefore put to the Council the Adoption of the Agenda and Time-Table. In the absence of any Member wishing to speak I take it that the Agenda and Time-Table are acceptable and adopted.

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

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

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

M.S. SWAMINATHAN (India): I would like to propose His Excellency Mr. José Leido, Junior, Minister of Natural Resources of the Phillipines for one of the Vice-Chairmen.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that will be supported but before we go on with this I would like to make some proposals' from the Chair, which we have done before. In paragraph 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, it says: "The Council shall elect First Vice-Chairman and Second Vice-Chairman at the beginning of the Session." As Members are aware, this rule was adopted at a time when the Council was considerably smaller in number than at present, in fact the membership at the time was about 18, but today we have grown to 49. In line with this increased membership I would therefore propose that a provision be made for a third Vice-Chairman, or let us put it this way, perhaps we need proposals for the election of three Vice-Chairmen instead of two in future in order better to take into account regional representation and the increased number of membership of the Council.

Now if you remember, at our last Session we suspended this particular rule to make it possible for us to do honour to Mr. Frank Shefrin who had served the Council over many years and we elected him a Vice-Chairman, making three. My proposal is that we should adopt a similar situation and amend the rule itself. I would like before any discussion to ask the Legal Counsel to say a few words on this.

LEGAL COUNSEL: You have very well explained the situation by citing Rule 1, which with your permission I shall read out in toto. It reads as follows: "The Council shall elect a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman at the beginning of each of its sessions, who shall remain in office until the election of a new Vice-Chairman at the next session of the Council." If it is the wish of the Council from now on to have three instead of two Vice-Chairmen the amendment that the Council would have to adopt for this purpose would consist of the insertion of "and a third Vice-Chairman" in the text which I have just read out. Once this amendment is approved by the Council, the Council may immediately proceed with the election of three Vice-Chairmen.

CHAIRMAN: There are some speakers who want the floor and I hope to speak on this proposal from the chair so that we get this settled before we go on.

F.GEBRASI (Venezuela) : Ante todo permítame, señor Presidente, expresarle el placer de nuestra delegación por verlo de nuevo al frente de nuestros trabajos.

Hemos escuchado con atención las razones y motivos que usted, señor Presidente, nos ha expuesto para proponernos el incremento del número de Vicepresidentes, inolufda la explicación adicional del Asesor Jurfdioo. He pedido la palabra para expresar nuestro apoyo a esta iniciativa suya que se corresponde con el incremento mismo que sugería el número de miembros del Consejo

P.A. MORALES CARSALLO (Cuba): Permítame seftor Presidente en primer lugar, saludarlo por tenerlo nuevamente presidiando nuestras reuniones Es para nosotros un honor verlo aquí. En pocas palabras creo que podemos expresar el sentir de nuestra delegación en el sentido de que estamos plenamente convencidos de que ha llegado el momento de hacer la ampliación que se propone de elevar a tres el número de Vicepresidentes del Consejo de la FAO, tomando en consideración la argumentación ya manifestada aquí por el Asesor Jurídico y teniendo presente que el número actual de miembros del Consejo es bastante elevado. Por estas razones nuestra delegación desee apoyar decididamente esa ampliación que aquí se propone.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais simplement me joindre á ce /?/ me paraît en effet qu'étant donné l'augmentation des effectifs du Conseil depuis ses débuts, il serait maintenant tout 1 fait normal et logique d'avoir trois vice-présidents. J'appuie donc'entièrement /?/ proposition. J'aurai d'ailleurs ensuite 1 en faire une autre en ce qui concerne les vice-présidences.

J. À. BAKER (United States of America): I would like to say how pleased I am to see you again chairing our sessions. I note the proposal that you have made, which has been seconded by members of this Council. It seems that there certainly are arguments for increasing the number of Vice-Chairmen. We did so, as you pointed out, at the previous meeting. I certainly see no reason why we should not do so at this meeting should we see fit. While having no serious difficulty with your proposal, Mr. Chairman, I do wish to observe that when we come to changing the rules of the Council it would seem prudent as a matter of practice to give the members of the Council a little more time for reflection than we have been given on this occasion. I think our rules deserve that and we deserve that. I would not wish that observation to interfere with the progress of this proposal on your part, but I would like to make that observation simply as a matter of practice.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The points you have made are well taken.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Je ne voudrais pas prolonger trop longtemps ce débat, mais je tiens à dire que ma délégation appuie la proposition que vous avez faite pour que le Règlement du Conseil soit amendé de manière à avoir trois vice-présidents.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo deseo apoyar las observaciones hechas por el colega de los Estados Unidos. Creo que conviene ahora en este período de sesiones suspender el artículo para poder elegir los tres Vicepresidentes y luego que el Consejo pida a su Órgano Asesor, el CACJ, que le presente un proyecto de enmienda para adoptarlo en nuestro próximo período de sesiones.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you delegate of Colombia, but we did seek the guidance of the Legal Counsel. If you do not have any objection and since our rules do allow us to go ahead now I suggest that we do so, because the great majority of members did agree; it is agreed really. So if you have no objection we shall go ahead now and proceed with the rest of the agenda.

The consensus is that we go ahead and we elect three Vice-Chairmen now and the rules will be changed accordingly and the legal adviser will do the necessary work. In connection with this item the delegate of India made a proposal. I would like to call him, now that we are coming formally to nominations, to make his proposal again.

M. S. SWAMINATHAN (India): I would like to propose H.E. José Laido Jr., Minister of Natural Resources of the Philippines for the position of First Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: A proposal has been made that the Minister of Natural Resources of the Philippines be elected First Vice-Chairman. Are there any objections to that?

C. McCLAIN (Liberia): I do support the nomination.

J. G. KHARAS (Pakistan): I would like to support wholeheartedly the proposal made by the delegate of India of the Minister of Natural Resources of the Philippines as the First Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Now we have proposals which have been supported by two delegates. May I take it that we elect by acclamation the Minister of Natural Resources of the Philippines as First Vice-Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I now call for nominations for the Second Vice-Chairman?

V. S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Es un placer para mi delegación el proponer para la segunda Vicepresidencia al Embajador de Arabia Saudita, nuestro amigo el señor A. Y. Bukhari. Un individuo que en realidad ha representado a su país con una gran dignidad en esta FAO. Reúne unas cualidades poco comunes entre los representantes ya que, además de ser uno de sus técnicos mejor preparados, es persona que conoce el manejo de los asuntos políticos de esta Institución. Es un orgullo y un placer para nosotros poderlo presentar a la Vicepresidencia.

CHAIRMAN: We now have a proposal for the delegate of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Bukhari as the Second Vice-Chairman.

E. HRAÏUI (Liban) - (Interprétation de l'arabe): Je voudrais remercier la délégation du Mexique d'avoir présenté la candidature de l'ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite. c'est un honneur pour le groupe arabe. En appuyant cette candidature, je voudrais dire que le groupe arabe est très fier de voir que l'ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite le représentera en tant que vice-président.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Permítame, señor Presidente, sumarme a la propuesta hecha por el distinguido delegado de México en favor del embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, conocido representante que ha mostrado una gran actividad en nuestros trabajos, que presta extraordinaria atención a los problemas de la FAO y que nosotros estamos seguros de que su eficiencia, ya conocida entre nosotros, se repetirá durante su trabajo en el Consejo. Por eso con mucho placer deseamos reiterar ese apoyo a la candidatura del embajador Bukhari.

J.J. LEIDO Jr. (Philippines): I have the honour to second the nomination of Mexico in favour of H.E. Dr. Bukhari for election as Second Vice-Chairman.

O. BORIN (Italie): Je suis heureux d'appuyer la proposition de notre ami du Liban pour nommer M. Bukhari à la deuxième Vice-Présidence du Conseil. Je le connais depuis longtemps. Nous avons été ensemble membres du Conseil d'administration du FIDA, et j'ai pu apprécier ses qualités de finesse d'esprit, de préparation et de subtilité. Je suis donc heureux d'appuyer cette proposition.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Au nom du groupe africain et au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais appuyer très chaleureusement la candidature de M. Bukhari à la deuxième Vice-Présidence du Conseil. Ce n'est pas parce qu'il siège à côté de moi que je lui donne cet appui, mais nous connaissons tous maintenant M. Bukhari. Nous savons l'intérêt qu'il a toujours pris à nos travaux et sa disponibilité envers l'organisation.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais également appuyer la candidature de M. Bukhari le distingué représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite, comme Vice-Président.

J'ai également une proposition à faire pour l'autre Vice-Présidence. Si vous le voulez, je la ferai aussitôt que nous en aurons fini avec l'élection du deuxième Vice-Président.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaïre): Il y a déjà quelques minutes que j'ai demandé la parole, mais je suis petit de taille, ma pancarte est également petite et on ne m'a pas vu. Je voulais simplement, au nom de mon pays, appuyer la candidature du délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite au poste de deuxième Vice-Président.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your support.

J.G. KHARAS (Pakistan): On behalf of Pakistan I also would like to lend our wholehearted support to the representative of Saudi Arabia for Second Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: We now have proposals seconded by several delegates to elect the delegate of Saudi Arabia as Second Vice-Chairman. May I take it that we elect Mr. Bukhari by acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The next step is the election of the Third Vice-Chairman.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación se felicita por la elección que acabamos de efectuar del primero y segundo Vicepresidentes y también por la decisión que tomamos hace pocos minutos de ampliar el número de Vicepresidentes.

Ahora bien, dado el caso de que estos puestos son de gran importancia y relevancia para los trabajos del Consejo, y a pesar de que en dos oportunidades mi querido amigo el embajador Batault anuncio que tendría una propuesta para la tercera Vicepresidencia, quisiera solicitarle muy respetuosamente que consideramos oportuno se hagan las consultas del caso y que se suspenda hasta la tarde la elección del tercer Vicepresidente.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal that is made is rather unusual in the context of Council, but the delegate of Venezuela has made a proposal as to whether we should go ahead now and elect the Third Vice-Chairman or whether we should postpone it until the afternoon.

C. BATAULT (France): Il m'arrive très rarement de ne pas être d'accord avec mon ami l'ambassadeur du Venezuela, mais je trouve que ce serait vraiment compliquer nos débats et sans précédent. Puisque nous avons décidé d'avoir un troisième Vice-Président, puisque l'élection du Vice-Président doit se faire au début du Conseil, nous ne pouvons pas faire autrement qu'élire ce troisième Vice-Président.

J'ai donc une proposition à faire à propos d'une candidature. J'espère qu'elle sera acceptée,

G.S. MAGOMBE (Tanzania): As a matter of fact, before we postpone or elect, could we hear the proposal from France? It is only after that that we can decide whether to postpone it or not.

FASLA ABDELMARJID (Algérie): Je dois tout d'abord vous dire combien ma délégation est heureuse de vous voir de nouveau à la Présidence.

Il est certain que si le problème de la troisième Vice-Présidence avait été réglé d'une manière

définitive lors du dernier Conseil, on aurait pu trancher. Mais cette troisième Vice-Présidence a

été proposée de manière formelle seulement aujourd'hui. Nous n'avons pas adopté l'amendement du règlement intérieur concernant cette troisième Vice-Présidence.

Il est tout à fait légitime qu'on laisse le soin aux délégations qui ont des propositions à faire de procéder à des consultations, sinon nous allons nous trouver devant deux ou trois candidatures. Il est préférable de régler cette question à l'amiable entre les groupes intéressés. C'est la voie de la sagesse. Autrement, il y aura une proposition de la France, il y aura peut-être une proposition du Venezuela, comment allons-nous trancher? Il vaut mieux laisser le soin aux régions intéressées de se consulter. C'est une pratique qui existe au niveau du système des Nations Unies. On n'est pas obligé d'élire dès la première séance tous les Vice-Présidents. Je pense que cet après-midi nous pourrions avoir un résultat, sinon demain matin.

C. BATAULT (France): Je suis très heureux de prendre la parole mais je voudrais savoir pourquoi je prends la parole.

Est-ce que nous acceptons la proposition que vient de faire avec talent le délégué de l'Algérie qui évidemment propose une argumentation logique, ou devons-nous simplement suivre la procédure habituelle qui consisterait à procéder dès maintenant à l'élection du troisième Vice-Président?

Si vous pensez qu'il y a des difficultés pour l'élection de ce troisième Vice-Président, ce a quoi je ne m'attendais pas du tout, et des candidatures imprévues, peut-être aurions-nous avantage à attendre un peu. Je ne peux qu'à m'en remettre à votre sagesse, Monsieur le Président. Si vous le souhaitez, je ferai ma proposition de candidature d'une personnalité qui est appréciée par tous. Si au contraire vous souhaitez que l'on remette cette question à plus tard, comme le souhaite le délégué de l'Algérie, je serai prêt à accepter votre décision.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya la declaración de Venezuela y Argelia.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no contrary opinions or objections, then we will defer the election of the Third Vice-Chairman to the afternoon, in which case, then, first thing in the afternoon we shall elect the Third Vice-Chairman.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (Interpretation from Arabic): Before going to Item 3, I wanted to first thank the Members of the Council who have proposed my candidature as second Vice-Chairman of the Council and to thank those who have supported this candidature. I really wanted to thank them wholeheartedly, together with everyone else present in this room this morning. I want to thank everybody for this sincere trust that has been placed in me in electing me as second Vice-Chairman of the Council. I would also like to say that this honour that has been put on me is something that goes beyond myself; this is an honour that is being given to Saudi Arabia that I have the honour to represent in this Organization.

In the past, we have worked together in various fields in different Committees in this Organization that is so dear to us. I have also appreciated your fairness and your wisdom, and I am sure that our cooperation will be strengthened to the benefit of public well-being.

Mr. Chairman, through you I will address myself to all the colleagues present in this room this morning, and I would like to really urge them to always be united so as to approve all the programmes and projects that will be presented to the Director-General of this Organization. We all know how well he reflects upon matters and how far-sighted he is. We should really be with him in supporting him in the adoption of the programmes and projects he carries out for the benefit of other countries. We have to be united for the benefit of countries that want to have a better development.

I would also like to thank all the Members of the Council who have put this trust in me. I can promise you that I will spare no efforts so as to deserve this trust that has been put in me.

J.J. LEIDO, Jr. (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, allow me to express my profound gratitude for this distinct honour that this august body has conferred upon this representation.

The Agenda for the Session is fraught with importance. We will be discussing the programmes for the next two years and what will be needed to implement these programmes, the future of new initiatives and the continuation of current thrusts.

Please accept my most humble assurance that I will do my best to serve the purposes of this Council. Thank you very much.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

16. Any Other Business - Including:

16. Questions diverses, notamment:

16. Otros asuntos, en particular:

16.1. Application for Membership in the Organization - Independent State of Western Samoa

16.1. Demande d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'organisation - Etat indépendant du Samoa-Occidental

16.1. Solicitud de ingreso en la Organización - Estado Independiente de Samoa Occidental

CHAIRMAN: We have under this item application for Membership in the Organization of the Independent State of Western Samoa.

The Government of the Independent State of Western Samoa has applied for membership in the Organization. All Member Nations have been informed of this application, which will be submitted for decision to the Conference in November. In the meantime, in accordance with paragraphs (b) 1, (b) 2, and (b) 3 of the Statement of Principles relating to the granting of Observer Status to nations and with Rule 25.11 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Council may wish to authorize the Director-General to invite representatives of Samoa to attend in an Observer capacity meetings of the Council as well as the technical and regional meetings and other meetings of interest to it.

I wish to ask the Council whether, in the light of this text, the Council would agree that representatives of Samoa be invited to such meetings. Now, if there are no comments, perhaps I would take it that the Members agree, but now the point is put to you that the Director-General should invite the Government of Western Samoa as Observer to various meetings, including this one.

It is taken that the Members agree that Western Samoa be invited as Observer.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE~Tsuite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Exposé du Directeur général

3. Discurso del Director General

CHAIRMAN: We go on to the third item, which is the Statement by the Director-General, and I now give the floor to Dr. Edouard Saouma.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The main purpose of this session is to prepare the Twentieth Session of the Conference in November next.

Before beginning my remarks, however, the sad duty falls to me of noting the tragic death of someone who was a distinguished, accomplished and greatly liked participant in this Council. I refer to the late Jawed Salim Khan, who died suddenly on the evening of 27 April.

He was here representing the Government of Pakistan at the session of the Programme Committee, to which he was appointed in 1977. Previous to that he was Alternated Permanent Representative of the Government of Pakistan, and thus well-known to most of us for his ideals, his outstanding capabilities, his constructive approach, and his modest and friendly personality.

His death is a loss not only to his family and to his Government but also to the Organization. We shall miss him.

I would kindly ask you, Mr. Chairman, to request the Council to observe a minute of silence as a tribute to the memory of Jawed Salim Khan.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General. This tragedy which took place during the last meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee shocked everybody. Everyone knows Mr. Khan has served in his country with distinction and his sudden death was a great loss to his country and to this Organization. May I ask everyone in this room to observe one minute's silence in honour of Mr. Khan.

The Council observed one minute of silence in memory of Mr. Jawed Salim Khan.

T.e Conseil observe une minute de silence à la mémoire de M. Jawed Salim Khan.

El Consejo observa un minuto de silencio en memoria del Sr. Jawed Salim Khan.

CHAIRMAN: I will now ask the Director-General to continue.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: At your session last November, we carried out a full survey of the overall situation one year after the Nineteenth Session of the Conference.

Today I want to focus on a few issues of major importance for the next Conference and the next biennium.

First, however, I should mention that the Organization has recently been honoured by the visits of two Heads of State, the President of the Republic of Panama, and the King of the Belgians who was accompanied by his gracious Queen. Their knowledge of and interest in the work of the Organization was most gratifying.

WCAARD (World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development)

In this connexion, I am glad to inform you that several Heads of State are likely to be attending and addressing the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in July. I would mention the Presidents of the Republics of Italy, Senegal, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Costa Rica.

This attendance at the very highest levels not only symbolizes the importance of the World Conference. It will give it a significant policy impetus. And it will be an unprecedented recognition of this Organisation of which we can all be proud.

For, after all, the Conference is not an end in itself.

The Conference must concentrate on all that is conducive to bringing out the political will, self-reliance, and drive for equity within the developing countries themselves and the assistance which the international community and the UN system can and should give.

That is why it is important that the draft Programme of Action, which is now being revised in the light of comments by Member Governments, should be the main focus of the Conference.

The tasks of analysing and following up the proceedings of the Conference will constitute a particular challenge for the organizations of the UN family, especially FAO. The challenge will place a premium on achieving a blend of imagination, boldness, and practicability.

I guarantee that these qualities will be forthcoming from FAO, and this will be accomplished within the narrow margins of the modest total for Programme of Work and Budget for which I am asking for 1980-81. I will come back to this issue later.

World Food Security

There are other important Conference issues arising out of current action. Of primary importance will be World Food Security.

The Council has before it the Report of the Committee on World Food Security which met in April. As you will have noted, this contains a Five-Point Plan which I put forward to the Committee following the failure of the long drawn-out negotiations for an International Grains Arrangement and a new Food Aid Convention.

While a resumption of the United Nations Negotiating Conference as a new International Grains Arrangement is still to be hoped for, we must face the probability - recognized by Secretary Bergland of the United States Department of Agriculture and others - that no major developments in that direction can be expected in the next year or two.

This is implicit in the fact that the 1971 Wheat Agreement, which contains no provisions for stock building or price stability, has been extended in its present form for two years from 1 July 1979. The 1971 Food Aid Convention has also been further extended for two years, but with a recommendation that effect be given to the increased commitments which governments had been ready to envisage at the Negotiating Conference.

The failure of the Geneva negotiations represents a major blow to efforts to strengthen world food security. And it leaves a dangerous gap at a time when the stocks of developing countries will probably be about only 10 per cent of their annual consumption. In fact, imports of cereal by developing countries have jumped from 60 to 80 million tons since 1974, and I forecast they will have reached 100 million tons by 1985. We must not forget either that the world population increases by 72 million a year.

In these circumstances, I proposed to the Committee on World Food Security a Plan of Action which is focused on some of the most immediate food security problems, particularly of the low-income food deficit countries.

It has been unanimously adopted by the Committee which recommended it to you with a resolution for your approval.

The Plan consists of the following five basic points:

First, adoption of foodgrain stock policies by all governments which have subscribed to the International Undertaking on World Food Security;

Second, agreement on criteria for management and release of national stocks held in pursuance of the Undertaking;

Third, special measures to assist low income food deficit countries to meet current import requirements and emergency needs;

Fourth, special arrangements for Food Security Assistance to developing countries; and Fifth, promotion of collective self-reliance of developing countries in the vital sector of food security.

Food Aid

You also have before you the Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

The promotion of world food security is a major objective under the General Regulations of the World Food Programme. It is to be carried out by the Programme "in accordance with the recommendations made to it by the United Nations and the FAO".

Both parent organizations have now made specific recommendations to the World Food Programme on this subject in the last two months, the United Nations through the Committee-of-the-Whole established under General Assembly resolution 32/174, and FAO through the Committee on World Food Security.

The Committee on Food Aid has decided to review at its next session in October the role of food aid in strengthening the food security of developing countries.

I hope that Council will agree that positive steps should be taken toward an expanded role for the World Food Programme in this area. It is to be noted that the International Food Agreement which has been under discussion for 62 weeks in Geneva did not provide for a programme of financial and technical assistance for helping the developing countries to set up food security stocks.

Another important issue which both the United Nations Committee-of-the-Whole and the Committee on World Food Security have raised is the need to re-evaluate the annual food aid target of at least 10 million tons of cereals, taking into account the Secretariat estimate that food aid needs would be in the order of 15-16 million tons by 1985. The Committee will also consider this highly important policy issue at its next session.

The need for food aid is not urgent in emergency situations. Last year we experienced a large number of natural disasters. Requests for emergency assistance out-stripped the resources available to the World Food Programme.

The Programme nevertheless carried out 57 emergency operations - 50 percent more than in 1977. The International Emergency Food Reserve was exhausted in 1978 and an increase of US\$10 million in the allocation of World Food Programme resources for emergencies proved necessary.

It is, of course, not possible to forecast precisely the emergency assistance that might be required in 1979, but the FAO Food Information System is already giving an early warning of unfavourable crop conditions in 24 developing countries.

This is even more than the number of countries reported to have unfavourable crop conditions a year ago and underlines the significance of the Executive Director's views on the level of the resources available for emergency purposes.

At the forecast level, world wheat and coarse grain production would not be sufficient to meet consumption requirements in 1978/80, and the stocks would have to be drawn upon to meet the demand.

Particularly important is the question of contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve. This Reserve has now been established on a revolving basis. The United Nations Committee of the Whole and the Committee on World Food Security have stressed the need to ensure that the agreed target of 500 000 tons a year should be obtained in 1979. In fact, I fully agree with the Executive Director of the World Food Council who is recommending that this emergency reserve should grow up to 750 000 tons in the coming year.

The need for generous pledges cannot be overstressed, as a failure to meet even the most vital emergency needs would render the whole concept of world food security meaningless.

In speaking of emergency situations, I cannot fail to renew the appeal I made at the meeting of the Committee on Food Aid to save thousands of people in South East Asia suffering from hunger and starvation. I am referring to the food situation in Kampuchea, the "boat people" from Vietnam, and nationals of and displaced persons from Lao as well as Kampuchea. In mentioning these countries, I am fully aware of the political reactions which may arise. I am fully aware of the legal, logistical and security problems involved. But we are faced with a tragic human situation which we cannot ignore. We must put aside all but our sympathy and our humanitarian response. I therefore appeal to all potential donors and relief agencies for a major emergency effort, bilaterally and/or multilaterally, to help these people afflicted by suffering and impending tragedy.

Turning back to the World Food Programme in 1979 and 1980, it is a matter of great concern that the pledges announced for this period have so far reached only about 74 percent of the target of 950 million dollars.

I sincerely hope that new pledges by both traditional donors and new donors will soon make up this shortfall

So far as the biennium 1981-82 is concerned, I hope that the minimum - I repeat minimum - figure of 1 000 million dollars for 1981-82 which amounts to only a very slight increase, not even a real increase, will now be endorsed by you and the Economic and Social Council on the basis recommended by the CFA. Even more importantly, I hope that the contributions to meet the target will in fact be forthcoming,

Commission on Fertilizers

I have given particular attention to the questions of world food security and food aid, but there are, of course, also other important Committee Reports on your Agenda.

At this point, I will take the opportunity of referring to the report of the Commission on Fertilizers.

The question of fertilizers, and indeed of other inputs, has recently tended to recede into the background.

I am sure, therefore, that you will give full attention to the Report, which deals with the recommendations of the Consultative Working Group and reviews some important issues.

At this moment, I would mention only two points. The first is that the Commission urged donor countries to contribute fertilizers liberally to enable us to reactivate our International Fertilizer Supply Scheme primarily in favour of small farmers in MSA countries. The second is that the producers have now committed themselves to provide nearly 1/2 million tons of fertilizer materials for the implementation of the so-called Option System. This is broadly equivalent to \$100 million.

I am very glad that the industry has responded in this way and will now be taking the necessary steps to put the Option System in place. So far, however, there has not been any significant response to the appeal to reactivate the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. I hope that this will be forthcoming, since it is crucial to success in achieving necessary food production targets.

Restructuring

Before going on to the Committee on Agriculture and certain connected matters, I would like to refer briefly to another item under Section III of your Agenda, namely Item 9 on Inter-Agency Relations.

In early April I attended the meeting in Geneva of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. This was an important meeting because inter alia it dealt with some issues of crucial importance to the effective working of organizations in the UN system in the field.

The ACC had before it the results of a number of coordination meetings held in Geneva and New York during the past few months.

At the ACC, we achieved agreement on the letter of appointment of "the single official" at the country level envisaged in General Assembly Resolution No 32/197. This appointment constitutes a new element in the UN system with which Governments and Agencies will have to deal.

The single official will be called the "Resident Coordinator of the UN System's operational activities for development". His responsibilities are set out in his Letter of Appointment by quoting the relevant portion of paragraph 34 of the Restructuring Resolution of the United Nations "on behalf of the United Nations system, overall responsibility for, and coordination of operational activities for development carried out at the country level should be entrusted to a single official to be designated, taking into account the sectors of particular interest to the countries of assignment, in consultation with and with the consent of the government concerned, who should exercise team leadership and be responsible for evolving, at the country level, a multidisciplinary dimension in sectoral development assistance programmes. These tasks should be carried out in conformity with the priorities established by the competent national authorities and with the assistance, as necessary, of joint interagency advisory groups". It is also explicitly recognized that these arrangements "do not affect relations between your Government and individual Organizations of the UN system or the direct lines of authority and communication between the representatives of these Organizations at the country level and their own Executive Heads".

Since the Resident Coordinator will normally, though not necessarily, be the UNDP Resident Representative, and no one has yet explained what a "multidisciplinary dimension" is, it is small wonder that we are now experiencing some further difficulty in agreeing to detailed terms of

reference of this singular official.

On my request, we are going to discuss this matter further at the end of the month in Geneva under the ACC auspices. I shall not fail to report to you at your October session.

In this connexion, I am aware that in certain quarters it has been suggested that FAO is the only Organization which is against coordination. I should like to assure you that this is not true.

We are perhaps the only Organization which speaks out frankly what many feel about tendencies towards centralization under the guise of coordination.

We are also against coordination for its own sake carried out by full-time coordinators, at the expense of practical action by people who know their subjects and have years of experience working in hard conditions in the fields, in the forests, and on the seas.

Furthermore, with the very large size of our field programme, in cooperation with the World Bank, other investment institutions, and many sources of extra-budgetary funds, we have an interest in the matter which is far greater than that of anyone else.

In fact, by the very virtue of the size and depth of our activities, we already have more than enough coordination. We could hardly be more closely involved on a practical day-to-day basis with the World Bank, the UNDP, multi-bi donors, and above all with the recipient Governments.

It is with the latter, the Governments themselves, that rests the primary and the only real responsibility for coordination. And, through our growing network of FAO Representatives, we have the closest possible relationships with Governments and the UNDP Resident Representatives on the ground.

It is right and proper, therefore, that we should be openly concerned about possible damage to our vital field action by excessive or impractical coordination detrimental to the interests of the developing countries themselves.

United Nations Committee of the Whole

Of a much more promising nature are other aspects of our relations with the UN and other Agencies and with other Organizations.

The main item at the meeting of the Committee of the Whole in New York during March, was Food and Agriculture.

The Committee adopted "Agreed Conclusions" which are extensive in their scope and importance. These were circulated to the Committee on World Food Security but the content covers both general questions and a number of specific matters going beyond that particular subject.

The Committee "considers that a rapid increase in food and agricultural production in developing countries is an essential element for their overall development". It agreed that the developing countries should take urgent measures to accelerate the development of their food and agricultural sectors; international development institutes and developed countries should increase substantially their assistance for agricultural development; IFAD should be replenished on a continuing basis; and there should be continued support of donor countries and organizations "through financial and technical assistance to specific programmes and projects for agricultural and food cooperation among developing countries at sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels". I was just quoting some of these recommendations.

In addition to substantial sections about food security, food aid, agricultural trade, and agro-related industries, the Committee made specific proposals about increased assistance for the supply of fertilizers to MSA countries, for the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, for assistance to fertilizer and pesticide production, for contributions to FAO's Special Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, and FAO's Seed Improvement and Development Scheme, and FAO's EEZ programme.

The Committee of the Whole also urged active participation of all Governments in the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and further action and assistance to countries and in support of the ACC Sub-Committee for and FAO's programmes in Nutrition.

I have drawn your attention to these Agreed Conclusions because the Committee of the Whole is, as it were, the senior committee in the whole UN system responsible for progress on the North-South Dialogue.

These extensive conclusions are of great significance to us. Among other things, they show how relevant and important are FAO's programmes and activities to the formulation of the new International Development Strategy and the achievement of the New International Economic Order. I have no doubt that food and energy are the most important issues which are confronting humanity today. Secretary-General Waldheim, at UNCTAD 5, has also confirmed this position.

Council of Europe

It is also gratifying for me to be able to inform you that another external body, the Parliamentary Assembly of the 21 countries of the Council of Europe - which I had the pleasure of addressing in May - unanimously adopted a resolution referring to the Organisation.

This resolution, after recognizing the salient points of the world food situation, specifically welcomes the projects implemented by FAO, especially the setting up of the Food Security Assistance Scheme and the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses; approves FAO's methods of action which - it recognizes - are increasingly orientated towards practical field work particularly through the implementation of a Technical Cooperation Programme which enables it to help countries in difficulty with its own resources; and invites the governments of member states of the

Council of Europe inter alia to implement my Action Plan for World Food Security, to support the launching by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of an Action Programme at world level, and to back the Plan I shall submit to our Conference in November on the Exclusive Economic Zone³ of Fisheries.

Committee on Agriculture. Many of the subjects just mentioned were also discussed by the Committee on Agriculture at its session in April.

Fortunately, the committee avoided getting enmeshed in discussions of format of documents and was able to have a discussion in depth of the subjects on its Agenda.

This was perhaps the most fruitful session so far, both for the Member Governments and for the Secretariat, of the Committee. It will help us greatly in carrying forward our programmes in the next biennium and beyond.

I am particularly gratified by the reception given by the Committee to the document we submitted on Nutrition. I think it may be said that with the impetus given by Governments, we have completely overhauled our approach on Nutrition.

The result is that there is now a strong consensus between developed and developing countries in support of the proposed policies and programmes in this vital field.

proposed budget for Nutrition for the next biennium includes an increase at a preferential rate compared with the overall increase. But the total resources available will still be relatively modest and they need to be considerably augmented by extrabudgetary funds.

I believe that some Governments have the capacity as well as the desire to provide these. I hope they will in fact do so in the near future, in support of the high priority programmes and activities identified in the COAG document as well as in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Another point which I noted with much satisfaction was that the Committee, as well as the Programme and Finance Committees, gave strong support to the other strategies and priorities put forward in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and in the document on the "Medium and Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development".

I think I am entitled to say that there has scarcely been a previous time in FAO's history when there has been as full a consensus as there is now between Member Nations on the relevance of FAO's strategies, priorities and action to the needs of the world food situation, on the ways and means employed by the Organization, and on its effectiveness.

You will have noted the reference to Exclusive Economic Zones of Fisheries (EEZ) in the UN Committee of the Whole's Agreed Conclusions and in the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. I intend in fact to submit a document to the Conference on our future action on EEZ.

This is in response to the desires of the Conference. But it also represents my own conviction that FAO is the organization par excellence, and perhaps the only organization which can be of equal service to all Member Governments, in resolving the extremely complex, delicate problems arising from this extremely important development in the changing régime of the oceans.

Vital to successful and harmonious national and international action in this field is the role which FAO should and will play in providing a comprehensive approach, close meshing of national and international interests, and attraction and coordination of resources.

In this connexion, I am glad to inform you that the generous pledge of US \$3.6 million by the Government of Norway for use on EEZ programmes is already being put to work. Seven projects have already been approved and several more are under active consideration.

The European Economic Community has also shown considerable interest and I hope that they will be ready to provide considerable funds.

Furthermore, I would like to pay tribute to the Member Governments and the Administrator of the UNDP for the very concrete interest which they have shown in this programme. As a result, I am hoping that the Governing Council of UNDP will shortly agree to grant substantial additional funds for EEZ under their provision for interregional activities.

This would be additional to the funds UNDP are currently mobilising for the control of desert locusts, to which I shall refer in a moment.

I will also be submitting to the Conference a document on the next phase of our action on Trypanosomiasis

The first phase was a very modest but not an easy one. We have however made sufficient progress to be able to contemplate the next phase of the attack on this daunting problem affecting the wide central swathe of Africa.

I am putting forward what I think is a concrete, feasible and practical approach, which once again calls for cooperation between Member Nations, including a particular emphasis on Economic Cooperation between Developing Countries, ECDC, and Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries, TCDC.

Special Action Programmes. In this short address, I do not have time to discuss all the other Special Action Programmes as fully as they deserve.

They merit full attention because they constitute a unique combination of important elements for multilateral development•

They combine international priorities explicitly identified and supported by the highest international authorities, such as the UN Committee of the Whole, with individual recipient and donor interests.

They combine FAO's conceptual, managerial and coordinating roles with the inputs and preferences of recipient and donor Governments.

They combine a very modest input of regular budget resources with very much greater amounts of funds provided voluntarily by donors.

I will have more to say on this question of the role of the Regular Programme resources when I come to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Special Action Programmes have already proved their worth in the Sahelian Zone, the Desert Locust Control, the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the programme for the control of the African Swine Fever, and the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses.

I would like to add also the Dairy Development Scheme and Training Programme for which I have just been informed that the Government of Denmark will contribute up to US \$12.5 million during the period 1980-1984. I am happy to convey this information to Members of the Council.

The merit and success of these Schemes is fully attested by all concerned. Nevertheless, they are lacking in resources. Renewal and increase in voluntary contributions are needed for them during the next biennium.

In fact, in the case of Desert Locust Control, the need is urgent. During 1978, I was able to mobilize US \$6 million from the TCP, the Working Capital Fund, and international donor contributions made through FAO.

The threat continues, however, during 1979. I have been making strenuous efforts to mobilize further funds, amounting to approximately a further US \$6 million.

So far, I have succeeded in obtaining generous contributions from the OPEC Special Fund, the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Iraq, in addition to US \$345 000 from the UNDP.

As I have already said, I am most grateful to the Administrator, Mr Bradford Morse, and his senior colleagues, for the close and active interest they have personally taken in these efforts, the UNDP contributions already made for 1979, and the requests they are now putting to the Governing Council of the UNDP to provide a much more substantial amount, that is more than US \$2 million, for the restructuring of the Desert Locust Control Scheme and, we hope, eventually for a new linked system of national, regional and international efforts for regional plant protection services in Africa.

I trust that in the continuing contacts we shall be having with the Governments concerned, UNDP, other organizations, and donor Governments, we shall be able to mobilize the further funds required over the next few years.

I have stressed the Special Action Programmes not only because of their importance in themselves, but also because of the significant role which the Regular Programme of FAO plays as a catalyst in mobilizing funds for development.

This is even more true of our role in promoting investment through our cooperative arrangements with the World Bank and other financing institutions.

You will find in the Report of the Programme Committee a very full analysis of our investment activities.

The facts speak for themselves. You will note how with a comparatively very small investment of staff and resources FAO has played a vital role in promoting the provision of very large sums to developing countries for food and agricultural development, including much greater emphasis on the small farmers and rural development.

The effort has been building up since 1974, but I am particularly gratified that of the total amount of US \$13 billion of projects formulated by the Investment Centre of FAO and approved by financing institutions during the past 14 years, nearly half was approved in the last two years.

I consider that this is more than ample evidence that the emphasis which was given to investment in the Review of Programmes which you approved in July 1976 has not been just an oral contribution towards the achievement of the New International Economic Order and the new International Development Strategy. This investment achievement in only the last two years has been a very concrete and solid contribution to these objectives.

The Programme Committee has made some useful suggestions for your consideration on the continued operation of our investment activities, with which I generally agree.

I come now, Mr Chairman, to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-1981.

I do not propose in this opening speech to go deeply into the considerations behind my detailed proposals. This will be done when Item 11 is introduced. There are, however, certain points I would like to stress from the outset.

As I have already indicated, I do not think there has been a time when there has been a greater degree of consensus than now exists on FAO's main roles; how these roles are to be applied and translated into strategies and priorities; on the strategies and priorities now in fact being followed; and on the ways and means employed to follow them.

The problem we are facing is thus not the choice of priorities but of adequacy of resources.

I must confess in fact that I feel somewhat apologetic about the total budget which I have proposed. It is lower than desired or expected by a large number of member countries*. It is lower than the merits of the priorities and our capacity for efficient action there on would justify. It is lower than the current budget for UNEP, which totals US \$303 million, including a 6.5% real programme increase. It is very much lower than the WHO's biennial budget of US \$427 million for 1980-1981.

The supplementaries recently approved for the United Nations, at the end of one year only, alone constitute nearly half of the whole of FAO's current budget, and the supplementaries were mostly for meetings, documentation, studies and staff for coordination.

I make these comparisons not in order in any way to /?/ other Agencies or to envy them, but simply to illustrate how modest my proposals are. Why are they so modest? There are many reasons.

I will attempt to give a few.

We start from a low base despite the priority which everyone agrees should be given to food and agricultural development.

We are consistent and determined in the application of the new strategies and policies approved in 1976.

We are economical. We do not believe in spending money in order to increase the number of posts and studies at Headquarters.

We believe in maximum impact at minimum cost, principally for action in answer to concrete, urgent needs at the field level.

We have been consistent in our policy of decentralization. We have insisted on the complementarity of action by Headquarters, Regional offices and at the country level.

We have not confused the organizational location of the budget allocations with the place of impact of the expenditure. The objective of all allocations is the same - complementarity of action to ensure impact at the country level.

There is no antithesis between Headquarters, the Regional and the country levels. They are not to be compared with or pitted against each other. We are one army against hunger.

We have cut our low priorities to make room for new ones, particularly those which will mobilize more investment, more extra-budgetary resources.

I mentioned earlier our Special Action Programmes. Let me take as an example Desert Locust Control. At the beginning of 1978-1979, you approved the addition of some US \$450 000 to the Regular Programme in order to take over the desert locust posts formerly financed by the UNDP. Extra-budgetary funds obtained in 1978 from various sources for desert locust control totalled US \$4.5 million. We are on the way, I hope to a target of US \$6 million in 1979. If we attain that target, the investment of US \$450 000 at the beginning of the biennium will have played a vital role in mobilizing more than 23 times that amount.

Let me mention the Action Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses. For the current biennium, you approved additional resources under the Regular Programme, mainly for the cost of a small unit to mount and coordinate this Action Programme. To date, the extra-budgetary funds employed stand at nearly US \$15 million. Approved projects have reached US \$7 million, that is 38 times the additional Regular Programme resources.

If we take Investment, the total Regular Programme budget increased from US \$1.8 million in 1974 to US \$5.4 million in 1978, that is three-fold. The number of investment projects prepared increased five-fold. But their value increased from US \$438 million to US \$2 129 million, that is 400 times the seed-money provided by the Regular Programme.

In considering the programme increase, I have also frankly taken seriously into account the views expressed by some Governments at the last Conference and the world economic situation, which has not improved since then.

As a result of this, I have reduced the net increase as far as possible. It will be observed that despite all the factors militating in favour of a larger increase, the percentage increase I have requested is 20% lower than that for 1978-1979.

At this point, I should simply like to sum up my approach.

I have been concerned with substance, not with theories. We are professional, experienced and practical.

Our action between Headquarters, Regional Offices and Country Offices is coherent and complementary.

We are deeply involved daily in urgent, up-to-date relevant action, especially in the field.

We pay attention to detail, but we can also have vision and think of the future. We have proved it by proposing to you the five point plan for food security in our proposal on EEZ. We do not hesitate to come forward with initiatives when timely and practical.

Thus, we are looking ahead to the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and the new International Development Strategy.

If anybody is making a really major, central contribution in policy and practical terms to achievement of the goals of the New International Economic Order, it is FAO.

That is why I think that what I am proposing is modest, but deserving of support, and why I hope and expect to get consensus if not unanimity on it.

There are, of course, a number of other items on your Agenda, not the least of which is that dealing with preparations for the Twentieth Session of the Conference. It will also be noted that you have before you an application for membership by the Independent State of Western Samoa, which you have already dealt with.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I should like to say that the situation facing this Council and the Conference is as grave as any that has faced you in the past. The facts placed before you under the items on your Agenda dealing with the World Food Situation and World Food Security and Food Aid Policies delineate this.

The number of severely under-nourished people in the developing world will soon approach the half-billion mark. I would also like to quote the figures put by my colleague President Macnaraara, according to which there are still one billion people living in poverty and their annual income has increased by only \$2 per year in real terms between 1965 and 1975. Gross average income was \$100 in 1965, in 1975 it is \$150. \$2 a year for one billion people! Virtually all other indicators of the world food situation are discouraging. Millions of people find themselves caught in a poverty trap, not of their own making and out of their control. Their poverty is so extreme they have no choice but to be victims.

Yet we have it in our power and our capacity to decide on and apply the necessary policies to improve the world food situation, to rescue millions from near-starvation and gross under-nourishment.

In the not-so-distant past, considerable doubt was placed by many on the capacity of the UN System to attack such problems.

I believe that today there is virtually no-one known to and respected by this Council who would maintain that FAO lacks the correct policies, strategies, priorities and capabilities to attack the world food problem.

In this connection, I take comfort from what Mr. Brzezinski, the National Security Adviser to President Carter, said recently in New York about the aims of the United States. He said it was seeking "a world community built not on the domination of a single sector, a single culture or a single ideology, but a community which draws on global diversity as the basis for strength in a pluralistic and increasingly just global order".

In another remarkable speech made by the President of Tanzania in Arusha in February, President Nyerere made the point that the developing countries should not consider that the only choice for them is between dialogue and confrontation with the rich; that the fact that the kind of dialogue which had been conducted so far had as yet brought no fundamental changes in the world economic order was not to say that the dialogue had been useless. He went on to say that there were now groups of people in the industrialized world which had realized that the present inequity could not be allowed to continue and that planned change was necessary in their own interests as well as those of the developing countries.

It is in the spirit of such statements, Mr. Chairman, that we must go on with our work and strive to achieve a successful Council and Conference.

Applause

Applaudissement s

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General, for this very comprehensive statement, not only on the activities of the Organization since our last session but also on all the major items of interest not only on our agenda but also in the world of food and agriculture, nutrition, etc. today. This statement is a keynote statement, which is the normal procedure. It covers, as I said, all the major items on our agenda as well as in the world picture. Normally, our discussions of various items follow on from the statement of the Director-General, and the officials of FAO or the Director-General himself will elaborate on such points as are of interest to Council members. It is not usual to have a direct debate immediately after the statement of the Director-General, but I see a lot of people have their flags up. Perhaps they want to debate. Perhaps they want to say something. But I do appeal to members not to start unilateral debates on the major points made by the Director-General, because this will throw our discussions off balance and we shall just start to go round in circles. Therefore, while I give the floor to those members who want to make a few remarks I do appeal to you to speak in general terms rather, than to go into details which will then bring imbalance into our debates later on. I hope that your interventions will be completed before the end of our allotted time.

H. MENDS (Ghana): I must first of all thank you for the vigour with which you have tackled our work. I wish also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election. I trust they will be equally zealous in the execution of our responsibilities in the two weeks that lie ahead of us. I shall try to obey your instructions, because the list of speakers is quite formidable.

While neither tradition nor custom calls for any statement of response to the address that the Director-General normally delivers at the opening of Council sessions, I have been so moved by what the Director-General has just said that I cannot refrain from sharing with you my reaction in this respect.

I have been attending sessions of the Council for some years now. Every opening address of the Director-General is a statement of policy, as you have rightly pointed out, which justifies much reflection. After all, it is a statement which highlights the agricultural situation of the world, indeed a statement which delineates the direction which the Organization is taking and which generally sets the framework for our discussions, and it is in this perspective that I wish to say something.

More than ever before, on this occasion I wish to emphasize the confidence that the Republic of Ghana and I am sure the governments of the developing countries have in our Director-General. His address shows clearly how he is living up to the expectations we had when we elected him to this high office. I recall that when he addressed the Conference just after his election, the Director-General emphasized that the Organization had to rethink its approaches to problems and ensure that its actions, both in their concept and operation, met the needs expressed by Member Governments*

I am certain that I must express the conviction of all present here when I assert that our Director-General has given us ample evidence of the precepts which he declared. In just over three years, the Organization has changed almost beyond recognition. It has changed firstly in the manner in which the Director-General helps us to address ourselves to longstanding problems with greater focus, vigour, fervour and effectiveness. It has changed in the way that the Organization is not just a monument to archives with ever expanding shelves. The accumulated competence and the studies carried out by FAO today are held in no less esteem than they were. On the other hand, by a process of close scrutiny and pruning, the studies of FAO today are more relevant than ever. However, FAO now goes beyond the stage of studies into a process of prompt, visible and effective action on every front. I need only give two examples. The sensitive issues of World Food Security have been of permanent concern to FAO. Some significant and useful work was done over the years. This received a sharper focus with the world food crisis of 1972-73. However, it is only in the most recent years that we have witnessed a concentrated attack on all fronts, with an integrity of design and a focus of action such as to ensure the required impact.

On the one hand, we have the Five-Point Plan of Action approved by our Committee on World Food

Security, which comes to us for adoption. On the other hand, FAO is assisting a number of countries individually to define and strengthen their own policies, measures and facilities for strengthening their own food security.

The latest example of this is a very complex and perceptive study which FAO has just completed for the Sahel Zone at the request of CILSS. Again, on another front, the Director-General is increasing the capacity of food aid through the multi-lateral system, and yet again on another front, the Director-General has strengthened and shown the effectiveness of two action programmes responding to our needs, namely, the Global Information and Early Warning System and the Food Security Assistance Scheme.

It is therefore abundantly evident that the Director-General has engaged the Organization on several fronts simultaneously to attack the problems of Food Security, and he has done so not by dissipating the efforts of the Organization but by directly challenging and focusing them with greater clarity, so that the resources and efforts of the Organization may be complemented most effectively with the supplementary resources of bilateral programmes and the national resources of the developing countries themselves.

Yet another example which readily comes to mind is that of the Prevention of Food Losses. This was a subject much debated over the years which has received attention in the most distinguished fora: at the FAO Conference, at the World Food Conference and at the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly. All these bodies recognized the problem and adopted resolutions urging action to reduce food losses. Yet it is only in this biennium that an Action Programme was established and is operating effectively - all this thanks to our Director-General, Edouard Saouma; all this, Mr. Chairman, and much more.

My delegation intends to intervene positively and constructively in the course of our debates on a number of items of our Agenda, particularly on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81. I will therefore refrain from expressing our views at this stage on specific priorities to which we attach importance. I would merely like to close by expressing our most sincere admiration and gratitude to

our Director-General. for the statement he has just delivered and for the wisdom and care with which he has prepared our present Session, We look forward to his active participation in our debates and assure him of my Government's unqualified support, I am certain that I reflect the consensus, if not the unanimity, of the sentiments of this Council,

M.S. SWAMINATHAN (India): I shall abide by your desire that we should be brief and to the point, I also concur with your view that the Statement of the Director-General does not call for any specific debate or discussion. Nevertheless, my delegation felt that a statement of the kind made by the Director-General, one of great clarity, frankness and vision, certainly calls for a few statements of a general nature.

First of all, we are all aware here of the portent, of the meaning of the most important Statement he made, namely, that during 1979-80, he believes that in the best judgment of FAO there is likely to be a shortage of food production in terms of consumption requirements, I think this is a statement of very grave importance to the Council, and that is why we felt that we should underline the significance of the Statement,

Here everyone knows that for most of the last 20 years statements have been made in conferences that we should try to eradicate hunger within a particular time frame. In fact, the late President Kennedy opened the first World Food Conference by saying that within a decade there need be no hunger present in the world, that all the resources and technology are present to ensure this, and that these resources should be deployed to achieve those aims. However, the will to do this is still lacking.

Again, here in Rome, in 1974 the World Food Conference unanimously adopted a resolution that within a decade, that is by 1984, no child, woman or man should go to bed hungry, no human being's physical or mental potential should be stunted by malnutrition. This was a solemn declaration carried by all the countries represented at the World Food Conference, but nevertheless, we have just heard the Director-General tell us that the World Food Aid Programme is going down, there is no support to the thrust of the programme. In fairness to the Director-General's frankness my delegation would hope that we would take this early warning, and it is my delegation's fervent hope that this highest body will come to grips with the problem,

particular stress was placed by the Director-General on the sea as to the soil. It is my delegation's firm conviction that as the need increases, the soil and the sea - the farmer and the fisherman - will be equally important in meeting this need.

Finally, we would like to compliment the Organization and the Director-General for taking the

initiative in organizing a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and we hope it will be not only a body which has good literature compilation but could lead to a reversal of the present trend in most developing countries of an exodus of both brains and financial resources from the village to the city. If the Conference at least succeeds in getting a small reversal of this drain of brains and financial resources from the village to the city it will have achieved its purposes.

P. GERBASI (Venezuela): Al compartir muchos de los conceptos emitidos por los colegas que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, quisiera unirme a ellos para, expresar el aprecio de mi delegación por el significativo y amplio discurso pronunciado por el Director General, quien a nuestro juicio, una vez más da pruebas de su decisión y capacidad para enfrentar el reto que hoy por hoy tiene ante sí

nuestra Organización.

Ciertamente, hay conciencia de que los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación a nivel mundial, pero muy particularmente a nivel de nuestros países en desarrollo, son complejos y de la mayor importancia; pero pareciera ser que no se hubieran dado pruebas suficientes de la voluntad política que se requiere para resolverlos, ni se ha motivado adecuadamente, quizá aun incluso en nuestros propios países, a los millones de personas sobre qué hay que hacer para que colaboren y coadyuven en estas soluciones. Estas soluciones requieren también recursos financieros en una cuantía suficiente. Mi Gobierno atribuye gran valor a las iniciativas y resultados alcanzados por la FAO, y consideramos esencial fortalecer su acción. De ahí la importancia que otorgamos a este período de sesiones del Consejo, que como usted bien calificara, quizás sea el más importante durante este bienio.

Es por ello que nuestra delegación tiene una decidida intención de participar activamente en todos los puntos de su orden del día, y esperamos poder contar en nuestros debates con la presencia del Director General porque, sin lugar a dudas, ello facilitará el desenvolvimiento de nuestras labores y coadyuvará a una solución adecuada de las mismas.

J. SCHWARZ (Czechoslovakia): While a number of my distinguished colleagues have already spoken, I cannot let this occasion pass without joining them in expressing my delegation's deep satisfaction at the address we have just heard from the Director-General.

Not only has he ably drawn our attention to all the issues to which we have to address ourselves in the coming days, but he has added the most up-to-date and relevant developments to complement the excellent documentation which had been forwarded to us.

My delegation has always supported our Director-General because of our conviction that under his leadership more than ever before, FAO is the leading world organization in the realm of food and agriculture, blazing the path for the effective implementation of the new International Economic Order. As always, we look forward to working closely with him throughout this Session and to support him in the many proposals he has submitted to us, which have the merit of being imaginative but pragmatic, far-reaching but realizable and capable of significant impact in the most economical manner,

J.J. LEIDO Jr. (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, the Director-General has again demonstrated his grasp of the world food and agriculture situation, his conscientious management of the broad spectrum of the activities of this Organization and his steadfast adherence to the assigned roles and responsibilities of FAO. The manifestation of FAO's judicious and timely actions are evident to all those who come from Asia and the Far-East region. This is evident in the prompt responses of the Director-General in times of catastrophe and acute human distress through the emergency food aid of the World Food Programme. Responses which may be tested further by incidents revolving around the refugees of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

In addition, there are the programmes in food, livestock and forestry production. There are also programmes to develop fisheries in exclusive economic zones, programmes which are geared towards increased investment in agriculture and related sectors. Our region bears the responsibility for a large number of rural populations and rural poor than anywhere in the world. In this context, we are keenly anticipating the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and we are glad to be assured by the Director-General that as in previous instances he is ready to bring the full weight of this Organization to bear on the implementation of the programme of action that will result from this Conference. We wish to see this programme pursued.

We also wish to see a more concerned task along the lines defined by the Director-General, particularly in the areas of world food security as expressed in the proposed 5-point plan - nutrition, technical cooperation programme, investment, and a more decentralized FAO. I will not go into a detailed commentary on these and other programmes of activities that the Director-General has proposed, we shall have the opportunity to discuss them in greater detail during our sessions. Suffice it for the moment for us to say that we share the perceptions and concern of the Director-General regarding the world food and agriculture situation, and we concur with the policies and priorities he has proposed.

We also wish to express our observation that the Director-General has exercised a consistent capability of ensuring fidelity between programme intentions and programme actions. It is in the light of this common agreement of perceptions that our delegation humbly gives its support to the Director-General's proposals for the next biennium. We are confident that the Council also shares these perceptions, based on a common understanding of the reality of the world food and agricultural situation, and that these programmes can succeed.

If there are to be variations of opinions on the perceptions of the requirements of the world food and agricultural situation among the Members of this Council, I pray that we soften our hearts and be less rigid in our postures, because the little bit of self-sacrifice that is asked for is far outweighed by the greater urgency that must be met.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): First of all I wish to thank the Director-General for the very exhaustive statement that he has made covering the activities of the Organization and giving us an idea of the Programme of Work and Budget for the period before us. We are quite used to the clarity always present in the statements of the Director-General, clarity which takes into account all the problems faced by agriculture in the developing countries.

Concerning the countries of the Arabic group, I would like to draw attention to the investment programme, because of their importance in the development of these countries. We hope that relations between the Group and FAO will be ever-stronger and we are always grateful for the fact that special financial assistance has been given to the programme for the control of desert locust. This financial aid stems mainly from financial aid given by OFEC countries. We hope also UNDP will give assistance in this field of special assistance programmes.

Vie would like to support anything that can strengthen the programme of the Organization and which would pave the way to the new economic international order.

We feel that our Organization is carrying out its activities with high competence so as to meet the goals which are included in the Constitution of the Organization, and the aims and goals which are present in the Programme of Work and Budget. This Programme has been fully studied both in the COAG and in the Finance Committee. I have been able to discuss this Programme of Work and Budget in the Finance Committee meetings I have attended.

We also feel the proposals made by the Director-General in the summary Programme of Work and Budget are very pertinent adequate proposals which we should support, and we as the Arabic Group should also recall what has been done by the Director-General to strengthen the Arabic language structure in the Organization. We know that this has been a choice, if we compare our Organization to other

Organizations.

Finally, we would like to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Director-General and all other members of the Organization, our best wishes for the success of this Session.

J.G. KHARAS (Pakistan): At the outset I would like to express to the Director-General and to you, Mr. Chairman, not only my sincere thanks but also those of the Government of Pakistan for the moving tribute that you have paid to the late Mr. Jawed Salim Khan. Mr. Khan was well known to many of us present here today. He was a very simple, sincere man whose qualities and ability spoke for themselves. We were very proud to have such a fine representative of our country, so respected and loved by his colleagues.

In the year that I knew him, I came to admire him as a colleague and friend and to entrust him with onerous burdens which he always carried willingly and conscientiously. His patience and skill combined with thought and flexibility made him a valuable contributor in committees and plenary sessions of FAO. His life, though short, was full of promise, and in his departure not only have we lost a good friend but my country has lost an outstanding civil servant.

It is only the actions of the just which in death smell sweet and continue to blossom in the soul. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Please now permit me to make a few observations of a general nature on the statement of the Director-General. Our detailed comments on the various issues will be offered at the appropriate time when they are taken up.

We have heard the Director-General's statement with keen interest and find it to be lucid and action-orientated covering the most important issues facing us today. We are glad to see that the Director-General has devoted special attention to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and in this we fully support his views. We would like to underline the fact that we do not like the Conference simply to debate the various issues. What we would like to ensure is that the Conference achieves positive results with appropriate follow-up action.

We are also in accord with the Director-General's views on world food security, and in particular his 5-point plan of action. We are glad to see he lays emphasis on food aid, the desert locust scheme, the Sanelian zone and the province of world food losses. His views on investment, including strengthening of the relationship with financing institutions and particularly the OPEC Special Fund's contributions to the Desert Locusts Scheme, have our full support and we sincerely hope that the UNDP Governing Council will be forthcoming with substantial additional funds for this scheme. It is clear that these special action programmes, along with FAO's Regular Programme activities, are contributing towards the achievement of a new international economic order and the formulation of a new international development strategy. We would particularly commend his stress upon action and the desire to achieve results.

We also note with satisfaction, though not mentioned by the Director-General in his statement just now, the priority accorded in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to the increasing use of the Arabic language.

Finally, we should like to mention that Pakistan, as a member of the Programme Committee, has already lent its full support to the Director-General's budget proposal and we should like to reaffirm it here today.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat General has drawn my attention to the fact that we did not adopt the hours of work together with the timetable. The normal hours of work, as you know, are 9.30 to 12.30 and then 2.30 until 5.30 and I had taken it for granted, almost, that this is the usual practice but if you agree to these hours then we can take it as accepted.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

M. HAMDOUN (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of my delegation I wish to express our gratitude to the Director-General for the very clear and exhaustive statement he has made this morning. In his speech the Director-General has well placed all the problems that we are facing concerning development in a general way and agricultural development in particular. We agree with the Director-General when he says that so far a consensus has been followed concerning the work carried out by the FAO meetings and we feel that consensus will continue to prevail in our meetings because the Director-General is really struggling against hunger and he is carrying a unique weapon which is the strategy that FAO has fixed itself as an objective.

My country has received the assistance of the Organization's programmes and projects, some of which have been mentioned by the Director-General. The efficiency of the Organization has become an example within the framework of international organizations and I should like to say that we fully support all the programmes and projects presented by the Director-General. We feel that this session will be a positive one and will prove once again that our Organization is a very active one which wants to meet the objectives that we have already defined.

I would also welcome the humanitarian note included in his statement and, once again, I should like to thank the Director-General.

C. BATAULT (France): Je ne vais pas reprendre les différents points du discours du Directeur général, nous le ferons pendant les travaux du Conseil, mais je voudrais le remercier d'avoir bien voulu, à un moment particulièrement critique de l'évolution du monde où nous vivons, faire avec talent un tour d'horizon soulignant les points importants de l'action de la FAO et les problèmes auxquels nous avons aujourd'hui à faire face.

De ce qu'il a dit, nous pouvons être satisfaits de voir que l'Organisation est de plus en plus orientée vers un sens opérationnel vers des tâches concrètes, comme l'a souligné le Conseil de l'Europe. Le bilan est donc certainement positif, mais il s'agit pour nous d'un Conseil très important qui doit préparer l'avenir.

Je n'avais pas cité, je le répète encore une fois, les différents points qu'a évoqués le Directeur général, mais je voudrais simplement appeler l'attention de ce Conseil sur l'importance de certains d'entre eux, en particulier le problème de la sécurité alimentaire sur lequel, d'ailleurs, un porte-parole de la Communauté européenne vous demandera l'autorisation, quand on viendra à ce point de l'ordre du jour, de faire une déclaration.

Sur ce point, je voudrais appeler l'attention du Conseil sur l'importance d'une résolution adoptée par consensus le 3 juin 1979, à Manille, à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement. Cette résolution, qui était une résolution déposée par les pays en développement, invite instamment tous les pays participants à faire preuve de la volonté politique requise à la prochaine session du Conseil international du blé qui se tiendra en juin 1979 à Londres, à reprendre l'examen des principales questions non résolues et des nouveaux éléments qui pourraient être apparus et à s'efforcer de créer les conditions propres à assurer le succès des négociations, compte tenu des intérêts des pays en développement. Ceci nous apparaît être un point essentiel et j'espère que la délégation française, comme, je crois, toutes les délégations de la Communauté européenne espèrent que ces négociations pourront reprendre aussi rapidement que possible, dès juin 1979 si possible, comme le souhaite cette résolution de la CNUCED et en ce sens je précise que l'appréciation de M. Bergland que vous citiez me paraît un peu pessimiste.

Un autre problème sur lequel vous mettez l'accent est celui de la coordination qui est évidemment de la responsabilité essentielle des gouvernements eux-mêmes. Il nous semble que cette coordination doit revêtir un aspect aussi concret que possible et aussi pragmatique que possible. C'est bien cette

recherche du concret et cette recherche du pragmatisme, comme vous l'avez si bien souligné, qui doit être à la base de l'action de la FAO, action consacrée à la solution d'un des problèmes les plus graves, sinon le plus grave, que l'humanité doit résoudre aujourd'hui, celui de l'élimination de la sous-alimentation et de la faim dans le monde.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): I would simply like to express the gratitude of my delegation for the statement which the Director-General made this morning. It really was quite remarkable and I should like to assure him that we will do all that we can to help him in this task.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom for his brief and very clear statement.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaïre): Si je tiens à prendre la parole après l'exposé du Directeur général, c'est surtout, comme vous l'avez d'ailleurs si bien dit ce matin, Monsieur le Président, parce que la présente session du Conseil revêt une importance particulière, importance qui a été mise en relief par le Directeur général dans son exposé et par les diverses délégations qui ont pris la parole avant nous.

C'est pourquoi, après avoir écouté avec attention l'exposé du Directeur général, ma délégation voudrait faire quelques commentaires au sujet de quelques-uns des points abordés par le Directeur général.

La nouvelle FAO que nous avons tous appelée de nos vœux est aujourd'hui en pleine action, en plein essor. Que de chemin parcouru depuis la soixante-neuvième session du Conseil en 1976! Trois ans après à la mi-temps si j'ose dire, nous pouvons féliciter sans hésitation le Directeur général de la FAO des premiers succès de sa politique. En effet, l'effort de débureaucratisation, loin de marquer le pas, suit vaillamment son cours. Les réunions et les publications sont judicieusement et fermement réduites et nous sommes tous témoins que la création de nouveaux postes à Rome est strictement contrôlée, la priorité étant accordée à l'accroissement fort modéré des effectifs hors siège.

J'en arrive au P.C.T. Ce programme est un tel succès qu'il est vain de procéder à une apologie dont nul ne ressent la nécessité. Je voudrais seulement confirmer la volonté de mon gouvernement de soutenir toute proposition et toute action tendant à améliorer qualitativement et surtout à renforcer quantitativement ce programme qui nous est indispensable.

Enfin, la décentralisation soulève l'enthousiasme complet. Preuve en est l'afflux constant de nouvelles demandes. Le Zaïre, mon pays, quant à lui, a la chance de bénéficier depuis un an des services du bureau de la FAO sur place. Nous en retirons d'ores et déjà des satisfactions bien concrètes.

Qu'en est-il maintenant de la priorité à l'investissement? C'est un sujet que le Directeur général a abordé ce matin. Nos espoirs ne sont pas déçus. Vous avez noté comme moi le formidable bon en avant réalisé par le Centre d'investissement ces deux dernières années. Nous ne pouvons qu'encourager une telle évolution et souhaiter que la FAO continue à renforcer les liens extrêmement positifs et opérationnels qu'elle entretient avec la Banque mondiale, le FIDA et les banques de développement régionales. Nous sommes également satisfaits de l'effort fait par le fonds fiduciaire.

Dans ce tableau réconfortant pour l'ensemble, je retiens une seule ombre. Il s'agit de la participation décroissante du PNUD au financement des projets de la FAO. En effet, l'accroissement et la diversification nécessaires et souhaitables des sources de financement devraient stimuler le PNUD au lieu de l'inhiber. Mais j'espère que l'avenir sera plus promoteur à cet égard.

Permettez-moi de passer maintenant assez brièvement à un sujet hautement délicat et même épineux. Le délégué de la France en a parlé. Il s'agit de la Coordination. Le Directeur général ce matin s'y était attardé. Face à un tel sujet, la tendance la plus communément adoptée est la prudence et la componction. La coordination est un domaine à propos duquel on fait volontiers des phrases redondantes propres à susciter le consensus. Dans ce concert apparemment harmonieux la voix du Directeur général se détache nettement. Je crois que nous devons lui être reconnaissants de sa franchise et de son objectivité lorsqu'il livre sans complexe ni détour ses réflexions sur la sacrosainte coordination. Pour ma part, je tiens à affirmer que ma délégation souscrit mot pour mot, au nom de notre gouvernement, aux termes que le Directeur général a employés dans son allocution. Ma délégation estime qu'on a souvent fait des abus au nom de ce concept de coordination. La véritable coordination, je suis d'accord avec la France et le Directeur général, la seule qu'il faille encourager vigoureusement, c'est la coordination par les gouvernements eux-mêmes. Le reste, c'est la théorie, pire encore la menace certaine et déjà concrète, d'assister impuissants à la prolifération de nouveaux postes de bureaucrates.

Je termine par une remarque d'ordre général sur le budget. Je me réserve bien sûr le droit d'intervenir plus en détail au moment opportun.

Je voudrais seulement confier aujourd'hui la gêne que j'ai éprouvée en écoutant le Directeur général se livrer pendant de longues minutes à un plaidoyer, par ailleurs remarquable de justesse et de précision, en faveur de son budget. Pourquoi se sent-il en quelque sorte contraint de consacrer tant de mots à défendre un budget dont le seul défaut, à notre avis, est de pécher par sa modération? Y aurait-il encore quelque résistance injustifiée? J'espère bien que non. Quoiqu'il en soit, je me permets d'appeler dès aujourd'hui l'ensemble des délégués à faire preuve d'objectivité. En fait, à quoi cela rimerait-il de "pinailler" pour le principe, et même presque par plaisir, alors qu'en définitive tout le monde devrait se rendre à l'évidence: ce budget a un montant qui n'atteint qu'à peine le minimum nécessaire pour répondre aux nombreux besoins des pays en développement en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I would like first and foremost, if I may, to say that Egypt, an agricultural country of long standing is very grateful to the Director-General for his quite remarkable statement this morning, his statement I am sure participants will delve into in detail during the discussions. So the delegation of Egypt and the Government of Egypt wholeheartedly support the Director-General's proposals and also in the interests of developing countries. We feel this also echoes the needs and requirements of developing countries, which wish to achieve economic progress. The planning established by the Director-General has enabled the Organization speedily to contact the developing countries and be much more effective than in the past. This planning takes into account the sensitivities and needs and requirements of these developing countries so on behalf of the developing countries and on behalf of my own country I can assure you we give every possible support for the initiatives which are already yielding fruit in many areas such as planning within the framework of world food security, planning in the direction of WCARRD and we are also encouraged by the support he is giving for the New International Economic Order and we are encouraged by the strengthening given for the coordination and mutual aid between the Organization and the Member Countries and between our Organization and other international organizations and financial institutions whether international or regional.

Finally, I wish this session every possible success under your guidance because we are very proud to have you chairing this meeting.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Pour la première fois après une longue absence de quinze ans, le Sénégal siège au Conseil. Je voudrais d'abord saisir cette occasion pour assurer au Président et aux membres du Conseil qu'il ne ménagera aucun effort pour apporter à vos travaux une contribution active.

S'il est des mots pour qualifier le discours de Monsieur le Directeur général que nous avons écouté avec la plus grande attention, je dirai: clarté dans l'exposé, franchise dans les idées, détermination dans sa voie, dévouement à la noble mission de l'organisation qu'il incarne.

Notre organisation est entrée dans une ère nouvelle depuis la session historique du Conseil en juillet 1976. La lecture de l'acte constitutif avec un esprit nouveau qui d'ailleurs rejoint en droit fil celui des pères fondateurs de l'organisation a montré qu'elle est fondamentalement une organisation pour le développement et que plus que jamais la fille aînée des Nations Unies est destinée à promouvoir ce nouvel ordre économique international, qui est aujourd'hui à l'ordre du jour de toutes les conférences internationales et auquel nous aspirons tous. Ce n'est pas l'un des moindres mérites de M. Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, de l'avoir engagée vigoureusement dans cette voie. Il faut se féliciter si le Conseil a été unanime à appuyer les propositions concrètes qu'il lui a soumises à cet effet en juillet 1976.

Lors de la Conférence constitutive de la FAO en 1945, le Premier Ministre du Canada, M. Pierson, a prononcé des mots toujours actuels lorsqu'il a dit: la FAO ce sont les gouvernements, ce sont les peuples, la réussite de l'Organisation dépend d'eux.

C'est pourquoi nous voudrions assurer le Directeur général, ses collaborateurs et ses fonctionnaires, de notre appui et de notre soutien pour l'accomplissement de leur mission.

Nous appuyons l'appel du Directeur général invitant la Communauté internationale à instaurer une meilleure sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial comme au niveau national, régional et interrégional. Nous l'appuyons dans sa détermination à lutter efficacement contre les maux millénaires que

représentent les criquets pèlerins. Nous l'appuyons dans son appel pour augmenter les contributions volontaires aux divers programmes spéciaux que la FAO a entrepris en faveur du développement. Que soient ici remerciés les pays et organisations qui ont déjà répondu à cet appel.

Je terminerai en formulant le vœu que le budget soumis à l'examen du Conseil au cours de la présente session soit adopté à l'unanimité, sans réticence, et sans restriction de quelque ordre que ce soit. C'est le budget le plus modeste que l'on ait connu dans le système des Nations Unies, et si nous ne nous sommes pas inquiétés qu'il ait sacrifié à l'essentiel, c'est que nous avons foi dans la conviction de son auteur qu'il devrait oeuvrer pour la promotion du développement et de la coopération internationale.

/?/ CARDALIIG (Cuba): Veo que faltan pocos minutos para la una y he ido acortando mi intervención cada vez más y espero que lo que de ella queda tenga algi sentido.

/?/ su discurso de apertura el Director General ha pasado revista, de manera breve y concisa pero con cerbero y profundo análisis, a los problemas más serios de nuestro ámbito; la agricultura y la alimentación.

De ese discurso se desprende y conforma cuan importantes son los temas que tenemos ante nosotros y qué preocupante es la situación alimentaria mundial.

Hi. delegación no quiere escatimar palabras para reconocer el esfuerzo que realiza el Director General por hacer aportes al logro de un nuevo orden económico internacional y no sería exagerado decir que la FAO se encuentra entre aquellas Organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas que realizan grandes esfuerzos por alcanzar las metas de los países en vías de desarrollo y por la Comunidad Internacional.

Ahora que las Naciones Unidas se enfrascan en la elaboración de la nueva estrategia internacional del desarrollo; ahora que tenemos ante nosotros el reciente resultado del Comité Plenario celebrado en Nueva York el pasado marzo; ahora que la situación se presenta incierta en torno a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, cobra mayor importancia la necesidad de avanzar con mayor velocidad y decisión por el camino del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Id gobierno se siente complacido por la aplicación de la descentralización y por los beneficios que viene reportando, por ejemplo, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Un ejemplo concreto es el esfuerzo que se realiza para combatir los recientes brotes de fiebre porcina africana en nuestra región.

Deseamos aprovechar también esta breve intervención para ratificar nuestro apoyo al plan de acción de cinco puntos que hubimos de discutir durante la pasada reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Nuestra delegación quisiera en esta ocasión referirse a otros temas, pero lo haremos más adelante según vaya avanzando el programa, pero queríamos, al menos, adelantar estas palabras de aliento y reconocimiento a la Organización y a quienes la dirigen, con el señor Eduardo Saouma a la cabeza.

le agradezco, señor Presidente, la oportunidad de haberme dado la palabra y le pido excusas por si he sido largo en mi intervención; he tratado de ser lo más breve posible.

X. MOSKOVITS (Malta): This delegation also sees you with very great pleasure again in the seat of Chairman of the Council and I wish to thank you and the Director-General for the very sensitive words you have spoken on the tragic death of our very dear and loved friend Mr. Jawed Salim Khan. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and to his home country.

I would like to follow your advice and I do not wish to enter into the debate, much more so because the head of my delegation, His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture for Malta, is on parliamentary business, and not with us today, he will only come tomorrow, but I can assure you that we will study very carefully all the papers before the Council. I am taking the floor now only because I am inspired by the extremely interesting speech and the valuable comments of the Director-General.

We see two main characteristics before us at the present time: on the one side a very dark world situation, on the other side a very small FAO. As I said, I do not wish to mention anything regarding the Programme of Work and Budget, which will be discussed in detail by my Minister. But I must refer to two points which were mentioned by the Director-General, the priorities which he attaches to the various undertakings in FAO and also the adequacy of the plans.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the donor countries and all those who contributed to the financing of special action programmes of FAO. On the other hand, this financing is not reliable on a continuing basis; we cannot rely on it. It must be the regular budget which provides for all the means to achieve all the work that FAO has initiated and has to carry out.

I can say that while we are in full agreement with the Programme of Work and Budget we are not in full agreement with the budget itself. We think that the means calculated are much too modest.

There are these main considerations before us. FAO's funds, and real funds, should not decline. On the other hand, the decisions of the Council at its July session in 1977 should be fully carried out. For this reason I think that the regular fund needs a stronger basis. I do not wish to go into details now. In our speeches later we will single out separate activities which we think must be strengthened and for which more financial provision should be made.

CHAIRMAN: We are very pleased to hear that your Minister will join us. This is a great honour to the Council.

E. HRAOUT (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Je commencerai par présenter, au nom de la délégation du Liban, toutes mes condoléances pour la perte de notre ami à tous le Dr Khan.

Je voudrais également exprimer notre satisfaction devant le grand nombre de nouveaux pays membres qui se joignent au Conseil.

Je désire également remercier le Directeur général pour le remarquable discours que nous avons écouté ce matin. Nous connaissons tous Monsieur Edouard Saouma depuis très longtemps et nous le connaissons personnellement. Je me permets donc de dire que je connais peut-être un peu plus Monsieur Saouma car les relations qui me lient à lui sont des relations d'amitié qui remontent très loin et j'en suis très fier. Je suis de très près toutes les activités du Directeur général qui se trouve à la tête de cette Organisation à laquelle il a donné son cachet personnel, cette Organisation à laquelle il a donné plus d'activités afin qu'elle se renouvelle et qu'elle aille de l'avant.

Je voudrais également exprimer notre satisfaction devant le grand nombre de nouveaux pays membres qui se joignent au Conseil.

KONG CAN-DONG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): It is with great interest that the Chinese delegation has heard the statement of the Director-General, in which he has dealt with important current questions in the food and agriculture sphere at present. We are pleased to note the Director-General's endeavours on these questions.

As this Council session is to pave the way for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference to be convened later in the year one of its important tasks is to deliberate on the studies, goals, programmes and budget of this Organization for the next two years: this is important.

Over the last few years, led by the Director-General, FAO has pursued the policy of stressing work of practical benefit to the member nations and has carried out such useful activities in the world food and agriculture realm as strengthening the developing countries' technical capacity to develop agriculture, promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and adopting practical measures geared to crucial problems in the food and agricultural production of the developing countries. This is to increase their ability to rely on themselves. The key to the solution of the world's food problem lies here. This we are glad to note has received proper emphasis both in the programme of work for the current biennium and in the summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years submitted by the Director-General for the deliberations of our session.

It is our hope that FAO will continue its efforts to help its member countries, especially the developing countries, to step up the development of their food and agriculture production and that it will make its contribution towards the establishment of a new international economic order in the food and agricultural sphere. With this we wish the Councils current session every success.

C. McCLAIN (Liberia): In view of the precarious world food situation I would like to take this time to express thanks to the Director-General for a frank and practical statement which continues to give a frank and practical thrust to the policies, priorities and strategies of FAO. As I see it there is still much work to be done and this requires the considered action of all. In view of this I would like to say that you have the fullest support of the Liberian delegation for the realization of FAO's objective Programme of Work and Budget. We wish that the budget was a little higher, but we give our fullest support to FAO's objectives and FAO's budget as they relate to the alleviation of world hunger, especially in developing countries.

Finally, I would like to say congratulations to our Chairman and hope that as this is a very important Council the deliberations will lead to an overwhelmingly successful Council meeting.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): First, Mr. Chairman, allow me to say how pleased we are to see you again chairing this important session of the Council.

Permit me also to congratulate the Minister from the Philippines and my dear friend Mr. Bukhari on their election as Vice-Chairmen for this Council session.

The normal trend is that the Director-General's statement is followed by the agenda items that we take up. I see that this time there has been a spontaneous reaction from the floor by as many as twenty countries to the opening statement of the Director-General. We have seen that the statement of the Director-General is always frank and constructive. On this occasion other dimensions have been added. I notice that the statement has been pragmatic and is full of vision. The statement is pragmatic in its assessment of the present world food situation and has the vision to underline to the world what the future is.

The Director-General has underlined that the present as well as the future is not encouraging to the world community. He has underlined that the world community is lagging behind in its commitments to the hungry and the poor.

In his statement he has warned what lies ahead and what is the responsibility of the world community.

An important point that the Director-General has underlined is that never before has there been so much consensus as today about the way the FAO is moving in determining its goals and strategies, and perhaps this is the time that FAO needs the full and complete support of all its member nations in enabling this Organization to achieve its goals and objectives.

I liked the statement of my dear colleague from India when he mentioned what it was in the 1960s, what it was in the early 1970s and what it is today. The world in the 1960s was perhaps better than it is in the 1970s. The world today is no better than it was in the early 1970s. The world tomorrow will be worse than it is today. This is what we find in the brilliant statement of the Director-General. We will take it up when we discuss the agenda items one after another.

CHAIRMAN: We have now come to the end of the list of speakers on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 13.10 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10 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

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Seventy-Fifth Session**Soixante-quinzième session****75° período de sesiones**SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLSNIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(11 June 1979)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours, B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 10 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.10 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order, and we will proceed where we left off back to Item 2, that is, the election of the Third Vice-Chairman.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

1. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS BE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

2. Election of Vice-chairmen and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee (continued)

2. Election des Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)

2. Elección de Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais proposer pour cette vice-présidence M. Hugo Baeyens, ambassadeur de Belgique et représentant de la Belgique auprès de la FAO et des institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies à Rome. Je n'ai pas "besoin de présenter M. Baeyens, vous le connaissez tous, c'est certainement un des représentants permanents les plus estimés parmi nous, un de ceux aussi qui ont déployé le plus d'activité en faveur des oeuvres de la FAO et de tout ce que nous essayons de réaliser ensemble. J'espère donc que tout le monde voudra bien soutenir cette candidature qui me paraît particulièrement appropriée.

B. SANCHEZ G. (Venezuela): Aunque lamento que en el pasado período de sesiones del Consejo y en el presente la Región de América Latina no ha estado presente en la mesa directiva del Consejo, en nombre de mi delegación y del mío propio, queremos expresar apoyo a la candidatura presentada por Francia en la persona del Embajador de Bélgica. Pensamos que este candidato es de notable valor y aspiramos a través de él que se fomenten todas aquellas novedades que puedan impulsar las perspectivas y metas de este Consejo.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaïre): Nous aussi, nous voulons appuyer la candidature qui vient d'être proposée par la France, à savoir celle du délégué de la Belgique en qualité de troisième vice-président du Conseil.

F. ABDEFJIMADJIB (Algérie): Ma délégation appuie la candidature qui nous a été présentée. Je voudrais cependant faire une remarque d'ordre général. D'abord, je voudrais féliciter les trois vice-présidents; ensuite, je souhaiterais que le nouveau paragraphe qui va remplacer le paragraphe du Règlement intérieur concernera les trois vice-présidences soit rédigé de manière telle qu'on y introduise le concept d'une rotation géographique équitable, de manière que toutes les régions puissent être représentées au Conseil au moment où il se réunit tous les deux ou trois ans. Je crois que c'est un principe qui est universellement admis au niveau du système des Nations Unies, d'autant plus que nous voulons introduire l'équité au sein de ce système. C'est la seule remarque que je désirais faire.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se complace en apoyar la propuesta hecha por el Embajador de Francia en la persona del distinguido Embajador de Bélgica para la tercera Vicepresidencia.

Apoyamos la declaración que acaba de hacer el colega de Argelia que confirma lo que esta mañana /?/ dicho los delegados de Estados Unidos y Colombia. Consideramos que se sentará un mal precedente si se reforma el Reglamento General sin disponer de un texto. Aunque en apariencia se trate de una enmienda insignificante, el Reglamento General es un contexto de disposiciones que merece el respeto del Consejo y que sólo debe ser modificado a plena conciencia por los miembros del Organismo. Aprovechamos esta ocasión para insistir en nuestro punto de vista de que sólo conviene

ahora suspender el artículo del Reglamento para permitir la elección de tres Vicepresidentes según la propuesta suya y en nuestro informe diremos al CACJ presente un proyecto de enmienda al Reglamento General en el cual, además de aumentar a tres los Vicepresidentes se conservara el principio de la rotación geográfica, y así se obtendría el mismo resultado y en octubre próximo habremos modificado el Reglamento, pero de manera racional y ordenada.

CHAIRMAN: Really it is a matter to imagine that any draft or /?/ of rules /?/ be made without the amendments being brought here, and my understanding is that the Drafting Committee, together with the Legal Adviser, will do this and bring it back to us here, as you yourself said, delegate of Colombia, this is a very minor amendment, but we will see it.

M.-A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Greece): Je tiens à vous dire que ma délégation se joint avec joie aux orateurs précédents qui ont appuyé la candidature de l'ambassadeur Bmymms au poste de vice-président du Conseil. Les qualités exceptionnelles, personnelles et professionnelles de l'ambassadeur Baeyens, que nous connaissons tous je crois, constituent une garantie pour notre choix.

I. OZORAI (Hungary) : I would only like to say that my delegation wholeheartedly seconds the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of France to elect Ambassador Baeyens to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

At the same time, my delegation also supports wholeheartedly the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate of Algeria that the forum should consider the amendments for the Council sessions in future, that they should ensure equitable distribution of areas for the future.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I would like also to associate myself with those who have strongly supported the nomination of Ambassador Baeyens, offered to us by the Chief of the Delegation of France. Ambassador Baeyens, by his experience in this Organization, is eminently qualified to serve on this Council.

At the same time I would like to stress my sympathy with the comments made by my colleague from Colombia. I agree with him that this is not a major item for the amendment of the rules for the election of Vice-Chairman, but I do think as he does that a normal procedure for this would be a good omen for our effort to conduct these proceedings with particular attention to orderly procedure, because it is only the procedure which in the last analysis protects the interests of the members of this Council.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We did not ask for the floor. Nevertheless, we wholeheartedly support the candidature of our friend Ambassador Baeyens.

CHAIRMAN: We thought we saw your flag, but thank you for your intervention.

S. MADENBA SY (Sénégal): La délégation sénégalaise tient à s'associer aux autres délégations pour appuyer très chaleureusement la candidature de S.E. l'Ambassadeur Baeyens au poste de troisième Vice-Président.

CHAIRMAN: I am very glad to say we now have a lot of support for the proposal by the delegate of France that Ambassador Baeyens be elected one of the Vice-Chairmen, and I take it this is the unanimous agreement of the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je voudrais simplement adresser les remerciements de ma délégation et les miens propres à toutes les délégations qui ont "bien voulu me proposer pour ce poste de Vice-Président, en particulier la France, et à toutes les délégations qui ont appuyé cette nomination

Laissez-moi vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que je suis le premier à me réjouir de vous voir à nouveau présider le Conseil. Laissez-moi vous donner l'assurance qu'en qualité de Vice-Président, je suis à votre entière disposition.

CHAIRMAN: We will now conclude item 2 by designating the Chairman and members of the Drafting Committee* The following proposals have been submitted and I pass them on to the Council. Chairman of the Drafting Committee - Mr. Masud of Pakistan. Are there any objections to this appointment? Then Mr. Masud has been designated as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The following members are proposed: Africa : Ghana and Zaire ; Asia : India ; Europe : France ; Latin-America : Venezuela ; Near-East : Lebanon ; North America : United States of America ; South-West Pacific : Australia. These are the proposed members of the Drafting Committee, does that meet with your approval?

Then it is accepted that we designate these countries as members, and I want to call on these countries to submit the names of their representatives who will be on the Drafting Committee to the Secretariat.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

4. Current World Food Situation

4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale

4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo

CHAIRMAN: While members were commenting on the Director-General's statement, a lot of members did in fact touch on this particular item, because this formed part of the statement by the Director-General. Therefore, I am sure that part of the debate has already been stated.

I would now like to call on Professor Islam to introduce the paper before we start the debate.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The main features of the current world food situation are set out in document CL 75/2 and are updated in 75/2 Sub.1. There is not much need for me to introduce the item at any length, nor are there any new developments to report, since this updating was prepared as recently as the middle of May.

This morning you have also heard the Director-General 's evaluation of the current food situation. However, I would like to highlight a few points. It is still much too early in the year to have any idea of the production forecasts for 1979.

While estimates of the winter wheat crops are firmly confirmed, the outcome of the spring wheat crop, particularly in Canada and the USSR, cannot be foreseen with any great certainty. Similarly, most of the coarse grain in the Southern hemisphere has been harvested already, but in the Northern hemisphere, particularly in the United States, it still depends on the growing conditions and harvesting in the coming months.

The latest estimates for 1979 for wheat and coarse grain production remain at 1.13 billion tons, 5 per cent below the 1978 record, as well as below the long - term trend. This is a tentative forecast, but it now seems most likely that the current production of wheat and coarse grain will be below the requirements in 1979-1980 ; thus, carry-over stocks are likely to be drawn down by the close of the 1979-80 session.

International wheat prices have risen in response to this situation, and the United States national prices have reached the level at which the wheat crop can be released from the farms' own reserves.

This precarious and fragile wheat situation is reflected in recent food import. The total cereal imports of developing countries and China which were about 70 million tons in 1977-76 are expected to reach 78 million tons in 1978-79. The imports of most seriously affected countries which were about 16 million tons in 1977-78 are expected to reach 18 million tons in 1978-79. Moreover our estimates indicate that China has imported about 12.5 million tons during 1977-78 and the U.S.S.R. has imported about 12.5 million tons. During the next year it is estimated that their imports will be substantial and possibly of a higher magnitude. It is expected that the U.S.S.R. alone will import about 15 million tons next year.

The FAO food information system is already giving an early warning of unfavourable crop conditions in 25 developing countries. This is more than the number of countries which had reported to have unfavourable crop conditions a year ago ; in fact, currently sixteen countries are facing food shortages.

The next point on which I should like to bring you up-to-date is the result of deliberations at UNCTAD V which has just concluded its session in Manila. It is too early for a full assessment of its outcome. While many basic issues still remain to be resolved and have been referred to UNCTAD, there was apparently some limited progress in a number of fields. Of these only those relating to perfectionism, economic cooperation among developing countries, commodities and least developed countries were of particular relevance to food and agriculture. On protectionism, which was a major issue of contention in Manila, UNCTAD V called on the developed countries to pursue policies aimed at encouraging re-allocation of productive activities so that the developed countries move out progressively from the less competitive areas, especially where the long-term competitive advantage favours the developing countries.

Concerning economic cooperation among developing countries, a resolution was adopted urging the entire international community to provide appropriate support and assistance to programmes on economic cooperation among developing countries. It also urged effective implementation of the plans of action on technical cooperation among developing countries recently adopted in Buenos Aires, and invited the United Nations Development Programme to devote increased resources to programmes for economic cooperation among developing countries* As the Council knows, the Director-General is convening a technical consultation on economic cooperation among developing countries in the week following this Council meeting.

As regards commodities the Conference urged governments which had not yet pledged to the Second Window of the Common Fund to do so before the Fourth Session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on the Common Fund scheduled to meet in the latter part of this year. It has also urged governments to expedite the convening of negotiating conferences on commodities for which preparatory work has achieved sufficient progress under the integrated programme for commodities.

Another resolution urged the developed countries and the international organizations to substantially increase investment and technical assistance to accelerate food production in developing countries in order to strengthen food security. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in coordination with other international organizations; to keep under constant review all matters regarding international food trade and to monitor its impact on food production, consumption and food security in developing countries. It also called for the earliest possible resumption of the negotiations on an international wheat agreement.

As for the least developed countries, the Conference adopted a comprehensive new programme of action. This took into account the severity of their basic structural and economic problems which therefore called for differentiated and additional measures as an essential contribution to the new international economic order.

I think this is all I need to say at this stage. My colleagues and I will, of course, be happy to try to answer any questions that may arise during the course of your deliberations.

GHAIRMAN: This paper having now been introduced, and discussion - as I have said - having already started on it, we now open the contentive discussion of the paper.

V.S.BLANCO DELGADO (México): Desde el principio quisiéramos agradecer tanto la preparación como la presentación del documento CL 75/2 y su suplemento 1 que, además de distinguirse por su calidad y brevedad, confirma claramente la difícil situación mundial de la alimentación y permite, tanto formular conclusiones, siempre en el marco de lo estructural y global, como anticipar la magnitud de tareas por realizar en los países en desarrollo y de la urgencia de hacer efectivos, sin más dilaciones, los compromisos programáticos contraídos, sin exclusión, por la Comunidad Internacional; esfuerzo que incluye destacadamente el fortalecimiento y mayor dinamismo de la FAO y de otras instituciones mundiales y regionales íntimamente relacionadas con este vital campo, reconociendo la preeminencia de los foros de alcance mundial. Datos y reflexiones, síntesis y advertencia que también se remiten al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, órgano político donde México, como activo integrante país del tercer mundo, también hace su contribución hacia el cabal establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Coincidimos plenamente con el documento cuando expresa la incertidumbre en materia de suministros alimentarios y subrayamos la persistencia y aparición de elementos, actitudes y prácticas cuyos resultados más próximos no sólo deterioran el impacto de las realizaciones, sino que atestiguan el olvido de nuestro compromiso político esencial y apuntala un sistema de relaciones internacionales que reproduce y amplía constantemente la desigualdad en que se funda.

Dentro de nuestro permanente afán por sobrevivir, y en consonancia con nuestra inclinación por el establecimiento de relaciones humanas y éticas en la vida internacional, y analizando tanto nuestros grandes desafíos como la necesidad de plantear a fondo los problemas, reiteramos el pensamiento del Presidente de México en el sentido de que casi todo se ha dicho y casi nada se ha hecho. Asimismo, no hay duda, las estadísticas lo evidencian, que los países que quizá convencionalmente seguimos llamando como "en vías de desarrollo" están inmersos en un indiscutible proceso de empobrecimiento, de involución.

La agricultura de la mayoría de los países es el sector más importante y no crece y se desarrolla al ritmo de las necesidades y a pesar del esfuerzo histórico de los países subdesarrollados, el número de pobres y desnutridos aumenta» Los gravemente desnutridos han llegado a sumar casi 500 millones y los que se ubican por debajo de los niveles de pobreza pronto serán mil millones»

Las importaciones de alimentos son cada vez mayores y el concepto de la seguridad alimentaria no encuentra contraparte en la realidad» Se cierran las posibilidades de acceder remunerativamente a otros mercados y se hacen más tardíos o se suspenden indefinidamente importantes negociaciones.

En materia de ayuda alimentaria, aún falta mucho por hacer y las relaciones de intercambio agrícola muestran un empeoramiento nada recomendable» Muchas de las estadísticas presentadas indican mejoramiento. Sin embargo, un importante número de casos apenas alcanza magnitudes semejantes a las logradas hace muchos años. Estrictamente hablando, no se puede afirmar que estamos lejos de una situación crítica y que la adversidad está por superarse»

Tampoco se puede reconocer que algunos sectores no ponen su imaginación en juego y destacan por su actitud ante los que pretenden imponer criterios.

Así encontramos la creación del Pondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, institución nueva y pequeña que pronto habrá de acreditar su origen y a la que se le deberá dotar de mayores recursos; el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y la Cuenta Especial para la Prevención de Pérdidas de los Alimentos de la FAO, instrumentos aún modestos que deben ganar dimensión compatible con la realidad en que se hallan, y de manera especial consignamos tanto la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural por celebrarse aquí el próximo mes y que sin duda habrá de hacer contribuciones sustantivas, y el Programa de Acción de Cinco Puntos propuesto por el Director General de la FAO recientemente y que por la coyuntura merece el más amplio respaldo, al igual que el proyectado Pondo de Lucha con la Peste porcina africana. A este último respecto, reconocemos la participación de la FAO para hacer frente a esta enfermedad en América Latina.

No podemos coincidir con quien llegara a expresar que los países subdesarrollados no otorgan prioridad a la alimentación. Están de moda las categorizaciones y las graduaciones que siempre dañan y esconden la realidad» Nos esforzamos tanto como nuestras capacidades lo permiten y si algunos encuentran aparentes excepciones, también deberían tener en cuenta las razones y las expliaciones reales.

No sólo intentamos corregir nuestra situación interna, sino también la internaional creada por terceros. No sólo pagamos el curso de la historia hacia la soberanía y la independencia, sino también la crisis, la ineficiencia y la inflación de terceros. Por eso, los propósito» de justicia y equidad

no son conceptos huecos como algunos quieren aparentarlo. Por eso, se explica la Carta de los Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados y el Programa de Acción para el Establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Si los recursos financieros nacionales siempre escasos no se transfieren de algunos sectores a la agricultura es porque no se puede descuidar la totalidad del desarrollo; si no se emprenden grandes estudios, programas e instituciones, es por la carencia de personal capacitado adecuadamente. No hay que olvidar que las tecnologías disponibles o son caras u obsoletas y con mucha frecuencia diseñadas para otra realidad; y tampoco hay que hacer menos la fuga de cerebros por su contratación por entidades que no necesariamente responden a los intereses nacionales.

Por cuanto corresponde a México, continuamos empeñados en hacer realidad la filosofía del programa popular y democrático de la alianza para la producción propuesta por el Presidente López Portillo al pueblo de México, y que otorga singular prioridad a los alimentos, decisión que se refleja contundentemente en lo político, lo administrativo, lo presupuestario y financiero, y también, en lo programático, técnico y participativo en materia de producción y autoabastecimiento de productos básicos de la tierra nacional, incluidos el crédito, la asistencia técnica, la investigación, la organización de los productos, la comercialización y, en fin, todo cuanto corresponde a la reforma agraria y al desarrollo rural.

Existe una amplia base de responsabilidad solidaria. En los últimos dos años, la producción agrícola creció un 5% y las metas para 1979 son aún más ambiciosas. Hemos programado una superficie un poco mayor a los 17 millones de hectáreas sobresaliendo los cultivos de maíz y frijol, y supone una mejor utilización de las tierras ya cultivadas como la incorporación de nuevas, así como tratamiento especial a las áreas de temporal, dando preferencia a las zonas, grupos humanos y actividades más deprimidos.

En el campo de las agroindustrias renovamos nuestro esfuerzo y se esperan importantes realizaciones. El Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero sigue su marcha hacia el objetivo de una racional utilización y vigilancia de la zona económica exclusiva.

En fin, México está presente y activo en todo cuanto concierne a los asuntos mundiales y propios en el campo de la alimentación. Internacionalmente ofrece su experiencia y capacidad de actitud basada en la comprensión y espíritu de solidaridad que son característicos.

M.S. SWAMINATHAN (India): First of all I would like to offer our sincere appreciation and congratulations to Professor Nour Islam and his band of very devoted colleagues for the excellent report they have produced. If the report is pessimistic it is not their fault. They have given a factual account of the position and we are grateful for the early warning issued by FAO,

We feel the paper is in a way a sad reflection of the state of affairs in the world on the food front, because as I mentioned this morning, in spite of many pious statements and hopes, we still find that even the very small growth rate of 4 percent suggested under the Development Decade 2 has not been realized and you know very well that according to the projections of the International Labour Organization for every one percent growth rate in population a minimum of 3 percent economic growth rate is necessary just to provide employment at subsistence level for that population alone. This is why the paper of FAO clearly brings out their stagnation in dietary energy intake. It has remained practically stagnant. In MSA countries it was 101 in 1969/71 keeping the index at 100 in 61-65 and it has remained at 101 in 1976. Even if we take all the developing countries together we find that the improvement in the average dietary energy intake is very small. The index is 110 in 1976 in contrast to 106 in 1969/71 and we all know only too well that these averages again hide the fact that a very large percentage of the economically handicapped sections of the population, particularly women and children, have a much lower intake than what is revealed by these indices. We are therefore happy that the report has brought out very clearly the sad state of affairs and the question now arises as to where we go from here. Some of the maladies have also been recognized in the paper, for example, the World Food Council has estimated that for achieving an annual growth rate of 4 percent in agricultural production, the minimum of external assistance of \$8.3 billion will be needed but the actual availability of external assistance has been of the order of about \$4 billion, in other words only less than half of the amount considered to be minimum by the World Food Council.

Now instead of dealing with this in a broader canvas I would like to take off from where Professor Islam mentioned that there are some countries in the world today in the throes of serious crises, that the weather and growing conditions this year are not very optimistic and I can tell this from the

experience of my own country because the monsoon, the south-west monsoon, which is our most important monsoon period, is delayed and we hope it will not completely fail. Parts of Bengal, our part of Bengal and parts of Assam are facing drought. Therefore I think I would go in with the statement that the conditions of crop growth do not seem to be very optimistic just now. But where do we go from there, and I think that is where the FAO's role has to be somewhat enlarged. In addition to giving the early warning, in my delegation's view FAO could follow it up under their TCP programme in giving positive assistance in terms of mitigating the effects of adverse weather.

I would like now to deal with the optimistic point of the whole report, namely about 75 countries having already signed the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Therefore at least we hope that these 75 countries will strain every nerve to undo the possible harm resulting from inclement weather. Now we in India are of course committed to building a very strong food security system since we have the privilege of having one-fifth of the human race in our country.

I would now like to deal with three aspects of the world food situation in terms of stability of production and in terms of possible action during this year in mitigating the likely after effects of adverse weather. Ever since the early woman started what we now call agriculture about 10.000 years ago there have been three important factors which have caused violent undulations in production. The first is weather, the second is pest epidemics and the third, which is playing an even more important role in recent years, is public policies, public policies of national governments within their own countries and as well as those which affect other countries.

I would first like to deal in a few minutes with weather. Now, weather; if in India, for example, the monsoon is normal in the next two months, both our own newspapers and international newspapers will be full of stories of floods. Last year we had unprecedented floods and we are grateful to FAO for its part in assistance along with many other countries here. The point I want to make is although we lost several million tons of rice and other grains through floods I am happy to report that our production during 1978/79 has been about 2.5 million tons more than the previous year. Had not these extensive floods occurred we would have been in a happier position, but in spite of the floods we had a good harvest. Now, how was it achieved? This is where man is not helpless today, particularly in the tropics and sub-tropics where we are blessed with sunlight throughout the year. It is possible today to launch, compensatory programmes to offset to some extent the losses but this will also require a much higher priority to irrigation. Taking the entire irrigated land of the world today it has been estimated that about 201 million hectares of land in the world are irrigated but the potential irrigable land, I am excluding from here the possibilities of de-salinized water becoming economically useful for agriculture, excluding that possibility which also may become possible once we are able to tap solar energy, the present irrigable area is 470 million hectares. I would therefore consider that at least in the context of insulation of agriculture from the vagaries of weather it is very important that we give the highest priority to irrigation and I would suggest that the FAO should help, particularly the countries which are prone to various kinds of weather abnormalities, whether it is floods, droughts, typhoons or cyclones, in the formulation of disaster-preparedness plans. The disaster-preparedness plan today deals largely with human beings, it does not deal with farm animals, in many cases and seldom does it deal with crops, what can be done to agricultural crops, the crop life saving techniques which are now available and so on. I shall not elaborate, but I have a feeling that the TCP programmes of FAO can also be used for taking the next step after the early warning. The early warning is the first step, the next step should not be wait to see what can be done, apart from gathering food from the surplus countries and so on, but initiate steps to minimize the effect of adverse climate. The need for applied climate services cannot be over emphasized. In fact: a recent world climate conference held in Geneva, partially with the help of FAO, has clearly brought out the fact that there is considerable knowledge available today to provide more detailed applied climate services in developing countries. The developed countries are better off here, but in the developing countries there is need for a great deal of effort. I would hope that FAO and WMO together will take follow-up action in terms of stimulating the growth of agro-meteorology in developing countries.

The second factor which I mentioned was the pest epidemics and I was happy that this morning the Director-General stressed very considerably the desert locusts and trypanosomiasis and many other diseases. Here again is an area where many times national effort alone will not be adequate. We have the example of the wheat rust situation, India, North-west India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and so on where coordinated action alone can have the maximum benefit. The brown plant hopper menace in the whole of Asia with the introduction of the new dwarf plant types is becoming a very serious threat to the rice crop and these are also carried by, atmospheric winds. So I would suggest that the idea of the desert locust control concept must now be enlarged to cover major rice pests like the brown plant hopper .which, from Indonesia to Pakistan is now facting a grave threat to the rice crop, the wheat rust and so on.,.

The third factor is the public policy issue and we shall be discussing it and I will come to it when we deal with food security, but one cannot underestimate the crucial role of public policies, particularly in the area of post-harvest technology of processing, marketing, pricing. This is why we are lucky that the FAO have given considerable emphasis to post-harvest losses, but apart from that, pricing and marketing, a price that is reasonable to the consumer and remunerative to the grower is becoming a very important task in terms of stimulating national farm production.

I would therefore once again compliment FAO on its good paper. I would like to suggest that we should not assume an air of helplessness and waiting for an impending disaster, saying that so many countries will be affected and so on, but should proceed from the very purpose of the early warning which is to take early action to mitigate the harmful effects of that particular warning message, and I hope that this can also be done, and that the FAO Council will give some serious attention when we come to programmes and budget. I would like to suggest we must enhance FAO's capability to assist those nations which are affected by early warning systems to mitigate possible harm to crops and farm animals in addition to the human population.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : La delegación de Colombia interviene con mucho desaliento en la discusión de este tema 4» En cada una de las sesiones de nuestro Consejo, cuando consideramos la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo, el cuadro lamentable es el mismo; en nuestros informes consignamos las mismas preocupaciones y solemos hacer los mismos llamados.

Desde hace muchísimos años, así concluye siempre la discusión de este punto; luego volvemos al siguiente período del Consejo y el cuadro es el mismo, tal como lo ha dicho con elocuencia y conocimiento nuestro colega de la India y como lo confirman plenamente los documentos CL 75/2 y su Suplemento 1.

En opinión de la delegación de Colombia, esto demuestra que subsiste la carencia de voluntad política por parte de los países desarrollados, que tienen los poderes y los medios para contribuir a modificar esa situación, y además que el esfuerzo que viene haciendo la Comunidad Internacional no ha producido aún resultados suficientemente concretos, lo cual exige que intensifiquemos esos esfuerzos.

No obstante estas consideraciones para cumplir con la práctica de /?/ ejercicio queremos empezar por el Suplemento 1 del documento breve que se nos ha entregado recientemente, en el cual se dice que los elementos fundamentales contenidos en el documento básico siguen siendo válidos, es decir, que entre abril de este año y el momento actual, la situación para los países en desarrollo no han cambiado. Si cambio se registra una ligera alza en la estimación correspondiente a los países desarrollados, y se alzan un poco las previsiones sobre la producción mundial de trigo y cereales para 1979t al paso que al final de esta primera página del Suplemento 1 se dice que en el Canadá y en los Estados Unidos se van a reducir áreas cultivables en la actualidad. Esa reducción de áreas cultivadas, como es natural, afectará a los precios, pero además está en contraposición con lo que recomienda el Comité de Agricultura en un documento que estudiaremos más adelante, según el cual en vista de la situación difícil e incierta de la agricultura en el mundo, es necesario aumentar el área cultivable y no reducirla como proponen estos dos países poderosos.

En la parte final del Suplemento 1, donde se habla de los problemas comerciales, el panorama es igual mente desolador para los países en desarrollo Las Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales del GATT continúan todavía y su desenlace es incierto» Es justo reconocer que se ha llegado a una serie de acuerdos sobre las barreras no arancelarias; pero el documento dice muy claramente en forma textual que: "Sin embargo, diversos temas cruciales para los países en desarrollo siguen sin resolver". Es decir, las esperanzas y las inquietudes de los países menos desarrollados continúan en su mismo punto.

La Delegación de Colombia considera que en nuestro informe debemos destacar los puntos fundamentales que sobresalen del documento básico CL 75/2, que a nuestro juicio son los siguientes : la situación alimentaria mundial continúa siendo incierta» las tendencias a largo plazo de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo son insuficientes. la incidencia del hambre y la malnutrición siguen sin disminuir» El mayor suministro de ayuda en alimentos y las buenas condiciones meteorológicas han sido los dos únicos factores aleatorios que hacen menos dramática la situación: es decir, no se han logrado mejoras estables ni permanentes que garanticen el crecimiento continuado de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo

En efecto, en las naciones menos desarrolladas durante el período de sesiones 1977-78, apenas se logró el promedio anual del 3,0 que corresponde a la misma cifra de los años 60, muy por debajo del 4 por ciento previsto para el segundo decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo; es decir, en vez de avanzar vamos hacia atrás»

Después de más de cuatro años las negociaciones para reemplazar el acuerdo internacional del trigo han sido suspendidas indefinidamente.

Sobre el Plan de Acción de Cinco Puntos propuesto por el Director General nos referiremos más adelante cuando se discuta el Tema 5. Mientras tanto en los países en desarrollo las reservas alimentarias están muy por debajo de los objetivos fijados, además todos los poderes y decisiones sobre esa seguridad alimentaria están en manos y a discreción de los países desarrollados. En efecto nos dice el documento que más de la mitad de las reservas se encuentran en poder de los Estados Unidos y del Canadá. Los precios serán regulados por esos mismos países a través del mecanismo de retiros temporales del mercado.

Han aumentado las ayudas alimentarias, pero en proporción muy modestas con las importaciones que tienen debido a realizar los países en desarrollo; ha disminuido la contribución de los países donantes al Plan Internacional de Suministro de Fertilizantes de la FAO. Seguramente para seguir este mismo juego cuando lleguemos al tema 7 y discutamos el informe de la Comisión de Fertilizantes tendremos que hacer un nuevo llamado con los resultados que siempre se obtienen.

Creemos que va bien el programa de acción de la FAO para la prevención de pérdidas de alimentos. Sobre este programa apoyamos el énfasis que se está dando a los proyectos, en los cuales son beneficiarios los campesinos pobres. Esto está en consonancia con la política agropecuaria del actual Gobierno de Colombia,

La Sección del Comercio Internacional y Precios concluye con la afirmación de que a más largo plazo existe una tendencia descendente en el porcentaje correspondiente a los países en desarrollo en los ingresos totales por exportaciones agrícolas.

Por otra parte, se prevé que los países en desarrollo importarán la cifra récord de 77 millones de toneladas de cereales durante 1978-79. En medio de ese panorama poco alentador, hay un signo de confianza, y es el acuerdo sobre la intensificación de elementos fundamentales del Fondo Coman para financiar un programa integrado de productos. Esperamos que las negociaciones en curso obtengan buenos resultados,

Finalmente la delegación de Colombia condena con toda energía y decisión el resurgimiento del proteccionismo, contra el que ya hemos agotado nuestros argumentos.

Hemos querido, señor Presidente, en nuestra intervención destacar algunos elementos esenciales de estos documentos; veremos después de nuestros debates cómo aparece todo esto en nuestro informe, y, naturalmente, el año entrante volveremos a discutir de nuevo este asunto,

D. WARE (Canadá): Since this is the first opportunity that the Canadian delegation has had to speak I would like to say how pleased we are to have you with us as our Chairman again. We know that under your guidance and that of the three Vice-Chairmen who have been elected and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee we will have a most constructive session of the Council.

I would like to turn now to the two documents under consideration. Frankly, we are pleased with some of the encouraging signs that are brought forward in them, to show that the development of the world food situation is improving, while we fully recognize also and accept the cautions and the concerns at the lack of real gains in many countries, especially in many of the MSA countries. We agree with Professor Islam that with respect to the current situation for 1979 it is of course too early to make any firm forecast. But looking at CL 75/2-Sup. I it is quite correct, Canadian plantings are amongst those delayed due to unusually wet springtime conditions. Cold wet weather had delayed the seeding in the Canadian provinces and may result in some farmers switching out of grains into rapeseed, barley and flaxseed. The areas sown to various crops could vary considerably from the March 1979 farming intentions. Farmers in our country make their own individual planting decisions based on their needs, based on their farm situation, and certainly it is not government policy to indicate cutting down production.

In examining document CL 75/2, in fisheries we note that the introduction of Exclusive Economic Zones is affecting production patterns and agree that in the long run this should lead to more stable production conditions for the fisheries. This emphasis on Exclusive Economic Zones was also mentioned by the Director-General this morning in his comprehensive address and this is an area of work which Canada fully supports.

Again looking at the document before us, we have taken note of the comments by the Secretariat concerning the strains on our producers' rail and port facilities. It is quite correct that we have experienced some difficulties in Canada in this area but these are being solved now by better rationalization of our transportation system and the addition of new rolling stock.

We are frankly quite confident that we will be able to maintain Canada's long tradition of fulfilment of its international obligations in the food and agriculture sector.

One point that concerns us in the document is the figures reporting the carryover of cereal stocks. We feel that this should be distinguished by the type of grain and stocks a little finer in the sense that ample supplies of corn which have been listed are often not fully utilisable by many of the developing countries because of their eating habits, as you well know.

In conclusion, Canada is pleased with the Secretariat's document. They have produced the most useful and relevant statement and I agree with the delegate of India when he says that adequate price policies are really one of the major keys to increased food production.

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): Comme c'est la première fois que ma délégation prend la parole, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous exprimer notre joie de voir comment vous dirigez les travaux de la présente session. Je profite de cette occasion également pour présenter mes félicitations aux trois vice-présidents qui ont été désignés et nous espérons qu'ils apporteront du nouveau dans notre organisation, compte tenu de leur compétence et de leur expérience respectives.

Ceci dit, la délégation rwandaise remercie vivement le Directeur général de la FAO ainsi que les membres du secrétariat pour la clarté et l'abondance des renseignements présentés dans le document portant sur la situation alimentaire mondiale. En effet, nul ne peut mieux présenter la situation alimentaire mondiale sans évoquer tous les points présentés dans celui-ci. Cependant, la délégation rwandaise, tout en appuyant les grandes lignes, voudrait faire certaines observations. Il ressort de ce document que pendant la campagne 1978/79 (page 16) on observe une croissance des nouvelles disponibilités alimentaires en stocks céréaliers, et ceci a même été reconnu par les membres du Comité des politiques et programmes lors de la dernière session. Cependant, le taux de croissance démographique actuel dans les pays en développement ne cesse d'augmenter et ces pays ont besoin de l'aide alimentaire plus que quiconque. Aussi, compte tenu de cela, face à cette situation, la délégation rwandaise pense que les pays donateurs, ceux industrialisés surtout, devraient - et ceci dans le cadre de la solidarité internationale - augmenter leurs contributions pour le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Elle pense aussi que les pays tels que l'URSS et la Chine, qui sont de grands producteurs de céréales et d'autres produits alimentaires, devraient faire partie du Programme alimentaire mondial afin de mieux participer à l'oeuvre internationale de lutte contre la faim par tous les voies et les moyens.

S'agissant toujours du problème de stocks alimentaires mondiaux, la délégation rwandaise partage son inquiétude avec le secrétariat quant à la forte concentration des mêmes stocks dans une même zone géographique et elle propose que des dispositions urgentes, dynamiques et appropriées, soient prises au niveau international de façon à décentraliser ces stocks alimentaires mondiaux.

S'agissant de la méthodologie de l'expression des engagements de l'aide alimentaire en nature (pages 18 et 19), ma délégation pense qu'il faudrait une fois pour toutes adopter une méthode basée sur le tonnage et non basée sur la valeur, compte tenu des fluctuations monétaires actuelles que tout le monde connaît bien. Ceci aura pour effet, à moyen et à long terme, pour une même période budgétaire, la mise à disposition des ressources du Programme alimentaire mondial et de la Réserve pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Pour ce qui est de la fixation du niveau des engagements, ou plus encore de la programmation des engagements, la délégation rwandaise pense que cette programmation devrait se baser sur les besoins des pays bénéficiaires exprimés ou déjà programmés.

S'agissant du programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO, ma délégation appuie totalement ses principes directeurs et comme ce point fera l'objet d'un examen mentionné à l'ordre du jour, elle se garde de tout commentaire pour l'instant et demandera la parole au moment opportun.

3. S'agissant de l'ajournement des négociations sur l'Arrangement international pour remplacer en fait l'Accord international sur le blé de 1971, ma délégation est très inquiète quant à l'avenir de la sécurité mondiale et espère que la présente session dégagera des recommandations assez fermes pour une

reprise urgente de ces négociations. On se demande si, dans cet ordre d'idées, le nouvel arrangement ne pourrait pas s'étendre sur d'autres produits alimentaires autres que les céréales afin de mieux garantir l'équilibre alimentaire international.

Enfin, je ne voudrais pas terminer sur ce problème sans parler du problème des investissements dans le secteur agricole des pays en développement.

Je partage entièrement l'avis du secrétariat quant à l'évolution faible du volume d'investissements dans le secteur agricole dans les pays en développement. Cependant, je voudrais souligner que dans la plupart des cas la faute n'est pas de ces pays mêmes étant donné que l'appui financier de leur développement intégral est largement tributaire du monde extérieur. Aussi, il convient de souligner ici que la FAO devrait lancer un appel ferme à tous les pays, organismes et institutions participant à l'effort de développement des pays en développement, surtout les plus pauvres et les moins avancés, pour qu'ils accroissent la part réservée au développement agricole en participant aux objectifs d'augmentation de la production agricole et animale.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): Not taking into consideration the brief intervention in the election procedure, this is the first time my delegation is given the floor, so may I therefore extend my sincere congratulations to the three Vice-chairmen elected, and may I say how happy we are, Mr. Chairman, to have you in the Chair once again at our Council Session.

The World Food situation remains uncertain despite some improvements in food supply. This recurrent statement once again is introduced by the report on the current world food situation in document CL 75/2. The document and the additional information supplied in Sup. 1 are comprehensive and concise indeed, offering an excellent basis for discussion. One really cannot blame the report for not being able to take a less dim view of recent developments than in the previous year. Despite the positive aspects in food production in the last year, the rate of growth in food production in developing countries was still far from the target figures, and MSA countries once again experienced a lower increase than the average of the developing countries. In other words, not only has the original gap in food production and supply existing between developed and developing countries remained unchanged, but the rather dangerous situation of the MSA countries has further deteriorated. If food imports were accepted as parameters for the food gap, this gap trebled in fifteen years and was likely to increase even at a faster pace in the next fifteen years.

I do not feel it my duty to expand on the standpoint of my government on the origins, evolution and possible solutions of the food crisis in a good number of countries. This standpoint, I suppose, is well known. May I only state that the longer and deeper adverse conditions in developing countries maintain their course, the greater emphasis we need to put the responsibility and the means to a lasting solution to this problem in the hands of the countries concerned to which the international community is giving valuable assistance.

I would like to raise one point which I feel is pertinent to an Agenda item we are discussing. This refers to the allocation of resources to food production in developing countries with special emphasis on MSA countries. The relevant chapter of the paper before us suggests that agriculture in the developing countries and particularly in the poorest ones did not have high priority in investment. I would say that in spite of the poor statistical representation, this statement would prove to be true in the overwhelming majority of the developing countries and perhaps in all of the MSA countries.

From other sources it is known that international agencies like the World Bank, etc., are allocated about half of their funds to develop agriculture in the developing countries. Hungary stated its concern about the scanty information FAO's governing bodies actually have on agricultural investments in the developing countries already at the 74th Session of the FAO Council in December last year. I should like to repeat this concern.

The hesitation of many governments in developing countries to give greater attention to agriculture and food production and to grant a higher priority to allocations is well known.

Being fully aware of the limited resources, we still think every forum should be utilized to call on the governments concerned to give greater attention to agriculture. I think this is the same issue India referred to as public policy.

A number of studies have tried to identify and to quantify investment requirements for food production in developing countries. There is a considerable variety of estimates made by FAO, the World Bank, the IFPRI, etc. A fair average guess would be a yearly investment requirement of about US\$ 14 billion at

1975 prices to all developing countries and of about US\$ 6 billion per year for the 35 countries with a per capita income below US\$ 200/per year. Should the investments fall short of these targets, the food gap is likely to widen even further. It is only obvious to state that without an active interest and full involvement in the food production by the governments concerned, and if I may add, without full attention towards proper means to improve their agricultural infrastructure, there is little hope to achieve these results.

My delegation learned with satisfaction that FAO is about to increase the programme aiming at a very practical approach to the production needs of the developing countries.

Finally, may I say how deeply Hungary appreciates the address this morning of the Director-General. Dr. Saouma's introduction was not only clear, frank and comprehensive but at the same time it was deeply human too, and reflected the action-oriented approach he introduced into this Organization in improving the world food situation. The Director-General and his staff may count on the full support of my Government in this programme.

L.V. BORGES da FONSECA (Brazil): My delegation would like to make a few brief observations in connexion with the report on the current world food situation as presented in the document we have before us, CL 75/2. We consider this to be a concise but extremely precise and well-done document. We do not pretend to elaborate or make detailed comments on it but call the attention of the Council to those we think are some of the most important items it deals with, always having in mind the strengthening of the world food situation in general and especially in developing countries.

With this in mind, it is with great concern that we read in the summary on the first page of this document the assertion that the second United Nations Development Decade target of a 4 percent rate of growth in the food production of developing countries will not be achieved and that the level of the rate of growth for 1970-78 will equal that of the 1960s, that is to say, around 3 percent.

Furthermore, we do not know if the deterioration of the agricultural terms of trade of the developing countries has also been taken into consideration in comparison with the two levels referred to. We sincerely hope that they have been, otherwise the real level of the rate of growth would be even lower.

However, the most important conclusions stated in the document is the one we read in the second paragraph on page 2, which refers to the per caput supplies of dietary energy in the developing market economies, which as stated, "declined between 1969-71 and 1972-74, and the number of undernourished people in these countries rose from about 400 million to 450 million".

With this situation in mind, the reduction of the commitment for food aid in the biennium 1978-79, which is far below the minimum target of 10 million tons and well below the levels at the beginning of the 1970's, as well as the expectancy that the increase in imports of cereals in the developing countries will attain a record of 77 million tons. In the light of the information given in Table 8, page 15, with all these facts the international community of this Council cannot in the opinion of my delegation but express its great concern with the food situation in developing countries in the near future. However, if the situation described in this document is not one for rejoicing, we can nonetheless not consider it to be completely negative. Indeed, it is with satisfaction that we see in the very beginning of page 8, progress made in the field of fishery on the part of developing countries which we think would be greatly favoured by the extension of international jurisdiction over fishery by coastal countries.

It is also with satisfaction my delegation takes note of what is done by FAO in order to achieve the reduction of food losses as described in page 16 of the document.

Finally, we would like to express our deep thanks to the Secretariat who have prepared this very comprehensive document - and, as I have said before, a very concise one.

We would like also to refer to the last paragraph on the item related to pests and diseases where reference is made to the situation of African swine fever in my country. My delegation on this subject would like to state that the action undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture with the cooperation received from several countries under the technical cooperation programme was extremely successful.

According to our governmental information on this matter dated May 2nd 1979, a copy of which was sent to the Animal and Health Division of FAO, the plague was eradicated in 15 states in Brazil and infestation has been restricted to only two states. Today I can assure you the plague is under complete control.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): First of all, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing our pleasure in seeing you in the Chair. We have been impressed by the manner in which you have handled meetings of the Council which you have presided over and feel confident you will be able to steer this important session to a successful conclusion.

We congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen elected to this Session. It is a matter of pride for us that our Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO has been elected as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

I would also like to congratulate members of the Drafting Committee and wish them every success in their important and responsible task. Their election is recognition of the confidence the Council rests in them.

We would also like to thank Mr. Islam for his lucid and comprehensive introduction to document 75/2 which we have read with great interest and would like to compliment the Secretariat on presenting a comprehensive picture of the world food and agriculture situation.

Generally, we agree with the assessment of the current food situation. However, we note that already there are certain disturbing developments. According to Food Outlook No. 5 of 1979 dated 29th May 1979, wheat and grain production has deteriorated somewhat and the FAO forecast has been lowered further to 1.132 million tons - 5 per cent less than last year's record and 3 per cent below the long-term trend. It is estimated that world wheat and coarse grain production will not be sufficient to meet the consumption requirements in 1979/80 and it would be necessary to draw upon the present ample stocks. According to other estimates, the brisk demand and latest crop expectations are continuing to create the tightest world grain market since 1979. Experts feel that the result will be firm prices through next spring, despite the large grain reserve generated by last year's crop. This is only a polite way of saying that developing importing countries will have to pay higher prices, and with imports likely to go up by 8.5 million tons to a record of 77 million tons in 1978/79. This will amount to quite a bill and many developing countries with balance of payment problems will find themselves in a difficult situation.

The threat of desert locust in parts of Africa and Asia hangs, like a sword of Damocles over the heads of affected countries. The problem needs urgent attention in all its aspects, both physical and financial.

It is said that fertilizer consumption in the developing market economies continues to recover, but this recovery may be short-lived in view of the energy crisis. Prices are already rising. Higher prices coupled with higher freight rates may make it even more difficult for MSA countries to obtain adequate fertilizer supplies - a key input to increase agricultural production. Unfortunately, fertilizer assistance has remained much below the level called for by the seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Fertilizer aid channeled through IFS continues to decline. From a figure of 103 thousand tons in 1974/75 it has dropped to 59 thousand tons in 1977/78. However, we must thank the Government of the U.K., for their abiding support to this scheme.

A word about the situation in Pakistan. Despite last year's adverse circumstances and poor crop we did not slacken our efforts and continued to strive towards the goal of self-sufficiency in wheat. Various incentives were offered to the farmers: water charges on additional area brought under wheat cultivation were remitted; the procurement price was raised from RS 99.12 per quintal to Rs. 120.60 per quintal; fertilizer prices were reduced and its availability ensured; varieties susceptible to rust attack which had caused unprecedented damage were withdrawn and new varieties introduced. We expect the current crop to be in the neighbourhood of 9.5 million tons.

We have also embarked upon a vigorous programme to effectively contain the locust and pest attack which has too often resulted in damage to our crops. We are determined to do our best in this regard and welcomed FAO assistance that was regularly forthcoming when needed. We are indeed grateful for it.

At the same time, efforts are being made to increase the production of rice. Which is not the staple food in my country, but which is in great demand in certain parts of the world. By 1982/83 we will, God willing, be in a position to spare one million tons of rice each year to ease the world situation.

All this requires increased financial resources to exploit our full potential. We are gratified to note that official commitments of external assistance has increased substantially and concessional assistance is shifting in favour of the poorest countries, but it is only about half of what is required. Unfortunately, available resources are being diverted towards the import of food grains rather than being spent on requisites necessary for exploiting the potential of some developing countries. Rising prices of grains and inputs both join together to erode financial resources,

increasing the dependence of these countries to an even greater extent on developed nations. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that liberal external assistance should be provided to the developing nations and at least the targets fixed by the World Food Conference be met.

Lastly, a word about food security, food aid. We were disappointed at the indefinite adjournment of the United Nations negotiating conference on an International Wheat Agreement of 1971, but have been heartened by the Director-General's bold initiative in proposing the 5-point Plan of Action for implementing the International Undertaking on World Food Security of a voluntary basis without further delay. The 5-point Plan of Action has been widely acclaimed and we hope that it fills the void left by the adjournment of the Negotiating Conference.

The examination of this document has become somewhat of a routine. Developing countries highlight their difficulties and stress their solution. Developed countries express their sympathy with the plight of the developing countries and that is about all. Take just one example relating to food aid. In 1976 the position in document CL 70/2 was as follows:

"Food aid recovered to 9.3 million tons in 1975/76 but this is somewhat below the 10 million tons agreed by the World Food Conference and this Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly as a minimum target. Higher level of food aid would lessen the need for other special measures for the MSA countries to obtain their food imports requirements".

Now, in 1979 almost three years later, the document under consideration has thus to say about food aid:

"Although food aid shipments of cereals have recovered in recent years, commitments for 1978/79 are again short of the World Food Conference target of 10 million tons and well below the levels of food aid at the beginning of 1979. The level of food aid also appears modest in relation to the total cereal imports of the developing countries which are expected to increase by 8.5 million to a record of 77 million tons in 1978/79."

It appears that in so far as food aid is concerned time has stood still. We could give similar other examples. This is not meant as criticism but merely to serve as a reminder that in spite of all that has been said and done and the word spoken and written, precious little improvement has actually taken place. We hope that the picture would be brighter in future and they can now be referred to as an imperative need for the future.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaire): Ma délégation voudrait elle aussi féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document que nous examinons. Nous félicitons par la même occasion le Professeur Islam pour la présentation de ce document. Toutefois, nous éprouvons quelques difficultés à accepter ce qui est dit au par. 2 de la section interne sur la production alimentaire, paragraphe qui figure à la page 4 du document dans le texte français. Il y est dit que c'est l'Afrique qui a enregistré le plus fort accroissement de la production vivrière parmi toutes les régions en développement. Nous pensons qu'en effet il s'agit là d'une déduction faite à partir de quelques données statistiques, fragmentaires et surestimées et qui traduisent une situation qui est quelque peu en contradiction avec la réalité. La réalité c'est ce qui a été souligné en septembre de la même année 1978, à Arusha, lors de la dixième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, à savoir que depuis les années 1970 l'Afrique est restée en arrière des autres régions en développement dans les domaines de la production et des disponibilités alimentaires.

Sa production vivrière n'a même pas suivi le rythme de la croissance démographique, et le taux d'accroissement annuel moyen de sa production alimentaire entre 1970 et 1977 n'a même pas atteint la moitié du taux atteint dans toute autre région en développement pendant la période correspondante.

Je voudrais signaler au Secrétariat, pour mémoire, que ce que je viens de dire est écrit notamment au par. 2 du Résumé des conclusions et au par. 10 de l'Introduction dans le document (ce n'est pas le document présenté) intitulé: "Plan alimentaire régional pour l'Afrique", document qui a été examiné à la dixième réunion régionale pour notre région. A la page 3 il est écrit que "la-part des pays en développement dans les exportations totales de produits agricoles a légèrement augmenté en 1977, etc". Nous pensons, au sujet de cette légère augmentation concernant cette part de l'exportation des produits agricoles des pays en développement, qu'il doit s'agir là, à notre avis, d'une augmentation en volume et non en valeur monétaire. Ceci étant, ma délégation voudrait saisir cette occasion pour remercier le Programme alimentaire mondial et la FAO pour l'aide alimentaire qu'ils ont bien voulu

accorder à mon pays à la suite de la sécheresse qui a frappé une bonne partie du pays, ainsi que lors du retour dans notre pays de plusieurs de nos compatriotes qui avaient émigré par suite de la guerre. Nous remercions également les gouvernements de tous les pays amis qui nous ont aidés durant ces moments difficiles. Pour terminer, ma délégation souscrit à ce qui a été présenté par le délégué de l'Inde en ce qui concerne la nécessité d'utiliser efficacement les systèmes d'alerte rapide sur la situation alimentaire mondiale.

Enfin, et à part les quelques remarques que je viens de faire, nous appuyons dans toutes ses grandes lignes l'analyse du document faite par le Secrétariat.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Vaya en primer lugar mi saludo de bienvenida a usted y a decirle cuánta alegría nos da tenerle otra vez entre nosotros. Mi felicitación a los 3 Vicepresidentes elegidos por el Consejo, Filipinas, Arabia Saudita y Bélgica se extiende asimismo en esta oportunidad desde nuestra primera intervención.

El documento CL 75/2 y Suplemento 1 informa adecuadamente sobre los aspectos más salientes de la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo. Vemos con preocupación el incremento de situaciones de urgencia surgidas en los últimos meses y la necesidad de que, pese al amiento registrado en 1978 en la producción de alimentos -de un escaso 3%- existen aún fundados motivos de preocupación en lograr el objetivo de crecimiento del 4% previsto en la Estrategia internacional de desarrollo para el Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas.

Si bien es alentador el aumento registrado en la producción de cereales, alrededor del 7% en 1978, lamentamos que la primera previsión de la PAD para 1979 señale una disminución de alrededor del 5% con respecto a las cifras de 1978.

Las reoientes disposiciones adoptadas en el objetivo y promesas de contribuciones formuladas en la reunión celebrada por el Comité de Políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria permite elaborar un cauto optimismo sobre la capacidad de la comunidad internacional de reaccionar a situaciones de emergencia.

Si bien comprendemos las prioridades que deben otorgárseles a los países más gravemente afectados y menos desarrollados, entendemos que no deben descartarse la ayuda a proyectos tendientes a incrementar la producción en el resto de los países en desarrollo, ya que en virtud de sus posibilidades y el factor multiplicador que significa para una economía en expansión el estimular mediante tecnología e inversión, que generalmente no dispone en abundancia, su estructura productiva, redundando en beneficios mayores que la misma adjudicación de recursos pudiera hacer suponer.

En el capítulo correspondiente a plagas y enfermedades del documento CL 75/2, en que se menciona la langosta del desierto y la fiebre porcina africana, debería también incluirse entre las actividades prioritarias de la FAO, la asistencia a la lucha contra otras plagas, como la aftosa, que tantos inconvenientes y pérdidas de proteínas ocasiona en diversos países en desarrollo productores.

En lo que respecta a la situación de los principales productos en 1978, y perspectivas para 1979 correspondientes a la República Argentina, las cifras e información otorgadas en noviembre último en oportunidad del 74° período de sesiones del Consejo no ha sufrido mayores variaciones y me limitaré a destacar las principales por estimar se trate de una información de interés para este Consejo. Trigo: Para la campaña agrícola 78-79 la producción total de trigo ascendió a 8 100 000 toneladas, lo que es un 53% superior respecto al período anterior. Esto se debió a una mayor área bajo cultivo y buenas condiciones climáticas. Esta producción superó asimismo los niveles promedios de los períodos de 1974 a 78 en un 8% y significó un aumento efectivo para esta campaña de 2 8000 000 toneladas. Se cultivaron 5 230 000 hectáreas y el rendimiento fue de 1 729 kilos/hectárea. Maíz: En esta campaña agrícola 78-79, la producción fue de 9 millones de toneladas y si bien es un 7% inferior a la excelente cosecha de 77/78, que fue de 9 700 000 toneladas, supera los promedios del quinquenio y decenio últimos en alrededor del 8%. La falta de lluvias y fuertes calores que predominaron en el período crítico de la floración, han incidido en manera adversa en los rendimientos, haciendo que el volumen cosechado total sea inferior en un 15% al de la campaña anterior. Se cosechó el 86% del área sembrada, unas 2 840,000 Ha, con un rendimiento de 3 169 Kg por Ha, bastante inferior a los 3 647 Kg por Ha del ejercicio anterior. Sorgo granífero: La campaña 1978/79 produjo 7 000 000 de Tn.: esto fue una ligera flexión del 3% con relación a la campaña anterior, pero un aumento en relación a los últimos quinquenios y decenios del 18% y 46% respectivamente. Soja: Las últimas estimaciones permiten auspiciar una cosecha de alrededor de 3 800 000 Tn para esta campaña, lo que significa alrededor de un 65% de aumento con respecto al ejercicio pasado, que fue de 2 500 000 Tn. Este producto está incrementando su aceptación entre los productores en forma significativa, ya que esta

producción supera los niveles de los últimos quinquenios y decenio en un 187% y 429% respectivamente. Arroz: Se estima que la producción para la campaña agrícola 1978/79 será de 326 000 Tn, cifra un 5% mayor al ciclo precedente.

Por último, en esta parte estadística señalaremos que la cosecha gruesa para este período se mantendrá en las mismas cifras -alrededor de 21 500 000 Tn que en el período anterior.

La cosecha fina, en cambio, se estima en 9 920 000 Tn, lo que es un incremento del 36%. La producción total de cereales del país para esta campaña se estima en 31 440 000 Tn, lo que es un 7,8% superior al período anterior.

En lo que respecta al comercio internacional y precios, vemos con preocupación la falta de reacción de los países industrializados y bloques de países a los constantes llamamientos de suspender las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias que han adoptado contra la producción de los países en desarrollo. Se defienden así producciones ineficientes que luego, por no poder ser absorbidas por sus propios mercados, son lanzadas al mercado internacional, fuertemente subvencionadas por sociedades ricas que se pueden permitir afrontar estos costos, en desigual competencia con producciones de países en desarrollo, que no sólo se ven impedidos en su acceso a dichos mercados de alto poder adquisitivo, sino que deben además afrontar desleales competencias en sus mercados tradicionales.

Mientras no se apliquen las leyes del comercio libre y no se levanten los proteccionismos y la producción altamente subvencionada, no será posible incrementar la producción de alimentos de una manera que sea satisfactoria y pueda enfrentar con éxito los problemas del hambre y la desnutrición.

En este sentido, apoyamos la condena al proteccionismo formulada por el distinguido Representante Permanente de Colombia.

Apoyamos plenamente lo expresado por el Profesor Nuri Islam en la introducción del tema sobre la necesidad de dar cada vez mayor relevancia a la cooperación técnica y económica entre los países en desarrollo.

Este es un campo vasto y amplio de acción para FAO con promisorias perspectivas para el incremento sustancial de la producción de alimentos. Creemos que es esencial una cada vez mayor dedicación de recursos por parte de la FAO en este tema de la cooperación entre países en desarrollo, pues abre cada vez mayores posibilidades al logro de resultados positivos para el buen resultado de los objetivos de nuestra Organización.

La República Argentina es un país en desarrollo, gran productor de alimentos y en el curso de su historia ha dado hospitalidad a inmigrantes provenientes de todos los pueblos, las razas y religiones del mundo, que han emprendido el largo viaje hacia el sur para instalarse a cultivar sus praderas y sembrar sus extensas planicies.

Ese mismo espíritu de universalidad, prima en la política de producción de alimentos, fruto principal de su actividad económica. Y el resultado de esa política abierta de producción y de esfuerzo está a disposición de la comunidad internacional para colaborar con los hermanos países en mitigar el hambre y la malnutrición. En ese sentido, no escatimará esfuerzos en alentar todos los incrementos que sea posible a la producción de cereales y alimentos.

Pero para ello, puede tenerse en cuenta la necesidad de mantener latentes los estímulos productivos necesarios para alentar una cada vez mayor producción, sobre todo cuando se ciernen graves incertidumbres en el panorama internacional, tal como lo señala el documento CL 75/2.

Y uno de esos estímulos es sin duda la capacidad de acceso a los mercados, lo que determinará una mayor adecuación de precios.

En ese sentido, mi delegación formula votos para una mayor comprensión por parte de los países industrializados, lo que permitirá la posibilidad de un acceso al objetivo fijado en la necesidad de un nuevo orden económico internacional. Expresamos nuestra mayor simpatía y nuestra disponibilidad para considerar las valiosas iniciativas formuladas por el Sr. Director General en su brillante alocución de esta mañana y nos referiremos específicamente a cada una de ellas con mayor detenimiento al tratarse en nuestro tenario.

J,A. LEIVA (El Salvador): Quisiera en esta oportunidad manifestar que mi país participa por primera vez en el debate y como miembro del Consejo de la FAO, por lo cual me permito manifestar la complacencia por la elección de la Mesa y por el buen inicio que ha tenido la reunión con el discurso inaugural clarificador del Director General, que constituye un marco de referencia sobre el cual centrar nuestras intervenciones.

En relación al documento objeto de la sesión de esta tarde, CL 75/2, nos parece que es un documento bastante claro y bastante completo que constituye una radiografía, una fotografía de la situación actual alimentaria en el mundo, el cual, indudablemente, tiene que reflejar lo que está ocurriendo y debe servir de base fundamentalmente para todas las acciones que puedan realizarse en el futuro y que tienen una relación bastante estrecha con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1980-81, que tendremos oportunidad en este evento de analizar posteriormente.

Dentro del documento referido nos llama la atención la parte relacionada con la producción de alimentos, principalmente la producción de cereales obtenida durante 1978 y su comportamiento, o el resultado de la comparación con respecto a la previsión de cereales para 1979 lo cual, como es del conocimiento de ustedes refleja un decremento del 5 por ciento, lo cual, obviamente, es preocupante, reconociendo también que estas son cifras presentadas a nivel mundial y que en algunos países podrían variar hacia arriba o hacia abajo.

Lógicamente la producción de cereales obtenida durante 1978, tal como lo establece y lo reconoce el documento en cuestión, ha sido influido o determinado por las excepcionales condiciones meteorológicas que prevalecieron y que en estos momentos no podemos asegurar que serán las mismas para la próxima campaña. Indiscutiblemente todavía no tenemos los elementos adecuados como para poder predecir el tiempo y que nos permita asegurar las metas establecidas en cuanto a la producción de alimentos: pero sí podemos llevar adelante una serie de medidas, una serie de acciones, una serie de programas a nivel de gobiernos que nos permitan superar las metas en cuanto a la producción de alimentos básicos.

Al respecto quisiera manifestar que nos complace mucho el Plan de Acción de Cinco Puntos, propuesto por el Director General, en vista de todos los atrasos ocurridos en cuanto a la sustitución del Convenio Internacional del Trigo de 1971. Asimismo nos llama la atención que como producto del conocimiento, como producto del diagnóstico en cuanto a plagas y enfermedades, se estén estableciendo todas las acciones para poder establecer un fondo de lucha para combatir la fiebre porcina africana.

A nivel de mi país ya hemos establecido contacto con FAO, a través de la Oficina Nacional en El Salvador, para impulsar, aún más, todas las medidas de control que pueda establecer para combatir esta fiebre porcina africana.

Nos llama también la atención la información existente acerca de la pesca, principalmente en cuanto al programa vislumbrado de las zonas económicas exclusivas. A nivel de mi país estamos trabajando en la parte agropecuaria, pero también estamos realizando esfuerzos para poder desarrollar la faja costera, que es un recurso que nos va poder permitir proporcionar a la población, especialmente de bajos recursos, alimentos de origen animal, proteínas de origen animal, que puedan ayudarnos a combatir la desnutrición y que nos puedan ayudar también a diversificar o aumentar nuestras fuentes de trabajo y nuestras fuentes de alimentos.

Posteriormente mi delegación participará cuando se analicen ya los aspectos específicos relacionados con estos puntos de la producción de alimentos básicos.

KONG-CAN-DONG (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): Good harvests were reaped once again in the world's food and agricultural production in 1978. However, in certain areas food production decreased owing to natural disasters and food supplies fell short of requirements. The vast rural areas of the Third World countries continue to be poverty stricken. Such realities call on us to make unremitting efforts to improve the present situation.

In 1978, China's hundreds of millions of working people overcame frequent natural calamities and obtained a good harvest in food production. Increases were also recorded in the output of cotton, oilseeds and most other cash crops compared with the previous year. With the favourable turn in the national, economy life in the rural population has improved considerably. Food grain stocks in the peasants' hands rose by tens of millions of tons. The total area under wheat and other summer crops of the country this year is close to 30 million hectares, a little more than that of the previous year. So far the crops are growing well in most areas.

Since the founding of the People's Republic, Chinese food and agricultural production has developed considerably. However, during the past decade and more the development of Chinese agricultural production has been slow owing to the false subterfuge of long-vested effective policies in agriculture as well as shortcomings in our work. There still remains a large gap between our per capita output and consumption of grain, and that of the developed countries in the world. Our grain production is insufficient to meet the requirements of the modernization programme of the country. The life of our people stands in need of further improvement. Besides, as China is a vast area there are bound to be natural calamities of one kind or another in some parts of the country every year. Therefore we must continue to make efforts to develop food and agriculture production.

At present the political situation at home is stable. Our national economy in developing while being readjusted. We shall unswervingly carry out the policy of taking agriculture as the foundation of the national economy. The state, city and town, industries, science and education will all step up their technical support to agriculture. We shall further implement policies to promote the development of the rural economy, raise the procurement prices of farm produce and lower the selling price of industrial input for agriculture in a planned way, gradually increasing investment and loans in agriculture, try to alleviate the burden on the countryside and earnestly implement among commune members the socialist distribution principle of "to each according to his work" so as to further stimulate their enthusiasm for socialism.

Meanwhile, we must pay close attention to the technological transformation of agriculture, learn modestly from the advanced agricultural technique and management expertise of other countries and adopt the necessary measures to tap our rich agricultural resources in a planned way and step-by-step. We are determined to work together with the other Third World nations, learn from each others experience and support each other in striving for the establishment of a new International Economic Order in the food and agricultural sphere so as to facilitate the development of agriculture in all countries.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I too would like to indicate my personal pleasure in seeing our distinguished Chairman in his position as Chairman, and also to acknowledge the vote of confidence in the three Vice-Chairmen that have been selected by the Council.

I would like to address myself to the paper at hand: We are in general agreement with the Secretariat's description of the current World Food situation. The situation is improved, but certainly this is no time to be complacent, particularly as the situation seems not to be improving among many of the MSA countries.

We would like to commend the Secretariat for devoting more attention to the analysis of internal agricultural investment in developing countries; the United States will continue to be interested in and be supportive of the Secretariat's on-going project to provide more in-depth analysis as it goes along on this very well worthwhile project. A number of analyses indicate the close relationship between internal investment in research and in policy matters, and the close relationship between these and increasing production within the developing countries.

I would like to make some further observations. As we examine this very excellent paper and its thorough analysis, we miss references to the impact on food production and distribution of petroleum and petroleum-derived products, such as fertilizers and diesel fuels. Rising petroleum prices will likely have a significant impact on food production and distribution in developed countries and in developing countries including the MSAs.

Another area in which my Government would welcome more information in the FAO report, is on the situation in the USSR and the People's Republic of China. Shortfalls, or for that matter bumper harvests, in grain production in either of these two large countries would have and could have widespread implications on orderly marketing of grain. We are pleased to have the favourable report on conditions in the People's Republic of China which has just been given to us by the Chinese Delegate.

Let me comment a little on some of the references to the situation in our country, primarily to provide an update which was not fully reflected in the paper which was tabled just recently by the FAO secretariat. We should indicate that although there has been a late spring and there has been wet weather and hence delayed plantings, most United States farming enterprises have the capacity to complete seeding during a short span of good weather and they have compensated for the loss of time. Plantings of spring wheat in our Upper Mid West still lag substantially but we feel this too could yet be overcome, and those for grain sorghum are right on schedule. Seedings of corn and soybeans are ahead of the late plantings of 1978 and about match historical averages.

Total plantings of wheat based on our most recent report of planting intentions will be up 7 percent over the 1978 figure to some 26.9 million hectares, and spring wheat will be up about 3 percent to 6 million hectares. Total wheat production is now forecast to range between 57 million metric tonnes with good weather and 47 million with poor weather; if you want to take an average of weather it would be somewhere in the low 50 million metric tonnes. That compares with 49 million metric tonnes that were harvested in 1978.

Plantings of feedgrains are expected to fall slightly below the 1978 level but the feedgrain production is still projected to range between 215 million and 180 million metric tonnes again depending on weather conditions. I should note that these continued high levels of plantings and of production are expected to continue despite record stocks in wheat and feedgrains in the United States.

A word about our farmer-held reserves. In mid-May, as average wheat prices in our domestic market firmed up, they rose above what we refer to as a trigger price, which led our Government to open the farmer-held reserve permitting farmers to sell the reserves in the open market. The intent, of course, is that these farmer-held reserves should be an additional reserve and available as needed and based on market conditions.

Also a word should probably be said about the concentration of stocks in a few countries such as the United States. I think we can be reasonably assured that in the event of an international emergency or sharply increased demand for grain, the United States transportation system has the capacity to move grain into international channels, more readily than might be inferred from the secretariate assessment on page 14. We do not foresee serious restraints either from port capacity or from other factors, in part by virtue of actions which we have taken to further improve port capacity and to utilize more barge capacity than we have heretofore, and hence to speed the movement of grain down our waterways to export ports.

It is true that our transportation system, particularly that which is related to transportation by trucks, could face some problems through diesel fuel shortages but there too we are taking steps to ameliorate and moderate the adverse effects should they occur.

In short, we agree that things are not as good as they might be; they are not as good as all of us would wish. But we are encouraged by the increasing allocation of resources by the multilateral organizations, which we support, and by our own increased bilateral assistance for food and agriculture. Together with our friend in India, we hope that good weather and good policies prevail in many countries so that harvests may continue to hold up well.

P. HALIMI (France): Je voudrais avant toute chose remercier le secrétariat de la qualité des documents qui nous ont été présentés, et remercier M. Islam de la présentation qu'il nous a faite de ces documents.

Le document qui sert de base à nos délibérations nous donne une image très claire de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation au seuil de l'été 1979, et il en dégage les conséquences au regard des multiples préoccupations de l'organisation qui, sont celles également, de la communauté internationale.

Sans doute la situation annuelle s'inscrit-elle dans une perspective d'évolution à long terme, qu'elle contribue à infléchir. Quelques remarques peuvent être formulées en distinguant, d'une part, la situation agricole alimentaire dans l'intervalle de deux récoltes successives afin de bien caractériser les problèmes du court terme, d'autre part, les perspectives de réalisation des objectifs plus éloignés de façon à saisir les opportunités que la situation annuelle permet d'escompter.

A court terme, le résultat satisfaisant des récoltes confirme l'amélioration enregistrée de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale. L'impression favorable est renforcée par la constatation d'une bonne répartition des résultats entre les différentes zones de production. Je note que l'Inde devient exportateur de céréales, ce qui permet de considérer avec un certain optimisme la couverture des besoins alimentaires dans la plupart des pays du monde.

Ces résultats réconfortants sont ceux indiqués à la page 4 du supplément et auxquels ont fait allusion le délégué du Rwanda et le délégué de la Hongrie. J'ai noté que le délégué de la Hongrie a souligné à juste titre l'effort insuffisant d'investissement de certains pays en voie de développement dans le secteur agricole, et je suppose qu'il faut nous interroger sur les raisons profondes de cette situation.

Ces résultats réconfortants nous engagent à considérer avec une sollicitude particulière la situation des populations qui n'ont pas été épargnées par l'adversité, qui se trouvent être celles qui avaient déjà le plus souvent de mauvaises récoltes ces dernières années. Ce sera la première remarque. Un effort particulier au profit des pays du Sahel serait d'autant plus justifié que la situation générale le rend plus facile.

Pour en revenir à la situation générale qui pourrait inciter à l'optimisme, il est certain que l'augmentation des disponibilités alimentaires et la situation des principaux marchés permettent sans doute d'escompter un effet modérateur des prix agricoles et alimentaires qui pourra aider à maîtriser les tendances inflationnistes.

Le document nous rappelle que la production céréalière a augmenté de 7 pour cent en 1978 et que les stocks de céréales devraient s'accroître forcément, ce qui logiquement est un facteur de baisse de prix sur le marché mondial, facilitant l'approvisionnement des pays importateurs.

Ces remarques optimistes paraissent en contradiction apparente avec un certain pessimisme manifesté ce matin par le Directeur général.

En réalité, dans le domaine des céréales, les dernières informations font apparaître qu'en raison des conditions atmosphériques particulièrement défavorables de cet hiver, les récoltes dans la plupart des pays européens seront moins satisfaisantes que prévu. Cette situation conduit déjà à une hausse des prix sur le marché mondial et on ne peut que regretter qu'un accord sur le niveau des prix, à inscrire dans l'arrangement sur les céréales, n'ait pu se dégager lors des dernières négociations de Genève. Sur ce point, les circonstances nouvelles risquent donc de compliquer la tâche des négociateurs. Néanmoins, nous voulons continuer à penser que la raison prévaudra des deux côtés, exportateurs comme importateurs, pays développés comme pays en développement, et que chacun saura faire

les concessions nécessaires pour parvenir à un résultat concret. En effet, si l'occasion de conclure n'est pas saisie rapidement, on peut redouter qu'une longue période ne s'écoule avant l'apparition de nouvelles circonstances favorables.

C'est donc un appel pressant que la délégation française lance à tous pour la reprise des négociations, pour un arrangement sur les céréales comportant trois volets: convention sur le commerce du blé, convention sur les céréales secondaires, convention sur l'aide alimentaire.

La réduction des recettes des agriculteurs, alors qu'ils doivent faire face à une augmentation continue de coûts de production, risque de les dissuader de persévérer dans leurs efforts, surtout dans les productions dont les réserves laissent peu d'espoir à un réajustement rapide des prix. Ce sont les problèmes délicats des stimulants nécessaires à la production agricole (le délégué de l'Argentine l'a dit) et de la diversification indispensable de cette production.

Il conviendrait cependant de mettre à profit une situation favorable, celle devant laquelle nous nous trouvons, pour rechercher une solution au problème de l'instabilité, en mettant au point des accords internationaux dont le mécanisme régulateur favoriserait la gestion des marchés, aiderait les producteurs à prendre leurs décisions, éviterait en fin de compte les retournements de situation toujours dommageables et délicats à maîtriser.

Parmi les préoccupations à long terme, il convient de distinguer les objectifs qui constituent un but en lui-même, tels que la croissance de l'agriculture des pays en développement, de ceux qui ne sont qu'un moyen ou une conséquence de l'objectif réalisé, comme c'est le cas de l'ajustement agricole.

Le rythme de l'accroissement de la production agricole est incontestablement un des indicateurs les plus significatifs parmi ceux qui sont évoqués dans le rapport. Or, si un certain nombre de pays ont atteint le niveau annuel d'accroissement de 4 pour cent, préconisé par la deuxième décennie du développement, il est inquiétant de constater que dans des régions entières, notamment l'Afrique, l'augmentation des subsistances est moins rapide que celle de la population, de sorte que la situation alimentaire, malgré la forte progression de la production en 1978, se dégrade au lieu de s'améliorer.

Ceci souligne l'intérêt du plan alimentaire régional rappelé à la page 2 du document, et dont la réalisation paraît importante et urgente - le délégué du Zaïre a évoqué ce problème avant moi.

Le fond commun à toutes les agricultures c'est avant tout leur vulnérabilité. Vulnérabilité aux conditions météorologiques qui peuvent faire passer la situation alimentaire d'excédents encombrants à une pénurie dont les conséquences vont au-delà de l'alimentation des hommes. D'où l'intérêt du

Système d'alerte rapide et de la formation, en liaison avec l'Office météorologique mondial, de chercheurs dans les pays en développement. Ce problème des conditions météorologiques et du Système d'alerte rapide avait été évoqué par l'Inde et le Salvador; je ne puis qu'appuyer ce qu'ils ont dit à ce sujet.

Vulnérabilité économique de l'agriculture qui, en raison des coûts de production rigides, ne permet pas de supporter facilement le choc d'une forte baisse des prix. Peut-être conviendrait-il de réfléchir à cette situation, en particulier pour orienter les agriculteurs des pays en développement vers le type de croissance qui évite ces risques, par exemple en tirant un meilleur parti des cycles naturels de façon à rendre moins rigides les liens entre les facteurs de production d'origine industrielle.

Nous saluons à cet égard l'organisation par les Nations Unies d'une conférence sur les énergies nouvelles dont les résultats aideront les gouvernements soucieux de réduire leur consommation d'énergie importée.

Nous félicitons le Directeur général des mesures urgentes et efficaces prises dans la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, la prévention de pertes de produits alimentaires et la fièvre porcine africaine.

Sur le plan de la production de viande, il conviendrait de se préoccuper de l'augmentation de la consommation de protéines, et nous espérons qu'à la suite de la dernière session du COAG qui a souhaité que des moyens accrus soient affectés à la division de la nutrition, celle-ci pourra être utilement consultée pour tous les projets tendant à l'amélioration de la production de viande.

J'en viens à quelques remarques concernant justement la production de lait et de viande.

La délégation française estime, en ce qui concerne la production mondiale de viande évoquée à la page 12 paragraphe 3 du document, nécessaire d'insister sur le fait que l'augmentation globale de la production de viande résulte tant d'une augmentation de la production de viande bovine et porcine que d'une nette augmentation de viande porcine et de volaille. On ajoutera que dans la Communauté économique européenne la production bovine est en augmentation légère et que les prix n'y ont pas subi l'augmentation brutale constatée en Amérique du Nord et sur le marché mondial.

S'agissant maintenant de la production de lait, il est écrit, page 12 paragraphe 4, que dans la Communauté Economique Européenne, l'expansion de la production de lait se ralentira probablement. A notre sens, il vaudrait peut-être mieux dire que la croissance de production laitière pourrait être aoina

forte.

Enfin, deux orateurs sont intervenus précédemment pour condamner le renforcement du protectionnisme qui, d'après eux, se serait manifesté dans les pays développés. Je ne veux pas ouvrir une polémique à ce sujet, mais il me paraît essentiel de préciser que nous ne partageons pas cette opinion. Aussi bien cette question a été longuement abordée à Manille voici quelques jours seulement lors de la Conférence de la CNUCED, et nous ne pouvons certes pas ici parvenir à des conclusions différentes. Il convient donc à mon avis de se référer dans notre rapport purement et simplement au texte agréé lors de la séance finale de cette conférence le 3 juin, vers 5 h du matin, si mes informations sont bonnes.

CHAIRMAN: As you know, consideration of the world food situation is a major function of the Council. I have therefore not tried to appeal to members to be brief knowing that this is one of our major subjects.

F. ABDELMADJID (Algérie): Je doute fort que d'ici 6 heures on puisse épuiser la liste des orateurs inscrits.

Je suggère que jusqu'à 6 heures on puisse donner une chance à trois ou quatre orateurs qui pourront s'exprimer aujourd'hui, puisque nous devons nous rendre à la réception du Directeur général, et demain matin nous pourrions poursuivre. Ma délégation considère que nous sommes en train d'examiner le point le plus important qui doit faire l'objet d'un débat général, toutes les autres questions étant des points de détail par rapport à cette question.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Secretariat has again presented clear and concentrated reports on the current world food situation which give us a comprehensive survey of developments.

As a whole, further progress has been made, in particular with regard to food supply, expansion of cereal stocks, supply with inputs, international trade and granting external assistance. Encouraging is the somewhat improved situation in Africa. It is to be hoped that with the aid of the Regional Food Plan for Africa, efforts will be successful to accelerate agricultural development. The rapid growth in population in many developing countries threatens to impede all efforts to improve the lot of men despite a substantial expansion of food production. This continues to be a critical problem. The situation becomes quite evident when calculating production and foodstuffs available on a per capita basis.

The document before us gives some first information about the launching of the action programme of FAO for the prevention of food losses. The great number of project requests submitted to FAO reveals the importance which is attached to the measures to fight these losses. It is right to focus on the pilot function of this action programme, because the necessary success will only be achieved with the additional assistance of bilateral and multilateral donors. The 20th Session of the Conference of FAO will give us an opportunity to discuss the action programme in greater detail.

I should like to express my special appreciation to the Secretariat for the successful efforts to control the locust plague and the African swine fever. These measures must be continued in order to prevent vast damages.

Quite recently some important trade policy decisions have been taken that will also have further advantages for developing countries in international trade. Basic agreement was reached on the Common Fund. The GATT multilateral trade negotiations have been brought to a successful conclusion.

The negotiations on a new International Wheat Agreement and a new Food Aid Convention are presently interrupted, however, the International Wheat Council will be dealing still this month with the question of resuming negotiations. The European Community continues to consider the conclusion of a new Wheat Agreement the best way to contribute at international level to market and price stabilization and thus to secure supplies and world food security. It will advocate the speedy continuation and a successful conclusion of the conference.

As a member of the European Community, the Federal Republic of Germany takes an active part in taking special account of the interests of the developing countries within the framework of the agricultural market policy of the EEC and in improving, for example, access to the markets of the Community for these countries. The continuous expansion and improvement of the Generalized System of Preferences have led to the fact that the value of my country's imports of agricultural products favoured under the scheme from developing countries rose from 234 million DM in 1974 to 700 million DM in 1977, that is by 200 percent. My country's total agricultural imports from developing countries increased from 1975 to 1977 from 7.65 billion DM to 12.37 billion DM, that is an increase by almost 62 percent.

The Secretariat gives us some information on developing countries' investment in agriculture and on external assistance. This external assistance has risen quite substantially. In this connexion, let me point out again quite clearly that the figure of US \$8.3 billion for external assistance is an estimate by the Secretariat of the World Food Council and not an internationally accepted target. The World Food Council at its Fourth Session last year initiated a method for the identification of obstacles which must be removed on the part of developing countries as well as on the part of donors in order to give the necessary priority to an increase in food production and to an improvement of supply, to increase investment and to support these endeavours from outside in a more effective way. At its Fifth Session in September the World Food Council will make an attempt to draw conclusions from the results of this analysis. These will undoubtedly also be of benefit for the further work of FAO.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan): I feel greatly privileged to be here amongst this august gathering once again and avail myself of the opportunity to convey the best wishes of my country as well as of our great and noble leader, Mr. Noor Mohammad Taraki, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party and the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, for the success of this Conference.

Mr. Chairman, we are proud of your dynamism and dedication to this holy cause to salvage millions of those who go to bed either half fed or even unfed. I am sure that we all addressed ourselves to the dragon-headed problem of food on returning to our respective countries after the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Conference. The deliberations and decisions taken were by far comprehensively directed to encounter our food problems in a much better way than we used to do earlier.

I will enumerate the achievements of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan later in this intervention. But now I would express my Government's deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, who has spared no efforts to salvage the people from the cruel clutches of hunger.

We in Afghanistan have adopted "Non, Lebas wa Khana" (Food, clothes and shelter) as not only a slogan but also as the national policy. The Revolutionary Government is leaving no stone unturned to provide food, clothes and shelter to one and all of our noble countrymen. I will deal with the Government's policies, programme and priorities elsewhere in this address.

Afghanistan is predominantly an agricultural country. However, food production in the country is highly sensitive to weather conditions, particularly to the amount of precipitation because of snow and rainfall. Wheat is the major food crop but it depends to a large extent upon national factors. On the other hand, production in rainfall areas is particularly influenced by the total amount as well as rainfall in the season. We may have either a bumper crop or a short crop, depending upon present precipitation conditions. It may bring about serious production shortfalls, as happened in 1970 / 71 and 1971/72. However, in most parts of the country agriculture is carried out in the usual form. The present exceptional state of the agricultural sector is also because of the continuity of the old feudal relationship between the landlord and the farmer. The economic conditions of the farming community have not undergone any change. As a result, the crops have not yielded the desired amount, and there has been a shortfall in production.

In the past few years, production of wheat in Afghanistan has fluctuated widely. During 1978/79 it was estimated that there were 2 813 000 tons as against 2 256 000 tons in 1977/78 and 2 936 000 tons in 1976/77, when it had touched the peak level. Production of important cereal grown and consumed in the country, such as corn, barley and rice, have not shown much variation. However, during 1978/79 the output of these grains was somewhat lower compared to 1976/77. Oilseed production and other food crops slightly declined. It is difficult to say anything about the prospect for 1979 and 1980 crops as detailed information from all the providers has not yet become available.

Precipitation in the current agricultural year has been generally normal, without any significant portions of the country showing variations. Deficiency in rainfall has been experienced at the planting stage. There have also been some reports of low temperatures in the planting area.

Some other factors such as large distribution of improved seeds as an effect of the implementation of the Land Reforms Programme should further affect the chances of the prospective crops during 1979/80. Measures taken by the Government for increasing food production since May 1978 should lead to better conditions and possibilities for the development of agriculture in Afghanistan. Trading has been introduced for the benefit of peasants, so that they could fruitfully contribute to the programmes in this sector.

The main object of having the farming industry run on lines of equality and getting rid of an unfair ownership system is being organized by establishing agricultural co-operatives groups in all parts of the country for the participation of the farmers, with the help and advice of the Government.

The first Five Year Plan has been evolved to control the agriculture of the rural sector. Great attention is being paid to bringing about desirable improvements in the irrigation system.

A total of 4 382 000 tons of grains, 766 000 tons of vegetables, 130 000 tons of cotton, 840 tons of fruits and 73 000 tons of beetroots were produced in the year under review, while the purchase of raw cotton by mills is still in progress. The proposed package of action programme has been formulated wherein the available resources and gaps have been calculated, and seed is a most important input. Our most important food crop is wheat, and the seed need of the land recipients and experimental farmers has been estimated as 36 000 tons. The Afghan Seeds Company produced 10 000 tons, another 10 000 tons has been given by USSR under an aid programme, 4 000 - 5 000 tons is expected from other friendly countries and 4 000 - 5 000 tons through exchange programmes.

Adequate arrangements have been made for distributing large quantities of pesticides and insecticides to the needy farmers.

S. PAIMANAGARA (Indonesia): The distinguished delegate for India has told us that agriculture is affected by weather, plus epidemics, and public policies. The weather we can forecast, and act, or hope, for the best accordingly. Pest epidemics hit most developing countries who are not able to control it effectively. We can produce policies every time, and this is our strong point.

I will add one more policy to this, and I will be brief and fairly simple. To overcome the precarious food situation, the only solution is that we must always produce more. Many developing countries have a dual agricultural system, an export crop sector using modern technology and modern management; the other sector is the food crop sector managed by small farmers in a traditional way. We should consider seriously the development of food crops estates without adversely affecting the fate of the small farmer. In this the motive should be food for hungry people, and not only food for money, as a writer has said in one of his books.

My country is seriously considering developing the food estates for increasing food production. Therefore we appeal to developed countries to consider contributing to this scheme of developing countries with this principle in mind.

S. MADEMBBA SY (Sénégal): Je tâcherai d'être bref; je me permets simplement de vous soumettre les observations qui me sont venues à l'esprit à l'examen et à la lecture du document. Lors de la soixante-quatorzième session du Conseil de l'année dernière, une certaine euphorie avait semblé se manifester devant l'augmentation globale de la production alimentaire agricole. Le Conseil avait alors mis en garde la Communauté internationale contre un optimisme excessif et surtout contre un sentiment sécurisant et démobilisateur. Combien il avait raison! Aujourd'hui, sans tomber dans l'excès contraire, le sentiment que l'on éprouve à la lecture de l'excellent document qui nous a été présenté par le Dr Islam est plutôt un sentiment d'incertitude pour ne pas dire de pessimisme à l'égard de certains pays en développement. L'aide extérieure à l'agriculture est insuffisante, les termes de l'échange continuent à se détériorer, les fléaux acridiens persistent, les importations des pays en développement s'accroissent de plus en plus, etc.

Il me semble que la conclusion qui s'impose et qu'il faut tirer encore une fois est la nécessité de réorienter l'effort des ressources de l'agriculture vers les pays en développement en leur assurant, par-dessus tout, la maîtrise de l'eau dans les zones arides et semi-arides. Voilà ce que je tenais à dire.

CHAIRMAN: It is almost 6.0 and we still have Bangladesh, Cuba, Greece, and Saudi Arabia. I do not think we should give them the floor now, knowing the eloquence of our colleague from Bangladesh.

If you do not mind, I will ask the delegate for Saudi Arabia to speak now, as he has to take the Chair tomorrow.

H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I just wanted to enquire from the Chair whether the compliment is left-handed or not!

CHAIRMAN: The compliment is good!

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): In fact, I did not intend to place my brothers in the Council in this position, but since tomorrow I will assume my duty as Vice Chairman, I thank my colleagues for affording me this opportunity to speak.

It appears that the problem before us could be divided into two parts. One part is heading towards one direction, the other towards the opposite. There are many difficult circumstances which are adversely affecting all those efforts deployed by many developing countries to raise their agricultural production, drought, cyclones, pest, desert locusts, and many other important factors which inevitably lead to a drop in agricultural production in most developing countries. We find on the other side that there are some of the main grain producing countries that are striving earnestly to reduce those uncultivated areas in quite a substantial proportion in such a way as to affect their output and to affect the needs of developing countries. It can be claimed that there are circumstances which were imposed by internal sociological factors, but we are also aware why such circumstances have been imposed. Here I should like to thank Dr. Ware from Canada for the clarification he has given us and I am certain of the high ethical standards of Dr. Ware, since we worked together for a long time in the Finance Committee. I therefore accept his clarifications and his explanations when he said that these cultivated areas have been reduced in Canada as a result of circumstances pertaining to the farmers in Canada.

Therefore, from these two angles which I have just mentioned, the current food situation in the world is alarming. We should like to emphasize that if all the efforts of the various countries are not combined and if we continue to ignore the situation, we shall be faced with a disaster which cannot be remedied. This is the situation facing the developing countries now. They must therefore exert all efforts, they must mobilize all their potential and resources in order to protect themselves and in order to re-assert their right to a decent life. They must cooperate together economically and technically, and they must arm themselves with courage in order to defend their peoples. They must benefit from all the organizations, from all the international funds and fora on the regional and international level so as to achieve economic development. It is therefore incumbent upon international organizations and funds to express their sympathy and to extend all possible technical, consultative and material assistance to these countries.

Finally, the main grain - producing countries and the main food - producing countries must also, in this world which is facing famine, extend a hand of assistance in all its forms - material food assistance - to these developing countries that are in dire need of such assistance, regardless of the conditions and of the difficult terms which are often attached to such assistance. These advanced countries must also realize that there are many developing countries which require food assistance, and I repeat: which require food assistance. This is the basic problem they face which we wish to deal with. Thousand and thousands of people die every day; millions are suffering from undernourishment. Yet we are living in a world where people enjoy luxurious cars and live in skyscrapers. Many of these countries, these advanced countries, belong to one international community. The developing countries are always trying to serve as well the interests of the advanced countries, in spite of the differing conditions in each part of the world. I do not wish to dwell upon this; everybody understands what I mean, everybody knows the great contribution of the developing countries to their peoples and to the peoples of the world, the advanced and developed parts of the world.

C. DUMITRU (Roumanie): Monsieur le Président, parce que je prends la parole pour la première fois, permettez-moi de féliciter les vice-présidents qui ont été élus ici.

En même temps, j'exprime toute la gratitude de ma délégation pour la position constructive qui a été exprimée par M. Saouma dans son remarquable discours.

Nous appuyons pleinement toutes les actions inscrites dans le discours et qui seront entreprises en faveur des pays en voie de développement.

Je félicite également le secrétariat pour l'excellent document (CL 75/2) soumis à notre discussion.

L'éradication du sous-développement est l'un des problèmes fondamentaux de l'époque contemporaine, dont dépend directement la détention, la paix et la collaboration internationale.

Comme pays socialiste et à la fois comme pays en voie de développement, la Roumanie se situe fermement du côté des pays qui luttent pour liquider cet état de choses, pour l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international, lequel puisse assurer les conditions pour le progrès plus rapide de tous les peuples et, avant tout, de ceux retardés.

Nous voulons en même temps mettre en évidence le fait que l'accomplissement du nouvel ordre économique international intéresse de la même sorte tous les pays et tous les peuples, tant ceux développés que ceux peu développés ou en voie de développement, cela parce qu'il est voué à assurer la stabilité et un développement harmonieux et équilibré de l'entière économie mondiale. C'est pourquoi à sa réalisation doivent participer tous les Etats.

La Roumanie retient que dans cette direction un rôle important doit être joué par l'ONU, par les organismes et les organisations économiques spécialisées comme il l'est par la FAO et d'autres.

La Roumanie apprécie que la FAO, en parallèle avec la mise en pratique de projets de terrain visant à la solution rapide de certaines situations imprévues (aide alimentaire d'urgence, lutte contre certaines maladies et ennemis nuisibles, prévention des pertes de récolte, etc.), doit agir aussi dans la direction du redressement de la situation agro-alimentaire des pays en voie de développement à travers l'adoption de certaines mesures, parmi lesquelles:

- l'utilisation des institutions nationales dans la réalisation de certains objectifs alimentaires;
- l'appui dans l'emploi des investissements à l'intérieur et à l'étranger pour le développement agroalimentaire;

- la préparation du personnel;
- l'éducation de la population vers l'utilisation de certains aliments, à un maximum de l'efficacité, etc.

Dans ce sens, comme le font aussi d'autres pays, la Roumanie se prononce pour l'engagement ferme, effectif et direct de la FAO, à travers des mesures et des actions concrètes, pour la mise en pratique des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation et de la VII^{ème} Session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU.

Pour la liquidation graduelle de cet état de choses, nous nous rallions à ce que Monsieur le directeur général E. Saouma a déclaré, notamment qu'il faut trouver des formes de coopération entre les pays à travers lesquelles on adopte des mesures concrètes qui soient comprises dans les programmes d'activité de la FAO, dans le but d'appuyer les pays en voie de développement dans leurs efforts visant à la mise plus judicieuse en valeur des terrains, à l'extension des surfaces irriguées, à l'amélioration et à la création de nouvelles variétés de semences et de races d'animaux, adaptables aux conditions des respectives régions et d'autres.

Nous apprécions comme positives et encourageantes les mesures entreprises par la FAO dans cette direction, surtout à l'initiative du directeur général et retenons qu'alors, quand il sera question de rendre définitif le Programme d'activité et le budget pour 1980-1981, on insiste sur le développement et le renforcement des programmes ayant un caractère efficient.

Dans ce contexte nous retenons qu'il est nécessaire que les pays développés assument des engagements plus fermes dans les efforts entrepris - y compris dans le cadre même de la FAO - dans le but de hâter le développement de l'agriculture dans tous les pays en voie de développement.

La Roumanie militera aussi dans le futur de la manière la plus décidée pour que ces problèmes complexes du monde contemporain, ayant de profondes implications pour l'entière évolution de l'humanité, pour la cause du progrès, de la collaboration et de la paix internationale, aboutissent à une solution concrète, en vue de la création d'un nouvel ordre économique international, lequel soit en état d'assurer le développement indépendant de chaque nation sur la voie du progrès, du bien-être et du bonheur 1/.

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18.05 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.05 horas

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

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 75/PV/3

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(12 June 1979)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours, A.Y. Bukhari, Second Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40 sous la présidence de A.Y. Bukhari, Second Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.40 horas bajo la presidencia de A.Y. Bukhari., Segundo Vicepresidente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

4. Current World Food Situation (continued)

4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale (suite)

4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): We will continue our work and I will begin by giving the floor to the delegates who had requested it yesterday and who are on our list of speakers to discuss item 4 of our Agenda related to the current world food situation. I am sure you are all well aware that we must also, during this morning's session, begin our discussion of item 5 of our Agenda related to the report of the 4th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. This is why I would particularly like to ask those speakers who are on our list this morning to be as brief as possible so that we can cover our work during this morning's session.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Desde hace algún tiempo los problemas relacionados con la alimentación y la agricultura vienen convirtiéndose en un tema permanente en los foros internacionales. Las distintas crisis alimentarias que ha vivido una gran parte de la humanidad han provocado un vasto movimiento de cooperación internacional en favor de las soluciones de dichos problemas) no obstante, a pesar de los notables esfuerzos realizados por la FAO y otros organismos que tratan dicha problemática, la situación alimentaria mundial continúa siendo incierta y se hace evidente que no se alcanzará el objetivo del 4 por ciento previsto en la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo para el Segundo Decenio de las Naciones Unidas.

Un breve bosquejo de la situación alimentaria mundial y de la agricultura nos arroja los siguientes resultados:

Primero: Los precios de productos básicos y los ingresos por exportaciones agrícolas siguen siendo inestables y la participación de los países en desarrollo en los mercados mundiales ha disminuido al 30 por ciento.

Segundo: Entre 1961 y 1970 y entre 1970 y 1977 la tasa de crecimiento agropecuario en los países en desarrollo, en conjunto, ha disminuido del 2,9 por ciento al 2,5 por ciento y el crecimiento per cápita de la producción alimentaria disminuyó del 0,6 por ciento al 0,5 por ciento.

Tercero: Las negociaciones para reemplazar el acuerdo internacional del trigo se han suspendido indefinidamente.

Cuarto: Las contribuciones de 500 000 toneladas a la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de 1977 no aumentaron durante 1978 ni alcanzaron la meta prevista.

Quinto: El volumen anual de ayuda alimentaria a los países en desarrollo situada en 10 000 000 de toneladas de cereales no ha alcanzado todavía ese objetivo.

Sexto: La cifra de compromisos oficiales de asistencia externa a la agricultura apenas equivale a la mitad de las necesidades estimadas por el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y no se ha alcanzado la suma de 8 300 000 dólares a precios de 1975.

Séptimo: A pesar de las decisiones adoptadas por el CMA en sus períodos de sesiones de Manila y México, así como por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, éstas no se han traducido en mejoras en la producción alimentaria y agropecuaria.

Octavo: Las relaciones de intercambio de las exportaciones agropecuarias de los países en desarrollo, agravadas por la persistencia y el aumento de las medidas proteccionistas por parte de los países industrializados de economía de mercado, comienzan a deprimirse más aún.

Noveno: Las promesas al PMA para el período 1979 - 80 aún no se han cumplido. La solución de muchos de estos problemas es precisamente una de las razones fundamentales que nos convoca a esta reunión. Claro está que gran parte de los problemas mencionados son originados por el subdesarrollo y la falta de una dependencia económica a las otras metrópolis.

Es sabido que para mi país no hay otra forma de limitar muchos de estos obstáculos si no es a través de la realización de cambios profundos en la estructura económica y social. Sin embargo, no somos remisos a contribuir a todo aquello que pueda mitigar la tragedia de millones de víctimas del sub-desarrollo que, afectadas por el hambre y las enfermedades originadas por la desnutrición, padecen de avitaminosis y anemia nutricional, entre otros.

Mi país concede una gran importancia a este foro por estar empeñados en solventar las grandes necesidades alimentarias en que vive un alto porcentaje de la población mundial y reconocemos el magno esfuerzo que realiza la FAO.

El constante deterioro que existe en materia agropecuaria y alimentaria en las esferas de los países en desarrollo es preocupante. Reconocemos que la responsabilidad del desarrollo de la producción alimentaria y agropecuaria incumbe en buena medida a los propios países en desarrollo, pero se hace necesario eliminar muchos de los obstáculos que dificultan que los países en desarrollo creen la capacidad para valerse por sí mismos.

Como todos sabemos, recientemente hubo de celebrarse en Nueva York el segundo período de sesiones del Comité Plenario, y el mismo se caracterizó porque no se avanzara más allá de los acuerdos logrados en la tercera reunión ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, en Manila, y por la cuarta sesión celebrada también a nivel ministerial en la Ciudad de México.

Es evidente que sin una buena voluntad política por parte de los países desarrollados, de economía de mercado, no podemos superar ni llegar al establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional que permita la realización de la justicia y la equidad que nuestros pueblos reclaman.

En los foros internacionales muchos países, sobre todo en desarrollo, han aportado importantes iniciativas para que ese nuevo orden económico internacional se convierta en una realidad; sin embargo, lejos de lograrlo se ha quedado en ciertas modalidades. Recientemente el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, señor Vogel, en su declaración al séptimo período de sesiones celebrado en esta ciudad el pasado mes de mayo en esta misma sala señalaba, y permítame citarlo, decía el señor Vogel: "Pese a todas las resoluciones y pese al consenso internacional unánime de reconstruir las existencias anualmente hasta el nivel de 500 000 toneladas, por el momento disponemos solamente de 251 000 toneladas de ocho donantes"..

Y agregaba el señor Vogel: "no se trata sólo de que los países ometan más ayuda. Se trata de que estos países estén dispuestos a asignar al PMA un porcentaje ligeramente mayor de la asistencia que están proporcionando", y, continuaba diciendo, con gran profundidad para mí "es una frustración el hecho de que se acepte plenamente este concepto en todas las resoluciones de los organismos, pero cuando se trate de ponerlo en práctica, se invierte visiblemente el entusiasmo".

Si no logramos que los acuerdos tomados se cumplan con absoluta fidelidad, corremos el riesgo de que estos foros internacionales se conviertan en meros ejercicios parlamentarios, que lejos de mitigar los problemas que vive una gran parte de la humanidad sean una gran fuente más de sustracción de recursos económicos para nuestros respectivos países a través de los gastos que ocasionan nuestras estancias en estos ámbitos.

Estos compromisos a los cuales se llama ayuda, constituyen en realidad una restitución en pequeña escala y en plazo demasiado largo de lo que en grandes dosis se extrajeron de muchos de los países sub-desarrollados, hechos ya consignados por la historia.

Al examinar el documento CL 75/2 hallamos un análisis riguroso de la situación actual de la agricultura y, en términos generales, coincidimos con dicho análisis y consideramos muy justo el planteamiento que se hace acerca de que los países más gravemente afectados de África y el Lejano Oriente constituyen el núcleo principal del problema alimentario. Igualmente, el documento señala que en América Latina, donde el crecimiento anual de la producción había variado en 3, 4 y 6 por ciento en los años 74 a 76, la tasa disminuyó al 12,5 por ciento en 1977 - 78. Este retroceso en el crecimiento anual de la producción nos indica que independientemente de que los recursos de las organizaciones internacionales estén orientados fundamentalmente hacia los países más gravemente afectados, se debe dar cierta atención a aquellos que aún siguen siendo subdesarrollados y que requieren de cierta ayuda internacional para continuar elevando sus niveles de producción alimentaria y agrícola, y superar algún día la etapa del subdesarrollo, pues de lo contrario podría haber un estancamiento o un retroceso.

También nos queremos referir a otra parte del mencionado documento que analizamos en su página 15, en el penúltimo párrafo de la versión en español, respecto a los suministros alimentarios y la nutrición, donde se indica, y cito: "Los suministros de América Latina fueron un 7 por ciento superiores a las necesidades, pero esto no fue suficiente para compensar la mala distribución de los suministros con respecto a las necesidades nutricionales".

En América Latina aún no se puede hablar plenamente de necesidades nutricionales, ni obviar los problemas alimentarios.

Al referirse al comercio internacional, el documento señala, y cito: "que el resurgimiento del proteccionismo afecta indirectamente a los mercados de materias primas agrícolas de los países en desarrollo" y señala: "el Convenio Internacional del Azúcar no entrará en vigor completamente hasta que se establezca el fondo para la financiación de reservas después que los Estados Unidos hayan ratificado el acuerdo".

De todos ustedes es conocida la importancia que tiene para América Latina fundamentalmente la entrada en vigor de tal convenio, pues representa o representaría una entrada mayor de divisas para los países que pudieran ser asignados en cubrir aspectos básicos de la población, y de esta forma se evitaría una disminución en los precios de 1979 que descendieron a un nivel más bajo, ya bajos a su vez en 1973.

como planteaba el Sr. Director General de la FAO en su declaración en el quinto período de sesiones de la Junta que acaba de concluir en Manila recientemente, el Sr. Director General decía, y cito sus palabras: "en el caso del azúcar se han tomado medidas generalizadas para controlar las importaciones mediante gravámenes y planes de licencias de importación o para promover las exportaciones con fuertes subsidios a la exportación", y continuaba diciendo el Sr. Saouma, y cito nuevamente: "Sería el colmo del cinismo estimular a los países en desarrollo a aumentar la producción si en definitiva no pudieran encontrar mercados remunerativos para sus productos". En tal sentido, nuestra delegación propugna la conveniencia de que se supriman las restricciones impuestas sobre los mercados agrícolas, ya que tales restricciones han traído como consecuencia en reiteradas ocasiones, que se hayan reorientado hacia otros sectores de prioridad secundaria inversiones que, inicialmente, se habían consagrado al desarrollo de la agricultura. Es menester desarrollar aquellos sectores manufactureros que a la vez que proporcionan empleo e ingresos para estimular la propia producción alimentaria, permitan la obtención de divisas para importar los alimentos que no pueden producirse internacionalmente a costos razonables.

Por eso, la eliminación de las barreras arancelarias que limitan el comercio es un constante reclamo de los países en desarrollo. Nosotros, los países productores de azúcar, que somos muchos aquí los países latinoamericanos que a través de los años hemos endulzado un poco con nuestro producto la vida de muchos países, esperamos en alguna ocasión que este azúcar no se convierta para nosotros en una amargura, sino en un dulzor para todos y realmente somos optimistas en el futuro y estamos seguros de que de una manera o de otra, la humanidad y la comunidad internacional tendrá que hacerle frente a una problemática muy seria, problemática de la cual depende en gran medida el desarrollo de infinidad de países subdesarrollados.

Finalmente, nosotros queríamos felicitar a la Secretaría por este documento tan valioso, tan profundo, tan serio. Nos perdona si hemos hecho demasiadas referencias a lo que aquí se dice, pero realmente nosotros no encontramos palabras exactas y más objetivas como aquellas que se señalan aquí, en este documento. Quisiera habernos referido a otros aspectos que apoyamos como es el Fondo de Pérdidas Posteriores a la Cosecha, el Fondo de las Semillas, pero en definitiva tendremos oportunidad de hablar también de esos aspectos, así que, le pido excusas si he sido muy largo en mi intervención y le doy las gracias.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I would like to thank Cuba. Your comments have been much sweeter than sugar, Sir, even though they have been a bit longer than we might have wished. It is, as you have said, the duty of this Council to establish decisions and make recommendations to help us overcome the many problems you have touched on, and I am sure that we all intend to work towards this objective. I am sure we would all be extremely pragmatic and that we will not lose time in discussing theory.

G. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Coming on to the subject, permit me to congratulate Professor Islam and his colleagues for the work they have done on document CL 75/2. It is now the time of the student to appreciate the work of the professor. I must say indeed that they have done an excellent job. Concerning the observation about the Permanent Independent Chairman of the Council regarding the vociferousness of the delegation of Bangladesh, may I say, Mr. Chairman, people work on inspiration and for the delegation of Bangladesh the inspiration is the critical food situation in Bangladesh.

In this Council, the opening item is the assessment of the food situation. Pakistan raised a very substantive question yesterday as to why we make an assessment of the current food situation. Is it a ritual, is it for taking a mental note, is it for somebody else's consumption, or is it for actions.

on our part? To my mind, assessment of the world food situation is for actions on our part to the best of our abilities. The Seventy-Fifth Session sits with two most important agenda items to consider, namely, (a) the Director-General's proposal of food security after international negotiations on the new wheat agreement have failed, and in his words, "a dangerous gap exists", and the Council also considers the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium; I believe that the Council in taking mental note of the food situation would not only sympathize with the developing countries but has an opportunity and an obligation this time to support fully and back up the Director-General's proposals on food security, which, as he says, was placed to fill in a dangerous gap that exists today in the world food security situation, and (b) to support fully the Programme of Work and Budget, which, although modest, is an attempt to alleviate the sufferings of the hungry and malnourished.

1979 so far in the international scene records failures. Professor Nour Islam yesterday gave a brief account of the work of UNCTAD 5, which, in his words has made limited progress, maybe in the assessment of others no progress at all. The food situation today is no better than it was six months before when we sat for the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Council.

The growth of production in developing countries has been only 2.9 percent, and more important is that the growth of production in the Far East, which is the concentration of malnourishment and hunger, is only 2.6 percent. The stock for consumption requirements in developing countries is only 10 percent, although the FAO estimate is that the minimum level is 17 percent consumption requirement. The stock in the world, if comfortable on a global basis, is concentrated in a few countries, and there too, in a limited area, and we find from the document that even now the transportation systems in those two countries is strained at the present level of trade, and the situation would deteriorate further if the system of transportation worsens, in spite of the stock held by these two countries.

The import requirements of the MSAs have come up from 16 to 18 million tons and of the developing countries have gone over 17 million tons. The food aid of 10 million tons has not yet been reached, which has been repeated by all members of the Council, and also that the IEFR has not yet reached even the modest target of 500 000 tons. There has been only one area of marginal improvement, which is the flow of external assistance from 3.3 billion in 1976 to 4.3 billion in 1977, an increase of 30 percent, but this 4.3 billion is just 50 percent of the assessed requirement of US \$8.3 billion.

My friend and colleague from the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Grabisch, whose return to this arena I welcome, mentioned 8.3 billion as a Secretariat estimate. We all know 8.3 billion is the World Food Council estimate as being an essential element to ensure 4 percent growth of agriculture

in developing countries, so it is not merely a Secretariat estimate, and we are 50 percent below this target of US \$8.3 billion with 6.5 billion on concessional terms.

In this context, the Director-General was right to say yesterday - and I quote - "the problem we are facing is not thus the choice of priorities but adequacy of resources". But we are facing this adequacy of resources in a situation where - again I quote the Director-General from his statement yesterday - "we have it in our power and in our capacity to decide and to apply the necessary policies to improve the world food situation to rescue millions from near starvation and gross undernourishment." This is basically the concept which India quoted President Kennedy mentioning in the sixties. This is the unfortunate part of the story, that we have the capacities and capabilities but yet the resources are not forthcoming. We have not yet attained even a modest 10 million tons although the question has arisen in the minds of many whether this 10 million tons is adequate in the present situation. It is estimated that 15-16 million tons will be required by 1985. The point was debated in the last meeting of the CFA and Mr. Vogel was kind enough to agree to undertake a study to be placed in the next meeting about the adequacy or otherwise of the present level of food aid and the requirements in the 1980s.

On every occasion we recalled the World Food Conference of 1974, that is a benchmark. Perhaps from that benchmark the world community realized it has to move forward but the question is whether we have moved forward or we have moved backward. According to the FAO studies the population continues to grow from 400 to 450 to 500 million.

President Macnamara in his statement to the UNCTAD Five stated: "...even if the projected and optimistic growth rates which the report envisaged were achieved some 600 million individuals at the end of the century would still remain trapped in absolute poverty." We all know the optimism is never there, and reports are always under-achieved.

I wonder whether we will turn the century with 16 hundred million hungry and malnourished? The Director-General mentioned Macnamara yesterday, saying between the mid-1960s and mid-1970s the real growth of income of the poor in under-developed countries has been only \$2. But this is only the average. If you take the poor food-deficit countries it is a negative growth. I give the example of my own country, there is a negative growth in income of the poor.

This assessment states strongly that in 25 countries unfavourable growth prospects exist in the world today, and Bangladesh is one of them.

I mention in passing that over our normal food shortage there has been a production shortfall of about one million tons, taking our total shortfall to two million tons. Our stock situation is only 3 percent as against 17 percent of the total requirement for the minimum safe level. The Director-General also drew the attention of the Council to the situation in Kampuchea, Viet Nam and Laos, and called on the donors to respond with humanitarian grants.

The FAO system has done a good job of telling the world what is coming tomorrow. The delegate of India asked the question, "Is it enough, shall we be satisfied with that?" It has done a good job in telling what is coming tomorrow but it is for the international community to think what can be done so that tomorrow is not what has been predicted.

There were emergency operations in the world about 50 percent above last year. The resources of the WFP are very meagre for this purpose, and we had to increase it by about 10 million last year. I believe there is a good case this year too to augment substantially the emergency resources of the.

WFP.

Taking the thread of the proposal of the delegate of India, we have to take account beyond the early warning of telling the countries "all your tomorrow is cloudy". We should try to say what can be done by us so that it is brighter. I feel that it is not enough to tell a hungry man he is hungry today, he will be hungry tomorrow and hungry the day after. It is the obligation of an international community to provide food for him, which is his inalienable right., Poverty is not of his making and it is out of his control.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the honourable delegate from Bangladesh. As is customary he speaks with wisdom, and with the bitter wisdom that he has. I must say that I shook right after the meeting of the Finance Committee, and I hope that I will not have to shake my moustache off after this meeting.

S. TATARIDIS (Greece): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate the Secretariat for the preparation of the very comprehensive and informative document that we have before us today on the Current World Food Situation. Yesterday morning, we heard the opening statement which was so eloquently delivered by the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma in which he raised points of the utmost importance to us all, and in particular to developing countries. He also expressed his hopes, and very clearly his fears. I would like to underline at this moment how my delegation approves this excellent statement of the Director-General and at the same time how much my Government appreciates the Director-General's efforts in restructuring this Organization and in shaping new forms of activities.

It is encouraging to note that the improvement in the world food and agriculture situation consolidated in the years 1976 and 1977 has continued in 1978. In 1978, world food production increased about 3 percent and the record of food production was well above the trend line.

Food output rose at about the same rate in both the developing and the developed countries. In 1978 the developed countries had done better than in the previous years, in fact the rise in the developed countries is the largest since 1973 with increases in all regions including Europe. We, however, agree with the estimates of the previous session of our Council that the world food situation remains fragile and there is little ground for complacency. Much of the improvement is due to the more favourable weather conditions, although the weather remains always an uncontrollable element.

Many unsatisfactory elements still exist, particularly in respect of long term problems. Despite the increase in cereal stocks since 1974, insufficient progress has been made to overcome long-standing problems of world food security which are preoccupying us all. The need for massive investment expansion in the agriculture of the underdeveloped countries remains intensive. In addition, the recent changes in production estimates and prices show that the future world food outlook may be grim.

The full picture of the world food situation is not, thus, very satisfying. Food production, particularly in the food priority countries, was much lower in the last year than in the sixties. The average annual increase was 3 percent last year. The increase in production in the developing countries in the 1970s remains far below the international developing strategy in the World Food Conference target of 4 percent. Acute food shortages continue to exist in a large number of developing countries in Africa and South Asia.

The deteriorating situation in Africa has led the African Minister of Agriculture to call for the preparation of a regional food plan by FAO in cooperation with the European Economic Commission and the member countries of OAU. The number of malnourished people increased from 400 to 450 million in the first quarter of the 1970s and this increase occurred mainly in the developing countries.

The establishment of a new international agreement for an internationally coordinated grain reserve to guarantee minimum food security was suspended last February without reaching agreement. External assistance to increase food production, particularly in the poorest countries, has remained at the same level since 1975. There is still a shortfall of about 4 billion dollars at 1975 prices or 48 percent below the 8.3 billion estimated by the World Food Council for achieving a 4 percent annual growth of food production in the developing countries.

Food aid remains insufficient for the increased needs, and there is still no agreement to ensure the minimal level of 10 million tons of grain required for food aid. World food production is seriously affected by the instability of prices. The FAO Council, and the FAO Director-General more particularly, have always followed with concern the negotiations to establish an international wheat and grains agreement, and in this respect, a new food aid convention. We feel the successful conclusion of these negotiations is an urgent priority. It is therefore necessary that the governments participating in the negotiations to replace the International Wheat Agreement of 1971 reaffirm in due time their commitment to world food security to a level of assured food aid of at least 10 million tons.

Since the negotiations for a new international grains arrangement have been adjourned indefinitely the Director-General proposes to the governments a Five-Point Action Plan to improve food security. The Five-Point Plan of Action has already been considered by the Committee on World Food Security last April and its recommendations are now submitted to us for approval.

After the adjournment in the negotiations for a new international grains arrangement for an indefinite period it is now the responsibility of all governments which have accepted the international undertaking on world food security to take steps to implement this undertaking.

We further think that the current relatively good world food supply situation provides an excellent opportunity to build up natural stocks along the lines envisaged in the Undertaking, so that the world could be adequately protected against supply shortages and price rises. Under these considerations the proposed plan of action of the Director-General must be fully supported. It is a practical and realistic programme for strengthening world food security, helping the developing countries with serious food shortages and implementing pledges made by governments in Under-

taking. This plan of action is not a substitute for a new international grains arrangement; it is an interim but urgent measure which includes elements that could be complementary to a new international grains arrangement as envisaged in the negotiating conference.

The Greek delegation wishes to reiterate that the international emergency reserve of 500 000 tons of cereals established by the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly as a provisional measure should continue on a permanent basis. It should constitute a continual reserve available to the World Food Programme as it was recommended during the World Food Council Ministerial Meeting in Mexico. In this respect we appreciate the relevant initiatives of the Director-General to appeal to potential donor countries for additional contributions, either bilateral or multilateral, in certain cases of emergencies such as the Sahelian drought, the difficulties in Viet Nam and the serious locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa. It is indeed a source of satisfaction to know that the appeals made by the Director-General in conjunction with the appeals of the affected countries have resulted in more than US \$100 million of mobilized help from the international community.

We are all conscious that trade in food and other agricultural products had been the subject of specific discussions in the multilateral trade negotiations and the UNCTAD negotiations within the integrated programme for commodities, despite the difficulties that have arisen in these negotiations and, more particularly, last month in Manila, greater and continuous attention must be given to the food and other trade problems of the developing countries in view of the benefits that the reduction of tariff barriers would bring to these countries in their effort to resolve their food problems. On this subject we share the views of the Director-General who emphasized on several occasions the fundamental importance of concluding both the grains agreement and the new food aid convention. There is no doubt that the food problem facing the developing countries could not be solved without a major acceleration in the rate of production, mainly in the food priority countries with slow rates of growth, a high degree of malnutrition, large and growing food deficits and serious constraints on importing food.

We also recognize the responsibilities of the international community to increase its assistance for food production in developing countries. Nevertheless, two important constraints to food and agricultural development still exist; first inadequate financial resources, and second, the shortage or lack of well-prepared, viable investment projects.

We very much appreciate the efforts of the Director-General for mobilization of adequate resources for investment in agriculture, as well as his efforts to provide Member Nations and financial institutions with an expanded, flexible and independent investment service. We think that the Council must support these initiatives in order to determine how food production improvement in a certain number of countries can be accelerated by receiving adequate investment and policy support.

F. ABDELMADJID (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous dire tout le plaisir de vous voir à la présidence de notre Conseil et de vous renouveler mes félicitations.

C'est avec une attention soutenue que ma délégation a suivi la déclaration fort importante et très riche d'enseignements du Directeur général de notre organisation sur les principaux points à l'ordre du jour de notre Conseil.

Par ailleurs, les documents présentés par le secrétariat sur la situation alimentaire mondiale et l'introduction de M. Islam ont été d'une grande utilité pour mieux appréhender cette question et constituent une base sérieuse de réflexion donnant un aperçu général sur la conjoncture dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

L'analyse qui nous a été faite dresse un tableau sombre de la situation alimentaire mondiale, qui ne fait que confirmer les préoccupations grandissantes des pays en voie de développement quant aux incertitudes du lendemain, à la précarité de l'avenir, et à la crise qui caractérise les relations économiques internationales. Cette situation alimentaire critique, à laquelle sont confrontés les pays du tiers monde, n'est certainement pas isolée du reste. Elle est la conséquence logique de l'ordre économique établi, caractérisé par l'échange inégal dans les rapports nord-sud, l'écart croissant entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement, qui ont permis aux premiers de bâtir leur richesse sur la pauvreté des seconds.

Elle est le résultat de l'absence de la volonté politique des pays développés, détenteurs de la richesse et du pouvoir économiques, d'apporter les ajustements nécessaires dans leur économie afin de répondre aux principes d'équité et de justice que requièrent l'urgence et l'exigence de l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international en vue de garantir à l'humanité la paix et la sécurité.

La sixième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale a constitué un tournant décisif dans la prise de conscience, par la Communauté internationale, de l'interdépendance des intérêts des pays pauvres et des pays riches, et de la nécessité de promouvoir à cet effet une véritable coopération.

Six ans après, force est de constater que le bilan est maigre, voire décevant. L'acceptation par les pays du tiers monde d'une certaine hiérarchisation dans l'examen des problèmes, à la septième session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale, leur constante disponibilité au dialogue tant au sein qu'en dehors du système des Nations Unies, et le caractère modeste et réaliste de leurs revendications n'ont, hélas, pas rencontré, chez les partenaires développés, la réponse qu'ils étaient en droit d'attendre.

En effet, aucune solution adéquate n'a été apportée à l'endettement continu des pays en voie de développement, au déficit chronique de leur balance des paiements qu'aggrave chaque jour la détérioration des termes de l'échange et à leur dépendance technologique.

Bien plus, les mesures protectionnistes prises par les pays développés ont affecté les exportations des pays en voie de développement, dont l'économie fragile continue de subir les contrecoups de l'inflation.

A l'échec de l'accord international sur les céréales, vient s'ajouter celui, plus grave et plus révélateur, de la cinquième CNUCED qui a terminé ses travaux au début de ce mois à Manille,

La crise qui caractérise les relations économiques entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement prend une acuité particulière lorsqu'on aborde les domaines de l'alimentation de l'agriculture, car il s'agit de la préservation de la vie de milliers d'êtres humains, /?/ -'agit de la survie de nombreux pays, en Afrique et en Asie notamment.

Il n'est pas dans mon intention de rappeler les chiffres et de donner des statistiques; les distingués délégués qui m'ont précédé l'ont déjà fait, et la documentation qui nous a été présentée est suffisamment complète et éloquente à ce sujet.

Je voudrais toutefois insister sur la nécessité qu'il y a, pour la Communauté internationale, de déployer tous les efforts nécessaires pour atteindre l'objectif minimum de 10 millions de tonnes pour l'assistance alimentaire mondiale, et l'objectif de 500 000 tonnes comme contribution à la Réserve alimentaire d'urgence.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour dire que nous appuyons les propositions du Directeur général, formulées en cinq points sur le problème de la sécurité alimentaire, et souligner notre inquiétude devant les tendances à la hausse des prix des produits alimentaires, notamment des céréales, qui ne manqueront pas d'affecter gravement la plupart de nos pays.

Le moment est venu pour la Communauté internationale de se pencher avec responsabilité et de faire preuve de courage, de clairvoyance, pour affronter les problèmes alimentaires, si elle veut éviter à l'humanité le risque de la famine et ses conséquences graves, car la pauvreté et la famine ne portent pas atteinte uniquement à la dignité des peuples qui les subissent, mais elles discréditent également ceux qui les tolèrent.

Tous les efforts devraient être déployés pour atteindre l'objectif minimum de 4 pour cent fixé par la stratégie internationale du développement. En ce qui nous concerne, en tant que pays en voie de développement, nous sommes disposés au dialogue, mais pas à l'illusion du dialogue que l'on a entretenue jusqu'ici et qui a consisté à aller de capitale en capitale, de réunion en réunion, sans aucun résultat tangible. Les maigres résultats obtenus ont été des résultats de replâtrage plutôt que des résultats visant à restructurer véritablement les relations économiques internationales.

Pour être véritable et efficace, le dialogue doit reposer sur la volonté politique d'apporter des solutions concrètes aux problèmes cruciaux et urgents que connaissent les pays en voie de développement, et se traduire par des engagements orientés vers l'action.

La politique du "compter sur soi" et de l'effort national constitue l'élément fondamental et la donnée de base de tout processus de développement. Cet effort doit se traduire par une mobilisation constante des ressources nationales, une distribution équitable des revenus, la priorité à accorder au secteur rural et agricole dans les pays, et la nécessité d'entreprendre vigoureusement des réformes économiques et sociales qui répondent au souci de justice et d'équité. Cet effort doit se traduire également par la nécessité d'éviter des dépenses de luxe ou de prestige. Cet effort doit enfin porter sur l'investissement agricole, qui demeure faible dans la plupart des pays du tiers monde.

L'Algérie, en ce qui la concerne, a entrepris depuis plusieurs années une révolution agraire dont l'objectif essentiel est d'assurer aux masses rurales des conditions de vie normales et de tendre à la satisfaction des besoins alimentaires de notre population. Notre délégation, à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire à laquelle nous attachons une importance toute particulière, donnera un aperçu détaillé sur l'expérience de mon pays.

Je voudrais toutefois, à ce stade, souligner que nous avons entrepris de vastes opérations en vue de l'intensification de la production. Ces actions portent notamment sur l'équipement mécanique, la fertilisation du sol, les problèmes de l'hydraulique, la vulgarisation, la formation des cadres, ainsi que sur la recherche scientifique. Cet effort porte également sur les actions sociales et une série de mesures visant à freiner l'exode rural, à mieux attacher le paysan à sa terre pour qu'il y vive en symbiose, telles que l'extension de la sécurité sociale, la médecine gratuite, l'implantation de villages agricoles, etc.

La coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement est une donnée essentielle au nouvel ordre économique international qui est une des aspirations légitimes de nos peuples. Cette politique d'économie collective des pays en voie de développement, qui a été développée au niveau des différentes réunions qui nous sont propres, que ce soit au niveau des pays non alignés ou au niveau du Groupe des 77, devrait être renforcée et soutenue tant par la Communauté internationale que par les Nations Unies. Les efforts déployés par la FAO dans ce sens, les propositions faites par le Directeur général, méritent notre encouragement et notre appui.

Après avoir évoqué le rôle de l'action internationale et celui de l'action nationale, je voudrais m'arrêter quelque peu sur l'apport et la contribution des institutions du système des Nations Unies à la promotion du développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Parmi ces institutions, la FAO occupe une place de choix. Sa vocation d'organisation universelle occupant de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et oeuvrant contre la faim et la malnutrition, lui confère une responsabilité primordiale et un rôle de premier plan. Notre organisation, malgré les ressources nettement insuffisantes dont elle dispose et les demandes budgétaires modestes qu'elle formule par rapport aux tâches immenses qui lui incombent, déploie tous les efforts pour essayer d'atteindre les objectifs que s'est assignée la Communauté internationale dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Nous voulions également rendre hommage à l'action du Programme alimentaire mondial qui déploie tous les efforts en vue de mobiliser des ressources qui demeurent, hélas, insuffisantes.

La décentralisation entreprise par le Directeur général de la FAO s'est traduite par un redéploiement des activités du Siège sur le terrain et constitue le meilleur exemple de lutte contre la bureaucratie qui ronge le système des Nations Unies, système devenu lourd de par la prolifération des institutions des organes et des gaspillages qui en découlent.

Nous partageons pleinement les idées du Directeur général lorsqu'il affirme que ce qui compte ce sont les faits et non pas la théorie. Je voudrais compléter ceci en ajoutant que les faits doivent se reposer sur les principes et objectifs du Nouvel ordre économique international auquel le Directeur général a déclaré son attachement et sa détermination d'oeuvrer pour son instauration. Cette acquisition, pour la FAO, de la dimension conceptuelle qui vient s'ajouter à la dimension opérationnelle fait de notre Organisation un instrument efficace pour l'élaboration d'une idéologie efficace du développement et de la coopération internationale. La contribution de la FAO à l'élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie internationale pour le développement devra être décisive comme décisif devrait être son apport à la Conférence sur la science et la technique.

Nous nous félicitons de l'accord qui s'est institué entre les différentes institutions du système des Nations Unies qui s'occupent de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et nous partageons les préoccupations du Directeur général sur ce qui a été évoqué hier au sujet de la coordination. Nous appuyons sa remarque qui stipule que la coordination doit revenir d'abord et avant tout aux Etats.

Devant la lourdeur du système des Nations Unies, les états n'y comprennent absolument rien. Il est nécessaire qu'au niveau de notre pays nous ayons assez souvent un interlocuteur sans pour autant que les différentes institutions représentées dans nos pays soient privées du droit et du devoir d'accéder à tous les échelons de l'administration et du gouvernement.

Je ne voudrais pas conclure sur une note pessimiste, malgré la crise qui caractérise les relations internationales économiques depuis plusieurs années, car nous voulons nous tourner vers l'avenir et ne pas perdre l'espoir. Nous ne voulons pas perdre confiance dans le génie de l'homme de pouvoir un jour surmonter les difficultés du moment et de pouvoir enfin trouver les solutions justes et équitables aux problèmes graves qui assaillent l'humanité. Il y va de la paix, de la sécurité. Il y va de notre devenir à tous.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of Algeria for his comprehensive and clear statement with its clear objectives. Indeed we have always to be optimistic, enough to believe that this state of affairs will not continue for long. Yet on the other hand we should not let this optimism be our only solution. The Director-General of our Organization and his staff under Mr. Vogel have always tried to demolish the impediments to the solution of any problem, and we should all, without exception, all countries help them, support them and stand side by side with them in every step they make.

Srta. C. DOMINGUEZ (Panamá) : Permítame primeramente expresarle el más cordial saludo en nombre de nuestra delegación haciéndolo extensivo a toda la Mesa directiva. Nuestra delegación desea felicitar a la Secretaría y al Profesor Islam por la presentación del documento que nos ha sido sometido a nuestra consideración relativo a la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo.

Los documentos nos presentan un panorama bastante claro de la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación*. Las declaraciones del Director General en su discurso de apertura nos llevan a una profunda meditación sobre la situación de la agricultura y alimentación en los países en desarrollo. Vemos la necesidad de una verdadera acción para incrementar la producción y eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo mediante el establecimiento de un verdadero y justo Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional

El documento expresa que la situación alimentaria mundial sigue siendo incierta y que el objetivo del 4% del Segundo Decenio para el Desarrollo no va a alcanzarse. La agricultura no se desarrolla al ritmo de las necesidades y vemos que en los países en desarrollo, el número de personas subalimentadas pasó de 400 a 450 millones de personas.

Con relación a las plagas y enfermedades, nuestra delegación reconoce la importante función que ha desempeñado la FAO para la eliminación de la peste porcina africana, quien a través de su programa de cooperación técnica lleva a cabo proyectos para prevenir dicha peste en los países latinoamericanos*

Con relación al comercio internacional y precios, nuestra delegación condena el resurgimiento del proteccionismo en favor de los productos elaborados de los países desarrollados que afecta indirectamente a los mercados de materias primas agrícolas de los países en desarrollo, tal como lo refleja el documento que estamos estudiando. Vemos con desaliento la paralización de las negociaciones del Convenio Internacional del Trigo, del Convenio Internacional del Cacao y Convenio Internacional del Azúcar, con divergencias en los puntos fundamentales.

Con respecto al Convenio Internacional del Azúcar, nuestra delegación apoya la declaración hecha por el distinguido delegado de Cuba. No obstante toda esta situación, nos alienta la forma en que se ha desarrollado el programa de acción para la prevención de pérdidas de alimentos establecido por la Conferencia de la FAO en 1977.

Ante la situación actual de una incierta seguridad alimentaria mundial y las necesidades expresadas por los gobiernos, consideramos que se hace imperativo el incremento de la Cuenta Especial a fin de que en un corto plazo, se logre la cifra de 20 millones para la prevención de las pérdidas de alimentos*

Para finalizar, queremos exhortar a la FAO y al Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola para que, en estrecha colaboración, sigan trabajando en la ardua tarea de aumentar la producción de alimentos en las áreas rurales de los países en desarrollo con el fin de eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

I. TAKI (Japan): First of all my delegation would like to show deep respect for the Secretariat that prepared such a comprehensive analysis of the current world food situation. On this occasion I would like to add to the papers a short comment on the present agricultural situation in Japan.

Japan, suffering from the over-production of rice now, is still one of the biggest food importing countries in the world. In 1977 Japan imported 14.3 million tons of coarse grains, 5.6 million tons of wheat, 3.6 million tons of soya beans and a substantial ratio of grains of my country always stays at the level of 40 per cent, so Japan is very much concerned about the instability of the world food situation.

It is in this view that Japan highly appreciates the Secretariat's excellent papers and the reports of the Early Warning System and it is in the same view that Japan shares a common interest with the developing countries in the improvement of production in those countries. However, Japan is not merely a food importing country. As I just mentioned, Japan is now a country in great difficulty of over production of rice - that is the major item of agricultural product in Japan. Since 1966 the national average yield of unpolished rice per hectare has never been less than 4 tonnes and in 1978 that reached about 5 tonnes. On the other hand, since the consumption of rice is decreasing government rice stock has risen about 5.7 million tonnes at the end of last October. This situation that we could hardly imagine before was brought about by various factors, the dissemination of the high-yield varieties and intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides, the development of highly sophisticated techniques and especially thorough going irrigation investment. Now Japan's agriculture is going towards the diversification of crops in order to adjust the present situation and I hope that the experience and techniques we have will lead to success in this field. However, the Japanese Government believes that those energies, experience and techniques must be fully utilized, not only for the improvement of its own agriculture but also for the consolidation of world food security, in particular through increasing cooperation in food production in the developing countries.

Finally, we are happy to inform you, Mr. Chairman, that my Government decided recently to provide some countries in need with 350 000 tonnes of rice on the terms of soft loan and is studying to do more in the future. I hope with this we are approaching the accomplishment of the target on aid established in 1974.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I believe that the only person who could solve Japan's problem, because of Japan's problem, because of Japan's difficulty with rice surplus, will be Mr. Vogel. I wonder how many countries are prepared to provide Mr. Vogel with a ticket to Japan to solve this problem.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): We too are happy to be working here again under the distinguished chairmanship of the Independent Chairman of the Council. We congratulate you, Sir, and the other two Vice-Chairmen who were elected yesterday to assist him with his responsibilities here. We also welcome with warm

pleasure the observer status granted yesterday to the delegates from Western Samoa and we hope that yesterday marks the beginning for them of a long and fruitful association with the FAO family of which we are all members.

We believe, with others, that the consideration of the world food situation is not a ritualistic matter but it is crucial to a proper understanding and a proper practical approach to everything that we have done here in this organization and which we all aspire to do. We are therefore grateful for the quality of the document and for the detached and objective introduction of its substance by Dr. Islam yesterday. Like others we welcome what is good in it and we take note of what is not good.

We are certainly pleased to see the further improvement in world food supplies, but we are taken by and accept Dr. Islam's assessment that at this time the situation is, as he described it, precarious and fragile.

We see the world food situation as involving not only production but the many other things with which this Organization is involved, including the prevention of losses, and in those two areas we would like to commend and welcome two approaches by the Organization, one practical and one at this stage still conceptual. We believe that the FAO is to be commended for the way in which it acted to deal promptly with the problems of desert locust infestation and African swine fever.

In what I am calling still the conceptual area we appreciate very much the Director-General's initiative in introducing for our consideration his Five-Point Plan. In commending his initiative we say that we also believe that true world food security ultimately will depend on an internationally coordinated system of grain reserves and we are still hopeful, despite the degree of pessimism which some other delegates have expressed, that there will be a successful conclusion to an international grains agreement. We shall certainly be working as a nation towards that end, as we will also be working to try to put flesh and blood on the common fund arrangements which have at last been agreed to in principle at UNCTAD V.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): It is of interest to us, as well as having the excellent documents before us, to have good recommendations and proposals which can help many of the developing countries.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I do not intend to dwell upon this document because those who preceded me have tackled it in detail. I would like to say that the Drafting Committee would have the power to dwell on the many points included in this document in order to come out with fruitful and acceptable resolutions.

The Arab world is greatly interested in the food situation because despite its great area it still imports food at \$10 million annually and the Arab world has coordinated among its countries in the field of food production and the establishment of food security not only for the Arab world but also for many developing countries. The Director-General might be supporting me in this field especially, because he attended the ministerial meeting of Ministers of Agriculture held in Kuwait last March and got acquainted with most of the resolutions of the meeting, and a special meeting will be held before the Arab food security next November and the Director-General may also have the possibility of attending this meeting.

Up to now many giant projects among the Arab states in the field of fisheries, meat and fodders were set up and Iraq is now allocating a greater share of its national income to solving the food problems through the reclamation of lands and the innovation of irrigation systems. The year 1980 was set by Iraq as the year of self-sufficiency to be followed by exporting to the neighbouring countries and the developing countries. Iraq shares with the Third World countries their great concern over their food security and is endeavouring, side by side with these countries, to alleviate the sufferings of their peoples. Aid extended by Iraq to some Arab countries and some developing countries exceeded \$4 000 million during the four years and Iraq is still continuing this policy in order to continue this friendly aid without any exception.

In conclusion I would like to put a question to Professor Islam because on page 5 of the Arab version the last paragraph says that the deteriorating situation in Africa led the Ministers of Labour to request FAO to prepare a food policy. I wish to have clarification of the conclusions resulting from this meeting because a year has already elapsed and I would like to ask if there is any follow-up and if there are any broad lines set up by this conference because this might be of interest and benefit to other groups, according to the recommendations and proposals of this ministerial meeting.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I will leave Professor Islam to answer that question. I thank the delegate of Iraq for giving a true and complete picture of what is going on in Iraq.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): This being my delegation's first address to this Session of the Council, I should like to add my delegation's congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen and the Drafting Committee on their election to their offices. It is our hope that with their experience, the deliberations of this meeting will be concluded successfully.

We would also like to join other delegations in thanking the Director-General for his explicit statement, which was informative and inspiring.

Mr. Chairman, before I address myself to the current World Food situation. I beg your indulgence to present to this session of the Council a short statement from my Government.

As you may be aware, Mr. Chairman, there have recently been many developments of far-reaching consequences in Uganda. It is my pleasure and privilege to inform you that Uganda has now been liberated from the clutches of the last regime which had acquired international renown for its atrocities. We would like to thank all the individuals, countries and international organizations for their material and moral support which assisted in the overthrow of the regime. We wish to thank particularly President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the brave soldiers of the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces for their selfless sacrifice to rescue us. Uganda can now again take her rightful place in the ranks of other countries to play her part without fear.

I am happy to inform this meeting that the new Uganda Government is committed to a policy of respect for human rights, human freedom, human dignity and for democracy. Uganda is now seeking friendship with all countries, more especially with her neighbours in the region. The new Uganda Government pledges her support to the United Nations organizations and will participate actively in the FAO activities and programmes. For this reason the Government will strengthen her permanent office here at the FAO and will try to reverse the black image of the country built up in the last eight years.

The eight years of the Amin regime brought untoward damage to the country. The once healthy and developing economy had stagnated. The populace which had been hard working and lively was harassed, tortured and demoralized. It will require a lot of hard work and patience on the part of our people to rebuild the economy again. Indeed there is already a completely new attitude and outlook towards work, but as before, we will require even more assistance and good will on the part of the international community to achieve our goals. We, therefore, appeal to all friendly peoples, governments and international organizations to come to our aid. We have all hope that this much needed help will be forthcoming.

Turning now to the subject under discussion, the Current World Food Situation, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent documents CL 75/2 and CL 75/2-Sup. 1. We concur fully with the concern already expressed by previous speakers on the deteriorating situation of world food, especially in the developing countries. We in Uganda have in the past few years faced difficulties in fulfilling our food production goals. The major causes of this were shortages of production inputs including tools and equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and other production equipment, etc. While we realize that the primary responsibility to increase food production rests with us, there are constraints of a financial and technical nature for which we will continue to rely on the international community for assistance. Given these, the future of food production in Uganda is bright.

Finally, I am glad to inform the meeting that Uganda's doors are now again wide open to all visitors who would like to see the natural beauty of tropical Africa on the equator. We shall be only too glad to receive all visitors in the country.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Uganda for giving this information, which we all hope will achieve welfare and prosperity for the entire Ugandan people.

J. PILANE (Botswana): Mr. Chairman, since this is the first time the delegation of Botswana intervenes, • I would like to congratulate you and the two other Vice-Chairmen for being elected to assist the Independent Chairman. I would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen for their election, including you.

My deep appreciation goes to the Director-General for his lucid statement. My gratitude also goes to the Secretariat for preparing the two documents before us, in particular Professor Islam for his presentation. I did not intend to intervene at this stage, but it appeared to me that intervention at a later stage might have been irrelevant.

I agree with the general mood of the analysis in the two documents that the current food situation gives cause for concern. I cannot, however, be flattered into believing that food production in 1978 increased in developing countries, especially in Africa, when I know that that was a mere recovery from the 1977 setback. We are told that per capita food production in 1978 was 10 percent less than it was in 1969/71. The so-called limited progress seems to me like taking one step forward and two backward s.

The main stable food crops in Botswana are maize, which is called corn, and sorghum. Annual consumption of these crops is estimated between 100 000 tons and 110 000. Our agricultural statistics still leave much to be desired. However, if we are to believe our estimate, Botswana has twice attained self-sufficiency in these two basic crops in the past nine years, first in 1974/75 when production of maize and sorghum reached 110 000 tons, and secondly in 1976/77 when production was 118 000 tons. However, because of erratic and unpredictable climatic conditions, output can be dismally low. In 1972/73, for instance, output for these two crops reached only 32 000 tons. This year again, that is, 1979, because of insufficient rains, we are predicting another record low production of these basic cereals. Indeed, there is an impending drought situation in Botswana today. Emergency plans are under way to mitigate its effects. Drought committees in all the districts affected have been formed to monitor the grazing situation and report to the central government through an Interministerial Drought Committee. Farmers are being advised to sell off a considerable proportion of their cattle, especially old ones, to leave enough grazing for younger stock. If need be, new grazing areas will be opened by providing water in virgin areas. Cattle may have to be moved from most seriously affected areas to less affected ones. Therefore, I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the Government of Botswana is following the situation closely, and an appeal will be made opportunely should the situation get out of hand.

No doubt food aid will be needed to counteract the effect of low production this year. I am not sure, but I believe an appeal has already been lodged with WFP. Cattle feeds may also be required for supplementation.

We are about to publish our Fifth Development Plan for 1979/85. The theme of this plan is rural development and creation of employment. The objective is to attain self-sufficiency in basic food crops and agricultural production by the mid-eighties. In the past, most agricultural investment has been concentrated on livestock, especially cattle. Our livestock management systems are not labour-intensive, and if employment creation is to be successful the emphasis has to be shifted away from livestock. It is our belief that arable agriculture holds the key to unemployment and under-employment problems and consequently to the solution of our food problems. It is intended to invest over \$20 million directly in productive areas in arable agriculture. Most of this is expected from external sources. The beneficiaries have been earmarked as farmers ploughing under 20 hectares. I will not elaborate on this programme because my Minister will do just that in July.

Our food production has been low, not only because of climatic conditions, lack of inputs and poor husbandry techniques, but also because of pests. Our farmers have to struggle with a whole range of problems. When rain has favoured them and they have managed to plough, they have to struggle with weeds, insects, etc. When this is over and the crops are almost ready for harvest, the birds come in. The bird pest is perhaps the most serious problem facing our arable agriculture because it comes when almost all the costs have been incurred, when production plans can no longer be changed. In Arusha, at the FAO Regional Conference last year, my Minister appealed for regional cooperation to combat the bird pest. Unfortunately, there was no support for this appeal. I would be surprised to learn that other countries are not experiencing this problem.

I will have done my country a disservice if I did not refer to the situation in Southern Africa. This situation is not of our own making, but we have to suffer because we are where we are and because of our principles. We believe that all men are not only born free but are created equal. Our philosophy, of course, runs counter to that of the majority regime in that part of the world.

As long as the situation in Southern Africa is uncertain and fluid, we cannot safely invest in production activities. We have to strengthen our defences, we have to divert our scarce financial, skilled manpower resources, and lastly, precious time planning for unproductive activities. We have to divert our scarce resources to cater for the victims of minority regimes.

The heads of frontline states spend an enormous amount of time negotiating the solution to the problems of Southern Africa. In spite of all these problems, we believe that sanity will at last prevail and the people of South Africa will again be able peacefully to participate in the betterment of their lives.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of Botswana for this valuable information that he has submitted, for both the bad and the good information, and we wish for his country every prosperity.

It is quite clear that this document, in view of its importance, has been the topic of many important discussions and many viewpoints were submitted, and we only hope that such proposals and discussions will lead in the end to our getting over this food problem in an acceptable and satisfactory way which is more optimistic and practical.

For me personally, I am quite confident that Dr. Islam will sum up many of your viewpoints and opinions and will also give an answer to many questions which were submitted by you. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to give the floor to Dr. Islam.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): In fact I will be very short. I do not have many points to make. We are very happy to see the distinguished delegates agree in general with the analyses and findings contained in the secretariat's document. We are grateful for the suggestions and the comments made by the delegates and will take full note of them. We have also noted the additional information provided by a few countries to supplement the analyses in the document.

We note for example that the United States and Canada, and the distinguished delegates of these two countries, have assured us that they have taken and are taking adequate steps to expand and strengthen their transportation and handling capacity for the exportation of large quantities of food grains that may be necessary to meet the requirements of world trade and shortages.

We have also taken account of the shortages in milk and meat production raised by the delegate of France. We appreciate the comments made on our figures of stocks and cereals. We have given only three categories in the figures for stocks - wheat, rice and coarse grains. We do not have details of the breakdown for coarse grains. The increase in stocks of coarse grains has been larger than in stocks of wheat and rice and of course some of these coarse grains are not consumed in large quantities in many developing countries, so from the point of view of security, especially in southern developing countries, the increase in coarse grains is not very relevant.

There has been some misunderstanding in our analysis of the African food situation. The delegate of Zaire quoted an increase in food production. In 1978, this increase related to the figures for one year, 1978, over the past year, 1977. There was in fact a decline in 1977, so the increase of about 4 percent in 1978 was a recovery from the decline which took place in 1977. This figure of the one year increase over the decline which took place in 1977 has to be read in conjunction with the other figures which deal with the long-term food prospects in Africa, which indicated that during the 1970s the rate of food production in Africa has been the slowest in all the developing regions and that in fact there has been a decline in food availability and food production in Africa. Read in conjunction with all this, the impression would be the correct one, the food situation in Africa is indeed serious and unless steps are taken it might get worse.

This takes me to the comment and the questions asked about the Food Plan by the delegate of Iraq. The original Food Plan for Africa was prepared by FAO at the request of African countries and was presented at the last Regional Conference in Arusha. The Plan gave a broad prospectus for increased food production in Africa and provided an analysis of the broad constraints and policy requirements for increased food production in Africa. The Arusha Conference urged upon the member countries the preparation and implementation of food production programmes, investment programmes in food and agriculture on a national basis, and intergovernmental organizations, financial agencies and FAO were requested to help them in the task of their investment programmes.

Each country was to examine its own constraints and possibilities, both financial and technical, and shape its own investment programmes and in this task we were ready to help. As a follow-up, the Director-General has written to the member countries of Africa requesting them to inform us what steps they had taken since the Arusha Conference with the Africa food plan, and we will analyse these

replies and will take up special action in the next regional conference to decide where to go from here.

That is all I have to add.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): Thank you Dr. Islam for summing up the documents and for answering the questions.

5. Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 5-11 April 1979)

5. Rapport de la quatrième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 5-11 avril 1979)

5. Informe del cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 5-11 abril 1979)

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): The relevant document is CL 75/10. As we know, time runs short, and so we shall try and present the document before the break, but will have the discussion after the lunch break. I have the pleasure to give the floor to Dr. Nour Islam to introduce the document.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like to make a very brief introduction of the Report of the 4th Session of the Committee of the World Food Security. The meeting was held here in Rome in April and the report is circulated as document CL 75/10. The major part of this Session was spent in considering the proposal by the Director-General for a voluntary plan of action to implement the international undertaking on world food security. As the Council will recall, this plan focused on five points where immediate action is needed to strengthen world food security: (i) adoption of food grain stock policies; (ii) criteria for the management and release of additional national stocks held in pursuance of the International Undertaking on World Food Security; (iii) special measures to assist low-income food production countries to meet food requirements and emergency needs; (iv) special arrangements for increased food security assistance; and (v) collective self-reliance in developing countries for the promotion of food security.

The Five Point Plan arose out of the conviction that FAO has a constitutional duty to fill the gap in the world's food security system created by the adjournment in February of the negotiations for a new International Grains Agreement. This was also recognized by the Committee on World Food Security.

In the absence of an agreement we are back to the pre-1974 situation and a succession of bad harvests could create the same food crisis as was created in the early seventies.

The discussion on the world food situation yesterday and the fragile future prospects including warnings of impending food shortages showed the timeliness and urgency of the Director-General's initiative in proposing the Five Point Plan of Action. Basically, the Plan envisages a return to the concepts and pledges of an International Undertaking on World Food Security.

Like the Undertaking, the Plan of Action is considered as a pledge based on mutual trust. The Committee had a further discussion of all aspects of the Plan, and agreed that the Director-General's Plan of Action included a set of measures which could on their own merits reinforce world food security. It was not a substitute for a new International Grains arrangement. Adequate stocks, price and food aid provisions were indispensable for a durable and effective world food security system.

The Plan included certain elements which would be complementary to a new grains agreement, such as, for example, promotion and collective self-reliance for food security among the developing countries, measures for requests to IMF to consider the feasibility of providing additional assistance for a rise in food import bills caused by a fall in domestic production, or rise in food import prices, or for that matter, strengthening and expanding the arrangements existing for the food security scheme.

The Committee agreed that the plan of action would need to be reviewed in the event of a new international grains agreement being concluded. After a thorough debate the Committee adopted the plan of action on world food security as revised in the light of comments and suggestions made by delegates. The Committee recommended the plan before the Council for approval including a draft resolution which is included in pages 8 and 9 of the English text of this Report. In the short time which has elapsed

since the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, there have been no new developments to our knowledge which would affect the plan in any way. The Director-General highlighted the whole problem of world food security including the plan of action in his address to UNCTAD V in Manila and subsequently the UNCTAD V Conference adopted the resolutions on the need to promote an adequate supply of food and to strengthen world food security, as I mentioned yesterday in my introduction to Item 4. Also, UNCTAD V called for the earliest possible resumption of negotiations on a new international grains agreement, thus, in fact echoing the view expressed in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution of the Committee on World Food Security which is now placed before the FAO Council for consideration.

The Director-General hopes that the Council will approve the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security which is proposed as one of the main agenda items of Commission I at the FAO Conference in November this year.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): Thank you, Dr. Islam, for your introduction to document CL 75/10 which is just as important as the one which we have just discussed. I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the three points contained in this document; we should focus on them in our discussion.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México); En primer lugar queremos agradecer a la Secretaría por la calidad y la adecuada presentación del documento del tema que ahora nos ocupe.

Habiendo participado en los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial celebrado el pasado mes de abril, y coincidiendo totalmente con sus conclusiones y recomendaciones, solo tendremos una breve intervención orientada principalmente hacia algunas precisiones.

Siendo que la seguridad alimentaria mundial no se reduce a un problema aritmético, sino de disponibilidades alimentarias reales y adecuadas en cantidad, calidad y precio en todo sitio y momento donde se hallen seres humanos, la afirmación que aparece en el párrafo 11 debe ser tomada con cautela. Es decir, el hecho de que existan remanentes de cereales en algunos sitios y que iguallen o superen ciertos niveles no significa que existan excedentes reales y que todo el mundo esté y pueda estar satisfecho, nutricionalmente hablando.

Las tendencias que se listan en el párrafo 12 apoyan nuestra afirmación, situación que no solo es seria, si acaso se presentan malas cosechas, sino que es una condición permanente muy grave que fácilmente puede adquirir características irresistiblemente dramáticas.

Es de todos conocido el número creciente de hambrientos y el hecho de que la tasa de crecimiento agrícola ha sido negativa en muchos lugares. Ante este panorama se justifica la aclaración y no se puede menos de subrayar la preocupación que debe externar este Consejo en su informe final. Al solicitar el Comité que la Secretaría prepare un estudio respecto a las consecuencias para la seguridad alimentaria mundial de las tendencias a largo plazo de la producción, el consumo y el comercio mundial de alimentos, debe tomarse en cuenta la responsabilidad y trascendencia de una tarea como ésta, y beneficiarse de experiencias anteriores que se realizaron bajo el amparo de marcos conceptuales, parciales y superficiales, como los que asocian linealmente el hambre con el crecimiento demográfico o su erradicación por la exclusiva vía del aumento de la producción, discriminando, no sin frecuencia deliberadamente, elementos de orden histórico, socioeconómico y estructural.

Se le presenta a la Secretaría una insustituible oportunidad para proporcionar una seria y consistente portación, de tal manera de reconfirmar las bases sobre las que se pueda efectivamente proceder en sentido correcto, y reconocer a la seguridad alimentaria mundial como uno de los pre-requisitos del nuevo orden económico internacional.

For cuanto respecta a la oportuna propuesta promovida por el Director General, es opinión de nuestra delegación que el Plan de Acción de Cinco Puntos para la seguridad alimentaria mundial y la Resolución que no sugiere el Comité, deben ser aprobados por este Consejo sin demora alguna. No podemos olvidar que están en línea con el compromiso internacional que se ha suscrito por un importante número de países, y que durante ya casi media década, estamos, no siempre con éxito, empeñados en ejecutar. Si por razones políticas y técnicas se han suspendido las importantes negociaciones para concertar un nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, no existe argumento válido para no echar a andar este plan de 5 Puntos, que además de ser absolutamente voluntario, en nada lo contraviene y sustituye y por el contrario, facilitaría su instrumentación.

Hemos acordado que en caso de ameritarse este plan, tendría que reconsiderarse, situación general que explica el hecho de que el mismo Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas lo haya acogido favorablemente en fechas recientes, y del interés del Comité en que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación en su reunión ministerial del próximo septiembre lo tome en cuenta; foro particular en el que México también hará acto de presencia efectiva y con la responsabilidad del caso, sabrá desempeñar el papel que le corresponde actuando en primera línea contra el hambre, la malnutrición y la desigualdad.

Con toda sinceridad, expresamos nuestro deseo de que la aplicación de este plan no se convierta en un argumento más para posponer las negociaciones y consultas en curso. Sería lamentable que a lo constructivo se le diera otro destino.

En conjunto, los Cinco puntos son un componente y sus componentes particulares consideran elementos precisos que, integralmente, hacen frente a una buena parte de lo que conduce a mayores niveles de seguridad, en el entendido que no se escatimarían esfuerzos de la comunidad internacional para cumplir con los objetivos, y considerando globalmente los intereses de los países en desarrollo, que son los principales protagonistas y beneficiarios. Supone también el reforzamiento de la ayuda alimentaria, cooperación técnica y financiera suficiente, en condiciones de favor, de llegar al antiguo y mínimo propósito de 500 000 toneladas para la reserva Internacional de Emergencia, y la renovada participación del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, además de un serio apuntalamiento de la FAO.

Ante el horizonte reconocido, no podría imaginarse la seguridad sin la auto-suficiencia colectiva basada en la fraterna cooperación. Estamos seguros que el compromiso internacional y este plan pueden hacerlo suyo para eliminar el inaceptable contraste entre carencia absoluta generalizada y concentración excesiva; contraste que se objetiviza en la existencia de grandes masas marginadas y élites minoritarias que derrochan. En todo caso los objetivos sólo se lograrán con la cabal remoción de los elementos que impiden una mayor producción de alimentos y un justo acceso de los pueblos a los mismos.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I agree with the delegate of Mexico that this plan of action which is before us is not one which would in any way replace the International Wheat Agreement, but it would be supplementary to it. I have already stated that we have three important points before us for the Council to deal with, item IV of the French, text and delegates will focus attention on these points and mainly the first point, that is, the Plan of Action we would like the delegates to express their position in regard to this plan of action so that we can adopt a common stand on it in our discussion.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONSSEKERA (Sri Lanka): My delegation is in agreement with the analysis and recommendations contained in document CL 75/10 on World Food Security. The Five Point Plan of Action proposed by the Director-General is recommended for unanimous adoption as it provides the broad guidelines of concerted world action in the face of threatened food shortages consequent to natural hazards such as inclement weather and the lack of commitment on the part of the world community to increase the supply of food required by it.

Food security, in very broad terms, could be achieved in two ways: (1), through greater production by continued and enhanced investment in agriculture and (2), through assistance by those in a position to spare their surpluses in production to those who are in need.

In so far as the first objective is concerned we have not been able to reach the 4 percent target set for food production because of insufficient investments in agriculture, particularly in increasing the amount of land irrigable and cultivable, inadequate application of fertilizer, failure to adopt prompt and sustained programmes for the control of pests, and plant diseases and by not adopting proper post-harvest practices which could reduce grain losses.

As far as the second objective is concerned, we have been told that only 73 percent of the target of \$950 million for food pledges under the International Food Emergency Reserve has been kept up to the end of last year. We have no doubt that actual physical contribution would be less than even 50 percent of the target. There is therefore a need for those in a position to augment the food reserves to do so without delay.

I find that Item V is closely connected to Item IV, so the comments I make now may be interconnected. The delegate from India referred to the uncertainties of weather, pest attacks and epidemics and the impact of changes in public policies in a very thought-provoking intervention which he made yesterday. Barring weather, the other two hazards, if I may call them so, are certainly not insurmountable. We are all aware that agriculture can be planned, programmed and monitored to a

great extent. Like landing a man on the moon, the course to be followed, though pre-determined, requires mid-course corrections. More than in the man to moon exercise, the hazards if properly anticipated can be overcome. What is required is a cooperative effort for pooling all our resources, knowledge and experiences.

G. BULA HOTOS (Colombia) : De acuerdo con el párrafo 3 del documento CL 75/10, la delegación de Colombia piensa que en nuestro informe, el Consejo debe expresar su preocupación por que la situación global de la seguridad alimentaria sigue siendo tan precaria como antes de la crisis alimentaria mundial. A nuestro juicio, esto quiere decir que no se han valorado debidamente los riesgos que significó esa crisis, ni la amenaza constante que pesa sobre los países en desarrollo.

En efecto, en el párrafo 12 se dice claramente que la seguridad no ha mejorado e incluso ha empeorado en algunas zonas. En el párrafo 13 se afirma que la mayoría de los países en desarrollo están expuestos a graves déficits de alimentos en caso de malas cosechas. En esa forma, seguimos dependiendo de las predicciones meteorológicas.

En acatamiento a las adecuadas instrucciones de usted, vamos a referirnos a las medidas adoptadas para aplicar el compromiso internacional. En el Capítulo IV de este documento sobre el Plan de Acción apoyamos el párrafo 17 y particularmente dos de los tres factores señalados como dignos de tenerse en cuenta. En primer lugar, la continua incertidumbre que caracteriza la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial; y el segundo, la responsabilidad asumida por toda la comunidad internacional de establecer disposiciones concretas para evitar la repetición de una crisis alimentaria mundial.

En el Párrafo 18 el Subdirector General de Política Económica y Social señala que el Plan de Acción propuesto, dice textualmente, supone un retorno a los conceptos y promesas, - promesas, se dice en el texto español y seguramente será premisas - del Compromiso Internacional para la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Esta afirmación sumada a la indispensable confianza mutua y el necesario carácter voluntario, en opinión de la delegación de Colombia, implican que, no obstante la generosa y positiva intención que haya inspirado el plan, aún nos encontramos en la etapa de concesiones teóricas de imaginación fértil que conducan a posiciones irrealistas, pero todo sumado, representa apenas un andamiaje de buenos consejos dependientes de la voluntad política que no existen.

En el párrafo 21, se dice, que la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo ofrecían un fundamento sólido para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria a largo plazo. A ese respecto la delegación de Colombia va mucho más allá. Nosotros consideramos que el crecimiento continuado y permanente de la producción en los países en desarrollo, no sólo es un fundamento sólido, como afirma el Comité, sino la condición única, indispensable y mínima para que se logre cierta seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En efecto, la crisis de principios de los años 70 demostró plenamente que no existiría ninguna seguridad alimentaria mundial mientras la situación esté al arbitrio de los países desarrollados que manipulan a su antojo las reservas, sus precios y escogen con predilección, en cada caso, sus clientes en el comercio internacional de acuerdo con la situación política existente en las respectivas ocasiones.

La delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 24, sobre la conveniencia de que se compren alimentos a los países en desarrollo exportadores de cereales.

Después de estos comentarios, apoyamos el Proyecto de Resolución que aparece en el párrafo 39.

Sobre el Plan mismo, nos llama la atención el hecho de que en la Parte Tercera, II, se pide al CPA que aumente el objetivo anual mínimo a 15 ó 16 millones de toneladas, cuando todavía no hemos alcanzado el límite de los 10 millones de toneladas.

Sinceramente no sabemos en esta forma hasta dónde vamos a seguir esta corriente desordenada de promesas crecientes y siempre incumplidas.

Volviendo al texto mismo del documento 75/10, en el párrafo 49, consideramos débil, muy débil, la actitud del Comité al limitarse a tomar nota de la conclusión a que llevó el Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas en el sentido de que el CPA considere la posibilidad de utilizar la ayuda alimentaria para asistir a los países en desarrollo a establecer existencias nacionales de reserva.

La delegación de Colombia espera que el Consejo no tomará nota, sino que apoyará esta conclusión proveniente del Organismo tan importante como es el Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas. Afortunadamente en el momento que estudiaremos mañana, hemos visto que el CPA ha decidido incluir en el programa de su 8º período de sesiones este tema, de manera que la recomendación del Consejo que propone la delegación de Colombia, enlazaría de acuerdo con la decisión que ha tomado ya el CPA.

Finalmente apoyamos el párrafo 61 sobre la conveniencia de que el Plan de Acción sea sometido a la consideración del 5^o período de sesiones del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, que tendrá lugar el mes de septiembre entrante en Canadá.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): At this stage I wish to make a clear reference, for we have before us a Plan of Action and a draft resolution. The Council has to take a clear and explicit decision regarding this Plan of Action. All members of the Council should express their views very clearly by saying yes or no. I cannot clearly understand whether the delegate of Columbia agrees to the Plan of Action and the draft resolution before us, or whether he does not agree. I address myself to the delegate of Colombia: did he agree to the Plan of Action and the draft resolution before us or not? I wish to have his response, yes or not.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tal vez usted no siguió con atención mi declaración. En un momento dije que la delegación apoya el Proyecto de Resolución que aparece a continuación del párrafo 39. ¿Es esto suficiente?

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): We are speaking of the Plan of Action before us, we are not speaking of particular paragraphs. We cannot simply support one or two paragraphs and say that we agree with the Plan of Action. I can assure the delegate of Colombia that I was listening to him very attentively and that is why I put my question to him.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia). Le ruego muy cordial y respetuosamente, señor Presidente, que tome su documento. En el párrafo 39, a continuación, aparece un proyecto de Resolución que es el Plan de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. A ese proyecto de Resolución es al cual la delegación de Colombia reitera su plena acuerdo.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic). I thank you deeply for this positive and splendid response.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): This item on our agenda is closely linked to the item discussed just before. Therefore I apologize if I repeat what has been said by previous speakers.

This delegation was privileged to attend the extremely interesting and very constructive Fourth Session of the FAO Council's Committee on World Food Security. As a food importing country Malta was from the outset highly interested in the problem of world food security. For this reason it was one of the first members of the Committee, as well as one of the first countries to subscribe to the International Undertaking on World Food Security. We have attended so far all the meetings of the Committee and we took part in all the discussions which preceded its setting up. We share the opinion that a workable system of food security is essential for mankind and feel also that such a system presupposes efficient and increased food production in developing countries. We have to realize, however, that such an increase in production has its limits in several countries. Unfortunately Malta is among such countries. For many reasons it is not and will not be in a position to produce its whole food requirements and will always be forced to rely on imports.

Where as on a worldwide global basis the degree of food security, as estimated by FAO, looks mathematically on paper rather satisfactory, the real situation is quite different. The overwhelming part of the grain stocks on which these calculations are based are located in two regions only, in North America and Oceania. Another important factor has to be taken into account: food requirements and imports of several developing countries show an increasing trend, due to an increase of their population, and their improved higher living standards, with which the increase of their production does not keep pace. Adding to these negative factors, also the insufficient response to the International Emergency Food Reserve, and to the 10 million yearly target which was already set up by the World Food Conference in 1974 and which has not been reached so far, it is clear that an indefinite interruption of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on our International Grains Agreement, expected to include effective provision for stockholding, price

stabilization, food aid and special assistance to developing countries, created a particularly difficult situation. As a consequence the state of world food security is continuing to be uncertain and the reoccurrence of a world food crisis menacing. It was a particular merit of the Director-General to present as a temporary measure the so-called Five-Point Plan to the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which however, as was stressed, is not a substitute for the International Grains Agreement but which, together with the Plan of Action, at least permits for the time being a return to the concepts and pledges of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Both the Plan and the Plan of Action have been unanimously adopted by the Committee on World Food Security and embodied in a draft resolution for the consideration and the adoption of the Council. This delegation fully subscribes to this draft resolution and wishes to express its sincere hope that it will be unanimously and in its entirety adopted by the Council.

May I, Mr. Chairman, draw your attention and the attention of the Council to two other issues which were discussed at the last session of the World Food Security Committee. You will certainly remember that the concept of the implementation of world food security was mainly based on a plan of the creation of a coordinated system of national reserves. This seems to us the right solution for big developing countries. The position of small countries is however different. The setting up of national reserves is costly, the building of storage facilities, the management and the administration of the relatively small reserves absorb considerable expenses. In these circumstances the idea of the constitution of regional reserves in food deficit areas as well as in areas vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters has been developed. From the discussions of the World Food Security Committee and also from other information it is increasingly evident that this idea is gaining ground. FAO carried out a feasibility study at the request of the Ministerial Council for drought control in the Sahel and presented a paper on this matter for the Second Arab Conference on Food Science and Technology held in March 1979 in Riyadh. The Group of Asian countries decided on a draft agreement on an Asian Emergency Rice Reserve, totalling initially 50 000 tonnes.

May I in this respect mention and reiterate the offer of the Government of Malta, indicated in paragraph 35 of the Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, to establish a regional food reserve for neighbouring Mediterranean and also for African countries at a strategic location of Malta, where storage and other facilities could be converted at minimum cost and where handling, transport and storage rates were competitive. As the quoted paragraph further adds: "Some other delegates suggested that this offer should receive careful examination by the countries concerned". This delegation would be grateful to the Council if it would reaffirm its interest in this matter.

Finally, let me say a few words on the Global Information and Early Warning System. We fully share the opinion that the activities of this small unit of FAO are highly valuable. It is highly regrettable that some major food producing and importing countries have not yet joined the system, as they are also absent from the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Perhaps it would be useful if the Council would invite the respective governments to join the Global Information and Early Warning System - a worldwide coverage of its work would be beneficial to all.

This delegation accepts all the other recommendations which the Committee formulated in order to increase the efficiency of the system listed in paragraph 57 of its report and took note that the Director-General, as was indicated during the meeting of the Committee, provided a very modest increase of \$150 000 in its 1980/81 budget for this purpose. We are however a little doubtful whether this modest increase will be sufficient to develop further this valuable service of FAO and to extend its coverage. We reserve therefore the right to come back on this problem in the discussion on the Summary Programme of Work 1980/81 on our agenda.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I assure the delegate of Malta that he will have the right to the floor at any time he likes. We thank him for supporting the Plan of Action and the draft resolution and we hope, as he hopes, that this support and approval will be unanimous at our Council. As for the other points referred to by him, particularly paragraph 35, we naturally hope that there will be effective and positive steps for the acceptance and implementation of this proposal put forward by the Government of Malta.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We have read document CL 75/10, which is the Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, with great interest.

Before we venture to make any comments on this report we would like to say a few words on the context in which we suggest the Council should consider this document. World food security is proving to be an elusive mirage. The international community has been grappling with this problem for some time now, and the best way to describe the existing situation is to quote a line from Shakespeare's famous play Macbeth in which one being asked how the battle stood, the response was "as two spent swimmers do cling to each other and choke their art."

The United Nations Negotiating Conference on a New International Grains Arrangement to replace the International Wheat Agreement 1971, as extended, stands adjourned indefinitely. Ambassador Dunkel, the Chairman of the Conference, in his concluding remarks just before the Conference adjourned said that he would convene the Conference only when he felt satisfied that the developed and the developing countries had harrowed their differences to make an agreement possible. When this happy situation will arise no one knows. What do we do meanwhile? Should we, like the poet Browning, simply say "God is in his heaven and all is well with the world." I apologize if I sound poetic, but the subject matter of the document under consideration is close to our heart and therefore, I hope you will permit us this liberty. Very bluntly, and very briefly, there is nothing standing between the world today and the catastrophe which nearly overtook us in the early seventies. The outlook is turning bleak. World production has declined and there will not be enough to feed the world's teeming millions unless we draw upon reserves.

It is in this context that we should view the Director-General's Five Point Plan of Action. The Plan of Action commends itself on various scores. First and most important it is voluntary in nature. Those who desire are at complete liberty to opt out, although we are confident that no one will do so. Secondly, the Plan of Action is not a substitute for a New International Grains Arrangement with stock, price and food aid provisions and with special provisions for developing countries which are indispensable for a durable and effective world food security system. Thirdly, another very important point in connexion with this plan is that it is a return to the concept and pledges of the International Undertaking on World Food Security. Most of what is suggested is to make it action-oriented. Nearly all those who have gathered around this table today have adopted the International Undertaking on World Food Security, and if any government has adopted the Undertaking then it should have no difficulty in accepting the Plan of Action. Fourthly, the Committee of the Whole of the United Nations established under General Assembly Resolution 32/174 has already welcomed the initiative of the Director-General in proposing this plan and requested appropriate bodies to give it careful consideration. The Committee on World Food Security, after considering the Plan of Action, has admitted it and also recommended a draft resolution for consideration by this body. This draft resolution is contained in the body of the report and we on our part fully support it.

Another point which we would like to make is that the Executive Secretary of the International Wheat Council participated fully in the proceedings of the Committee on World Food Security where this Plan of Action was discussed. The Executive Secretary of the International Wheat Council, a gentleman of impeccable rectitude and one of the most experienced individuals in this field, would not have sat by while the Committee on World Food Security adopted a course of action detrimental to the Negotiating Conference. To the best of our recollection he did not say anything to suggest that the Director-General's Plan of Action would have harmful consequences. On the contrary, it was our impression that he saw it as a good and positive interim measure.

There was a school of thought which was of the view that the establishment of national stock policies and quantitative stock targets should be within the ambit of a legal binding international grains arrangement with clearly defined rights and obligations, but even this school of thought felt that the basic intent of the Plan should be endorsed. In fact, there was total agreement on the Plan, the only difference being over the intensity of support for it.

This being the situation, we now address ourselves to matters requiring attention by the Council. First, we fully support the Plan of Action. Second, we support the adoption of the draft resolution proposed for the Council's consideration, and third, that the Director-General, in accordance with rules, be requested to submit the Plan of Action to the Fifth Session of the World Food Council. It would at this stage be pertinent and relevant to mention that the President of the World Food Council has already welcomed this Plan of Action.

Reference has been made to the fact that UNCTAD V called on participating countries to intensify preparations with a view to the speedy conclusion of an international wheat arrangement, covering price and market stability, adequate size of stock, special provisions relating to developing members, and a Food Aid Convention. We, of course, heartily welcome this since it echoes what has been said in many other fora. However, we do not see this in any way diminishing the urgency for this Council to approve the Plan of Action. In fact, the Plan of Action, as fully recognised by the Committee on World Food Security - and this we have pointed out earlier also - is not meant to be a substitute for a new International Wheat Agreement, although it has some aspects which will still remain to be

pursued even after the new Agreement is concluded. Since the existing International Wheat Agreement has been extended for two years, a gap is going to exist for a lengthy period, during which there will be no Wheat Agreement with reserve stock provisions. In order to fill this void, at a time when the food situation remains uncertain, and when many developing countries face a rising incidence of food insecurity, this voluntary Plan of Action needs to be approved, here and now, by this Council. The link with the new International Wheat Agreement is, in fact, well recognized in the draft resolution before us, which in the operative paragraph 3 urges an early resumption and conclusion of the wheat negotiations.

A few words about the operation of the Global Information and Early Warning System. We have found this system to be useful and would recommend that the measures proposed in paragraph 57 should be accepted.

In conclusion, as far as Pakistan is concerned, we are trying to contribute our bit for easing the world food situation. In pursuance of the World Food Council decisions, we are planning to build up a minimum stock of 0.5 million tons of wheat. It is planned to increase this limit to 1 million tons. With this end in view, efforts have been made to improve storage capacity so as to avoid unnecessary grain losses. The present storage capacity stands at 2.6 million tons, and arrangements to add another capacity of 131 000 tons are already in hand. The construction of this additional capacity is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year.

To improve transport arrangements, a national logistics cell has been established. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production, requisite steps are being taken in the form of price incentives, subsidised sale of seeds and fertilisers, subsidy on sinking of deep tube wells for improving irrigation water supplies, and liberal import of tractors. However, import of fertilizer and farm equipment is limited to availability of domestic resources and foreign assistance.

Pakistan is also trying to improve its crop reporting system. In this respect, UN assistance has also been sought. Also, steps are being taken to improve the local arrangements. It is hoped that these steps will improve the accuracy as well as timeliness of the crop forecast.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank Pakistan for his interesting address. As a matter of fact, the contribution of Pakistan at the international level is well known to all concerned. Once again, I wish to thank you for your explicit acceptance of the Plan of Action with all the amala nations you have given, and I wish to tell Pakistan that God is everywhere, but he will help us only if we help ourselves. This is a truth that appears in all the heavenly teachings, and with the per* mission of the Council, I will now give the floor to Argentina. Argentina has always been a country dear to our hearts, and particularly to mine.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina); Señor Presidente, yo también quiero agradecerle la amabilidad con que está conduciendo nuestros debates y el carácter personal que está imprimiendo a nuestras conversaciones, generalmente tan frías y objetivas en el Consejo. Sus comentarios son valorados por mi delegación y enriquecen el contenido de nuestro debate; le agradezco sus amables palabras.

La delegación argentina intervino activamente en la celebración del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial celebrado en Roma en Abril último. Lo hizo en su carácter de país en desarrollo productor de alimentos y con la plena conciencia de deber compatibilizar debidamente la necesidad de una mayor seguridad alimentaria mundial hasta la conclusión de un nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, cuya responsabilidad incluye la seguridad alimentaria mundial y la constitución de reservas promueva el establecimiento de un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante que garantice cláusulas válidas sobre todos los aspectos de la cuestión que involucran producción, precio, constitución de reservas, liberación y comercialización.

Como es del conocimiento de este Consejo, desde hace años se está tratando de institucionalizar este complejo y tan importante problema de los cereales de un modo que pueda asegurar un incremento permanente sostenido en la producción que, como han dicho muchas delegaciones que me han precedido, es el único método viable de promover seguridad alimentaria mundial y que neutralice de una manera eficaz la cada vez mayor necesidad de alimentos en el mundo, garantizando al mismo tiempo una seguridad alimentaria constante dentro de un contexto global.

En oportunidad de su intervención en el Comité, la delegación argentina sostuvo, al considerarse el plan de seguridad alimentaria, que si bien consideraba su deber agradecer al Director General de la FAO esta valiosa iniciativa tendiente a aliviar aspectos críticos, que pueden presentarse en este

tema, la República Argentina está en unas condiciones muy especiales en su carácter de ser el único país en desarrollo gran productor de alimentos y, por lo tanto, del hecho de que su economía está directamente condicionada a la producción cerealera y a la posibilidad de su comercialización.

Compartimos plenamente el espíritu que anima al Director General de la FAO en el plan de procurar la posibilidad de enfrentarse con mayores recursos en los momentos de crisis que puedan presentarse en el futuro inmediato y exhortar procedimientos que tengan en cuenta la constitución de reservas por parte de los Estados para hacer frente a este tipo de situación, pero consideramos también, tal como lo señala debidamente el informe contenido en el documento CL 75/10, que en su párrafo 23 expresa la opinión de varias delegaciones, entre ellas la nuestra que cito; "a la vez que apoyaban el propósito básico del Plan y ponían de relieve la actitud positiva y constructiva de sus gobiernos en pro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, indicaban que tenían alguna dificultad en aceptar determinados aspectos del Plan en su formulación presente. En particular, opinaban que las políticas nacionales y los objetivos cuantitativos de existencias debían establecerse en el contexto de un acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, jurídicamente obligatorio, con derechos y obligaciones claramente definidos y con un mecanismo convenido de precios para la acumulación y liberación de existencias. Expresaron asimismo que en este momento no existía ninguna base institucional para establecer objetivos nacionales de existencias, pero sí mecanismos para obtener este resultado".

Debemos recordar también el párrafo 24 del informe que subraya los problemas especiales de los países en desarrollo exportadores y la necesidad de orientar y participar en los programas de ayuda alimentaria comprando alimentos de esos países siempre que sea posible.

Mi delegación comparte, asimismo, el párrafo 29 del documento que destaca el marco preferencial en que debiera situarse el plan y expresa, al igual que han hecho otros delegados, que no sustituirá a un acuerdo internacional sobre cereales que contendría disposiciones adecuadas en materia de existencia, precios y ayuda alimentaria y que sería indispensable para establecer un sistema duradero y eficaz de seguridad alimentaria.

El Plan era, además, una medida provisional que contenía algunos elementos que serían complementarios al nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre los cereales previstos en la Conferencia de Negociaciones.

Por lo tanto, se trata a nuestro juicio, de un documento amplio y flexible que permite que se adopten las decisiones necesarias para implementarlo a nivel nacional y que deberá ser reconsiderado en caso de conseguirse un nuevo acuerdo de cereales tal como se expresa en el párrafo 29.

En ese espíritu, la delegación argentina no tiene por el momento más observaciones que formular al proyecto de resolución en el párrafo 39, al cual no se opone y se adherirá al consenso que el Consejo resuelva adoptar sobre el particular.

CHAIRMAN: (interpretation from Arabic): I deeply thank the distinguished delegate of Argentina, and also Argentina's considerate support to the interests of the developing countries. This is something we have always been proud of.

With this we adjourn and will resume our work at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 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 75/PV/4

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING

QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(12 June 1979)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours A.Y. Bukhari, Second Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de A.Y. Bukhari, Second Vice-President du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de A.Y. Bukhari, Segundo Vicepresidente del Consejo

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

5. Report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 5-11 April 1979) (continued)

5. Rapport de la quatrième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale "(Rome, 5-11 avril 1979)
(suite)

5. Informe del cuarto período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 5-11 abril 1979)
(continuación)

CHAIRMAN: (interpretation from Arabic): This afternoon's session is called to order.

MAPELA NGA-MA (Zaire): De même que toutes les autres délégations qui ont pris la parole ce matin, ma délégation voudrait, elle aussi, une fois de plus, renouveler l'appui sans réserve qu'elle a donné lors de la quatrième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale au plan d'action en cinq points, conçu par le Directeur général de la FAO, en vue d'assurer et de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous pensons que, tel qu'il figure à l'Annexe F du document CL 75/10, ce plan d'action ne devrait pas poser de difficultés au Conseil en ce qui concerne son approbation. Nous en sommes convaincus, parce que tout d'abord, ainsi que vous l'avez rappelé et souligné ce matin vous-même, nous savons que le Plan d'action du Directeur général, plan que ma délégation appelle d'ailleurs "Plan Saouma", ne vise pas à remplacer l'accord international sur le blé et encore moins à retarder la reprise des négociations en vue d'un nouvel arrangement international sur les céréales; par ailleurs, et ce n'est un secret pour personne, nous savons aussi que le Plan d'action qui est recommandé au Conseil pour approbation est un plan qui ne vise que les actions minimales et indispensables qu'il convient d'entreprendre aux niveaux national et international en matière de sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous ne voulons pas rouvrir ici les délibérations qui ont eu lieu au sujet de ce Plan d'action lors de son examen par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; ce n'est pas là notre intention; mais nous voudrions insister sur le fait que ma délégation approuve le Plan d'action tel qu'il figure à l'Annexe F du document précité ainsi que le projet de résolution qui figure au paragraphe 39 du même document. Nous appuyons la demande adressée au Directeur général pour que ce plan d'action soit communiqué à la cinquième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et, pour terminer, ma délégation appuie sans réserve les recommandations formulées par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, au paragraphe 57 du document, en vue d'améliorer et de renforcer le système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

M.S. SWAMINATHAN (India): We consider that the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security represents a distinct advance in tackling a very complex matter. Although food is the first among the hierarchical needs of man, it is obvious by its very importance the matter in terms of international arrangements becomes very complicated, and we are therefore very happy to see some progress being made and we do hope that soon a satisfactory arrangement on the lines recommended by the World Food Conference in 1974 will emerge. Meanwhile we have noted and supported the Director-General's proposal as an interim measure until the negotiating conference for a new International Grains Agreement is able to meet again and lead to a satisfactory conclusion.

I would now like to offer a few specific comments on the five points mentioned in the Director-General's programme, the first relating to the national reserve stock policies. I am sure that every national government will give the highest priority to this recommendation because I think no government is worth its name unless it can ensure adequate supply of food to its population. We support fully this particular concept in India. We have accepted it as a fundamental obligation of the government and the Government of India, even with its meagre resources, has committed a very large amount of its reserve for grain storage. We are fortunate, of course, to have a position in the world today of having one of the larger grain reserves and we do hope we will maintain this position in spite of adverse circumstances which might come, as a result of weather and so on.

Our stocks are also going now to be distributed all over the country. We have embarked upon a very large programme of establishing a national grid of grain storages all over the country for the purpose of, first, preventing distress sale by farmers, because as you know one of the unfortunate points in agricultural development, particularly in countries with low purchasing power, is that almost a 5 per cent increase or decrease may make all the difference between an uncomfortable glut and an acute scarcity. Therefore, it is very important for us to insulate the farmers from harm in prices as a result of their working hard and increasing production. Therefore, our decentralized system of national grain storage is intended for avoiding distress sale by poor farmers, panic purchases by the rich people in the world, because too many times in the world important food calamities have resulted not so much from the absolute scarcity of grain, but mal distribution.

CERES, the journal of FAO had a very interesting article two years ago on the famous Bengal famine of 1943 where over a million people perished of hunger. It was entitled "Statistical chicanes" and was written by one of our eminent economists Professor Sen and he showed in the year the famine occurred the actual food production was higher, the index of production, by 8 per cent, but nevertheless people died and that shows the great importance of managing the food budget in an effectual way from the point of view of distribution. The third important purpose of our national grid of grain storage is promoting scientific land use patterns.

We therefore support fully the number one point of the Director-General. We would also recommend and urge strongly that the international emergency food reserve should be at least one million tons, although we do recognise that even half a million ton target has not been reached, but we do appeal to the International Community to ensure that this reserve reaches one million tons.

The second point on agreement or criteria for management of international food reserve; there are no specific recommendations here, but generally we would be happy to collaborate with other interested countries in developing suitable criteria.

The third point on special measures to assist low income food deficit countries; this we consider as most important among all the points, because this is the one which is the key to the successful accomplishment of all the others. Here I would like to make two points: First, we wholeheartedly support the Director-General's plea for an increase in food aid commitments under the Food Aid Convention, but we would like to urge for the consideration of the Director-General the question of developing a suitable mission for servicing the Food Aid Committee. Now obviously, the Wheat Trade Convention is more of a ceremonial nature and we should now try to develop a mission for servicing the new Food Aid Convention, because the new Food Aid Convention unlike the earlier agreements, provides not only for wheat and millet, but also for rice, which is a new addition, and in my part of the globe, South-East Asia, rice is a very important commodity. Therefore, we feel in our judgment FAO is the appropriate agency for servicing the Food Aid Convention since it is already associated with the World Food Programme, it is operating the Food Security Assistance Scheme and is also in charge of the Early Warning System. This is one aspect of item 3 of the Director-General's programme. The other important one is how are we really going to convert this particular recommendation of the Director-General into reality? We feel that unless we have some mechanism and institutionalized mechanism, like, for example, a special fund from which interest-free loans can be given to low income countries for acquiring and maintaining stocks, it is going to be very difficult for many countries and a special fund for operating stocks by poorer nations is also very beneficial because here, in addition to the countries which can contribute in kind in terms of grain for the International Food Aid Programme, many others who are fortunately placed in terms of monetary resources, they can also make a contribution.

There we feel that if the Director-General really wants to implement this particular recommendation, he should convene a small informal consultative group in order to explore the possibility of creating a special fund to render appropriate assistance to those countries which could be in need of it. In my opinion, it should be a loan, an interest-free loan.

The next point is also related to point 3, desires for strengthening national security food arrangements. Here I mentioned yesterday that his excellent early warning and alert programmes distributed by FAO must be supported by appropriate early warning actions and for this purpose I would like to suggest that FAO should consider and come forward at the General Conference with concrete proposals for following up in a concrete way, either under the TCP or other programme, to help such countries as may require help - not all countries, it must be at the request of the national government to render appropriate assistance for developing an early warning programme to avoid the disasters implied in the early warning system.

The other aspect we would like to suggest for the consideration of the Director-General and also as a discussion point for the Fifth Session of the Committee on World Food Security is greater delin-

eation of point 4. Point 4 implies that every national government should build a strong national food security system. So far the food security system has by and large implied only the building up of reserve and stocks. But we feel that the national food security system should have at least three major components. The importance of the components may vary from country to country.

The first component is ecological security. By ecological security I mean protecting the basic agricultural assets on which the future of agriculture is dependent. You know only too well not only the tropical rains forest but many others are in grave ecological danger. Therefore it is very important that as a component of the national food security system there is detailed attention to ecological security.

The second aspect of the national food security system should be technological security, namely growth with stability, stability being as important as growth itself. Here we would like to draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, and through you the attention of the House, to the tremendous potential for advance which is available. The group at Wageningen (Holland) who have been working on the absolute maximum production potential of the world have shown that the absolute maximum production potential in terms of grain equivalents is nearly 49,000 million tonnes, as compared with about 1,400 million tonnes which are being produced, and Asia, Africa and Latin America, who are all part of the developing world, have the highest potential. The African potential is over 10,000 million tonnes. Latin America is 11,000 million tonnes and Asia is over 14,000 tonnes, but purely in terms of grain equivalents. Therefore technological security of exploiting the potential with stability of performance is very important.

The third and very important component of the national food security system must be social security which can ensure that everyone has his daily bread, those who are prepared to work. In India we have given very high priorities to this aspect. Last month the Government of India sanctioned 1.5 million tonnes of grain, wheat and rice for a food-for-work programme. There is also an employment guarantee scheme and a project called Anlyodaya. We often overlook in FAO meetings the fact that the malnutrition problem in many developing countries is sometimes better stated in terms of man years of jobs rather than in million tonnes of food grains because unless people have the wherewithal to buy the grains it will be difficult. This is why the social security component should ensure adequate opportunities for gainful employment.

Lastly, promotion of collective self-reliance of developing countries. We fully support this and we will be prepared to play our part in whatever way FAO would like. The only caution we would like to enter is that no programme should be so designed as to serve to lull national governments into complacency - in other words, food aid must be to promote food production. A classical example of this point in relation to my own country is the World Food Programme and the EEC Programme on Operation Flood, which has led to a considerable increase in milk production. There the skimmed milk powder supplied from Europe was utilized to improve milk production. It is important for national governments to be aware that all assistance, whatever food aid you get, must not depress local prices, must not cause difficulties for local farmers, but must stimulate increased production. All the profits must be ploughed.

Lastly we would like to endorse the following two suggestions for the future programme of the work of the Committee on Food Security: first, a study of the causes of the sharp rise in cereal imports in developing countries. I would like to urge FAO to undertake with the help of the national governments, at least in a few cases, a detailed inter-disciplinary constraints analysis to identify the constraints which are responsible for the growing requirements of food imports. We hope before the next meeting of the Committee on Food Security a few case studies of this kind will have been made so that they can consider this matter further. The second important point in the future programme is the role of non-cereal foods in world food security. In my own country we have seen a potato glut, when we produced nearly 10 million tonnes of potatoes, and seven years ago we produced only about 3 million tonnes. Production has trebled, but unfortunately it is a perishable commodity and people still do not accept it as a staple and unless there is an enormous amount of storage it becomes difficult. The role of non-cereal foods should be stated in greater detail.

Finally, we will endorse the hope of the Committee on World Food Security that our great friend China, as well as the U.S.S.R., will also join in the food security system.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): The progress made by India in this field is an example to be followed by other developing countries. This is also quite clear in other documents that have been produced by the Organization. Of course the comments that India has just made will be taken into due account by the secretariat. Concerning the other agricultural commodities - rice, wheat and so on - I would like to assure the delegates that when there is no more wheat to consume we will turn to other commodities such as potatoes. I will leave it to the secretariat to reply to the various comments of the delegate of India, which are all very pertinent ones.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): In view of the fact that we are running out of time, allow me to skip the words of congratulation and appreciation, though I would like to say that we share the sentiments already expressed by a number of preceding speakers.

Though we have not long been a food surplus country, Thailand neither ignores the need for nor refuses to join the World Campaign on Global Food Security. In fact Thailand was one of the early members of the World Food Council and the Committee on World Food Security. The surplus rice production of Thailand has for many decades been served in the rice bowls of people in various rice-deficient countries, and her increased production of maize and cassava has lately served as part of the world's animal food and human food.

Thailand shares the common concern over the alarming food situation of the world. We are trying to do the best we can in maximizing the potential for agricultural production with the aim of bettering the lives of our farmers and of contributing further to the World Food Security Programme.

The present government has announced that from this year on it will be the year of farmers in which all of the government's, as well as the private sector's, actions will be intensified to help realize the planned target. This is not a mere gesture but a genuine determination of the government to get our agricultural sector moving ahead at a more rapid pace. The development investment in this sector in toto this year will be about double that of last year. Yet however much Thailand can produce, she is still an economically developing country and exports of rice, maize and cassava are our major sources of foreign exchange. But this does not bar us from the will to join others in striving for world food

security, and for our own security on rice, which is our own main staple and approximately 1,000,000

tonnes of white rice are set aside within the country each year, to meet the minimum safe level of rice for domestic consumption and export requirements of our foreign customers. Thailand has considered the setting up of a national rice stock programme since 1972. In the meantime programmes to stabilize and support domestic rice prices have been under way. In addition we have lately joined our Asean colleagues in establishing the Asean Food Security Reserve Scheme, initially emphasizing rice. The size of the reserve of 50,000 metric tonnes has been agreed upon in principle and the initialling of this agreement is expected to take place in Manila some time next month.

In view of possible conflicts likely to emerge in a negotiation process among the countries of different food habits and socio-economic backgrounds, we believe that the similar establishment among country groups of similar size and of close socio-economic backgrounds could perhaps be more easily met.

In addition we join others in expressing our sympathy on the inability of the world to meet its food aid target of 10 million tonnes and the International Emergency Food Reserves target of 500,000 tonnes of cereals. In connexion with this a number of economic models have been built to trace out how the Asean as a group could contribute its resources for both regional and international food security.

We should like to express our wholehearted support of the Plan of Action on World Food Security and the draft resolution which contains the Director-General's Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security. The Global Information and Early Warning System, as well as the Secretariat's efforts to explore ways of including more relevant information from China and the U.S.S.R. are also welcomed and appreciated.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic) : I thank the delegate of Thailand for the concern that he has expressed and his support of the Plan of Action.

H.L. CLAVERIE R. (Venezuela): Aunque no hubiera sido nuestra intención tener una intervención bastante reducida por el llamado que nos ha hecho, la larga lista con que nos ha iniciado esta reunión, obligaría a adoptar ya un esquema bastante reducido en la intervención. La mía será muy concreta; en esta ocasión sumamente concreta porque participamos de la idea de que en esta ocasión el tema no debe entrar en la profundidad de detalles que ya ha tenido en ocasiones anteriores.

Pero no obstante esta concreción, quiero restar unos instantes de mi intervención para hacerle saber la agradable sorpresa con que nuestra delegación ha podido comprobar la forma como usted viene dirigiendo las labores en esta ocasión del Consejo. Es su forma de acción tan gentil, tan amable y tan humana, tan particular también, la que nos hace comprobar que aun trabajos que pueden ser un poco duros, como el nuestro, pueden ser conducidos de una forma tan agradable y humana como la que usted está haciendo. Reconozco que la vía que ha adoptado no es fácil, pero la conduce usted con inteligencia y mucha simpatía. Por ello la felicitación de nuestra delegación.

La delegación de Venezuela agradece al Dr. Islam y a la Secretaría la preparación excelente de este documento que nos ha presentado. La forma como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria condujo sus labores era ya conocida por nuestra delegación, que fue miembro del Comité y por lo tanto las observaciones en este caso, he mencionado que no las vamos a alargar. En todo caso, la felicitación a la Secretaría por la documentación.

Nuestra delegación respalda en su totalidad el informe del TV Comité de Sesiones de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. No tenemos objeciones a la materia que el informe plantea, ni a las acciones en general que el mismo propone. Y damos nuestro total apoyo a las medidas en estudio y a las ya en aplicación para lograr un máximo nivel de seguridad alimentaria en el mundo. Específicamente apoyamos muy calurosamente, como lo hicimos ya desde el momento de su anuncio por el Director General, el Plan de Cinco Puntos tendientes a agilizar al máximo la capacidad de seguridad alimentaria mundial. Y apoyamos también sin reserva la Resolución anexa que se presenta a consideración del Consejo. Damos nuestro apoyo decidido a la idea de que el Director General presente el Plan de Acción que ya un distinguido miembro ha designado "Plan Saouma", lo presente a la 5ª Sesión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. Y por último, damos nuestro apoyo también a las medidas indicadas en el párrafo 57 del documento tendientes a reforzar el funcionamiento del Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta. No tenemos más nada que decir en esta ocasión, y creemos que con ello hemos ayudado un poco a la agilidad que usted nos ha pedido.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank Venezuela for the very kind words that he has expressed, and without any doubt, the position of Venezuela as a member of the OPEC countries has always been of benefit to the developing countries - this in spite of the fact that Venezuela is a developing country.

Sra. C. DOMÍNGUEZ (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá ha leído con detención el documento CL 75/10, que contiene el informe del Cuarto Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y desea hacer algunos comentarios al respecto.

Al inaugurar el período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial el Director General señaló que la situación alimentaria mundial sigue siendo tan precaria como antes de la crisis alimentaria mundial, y que no se han puesto en práctica los principales elementos del Compromiso Internacional de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial adoptados por 75 gobiernos y la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Es del conocimiento de todos que después del aplazamiento de las negociaciones para concertar un acuerdo internacional sobre cereales, el Director General de esta Organización, consciente del papel que desempeña la FAO en esta materia, presentó al Comité el Plan de Acción de Cinco Puntos que contiene medidas que refuerzan la seguridad alimentaria mundial y que deben llenar el vacío existente en el Sistema con el fracaso de las negociaciones.

Nuestra delegación desea dar su aprobación al Plan de Acción de la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial presentado por el Sr. Director General; en consecuencia, da su decidido apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución sometido a la consideración de este Consejo. Mi delegación considera que es un programa eficaz encaminado a ayudar a los países en desarrollo más susceptibles a graves escaseces de alimentos.

El Plan desea poner en práctica las promesas hechas por los gobiernos en el Compromiso Internacional sobre Cereales. Igualmente apoyamos la petición del Comité hecha al Director General en el sentido de que se presente el Plan de Acción al quinto período de sesiones del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. Para finalizar, en lo referente al funcionamiento del Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta, apoyamos las recomendaciones hechas por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial contenidas en el párrafo 57 de dicho documento.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Ambassador from Panama for having so clearly supported the Plan of Action.

S. de MARE (Sweden): As we did not take the floor when the current World Food Situation was discussed and saved some time for the Council that way, let me begin by complimenting the Secretariat for document CL 75/2, which in our view gives an excellent and comprehensive picture of the present very complicated and ambiguous World Food Situation. If we only look at the total production and stock situation of the world, the present food situation could be painted in rather bright colours. If, however, such factors as the geographical distribution of stocks, the fast increase of cereal imports of developing countries and the non-existence of a system of internationally coordinated reserve stocks are taken into consideration, the picture is in reality rather gloomy.

As has been stated by my delegation on earlier occasions, no durable and effective world food security can be arrived at without a new International Grains Arrangement containing, inter alia, a legally binding system of internationally coordinated reserve stocks. Thus, no efforts must be spared to overcome the differences of opinion now preventing the resumption of negotiations which would lead to a new and effective arrangement.

In the present situation, however, we would like to reiterate our support for the Director-General's Five Point Plan of Action that could fill the present dangerous gap in food security created by the suspension of the grains negotiation. Thus, we would also like to approve the draft resolution contained in document CL 75/10 and the other two matters raised in the document as matters requiring attention by the Council.

As is said in that document, and also mentioned by Dr. Islam in his excellent introduction, the Plan of Action includes certain elements which are complementary to a new International Grains Arrangement. It is therefore important to review the plan in the event of a new arrangement. When this Plan of Action has been finally approved by the Council, it has to be carefully implemented on both the international and national level if it should really contribute to the level of world food security we are all striving for.

In Sweden, we are at present investigating different options on how to implement the Plan in the most effective way, including, inter alia, the possibility of establishing a new national reserve stock to be used on the new international market in accordance with the Plan, that is, in periods of acute and large-scale food shortages. The lack of concrete provisions in the Plan concerning price limits, sizes of stocks, etc., makes it very urgent, in our view, with an intensive exchange of information concerning international and national steps taken to implement the Plan. If the aims and purposes of the Plan are to be reached, it has to be carried out in a consistent and equal manner by all parties concerned.

The large number of emergencies that arose during the last years shows, in our view, the importance of reaching the target quantity of 500 000 tons of the International Emergency Food Reserve. Sweden has always been a firm advocate of the Reserve, its establishment on a continuous basis, and of the need of putting the quantities under the Reserve at the disposal of the WFP. Sweden has thus decided to support the Reserve with up to 40 000 tons during the present and following two fiscal years.

I would like to conclude by saying that I found the statement by India very interesting. His proposals both for national food security systems and future work for the Committee on World Food Security really needs close and positive examination.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the representative from Sweden for having supported the Plan of Action, and I think that this Plan of Action will be of benefit to all developing countries. I also would like to thank him for the clarification that he has made about the Swedish contribution with regard to cereals.

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): Lors de mon intervention sur le point se rapportant à la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde, j'ai évoqué avec beaucoup de satisfaction tous les principes d'action présentés par le Directeur général en cette occasion. J'ai également évoqué nos inquiétudes combien nombreuses quant aux nouvelles négociations sur le nouvel arrangement devant remplacer l'Accord international sur le blé de 1971. En plus de mes observations contenues dans cette intervention, je voudrais attirer l'attention de tous les membres du Conseil de la FAO présents à cette session, sur

la situation dégradante de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Le Plan d'action proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO sera sans aucun doute très positif et bénéfique, si la Résolution que nous sommes appelés à approuver rencontre un bon accueil aussi bien dans la conception que dans l'application immédiate par la Communauté internationale. Cependant, ce plan d'action qui ne constitue qu'une mesure provisoire, faute du nouvel arrangement international, ne peut remplacer ce dernier. Aussi il appartient à la présente session de conclure d'une façon très dynamique sur tous les moyens nécessaires quant à la reprise des négociations sur le nouvel arrangement international sur les céréales que le délégué de la France a bien voulu présenter dans son intervention d'une façon succincte mais assez précise. Je voudrais vous assurer que notre appui est certain et total, sous réserve cependant de quelques modifications dans le texte de la Résolution de façon à lui donner un caractère plus exécutoire. Avant d'en venir à ces propositions de modifications, je voudrais vous dire combien mon gouvernement a apprécié l'initiative très constructive du Directeur général de la FAO sur le Plan d'action contenu en cinq points dans ce rapport. Comme vous le savez le Rwanda, qui vient de souscrire à l'engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, est un des pays en développement placé parmi les plus enclavés et les moins avancés. Nous apprécions beaucoup les efforts que la FAO déploie pour notre développement dans ce secteur agricole et animal. Cependant, pour réussir dans notre effort de développement du secteur agricole et animal placé dans notre plan quinquennal de développement économique, social et culturel pour 1977/81, secteur qui concerne plus de 90 pour cent de la population nationale, il nous faut un appui financier et technique considérable de la part du monde extérieur. A cet effet, le soutien financier sur tous les projets d'intensification agricole, d'utilisation d'engrais et même de production de ces derniers projets portant sur la revalorisation du cheptel bovin et autres, projet d'élaboration du plan alimentaire national, etc., nous est indispensable.

Si je me suis permis de vous donner ces renseignements en ce qui concerne mon pays c'est pour souligner l'importance et la nécessité du plan d'action en question pour les pays en développement et à plus forte raison pour le Rwanda. Un représentant a dit hier, à juste titre d'ailleurs, que pendant que nous sommes réunis ici dans cette salle, très loin, ailleurs, plus d'un million de personnes n'ont pas de quoi se nourrir. Elles n'ont même pas le minimum vital. Il est inutile de commenter cette phrase car elle est assez claire. La FAO a aussi évolué dans son histoire. A cet effet et dans le contexte actuel de l'alimentation au niveau mondial, elle doit présenter à qui de droit les problèmes qui se posent d'une façon claire et ferme. Et c'est dans cet esprit de rénovation que ma délégation propose à cette assemblée, les modifications ci-après dans le texte de Résolution inscrit dans son Annexe.

A la page 9, dans le paragraphe qui commence par "exprimant" notre délégation pense que le Conseil puisse proposer à qui de droit un calendrier bien précis de reprise des négociations. Dans la page 11 jusqu'à la page 16, se rapportant au Plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ma délégation propose le remplacement du mot "devraient" par le mot "devront" ou bien par un autre mot plus ferme. Le Comité de rédaction pourrait faire en sorte que cette proposition reçoive un appui favorable.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je prie le délégué du Rwanda d'exposer plus lentement la proposition qu'il présente.

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): En ce qui concerne le paragraphe qui commence par "exprimant l'espoir que la Conférence de négociations sera convoquée à nouveau aussi rapidement que possible", nous pensons que le Conseil devrait soumettre un calendrier de reprise de ces négociations.

La seconde modification se réfère à l'Annexe de la Résolution, c'est-à-dire à partir de la page 11. Nous avons donc, à partir de la page 11 jusqu'à la page 16 de l'Annexe, le verbe "devraient". Si nous pouvons donner un exemple, notamment à la page 11, nous lisons au point i) "tous les gouvernements qui ont souscrit à l'engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale devraient, etc.". Le mot "devraient" revient chaque fois dans le texte. Nous nous demandons si ce mot ne devrait pas être remplacé par le mot "devront" ou par tout autre mot beaucoup plus ferme de manière que cette recommandation, ainsi que son Annexe, ait un sens plus exécutoire. Je crois m'être bien fait comprendre.

La troisième modification que nous proposons se trouve à la page 14. Le point 4 porte sur les Arrangements spéciaux pour l'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire. Nous avons le dernier point d) qui termine la page 14. Nous pensons qu'il y aurait lieu d'ajouter à ce dernier point "une idée d'assistance à la planification dans les pays en développement".

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): We apologise because at the outset we were unable to follow the various points and amendments raised by the delegate of Rwanda. Now, however, we have understood them sufficiently clearly, and I would like to know what the secretariat would reply to this. I personally feel that these amendments would not affect the real substance of this text.

I would like to ask the representative of Rwanda if his amendments mean that he reserves his position on the Plan of Action and on the draft resolution, or would he be willing to agree to the Plan of Action subject to these minor amendments he has just proposed?

I would be obliged to the representative of Rwanda if he would reply to this.

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): En fait j'ai bien dit, et clairement, que ma délégation appuie totalement le Plan d'action proposé ainsi que la Résolution. Mais tout en l'appuyant ma délégation a proposé des modifications qui rendront la Résolution du Plan d'action beaucoup plus exécutoire.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am much obliged to the representative of Rwanda for having clarified this point and also for his support for the Plan of Action, and the secretariat will do its utmost to take these amendments into consideration. I refer to the amendment or arrangement suggested by the representative of Rwanda.

R. RALIBERA (Madagascar): Comme ma délégation prend la parole pour la première fois permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous dire que c'est un grand honneur de siéger au Conseil sous votre honorable présidence après une quinzaine d'années passées dans le rang des observateurs. Nous avons examiné longuement la situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale. Les chiffres et les informations qui nous ont été communiqués ne sont pas encourageants. Nous avons devant nous le rapport de la quatrième session du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, rapport que le Dr Islam nous a présenté d'une façon brève et claire. A la page 9 de ce rapport, au chapitre III, il est fait état de l'évaluation de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et au paragraphe 13 il est dit que "la plupart des pays en développement restent exposés à des pénuries alimentaires aiguës en cas de mauvaises récoltes", et au paragraphe 14 que "la situation de la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas encore satisfaisante au niveau mondial". Et un peu plus loin que "l'objectif de 500 000 tonnes de céréales par an, établi pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence n'a été réalisé qu'en partie et le volume annuel de l'aide alimentaire n'a pas encore atteint le minimum de 10 millions de tonnes fixé à la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974".

Devant ces faits, ma délégation est fortement préoccupée parce que, d'une part, la situation de l'alimentation mondiale est incertaine et que, d'autre part, la sécurité alimentaire mondiale n'est pas brillante. Ma délégation est préoccupée car il semble que le jour, au lieu de s'éclaircir, continue à s'assombrir. Le nombre des mal nourris, des sous-alimentés, ne cesse d'augmenter au lieu de diminuer. Les efforts menés pour lutter contre la faim semblent se ralentir, le monde semble faire la sourde oreille à l'appel des millions d'êtres humains affamés. Par bonheur le cri de détresse n'a pas été lancé dans le désert. Des voix ont répondu à l'écho. Ces voix sont celles de la FAO, par le truchement de celle de son Directeur général qui n'a pas hésité un instant à avancer une proposition qui permettrait de combler le vide à la suite des échecs des négociations qui se sont déroulées depuis quelques années. C'est ainsi qu'il a présenté au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire le Plan d'action en cinq points, plan qui ne prétend pas remplacer le nouvel accord international sur les céréales mais qui constitue un moyen de mettre en oeuvre les promesses formulées volontairement par les gouvernements en 1974.

Ma délégation a eu l'occasion d'adopter le Plan d'action présenté par le Directeur général et renouvelle son appui total à ce Plan et demande instamment au Conseil de l'approuver à l'unanimité ainsi que les Résolutions figurant au paragraphe 39 du document CL 75/10. Conformément au Règlement même de l'Organisation, ma délégation demande au Directeur général de communiquer le Plan à la cinquième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui se tiendra à Ottawa en septembre prochain. Ma délégation se joint aussi aux orateurs qui ont pris la parole avant elle et demande aux pays qui n'ont pas encore souscrit à l'engagement international de l'adopter, de façon à ce qu'un véritable système de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale se réalise, tel qu'il est stipulé au paragraphe 37 du Rapport. Nous appuyons la recommandation figurant au paragraphe 57 du Rapport tendant à améliorer les activités du système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Enfin la délégation malgache ne saurait terminer son intervention sans remercier le Directeur général d'avoir répondu à notre demande en dépêchant à Madagascar une mission de formulation de projets dans le cadre du programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate of Madagascar for his statement. We may be sure that the Director-General, will pass this request on to all countries, in the hope that they implement the plan of action as proposed.

C. BATAULT (France): Je serais extrêmement bref. J'ai écouté avec grand intérêt les amendements proposés par le délégué du Rwanda. Ces amendements ont une signification certaine. Le projet qui concerne le calendrier m'amène à poser la question: "Appartient-il à la FAO de donner au Conseil International du Blé des instructions quant à la reprise des négociations" A la page 11, la proposition faite par le délégué du Rwanda de remplacer "devraient " par "devront" me semble changer le sens même du Plan d'action présenté par le Directeur général. En effet, le Directeur général en présentant ce Plan d'action qu'il avait fort bien étudié car il a beaucoup de talent, nous avait précisé qu'il s'agissait d'un Plan d'action volontaire non pas destiné à remplacer un accord sur le blé mais bien au contraire à faire face à une situation préoccupante qui se pose actuellement. Il s'agissait donc d'un Plan d'action volontaire, c'est pour cela que le mot "devraient" est un vœu exprimé par le Conseil, alors que "devront" constitue une obligation. Or il me semble qu'étant donné la manière dont le Directeur général a présenté ce Plan, on ne doit pas substituer "devraient" par "devront". Ce serait à mon avis changer tout le sens et cela risquerait de nous amener à des discussions fondamentales que nous avons pu éviter jusqu'à présent.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate of France. Yes, indeed, these amendments have not yet been accepted, nor do I think we can give instructions to any country on behalf of FAO or any other organization. When we passed the question to the Secretariat we said that we were awaiting the Secretariat's reaction on this. I shall now give the floor to the Director-General of the Organization who will give us his reaction to this.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je crois que Monsieur l'ambassadeur Batault a déjà dit ce que je voulais dire.

Je voudrais, moi aussi, rendre hommage au délégué du Rwanda, qui a eu le courage d'aller plus loin en proposant d'utiliser le mot "doivent" au lieu du mot "devraient". C'est la première fois qu'il assiste à nos discussions sur un sujet important et je dois, au nom du Secrétariat, l'en remercier et lui rendre hommage.

Je reconnais, comme l'a dit le représentant de la France, qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un accord négocié par les gouvernements représentés ici; il s'agit d'une déclaration d'intention. Il ne s'agit pas d'un engagement qui a un caractère légal? il a un caractère moral. Je suis certain, toutefois, que tous les pays membres qui vont approuver ce plan d'action auront à cœur de faire de leur mieux pour le mettre en œuvre. C'est justement, le caractère volontaire de ce plan d'action qui devrait faire - c'est du moins ce que j'espère - que tout le monde soit unanime pour l'approuver, même ceux qui tiennent à souligner que son caractère est volontaire.

Je suis certain que, lorsqu'il prendra la parole, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de France, pour être conséquent avec lui-même, sera le premier à appuyer ce plan d'action, cette résolution, sans proposer d'y apporter le moindre amendement, ou du moins aucun amendement dans le sens négatif} mais ici nous avons affaire à un amendement dans le sens positif.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am very grateful to the Director-General for shedding light on this matter and I hope that what he has said will clear away any clouds that may have gathered on the horizon. As the Director-General himself pointed out, it is indeed a voluntary plan of action and the adoption of such a plan should not in any way mean that it is binding. I am particularly grateful to him.

R. KOHISTANI (Afghanistan): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on chairing this Session of the Council, and also to thank Dr. Nouri Islam for giving us complete and full information on the subject of document CL 75/10 on World Food Security,

My delegation supports the plan of action on World Food Security and commends the resolution for adoption. It is our hope that the IMP and developed countries will honour their obligations under the Plan.

My delegation shares the dismay and disappointment of the Food Security Committee in that none of the targets for alleviating human suffering in the world have been met. Official development assistance is low and World Food Programme pledging is unfulfilled. Perhaps this is not the place here, but my delegation is also not satisfied that the global and international nature of the World Food Programme is considerably damaged by the need for reference to donors for individual contributions. This means that politics continue to be played with food.

The slow pace of negotiations on the International Grains Agreement is a cause for worry. The Executive Secretary's effort to highlight areas of agreement cannot conceal the fact that disagreement is far more substantial and, from the point of view of developing countries, more dangerous.

Our delegation has some very brief comments on document CL 75/10.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of Afghanistan. I believe that perhaps some of his points were not made clear in the Arabic version. The delegate of Afghanistan said he had some remarks to make on this document which we have before us. We are still waiting for his comments on this document under discussion. If the delegate of Afghanistan has any specific points he would like to raise in connexion with this document, perhaps he would do so now because this is the time to do so. May I call on the delegate of Afghanistan to clarify this point: would he really like to make any specific remarks on this document at this stage?

R. KOHISTANI (Afghanistan): Our main comment on this document is that we support the Plan of Action of the Director-General. Beyond that we do not have any specific comment on this subject.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am much obliged to the delegate of Afghanistan for clarifying this point and we are grateful for his support of the Director-General's Plan of Action,

P. REDA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): First and foremost, allow me to say how much we support the terms of the draft resolution as contained in document CL 75/10 on the 5-point Plan of Action. We also support the other recommendations concerning the global information and early warning system. The various points I wish to make here echo those already enlarged upon by others in supporting this Plan of Action during the fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Considering the present situation and despite the increase in production, in 1978, of grains such as rice, wheat and others, despite the increase in food production in certain developing countries, we find that the world food deficit in certain developing countries continues to increase. We have noticed that food reserves in developing countries have decreased since 1977. Despite increased food production throughout the world and although there are 39 countries which have already established the level of their national reserve stocks, only 18 developing countries have established their reserve targets or target levels. If we look at the international community as a whole, we find that aid to developing countries to increase their food production has indeed dropped or has not reached the desired level, the international community has not so far succeeded in achieving the goal of 50 thousand tons. This increase in food production in 1978 and the amount of food aid established since 1974, has not yet been achieved. Undertakings within the framework of the Food Aid Programme for 1979/80, the target which is \$950 million worth is a target that has still to be reached. I do not wish to go into details here as regards undertakings for the period 1981/82, because we are not yet debating this matter, but nevertheless I would point out that the international community has not so far succeeded in drawing up an international agreement on grains and wheat, nor even on the total amount of food aid. There are tremendous divergencies involved. I do not think I need to refer to

them here, they are all too well known. The international community, however, within the various fora, during the various discussions in the United Nations, have not established precise objectives as regards the future of agriculture and food within the framework of the development decade. That being so and considering the increased production registered, considering the responsibility of the international community in such a regard, our Organization, as an organization that is in the forefront in this respect, has found it is necessary to put to the international community the terms of a plan of action which will enable the international community at large, will enable it in due course to make up the delays and shortcomings which have not yet been covered and it is on this basis that we wish wholehearted support to the plan of action which has been proposed by the Director-General and also the draft resolution on page 8.

What is more, we had great hopes in the studies to be carried out by our Organization as regards food commodities, because these studies will enable us to draw up an international policy on food and agriculture for the years to come.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I must say we all hope that this Council session will adopt clear resolutions in the interests of the whole of the international community in order to ensure that peace and love reign throughout the entire world.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I think I can be brief - usually when one is in agreement with the proposal, one can be brief.

I should like to indicate at the outset that our delegation does support the report of the Committee on World Food Security, including the resolution and the five point plan of action contained therein.

We share the concern of the Director-General and others who have spoken here yesterday and today that we need to put into place now the elements for an international food security system.

We appreciate the clarifying statement of the Chairman and the Director-General in connexion with suggestions made by our colleague from Rwanda, namely that it would be inappropriate for this body to set a time-table for another organization to undertake its negotiations on a wheat agreement or to introduce language of a compulsory nature in a voluntary agreement, such as the FAO's Five-Point plan.

As in any agreement among nations with very different needs and perspectives, the proposal probably does not meet all of our individual views, but the United States took an active role in discussions during the meeting of the World Food Security Committee and we are convinced that the proposal of the Director-General now before us is an initiative with considerable merit. We do not see this plan as taking the place of a new grains agreement or a new food aid convention which we still hope can be negotiated, and we do not see a need to encumber the plan with a new bureaucratic arrangement to make it operational. But having said this, let me reiterate, we commend the work done by the Committee on World Food Security and we warmly support the adoption of its report for submission to the Conference.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): That has further increased the support given by others. It is indeed support of which we are particularly proud. We are sure that the initiative to be adopted by the United States of America in the future will also be more positive, and for this reason I think we have every reason to thank the United States for this present support.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Il n'est nul besoin de rappeler que le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui s'est réuni dernièrement à Rome et qui compte 84 pays membres a adopté à l'unanimité, après de longues discussions et une longue étude, le plan d'action qui lui a été proposé par le Directeur général. Ce Comité a réussi à parvenir à un consensus global et c'est pour cela que ma délégation considère qu'il n'est pas besoin d'entrer dans le détail de ce plan d'action et que les

discussions d'aujourd'hui devraient se limiter à apporter notre appui quand nous le sentons nécessaire et nous sentons, nous, nécessaire d'aboutir à une convention internationale sur les céréales qui indique aussi bien les dispositions relatives aux prix qu'au stockage des céréales.

Nous /?/ d'avis également qu'il est nécessaire d'aboutir à une convention internationale en matière d'aide alimentaire. Je crois que cela est noté dans le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis, qui appelle à la reprise des négociations. Le plan d'action, en fin de compte, ne vise pas à remplacer cette convention internationale, qu'elle soit la convention internationale sur le blé ou sur les céréales. Mais ce plan d'action vise à faire face à la situation actuelle. Si les négociations reprennent, nous pensons qu'il faudra un certain temps avant que les résultats qui en seront obtenus soient mis en application pour régler les relations en la matière.

C'est pour cela que j'en appelle aux membres de cette réunion pour qu'ils appuient unanimement ce plan d'action, et cela sans retard, afin que l'on puisse en commencer l'application, car la situation alimentaire mondiale est loin d'être stable et la plupart des pays en développement vivent une crise de plus en plus grave. Pour faire face à cette situation, nous ne devons pas retarder l'adoption du plan d'action afin d'éviter les conséquences graves que pourrait provoquer un retard, puisque des centaines de millions de personnes vivent une situation difficile.

CHAIRMAN: (interpretation from Arabic): It is quite true that your appeal that the plan of action be adopted by the Council is an appeal which comes from the very depth of your heart. We all know very well what a terrible situation Lebanon is suffering at the present time and we all very much hope that Lebanon will survive its trials at the present time.

So far the plan of action has had the unanimous support of all who have taken the floor. We hope very much that the other delegates who have yet to take the floor on this item will likewise give their wholehearted support.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): Since previous speakers have already covered all the aspects and points I wish to raise and considering that I do not wish to repeat what has already been said, allow me to say merely that I wholeheartedly support the contents of the report. I support the report of the fourth session of the Committee on the World Food Security and I would also like to tell you that our delegation wholeheartedly supports the five point plan of action proposed by the Director-General.

This plan of action, as other delegates have said, is certainly nothing that is intended to replace |

the International Grains or Food Agreement. We wholeheartedly support this plan of action, because this provides an effective means for consolidating the terms of food security following the breakdown in the negotiating conference on the new International Grains Agreement.

We similarly support the Draft Resolution on page 8 which covers this point.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): I will be very brief and I will try to follow my colleagues who spoke yesterday, like a simple farmer - short, straightforward.

The document under discussion is the outcome of the Committee on World Food Security which met about two months ago. The problem of world food security has been in existence for many years and food security in the years to come will continue to be precarious. Action must be taken in order to overcome the food problem. Indonesia, who until today could be regarded as a major cereal importer in spite of its efforts to produce more food and who has suffered from unpredictable disasters and from outbreaks of plant diseases and pests, is very much concerned with food security, whether it is at a national, regional or global level.

Having participated in the last session of the Committee on World Food Security, my delegation is

pleaded to inform the Council that Indonesia's position is still unaltered, in the sense that it agrees with the report and supports the report as set out in document CL 75/10 with special reference to the draft resolution on world food security.

Nevertheless, allow me to comment briefly on the necessity for FAO's plan on world food security. As stated by Dr. Islam when introducing the item, FAO has a constitutional duty to help solve the world's food and agriculture problem. In the opinion of my delegation this duty should be taken up irrespective of the negotiations on a new international grain arrangement. If in the future such an arrangement is made the FAO's Plan of Action could then be reviewed in order to strengthen and accelerate the efforts towards realization of world food security.

K.R. HTGHAM (Canada): Canada maintains a great respect for and a great interest in the annual deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security and we look forward to the documents produced by the Secretariat as an invaluable source of information and assessment of the current world food security situation.

The Canadian delegation to the last Committee on World Food Security presented Canada's ideas on two occasions but we feel they may be worth repeating here in summary.

We believe that the basis for improved world food security is twofold. The first is increased production in the developing countries themselves, and we are very pleased to note that this principle has been recognized by so many delegations speaking here today. Secondly we believe in the necessity for the conclusion of a commercially viable international grains agreement which includes provision for adequate reserves and for fair and stable returns to producers, thus ensuring levels of production necessary to make an accompanying PAC - Food Aid Convention - meaningful. We believe there is little point in a Food Aid Convention without assurance that adequate food is available for distribution.

Whereas we support the spirit of the Five-Point Plan and subscribe wholeheartedly to the international undertaking, we remain slightly cautious about the action plan itself, and we want above all to avoid even the risk of inhibiting the earliest possible conclusion of a new international grains arrangement. In our view agreement to the Five-Point Plan at this time, although a voluntary and interim solution, could jeopardize a binding commodity grains agreement linked with a binding Food Aid Convention. We also believe that there is a certain risk in encouraging what is essentially a development assistance organization, FAO, to become embroiled in the complex business of negotiating international commodity arrangements. Canada has always participated in other international commodity arrangements of this kind; cocoa, coffee and tin arrangements are some examples. We feel that the chance of arriving at a final viable agreement is best through the institutions which have that responsibility now, UNCTAD and the International Wheat Council. We agree that the results out of the Geneva negotiations have not been encouraging so far but we interpret this as an indication of the complexity of the negotiations, rather than as an indicator of the need for other organizations to become too deeply involved in some of the particular difficulties. The International Wheat Council meets next week in London to consider the timeliness of a return to the negotiating table. It is with these reservations in mind that Canada agrees that it is time to send this Five-Point Plan forward to the World Food Council as well as to the FAO Conference for consideration but we wish not to take any final position on the Five-Point Plan itself until the FAO Conference sits in November this year.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I understand that the delegate of Canada has expressed some reservations concerning the Plan of Action because the Conference of the International Wheat Council will take place next week in London. I think though that the holding of such a conference should not delay the support and adoption of this Plan of Action. I can confirm that even this Conference which is going to take place so soon will not give the results expected by the developing countries. In addressing myself to the delegate of Canada, I would like to say that I think he was present when this Plan of Action was discussed during the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and according to the records this Committee had adopted this Plan of Action. So is there a change of attitude by the delegate of Canada after only two months since the adoption of the report at that session of the Committee on World Food Security? Were these reservations expressed during the last session of the Committee on World Food Security? I would like to ask the delegate of Canada if he would clarify his attitude for the members of the Council.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): Your questions are very fair and I think I understand what your concern is. No, the reservations that I have expressed now are the reservations that we expressed at the Committee on World Food Security. There has been no change in the Canadian attitude towards the Five-Point-Plan. Please understand me, I thought I was very careful when I worded our reservations to put them in such a way that we do not cause delay in the movement of the Five-Point Plan forward to the Conference for consideration by the FAO Conference. I just wanted to make it clear that we still harbour these reservations and do not want to prejudice our right to speak out on them at a later date. I am afraid of falling into the kind of difficulty that you have just mentioned because we expressed these reservations at the Committee on World Food Security before.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Thank you for that clarification. I will leave it to the Secretariat to supply full details concerning the Canadian stand during the last session of the Committee on World Food Security.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just a point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. The distinguished delegate of Canada has agreed to refer the Plan of Action and the recommendation to the Conference. This would mean that Canada is opposed to the adoption of the Plan of Action right now by the Council and would prefer to see the matter discussed during the Conference. This would be our understanding as Secretariat. It is also our recollection that Canada, who is, of course, free to change its opinion at any time, did not make any such reservation; during the discussion at the Committee on Food Security. We were all there that evening, at the time of the adoption of the Plan of Action and of the resolution. There was only one delegation which had some misgivings about it and, later on, this delegation - it was France - joined the consensus. If Canada has meanwhile changed its mind and prefers to leave the matter for the Conference for final adoption, instead of having it adopted here, it is of course, free to do so. I just wanted to make this clarification.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Director-General. There is no doubt about the fact that any member is free to express his view on this matter.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): Now that I have agreed to speak I am not too sure it is necessary. In fact you have said what I would say, that we will reserve our position on the Five-Point Plan for the Conference. If I understand the structure - and I am still fairly new at the game - in any case Council recommends to Conference. We would not oppose Council recommending consideration of the Five-Point Plan to Conference. I want very specifically to make that clear. We do not want to delay that process.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In order to clarify the role of the Council I would like to remind you that it was clearly said by the Legal Counsel, in April last, that something cannot be recommended which has not been adopted first. The Council must first adopt the Plan of Action and then recommend it to the Conference. It has already been adopted by the Committee on Food Security. I hope that the Council will not go backwards, since the Plan of Action has already been approved without any reservation by the Committee on Food Security. I understand that Canada now wants to prevent Council approval and just pass the matter on to the Conference for final approval.

We respect the position and just want to take note of it for the report. My concern is natural since, as Director-General, I have been requested to monitor the progress of the implementation of this Plan. I have to report on this matter to the Conference in November and, should Canada not approve the Plan of Action, I would not be able to report on its implementation by that country; that part of my report would remain blank. Should other countries support the Plan of Action and keep me informed of its implementation I would, of course, also report it to the Conference. Whatever occurs, I will have to keep the Conference informed.

This is something which concerns hundreds of millions of hungry people. We are not just playing with words, passing a resolution from one committee to the other. We have already spent four days here on this subject. I can see, in this room, many delegates who were present at the CFS when we discussed

this Plan of Action. If now, some delegates want to shelve this matter, to pass it to the Conference, we would lose five or six months. This Plan is not binding, it is voluntary, it is a declaration of good will from the developed countries as well as the developing countries, and I appeal to all delegates to reconsider their position, if they have some hesitations, because the Plan has been unanimously approved by the CFS. Should we go backwards when the food situation is worsening, I would really be most concerned. I will come back to this important matter later, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Director-General, and I hope that the delegate from Canada will not take a stand which will not be more or less in conformity with those that have taken the floor before him, or that he will not fail to take into account the hopes of the developing countries.

Does Canada have something to say regarding the comment of the Director-General?

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): I do not want to drag this discussion on any longer than we have to. I think our position is clear. At the Committee on World Food Security we agreed to go along with the consensus of the Committee without making a specific reservation concerning our position. This is true.

Concerning the attitude of my Government towards the Five-Point Plan, nothing has changed, and I have the text of the speeches that were given to make that position very clear.

I repeat, we will maintain our usual good will in this matter, and happily join with the consensus of this Council, but I would like to make it clear and perhaps I should make it clear in terms of a wording of a short statement or a sentence for the record that we maintain, we still harbour some reservations about particular aspects of this Plan. I do not think I should delay or prejudice consideration by Council here.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank Canada for the explanation just given and think that this is a positive stand. We know that this Plan will be discussed during the general Conference, but this does not mean that there will be different views. In this Council or in any other council, this is quite natural, and I thank him for his explanation.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): After the fourth intervention of Canada now it is clear to the Council, I believe, that Canada will join the consensus, because you remember that when we discussed this in the Committee on Food Security, we were looking for two words, and after the clarification given by the Legal Counsel, the Committee could not recommend it to the Council without adopting it. Similarly, this Council cannot recommend it to the Conference without adopting it. This is very clear, and on that point, I understand from the intervention of Canada that they will join the consensus.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, we have to put you in the place of the Legal Adviser, and I really appreciate your explanation on this point.

We accepted this, and finally the representative of Canada accepted this also.

Colombia is asking for the floor. Is it a point of order, Sir?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. BULA HOYOS (COLOMBIA). Sí, señor Presidente, se trata de una observación sobre los hechos recientes que han tenido lugar en nuestras sesiones del Consejo. La delegación de Colombia vacila mucho, pero no puede evitar el expresar su inquietud, con todo respeto, por el hecho de que cada vez que cualquier delegado difiere y no expresa un apoyo completamente incondicional al Plan de Acción, se le llama a juicio ante los demás miembros del Consejo y se le pretende señalar como un hijo reprobado en nuestra familia.

Sinceramente, creo que no conviene forzar los acontecimientos, que hay que respetar la libertad de pensamiento de cada uno de los delegados, y que el procedimiento debe ser el mismo que se ha adoptado siempre en las sesiones del Consejo: adelantar el debate, celebrar un diálogo enviando todo el material al Comité de Redacción, y esperar el proyecto de informe.

Me decidí a intervenir porque estamos apenas en el segundo día de nuestro período de sesiones y hay otros temas sobre los cuales, posiblemente, la delegación de Colombia tenga opiniones que puedan no satisfacer a la Secretaría, y me parece que sería un mal precedente continuar de esta manera.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic) : I think - and I am addressing myself to Colombia - that there is no objection either from the Chairman or from the Director-General nor from anybody else, so that each member, each delegate can freely express his opinion. This is what we had asked for this morning. This morning I had asked that any delegation be very clear in expressing its view on this document or any other document.

Now, if the Director-General is also asking for the floor, well, this falls within his rights. It is even his duty to defend the opinions, the inspirations, the needs of the developing countries. This is why he is sitting with us today. This is why he is filling his post. The developing countries are very proud to have someone defending our own rights. No one can object or prevent anybody or any delegation from expressing its opinion, its views, but we have asked that this be done on a clear basis without any fears or without any manoeuvring of any kind, because we all know how this can be done, but this is not the case, because we are facing a problem to which we want to find a solution.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): Sorry to come back one more time, Mr. Chairman. This is not the first time that we have agreed to go along with the consensus when we cannot subscribe to every minute detail of a question with the FAO, and this is only a very slight reservation, you understand, but it is an important one to us, and I want to be very sure the reservation and the freedom to express - the right, if you like, to express the reservation at a later time is maintained, and perhaps I could offer a sentence for the record which would keep that door open for us.

Due to my inexperience at the CFS Meeting, I agreed to go along with the consensus, thinking that that right is automatically maintained. You tell me now that it is not necessarily so. If we were to put a sentence like this into the record, and I will read it to you - I composed it just slightly before I gave my presentation in anticipation of the difficulty - "While agreeing in principle with the spirit and intention of the Five Point Plan, the Delegation of Canada wished to reserve expressing a final position on the Plan until the next FAO Conference", that is all I ask.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Your views, Sir, were taken into account-and will be put on the record as you have asked. I personally would have preferred it if this reservation had been expressed when this Plan of Action was discussed in the Committee on World Food Security, but I think - I am even certain - that the Secretariat will take your views into consideration and it will be in the minutes.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We were waiting to take the floor to give our views on the Plan of Action and the resolution. The point of order, which was not a point of order, by our distinguished colleague and delegate of Colombia has almost encouraged me to take the floor. «

I assume that our distinguished colleague from Colombia was assuming himself to be in the Chair. We always recognize when he sits in this room that Mr. Bula Hoyos was Chairman of this Council for four years, and there is his picture on the wall, we cannot forget him.

As to his comments on how the Council should move and conduct itself, I feel the distinguished delegate from Colombia assuming himself in the position of the Chair, which is the privilege of the Chair, whoever holds it for the time being, whether you as the Vice-Chairman or the Independent Chairman or any of the other two Vice-Chairmen, so I feel that the business of how the Council is to be conducted is the prerogative of the Chair, whoever holds it for the time being.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to Bangladesh for his remarks. I myself have no remarks to make on this question. I am sure that Colombia heard what I heard.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am speaking as the Chairman of the Drafting Group. I did not quite follow what the delegate of Canada said. My general impression was that while agreeing in principle with the Plan of Action he had certain reservations. Would this hinder the adoption by this Council of this Plan of Action? We have to deal with this in the Drafting Committee and I want to know if he is agreeing with the consensus, and I am just mentioning this as a matter for the record.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am very grateful to you. I have before me a list of speakers asking for the floor on this item. We will adopt this Plan of Action in accordance with the number of members who have accepted it, and reservations will not hinder the adoption of this draft resolution.

However, in spite of what I said previously, this question will be debated at the General Conference and the General Conference will have the opportunity to examine it. We should not be afraid of this position, the adoption of the Plan of Action should be on a majority basis. I do not think we have come today to listen to just one voice, we have come to listen to all members, and if the majority of members here appeal for the adoption of this Plan of Action we will adopt it, and will then forward it to the Conference with any reservations that may have been formulated.

I trust I have spoken clearly for the representative of Pakistan-the Chairman of the Drafting Committee - in particular, and for our other colleagues, and hope I have poured oil on some troubled waters. We have registered a certain stress as a result of some remarks but I would beg all of you to keep calm and I hope our discussions will continue to be constructive. We should have no fears on this, we are hearing various views here, and I hope very much with the assistance of God we shall adopt this Plan of Action.

E. HRAOUX (Liben) (interprétation de l'Arabe): Nous respectons le Président pour sa façon de diriger le débat et pour l'objectivité qui incite tous les délégués* à donner leur opinion sur un problème qui touche 500 millions d'êtres humains et qui attend cette Résolution pour éloigner la catastrophe de la famine. Si quelqu'un désire /?/ des explications, il a le droit de les demander? il ne faut pas qu'il y ait à l'intérieur du 00 Conseil certaines personnes qui se croient encore présidents. Chaque membre, chaque délégué, a /?/ le droit de s'exprimer ses opinions sans réserve et sans restriction.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am very grateful to our friend the representative of Lebanon. It is my right to captain this meeting, it is not the first meeting I have directed, it is not the first conference or session where I have directed the debate, so I shall allow every delegate to take the floor freely. I am sure the question will be settled most satisfactorily, and I do not think there will be any other problem.

J. INURRIETA. (Cuba): Creíamos que no íbamos a poder hablar en la sesión de hoy.

Bo nos damos a referir a lo que se acaba de debatir, oremos que todo ha quedado claro.

Los graves problemas alimentarios que afrontan /?/ países subdesarrollados han llevado a la Comi-iaá Internacional a la neossidad da estáblecer un sistema da saguridad alimentaria mundial capas da sooorrer a los paisas an dasarrollo anta la /?/ da alimentos y otros dasastras que enfrentamos periódicamente.

El oraoiante déficit alimantario da los paisas an désarrollo indios con claridad que cada dia más estos paisas tandrán que solicitar con mayor frecuencia la benefaotora ayuda. Ss ésta una da las rasonos per las ouales la promooión da la seguridad alimentaria mundial constituyo uno da los principales objetivos dal Programa Mundial da Alimentos.

Mi delegación expresa su profundo posar anta al hacho da que la Conferencia da las Maciones Unidas para negeoiar un convenio internacional qua reemplace al convenio internacional dal trigo da 1971 haya fracasado. Opinamos, al igual que otras delegaciones, qua tal hacho crea una diffoil situación an un monento en el quo la existencia da los paisas on desarrollo está muy por debajo do su consumo. De ahí que ai gobierno haya apoyado el Plan da Aoción da Cinco Puntos en el cuarto periodo da sesiones dal Comité da Seguridad Alimentaria y en el Cornité Plenario da las Naciones Unidas celebrado en Nueva York.

Hoy, comsecuente con su aotitud, mi gobierno ratifica el apoyo ya dado a dicho Plan y expresa su conformidad con que el mismo sea presentado a la Conferencia de le FAO y a la quinta reunión ministerial del Consejo Mundial da la Alimentación donde Cuba, al igual que ha hecho aquí, le dará su total apoyo.

Por último, manifestamos nuestro apoyo al proyecto da resolución que figura en el documento qua se somete a consideración. Igualmente apoyamos las recomendaciones relativas al sistema mundial da información y alerta que se hallan en el párrafo 57.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabio): I am very grateful to the representative of Cuba for his remarks, and for his support of the draft resolution, and particularly for being so brief and to the point.

A.M. FASLA (Algérie): La Conférence alimentaire mondiale avait suscité un grand espoir au sein de nos peuples, et les différentes décisions et résolutions qui ont été adoptées ont donné naissance à un optimisme vite estompé devant l'absence de résultats significatifs. La sécurité alimentaire mondiale n'est pas encore garantie. Les objectifs modestes que s'est fixés la Conférence ne sont pas encore atteints et je ne désire pas m'étendre sur cette question que j'ai traitée en détail ce matin. L'ajournement sine die des discussions et des négociations concernant l'Arrangement international sur les céréales qui constituent les principales importations alimentaires des pays du tiers monde a amené le Directeur général à prendre l'heureuse initiative de présenter un plan d'action en cinq points sur la sécurité alimentaire. Il s'agit en fait d'un plan d'urgence reposant sur l'adhésion volontaire des Etats pour faire face à une situation d'urgence résultant de l'échec des négociations.

Notre délégation voudrait réaffirmer ici qu'elle appuie dans ses grandes lignes le plan qui lui a été présenté. Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les préoccupations et les réserves formulées par notre collègue du Canada, mais nous devons dire que ce sont justement les difficultés qu'il a évoquées, les réserves qu'il a soulignées, qui pourraient être estompées si nous adoptions ce plan, car cette adoption constituerait un pas très important susceptible d'aplanir les difficultés qui ont fait obstacle à la conclusion d'un arrangement international des céréales. Nous estimons que les institutions internationales doivent se compléter en coordonnant leurs activités plutôt que d'agir individuellement.

Concernant les cinq points évoqués dans le Plan d'action, il est nécessaire, au moment où nous passons à l'action, qu'une coordination étroite existe, mais sous l'autorité de la FAO, sous son égide, en collaboration avec toutes les institutions du Système des Nations Unies qui s'occupent de problèmes similaires. Je prends le cas de la CNUCED qui, par exemple, a adopté un programme d'urgence pour les pays les plus pauvres pour les années 1980-82. Peut-être faudrait-il souligner la nécessité d'une coopération étroite entre la FAO, la CNUCED et les Nations Unies lorsqu'il s'agit de mettre en oeuvre le troisième point de la proposition du Directeur général.

Ce sont les quelques remarques que ma délégation voulait faire sur cette question et je voudrais réaffirmer notre appui au plan qui nous a été présenté.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank our brother, the delegate from Algeria, for his support for the Plan of Action. We are appreciative of the very pertinent remarks he has made.

J.A.LEIVA (El Salvador): Voy a ser breve siguiendo el ejemplo de los que me han antecedido en el uso de la palabra.

La delegación de El Salvador ha estudiado detenidamente el plan de acción para la seguridad alimentaria mundial propuesto por el Director General de la FAO y estima que la situación de inseguridad alimentaria justifica esta propuesta que, en ningún momento, pretende sustituir al nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales.

Es un hecho reconocido que el fracaso de la negociación sobre el acuerdo Internacional del Trigo vigente desde 1971 y prorrogado hasta el 30 de junio de 1981, motivo a la Organización a asumir su papel de organismo rector en materia de agricultura y alimentación; de ahí el origen del plan de acción ya mencionado.

Mi delegación apoya el plan de acción propuesto, junto con el proyecto de resolución incluida en el párrafo 39, e igualmente manifiesta su apoyo respecto al párrafo 61 al objeto de que el plan de acción sea presentado durante el quinto período de sesiones del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

Compartimos también los criterios expuestos por otros delegados que nos precedieron en el uso de la palabra que calificaron la seguridad alimentaria como pre-requisito del nuevo orden económico internacional. Deben solventarse los irresolubles problemas del comercio internacional para garantizar un régimen más justo y equitativo y tener el firme convencimiento de que sólo la producción de alimentos permitirá a los países en desarrollo alcanzar su seguridad alimentaria.

Finalmente, sobre el sistema mundial de información y alerta, reconocemos la importancia que representa para los países en desarrollo y deseamos manifestar que estamos de acuerdo con las recomendaciones formuladas en el párrafo 57 por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate of El Salvador. On several occasions we have reiterated that this Plan of Action is not a replacement; it is complementary to the International Undertaking on Grains. We have pointed out several times that this Plan of Action will be presented to the general Conference.

L.V. BORGES da FONSECA (Brazil): My delegation wishes to reaffirm the main observations that were made by the Brazilian delegation in the last Session of the Council concerning World Food Security. We believe that food security can only be seen in the context of food production. In our view, to promote food security in the developing countries must necessarily mean to support production efforts and all measures directly or indirectly related to production. We feel that reserve schemes must be planned and operate⁴ in full conformity with production policies. That does not mean, of course, that we do not favour the basic objectives of food security in terms of guaranteed food supplies. In that sense we will always agree to recommendations conceived with the aim of supporting production efforts in the developing countries, so that each of us can become self-reliant in food and nutrition.

Thus, my delegation would like to point out that if on one hand Brazil expresses reservations as to the concept of food security linked to the lack of relation between increase of production and food security, on the other hand my country has favoured all proposed actions that, in conjunction with food security, have the objective of increasing production of food and improving nutrition conditions in developing countries, as well as all proposed actions that have the objective of regulating the international grain trade.

Brazil is developing, as a matter of absolute priority and as a way of contributing to the solution of the food supply problem, its agriculture and food production so as to improve the nutritional standards of its own population and to generate a significant export surplus on a stable and permanent basis through improvements in its rural structure, extension of new areas in the northern part of the country, the north east and central region, and through strong efforts in the field of research.

In connexion with the Plan of Action on World Food Security that was adopted by the Committee and recommended to the Council for approval, and that "Consists of a series of measures which are necessary to implement the International Undertaking on World Food Security", my delegation would like to state that as Brazil has not subscribed the International Undertaking, we are not in a position to express here at this Session of the Council a decision on ways of implementing the undertaking or on the approval of the Plan and adoption of the draft resolution as presented in document CL 75/10. My delegation will not, however, in any way go against the decision desired and taken by the Council and we will follow the consensus achieved here.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): We were Parties to the discussion at the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and our thoughts on the principles and practice involved were expressed as the Committee developed the report which is now before us. Our thoughts included some views on the feasibility of establishing an effective system of national grain reserves, the crucial role, as we see it, of an International Grains Agreement, and the importance of equitable burden sharing in any accepted international arrangement for reserve stock-holding.

That being so, I come immediately to the three points which you suggested this morning, Mr. Chairman, that delegates might address themselves to. First, Australia is prepared to endorse the 5-point Plan of Action and the draft resolution as they appear before us in document CL 75/10. Second, we are happy to see the Plan of Action being made available to the Fifth Session of the World Food Council. Third, believing that the global and early warning system is a much valued arrangement, Australia supports the recommendations in paragraph 57 of the document.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am particularly grateful to the delegate of Australia for his support of the Plan of Action and I am very grateful to him for having given such a remarkable example of the positive approach which will serve the interests of the peoples of our community.

C. BATAULT (France): Comme l'a fait observer le Directeur général, la position de la France, telle qu'elle a été exprimée au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, est assez semblable à celle du Canada.

Il me semble toutefois que nous pouvons accepter l'interprétation du délégué du Bangladesh que nous devons remercier d'avoir si brillamment joué le rôle de Conseiller juridique*

C'est toutefois en qualité de Président en exercice de la Communauté européenne que je vous ai demandé la parole, Monsieur le Président. Je suis heureux de pouvoir rassurer M. Saouma. Afin de faciliter les travaux du Conseil, nous ne présenterons pas d'amendement à la résolution proposée. Toutefois, afin de préciser certains points qui nous semblent essentiels pour l'avenir, je vous prie, Monsieur le Président, de bien vouloir dès maintenant donner la parole au représentant de la Commission des communautés européennes qui doit faire une déclaration au nom des neuf gouvernements qui la composent*

B. SUSSMILCH (Observer for the European Economic Community): My comments concern the discussion which took place during the fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from 5 to 11 April. The basis for those discussions was a proposal by the Director-General of FAO concerning the Plan of Action for World Food Security. The aim was to draft a corresponding resolution at the FAO Council's 75th Session for submission to the 20th FAO Conference in November. The Community delegate took an active part in the discussion and, through various constructive proposals expressing the opinion and the will of the main Member States, helped ensure that as an interim measure a resolution on a plan of action for World Food Security was prepared for submission to the Council.

The Community agreed that the resolution and Plan of Action be submitted to the 20th FAO Conference and considered, in the light of the follow-up of the resolution in this regard introduced by the Chairman of the negotiating group of Number Three, and adopted by ÜNCTAD in Manila, stressing the necessity of a new international agreement to replace the International Grains Arrangement of 1971.

The Community wishes to emphasize once again, however, that the Plan of Action should in no way take the place of a future international cereals arrangement. It should merely act temporarily as a safeguard. Its main purpose should be to protect the developing countries from harvest and other disasters and satisfy their constantly increasing import requirements. The Community wishes to stress that it attaches the utmost importance to the conclusion of negotiations on an international grains agreement, taking full account of the interests of developing countries.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish thank the representative of the EEC. I am full of admiration for the discussion on this subject. I have before me a report which shows clearly that this Plan of Action was adopted during the meeting of the Committee on food Security. I myself did not attend that meeting in April and I therefore do not know whether there were any reservations expressed which were added or included in the Minutes of that meeting but in the report before me it says that this is, in fact, the plan of action as adopted. The representative of the EEC speaks on behalf of the nine Member States of the Community, as he said that at the beginning of his statement; or rather, as was said by the delegate of France when introducing the EEC representative. He said that he was speaking on behalf of the nine countries. Now these nine countries I wonder, did they express any reservation of any kind during the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security in April? Any of the nine countries, did they express any reservation? This is a rather odd matter. It is a question which it is difficult for me to answer. I am sure, however, the Secretariat will be in a position to give a reply and shed a light on the situation which in fact is not very suitable, because if we accepted something in April and if we now come here to go back on what we had already adopted when there were not even any reservations on this subject at the previous meeting, which was after all a very important one, after all the needy countries' eyes were turned to this meeting. When we find there are reservations on this resolution, then I think this is most distressing and if I am speaking in such terms now, I am doing so as temporary chairman of this meeting and also as a representative of Saudi Arabia, not only in this Organisation, but also in IFAD and other institutions. I do not think that we can adopt such a position for the future*

I certainly do not agree. I would not wish my Government to take such a position. I am sure that my Government will not do so because we have never done so in the past, and that is why I myself feel that some delegates asking to take the floor following the delegate of the EEC, although they are not on the list before me, in the cause of democracy and indeed in that of wisdom, I feel duty bound to give them the floor.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais répondre parce que j'ai l'impression qu'il y a un léger malentendu dans le commentaire que vous venez de faire.

Je ne sais pas si vous avez eu le texte de l'intervention du représentant de la Communauté européenne.

Il est tout à fait clair et j'ai peur que votre interprétation ne soit pas la bonne.

Nous avons en effet, comme vous l'avez souligné, pris une part active aux discussions. M. Marinucci a pris une part très active à la rédaction d'un texte. Nous avons exprimé très clairement nos points de vue, notamment en ce qui concerne l'importance de la Conférence internationale sur le blé, point de vue repris aujourd'hui par un très grand nombre de délégations. Je ne vois pas en quoi ce que je viens de dire change quoi que ce soit à notre point de vue et représente une régression par rapport à ce que nous avons dit. La Communauté, dans cette affaire, a toujours eu un point de vue constant, que ce soit à Genève ou ici: le succès de la négociation sur le blé est absolument essentiel. C'est ce que nous sommes en train de répéter ici.

Nous voulons clarifier notre pensée. Cela ne représente pas un changement de la part de la Communauté ni de la part de mon gouvernement

CHAIRMAN: (interpretation from Arabic): I could perhaps have replied on this, but since the Director-General has asked for the floor he has the floor now in order to shed further light on this matter.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Si j'ai bien compris le distingué délégué de la France, les pays de la Communauté seraient d'accord pour que, dans le rapport sur ce sujet, on dise: ^MLe Conseil a adopté le plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le recommande à la Conférence pour approbation".

Seriez-vous d'accord, Monsieur le délégué de la France, sur un texte rédigé de cette manière?

C. BATAULT (France): Je voulais simplement dire que la formule qui me paraît traduire notre pensée est: "recommande qu'il soit soumis à la vingtième Conférence de la FAO au mois de novembre".

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: C'est là une position régressive, Monsieur le Président, Nous avons tous devant nous le rapport du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale et, au paragraphe 38, on lit que: "le Comité a adopté le Plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire". Ce texte ne contient aucune réserve de la part d'aucun pays, d'aucune communauté. Et maintenant il semble que l'on voudrait enlever le mot "adopté" et simplement "soumettre" cette affaire à la Conférence; c'est régressif!

On vient de me faire parvenir le texte du représentant de la Communauté européenne. Le mot "adopté" ne figure pas dans ce texte. Il y est dit: "Le Conseil est d'accord pour que la résolution soit soumise à la vingtième session..." Ne jouons pas avec les mots. Je respecte le point de vue de la Communauté. Je suis le serviteur des gouvernements. Mais il s'agit pour moi de comprendre. Je ne pourrai pas, le mois prochain, écrire à la Communauté en demandant: Comment avez-vous mis en oeuvre ce plan d'action? Dans ce cas, il vaudrait mieux ne pas dire que vous avez adopté quelque chose que vous n'avez pas, en fait, adopté.

Je suis navré que le Canada, qui est le deuxième pays exportateur de céréales, se trouve ainsi sur une position négative; ne veuille même pas faire une promesse qui n'impliquera, d'ailleurs, aucune obligation formelle. C'est là une attitude que je ne puis que constater et regretter.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): What I have referred to in the last few minutes is explained by the statement made by the EEC delegate who speaks on behalf of the nine. It is quite clear from his statement that there is no agreement on this plan of action. We find ourselves in a situation of deferring this to the General Conference. Then why have we spent so much time in discussing this plan of action and this draft resolution. Then we should stop any discussion on this document since this document is going to be discussed at the level of the Conference and I think the position has been a very clear one, the Director-General has even shed more light on it.

C. BATAULT (France): Je crois qu'il y a un malentendu. Cela dit, je vais vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole au représentant de la CEE qui définira l'attitude de Bruxelles. Il a assisté à toutes les discussions qui ont présidé à cette étude, qui a été faite très sérieusement, qui est reflétée dans les propos du Directeur général, auquel la Communauté a tenu à rendre hommage.

Mais la façon dont a été interprétée notre déclaration, qui ne répond pas à l'esprit dans lequel elle a été faite, me porte à penser qu'il serait utile que nous puissions avoir une conversation communautaire et que nous puissions éventuellement demander des instructions à Bruxelles qui est le siège de la Communauté.

Je vais donc vous demander de bien vouloir donner la parole au représentant des communautés et ensuite, s'il y a lieu, m' autoriser plus tard à prendre la parole pour faire un commentaire sur vos déclarations.

B. SUSSMILCH (Observer for the European Economic Community) : When I was asking for the floor I was not expecting the delegate of France would like to make a reservation for our position, because in our view our position was quite clear at the end of the fourth session of the World Food Security Committee, and for us it is not a step backward. We confirm what we have agreed until now, which means taking into account negotiations in Manila, the outcome of UNCTAD five and drawing special attention to a new agreement which cannot replace this intermediary plan of action.

I would like to make one thing clear: if somebody thinks that the representative of the Community takes part in international negotiations to destroy something or to bring some negative attitude into the forum» I must tell him this attitude is wrong. If we are participating in such a forum and in such discussions and negotiations, we are here to build up in a constructive way, collaborate with other Member States of this community, not to destroy something which already exists. So, please take our contribution in a positive sense and we will do our utmost to see that this plan of action and resolution will come through the Conference and will be approved there.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I would have liked to reply to the observer of the EEC as the representative of Saudi Arabia, but I do not wish to make delegates lose any more time and I do not wish to go into a long dialogue which may bear no fruits. Therefore I will give the floor to those delegates who have asked for it.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I am constrained to speak at this juncture because I was very intimately involved in the negotiations which took place. It was actually a group of eight or nine countries which was known as the Group of Professionals and met under the chairmanship of Mr. Ragavan of India. The European Economic Community was fully represented by Mr. Marinucci, whose views were fully aired in the discussion. I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 23 of the report. I do not want to quote extensively, but it says: "Several delegates, while endorsing the basic intent of the Plan, and emphasizing the positive and constructive position of their governments regarding international action..." and so on, ultimately agreed, as has been pointed out in paragraph 38, to adopt the Plan of Action. This paragraph 38 says: "The Committee adopted the Plan of Action on World Food Security as revised in the light of the comments and suggestions made by the delegates and recommended it to the Council for approval". This is the crux of the whole matter. I heard the representative of the EEC. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development resolution on this subject says: "Urges all participating countries to exert the requisite political will at the next session of the International Wheat Council to be held in June 1979 in London to re-examine the main unresolved issue together with the new possible element of the condition that would allow for a successful conclusion of the negotiations, taking into account the interests of developing countries."

What are we doing that is in contradiction of this resolution? We are not doing anything that is in contradiction of this resolution. Therefore I would very humbly urge that there seems to be no problem. The delegate of France was present at that meeting. His viewpoint was taken into consideration and there was an extensive debate on one or two issues that were raised. To change so quickly appears to us not to be exercising the requisite political will that has been called for in this United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which is being supported by the representative of the EEC. The position which emerges is that the EEC, which has a common agricultural policy, is saying one thing and the constituents of that agricultural policy are saying another thing. What do we do in these circumstances? I pose this question to you. I would therefore urge once again very strongly that we should simply go ahead and adopt this Plan of Action, as you have heard so many speakers say, and I am sure you have seventeen or eighteen more speakers before you are thorough with this subject. This is what is causing us problems, that the Community says one thing and the constituent members of that community are not in total accord. Why are we to blame for that? Why are the developing countries, which are very keen to adopt this Plan of Action, being put into this somewhat difficult situation in which they have to make difficult choices?

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): The representative of the EEC speaks on behalf of nine member States, but among these nine member States none of the States of the Community has clarified its position as a country. But it is the representative of the EEC who defines the position of the EEC, which does not prevent us from adopting this Plan of Action.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): First I would like to draw your attention to the number nine. For the purposes of this Council there are not nine. It is the four members of the Economic Community who are members of this Council. For the purposes of the Committee on World Food Security these were nine. For the purposes of this Council there are four. Four of the Community members are members of this Council; out of nine members of the EEC, four are members of this Council. So for our purposes they are speaking for four, not for nine; the rest of them are observers.

Secondly, I took the floor because in this situation I feel that it is the wearer who knows where the shoe pinches. If I am a little emotional in my intervention on this I believe you will forgive me. The current food situation in Bangladesh is critical. It is the only argument that the observer from the EEC has made since we met in April in the Committee on World Food Security and today, and the UNCTAD V resolution in Manila, urging an early resumption of the negotiations for an international agreement•

May I draw the attention of the members of the Community who are members of the Council to the resolution which they are going to adopt on page 9, paragraph 3, which makes the same urging from line 4 and urges the participating countries in the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a new international grains agreement to resolve the outstanding questions impeding the resumption of negotiation and to conclude a new international grains agreement as quickly as possible. So exactly the same urging was there in April, in which they had participated. There has not been any change whatever in the urging in Manila from the urging that the Committee on World Food Security made and we are endorsing here in this Council.

The other point about the Canadian delegation on inhibiting the prospective negotiations, the delegate of Pakistan in the first intervention made it very clear under what circumstances the negotiations broke down and what are the prospects for an early resumption. The Chairman of the Negotiating Conference very clearly says that the negotiating conference could be reconvened only in the circumstances that the differences had been narrowed down and there was a most assured possibility of success. Have the differences been narrowed down or is there any possibility of assured success of the negotiations? We are a very active member of the negotiations in Geneva and to the best of our knowledge the position has not changed a little bit to expect that there could be a possibility of an early resumption of the negotiations.

Thirdly, the Director-General did not come forward with his proposals until the negotiations had failed. They failed in February and he came forward with his proposals in April. We have been told for the last three years in every forum that these negotiations will be successful. I clearly remember in Mexico in the session of the World Food Council that when the majority of the developing countries wanted the Food Aid Convention to be separated from the Trade Convention the answer was from a very distinguished delegate that that information was the progress had been made in London, so negotiations could be concluded. It is one year, and in February you saw the fate of the negotiations.

I just want to draw an analogy. The developing countries, particularly the poorest of them, are out in the winter and no one knows how long this winter will last. You are not providing them with a blanket because it is voluntary. What they are asking for is the minimum of voluntary help to do the things they must do in order to survive in the winter. Would you deny them even that on a voluntary basis? This is the question I pose to my friends from the developed countries. You are not providing a sure blanket for the poor developing countries. We are shivering outside in winter and no one knows how long this winter will last. Would you not provide them with even the minimum for survival? This is the question about which the developed countries should search their minds and find an answer.

We all know the character of this plan. It is voluntary. It is wishful thinking that good will will prevail in the developed countries, particularly the major ones. One of the most major countries, and this is a very happy note, has unreservedly supported the Plan of Action of the Director-General and on behalf of my country and other developing countries I congratulate in particular the most important exporter of grains who sits as a member of this Council. We all know that country.

We have deliberated quite a bit on this, whether we could refer to the Council without adoption, and finally we agreed that this could not be referred to the Council without the adoption by the Committee on World Food Security. Similarly I feel it cannot be referred to the Conference without adoption by this Council. If I understand my colleague from France and also my colleague from the EEC, they are not standing in the way and they will go along with the consensus to adopt the resolution and the Plan of Action to refer it to the Conference. If I understand correctly the delegate of Canada, Canada is also not standing in the way of adopting this resolution and the Plan of Action by this Council and referring it to the Conference. I see my colleague from France nodding his head, which means that he wholeheartedly agrees that the Plan of Action be adopted by this Council here and now and referred to the Conference. If that is so I think we are seeing the end of the tunnel so far as the resolution and the Plan of Action are concerned.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of Bangladesh for the very eloquent statement that he has just made and I think that all the members here present do share his feelings and agree with him in thanking the two members of the Council who are the main exporters of cereals for having supported this Plan of Action. These two members are Australia and the United States of America. This is a great satisfaction.

J. LEVISTE Jr. (Philippines): I will not touch on the salient features of the Five-Point Plan. Suffice it to say that the Director-General personally presented this plan in Manila last month during the Plenary Session of UNCTAD V. I was a personal witness to the fact that the proposal and the plan were very favourably and positively received. It actually placed the question of food security in the forefront of the concerns of our own delegates from our own countries both developed and developing, both rich and poor, these delegates who are concerned primarily with trade and development. The reason for desiring development is poverty, and the most cruel feature of poverty is hunger. One therefore cannot speak of development if there is hunger, and the threat of hunger is threat enough.

The World Food Council has supported the FAO Five Point Plan. The leader of my delegation, the Vice-Chairman of this Council, the Minister of Natural Resources, has fully endorsed this Plan. While we in the Philippine Delegation concur, as stipulated on page 9 of document CL 75/10, that the Plan of Action is not a substitute for a new International Grains Agreement, with stock price and food aid provisions, with special provisions for developing countries, which is indispensable for a durable and effective world food system, nevertheless, this Plan has been unanimously - and I stress the world "unanimously" - adopted by the Committee on Food Security which remains to us here in the Council to give approval.

Therefore, at the risk of going further, let me just summarize our position, that the Philippine Delegation therefore now fully and strongly supports the Five Point Plan of Action initiated by the Director-General and that the Philippine delegation now calls for adoption by the Council during its Seventy-Fifth Session of the draft resolution on this Plan of Action for world food security which is reflected on page 9 of document CL 75/10.

CHAIRMAN (Interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of the Philippines for his renewed support for the Plan of Action.

H. MENDS (Ghana): I am glad this matter has been resolved. Since my Delegation took the liberty of discussing the Five Point Plan of Action when we took the floor after the Director-General presented the Plan of Action, and since my Delegation participated in the deliberations of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security a few weeks ago, I can really afford to be brief at this stage; even so, as the speakers who took the floor before me have covered the subject more elaborately and more eloquently.

We therefore associate ourselves fully with the report presented in document CL 75/10. We fully support the Five Point Plan of Action adopted by the Committee on World Food Security for unanimous approval by this Council.

We believe that the terrible food crisis of the early seventies will never be repeated if the steps enumerated are carried out as planned. It is also for this reason that we wholeheartedly endorse the draft resolution and hope the delegates here will find no difficulties in adopting it as recommended. As we did with the Global Information and Early Warning System, we find the recommendation in paragraph 57 quite in order and wholeheartedly support them for approval by this assembly.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Le agradezco mucho, señor Presidente, que me haya concedido el uso de la palabra y sobre todo que me la haya dado ahora que los ánimos parecen más calmados que en el momento que la pedí en que todo parecía que iba a saltar por los aires.

Lo que sucede, señor Presidente, es que yo creo que, como bien dijo el representante de Bangladesh, tenemos un consenso básico en torno a los puntos que hemos tratado en nuestro temario. Quisiera también aclarar cualquier malentendido que pudiera haber y parece haberse expresado por varios delegados en confundir la palabra "reservas" con la palabra "comentarios". Algunas intervenciones en el curso de este tema fueron comentarios; comentarios que como en el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y bien lo distinguió el representante de Pakistán, figura claramente expresado en los párrafos 22 y 23, yo me permití en mi exposición repetir esta mañana y configurar posición que, justa o no, debe ser respetada, pues es una posición de varios países que tratan de una manera constructiva de contribuir al problema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, pero tiene razón que es específica para poner por delante algunos aspectos que son importantes para sus respectivos países.

Por lo tanto, a mi entender, señor Presidente, no han sido reservas las que han sido formuladas en esta reunión, sino comentarios en función de obtener un consenso. Lo que nosotros estamos buscando es un consenso y ha habido delegaciones, como la mía, que redundantemente han expresado que se reservan el derecho de formular comentarios. Esto es también inútil porque cualquier delegación en cualquier altura de cualquier discusión de cualquier tema tiene todo el derecho de formular las observaciones que estime pertinentes.

Ahora, esos comentarios no inhiben ni impiden una adhesión al consenso; lo que nosotros no podemos hacer es expresamente manifestar nuestra adhesión que no podemos expresar. Consenso significa solidaridad, y significa solidaridad con los países más gravemente afectados que son los que verdaderamente se benefician de este Plan de Acción.

Nosotros no queremos volver tampoco acá a los argumentos que hemos tenido para formular algunas reservas a este plan; son argumentos muy precisos y que se refieren a negociaciones que no deben mezclarse con lo que va a suceder en el plan de seguridad alimentaria de la FAO. Por eso creemos que no debe exigirse a las delegaciones expresar su adhesión por sus comentarios, y sí cabe, como hizo la mía, su no oposición; como dijo el representante de Bangladesh no estamos en el camino, pero queremos también que nos comprendan que no podemos expresamente aceptarlo sin formular algún comentario como los que hemos formulado.

Por lo tanto, creo que la posición de mi país será claramente interpretada como lo han sido las otras en función de un comentario y no de una reserva.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to Argentina. Everyone, of course, may express remarks or make comments. Each and every one can also express reservations. This is intended to reflect the opinions of the country they represent. If other delegations have asked questions or remarked on certain points, these points were not interpreted as criticisms or reservations. This is perfectly clear, I think, to all of us.

It is not for me to repeat here that it has certainly not been the intention of the Chair to hinder anyone from making remarks. We are all here to arrive at a consensus, to consolidate this consensus, but also to air our points of view, and when we are convinced of the item being discussed, then we can adopt it. If we are not convinced of the validity of what is being presented, then we have the right to reject it, but I am very grateful to Argentina for having been so forthright and so clear.

I see that China is asking for the floor, and of course, far be it from me to refuse the floor to the distinguished representative of China.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): As you know, China did not subscribe to the International Grains Undertaking, but as a Member State of the Council, the Chinese Delegation endorsed the Five Point Plan of Action on World Food Security proposed by the Director-General.

Now we would like to express our view on the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security:

One, as world food production has increased continuously in the past few years, the food security situation has improved to a certain extent. Numerous Third World countries have made considerable efforts towards food security. Many developing countries have formulated grain reserve policies and directives, while some of them have established and constantly replenished their grain stocks by overcoming various obstacles. This is especially inspiring, because they have made such contributions towards food security under very difficult conditions. The international aid some of them have received in setting up their grain reserves has undoubtedly helped with food security.

As China is a developing Socialist country with a big population, to feed the population is of the first importance for us. Therefore, to store grain against natural disasters is one of the basic policies for our economic construction.

For many years, in food production and consumption, the Government has followed the policy of increasing production and practising frugality, and their sustained efforts have established a three-tier system of stock-piling at the state, the collective and the individual commune members levels.

Two we note that the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security also dwells on the problems concerning food security. Analysing the current situation, the Director-General put forward a Five Point Plan of Action on World Food Security which was adopted at the session. The Plan of Action proposes, *inter alia*, that new arrangements be made to increase and coordinate international assistance to developing countries for food security and stockpiling, that special measures be effected to help our food deficit countries to meet their current requirement, and emergency needs, and that steps be taken to promote the collective self-reliance of developing countries. All these matters are most important to the terms of world food security. We shall continue to support related countries in holding international consultation on World Food Security to seek equitable and rational solutions to existing problems.

As for our views on establishing food reserves and on subscribing to the international undertaking on World Food Security, we have already made them clear on a number of occasions. These are settling down well and I hope will meet with the understanding of most developing countries and other friendly nations.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate of China for his admirable statement. We are particularly grateful to him for his support for the Plan, as we are for the support of a great number of developing countries.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): The Hungarian delegation attaches great importance to the FAO Plan of Action on World Food Security and it is fully supporting the Draft Resolution included in para. 39 of the document CL 75/10 1/.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): That has brought us to the end of this discussion on this document. We have had our troubled moments but despite certain reservations or opposition's requirements that might be produced, this has been a constructive debate aimed at the welfare and prosperity of our peoples. I believe I am right in saying that those who have expressed reservations will respond and they will provide all the possible aid for peoples who are crying out and suffering from hunger.

As I said earlier, we have gone through the list of speakers on this item and on document CL 75/10. The approval or adoption of this Plan which we are asked to carry out will be done by an overwhelming majority, because an overwhelming majority of members give their approval to this Five Point Plan of Action and to the terms of the draft resolution.

We all realize perfectly well that Canada and the Member countries of the EEC - and I would add as was mentioned by Bangladesh that the four countries of the EEC are attending this Council - have really expressed reservations. I cannot include the other members of the EEC, because they are not here and we have not heard them.

I was saying "an overwhelming majority" - and I trust this will be accurately translated - an overwhelming majority has given approval for the Plan of Action and the draft resolution. In the report it will be pointed out that there has been unanimous support by Council for the Plan of Action. We will say "The Plan of Action was adopted by Council". That is what we are going to say. I was referring to the list of speakers, but in the report it will be clearly pointed out that the Council adopted the Plan of Action and the draft resolution - that is how it will figure in the report.

I repeat - in the report it will be said that the Council at such and such a meeting on such and such a date debated the Plan of Action and the draft resolution. (Applause).

This will, of course, all be stressed in the report and also in the verbatim report. It will all be reflected. The verbatim report will include the names of the countries, showing who will discuss this document again during the meeting of the General Conference. I am sure we all agree that that is their right. Of course, all this will be mentioned in the verbatim report and it will be perfectly clear, and I am sure Mr. Haque of Bangladesh will not be upset.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, usted ha comprendido inmediatamente que el movimiento de esta ala de la platea era modificar su apreciación sobre el resultado de nuestro debate. Efectivamente, la única observación que tengo que formular es que este Consejo aprueba el informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria por consenso, no por unanimidad. Unanimidad es una palabra que no debe utilizarse necesariamente en la función del Consejo. El Consejo ha aprobado tal cosa, pero no por unanimidad.

Lo que también deseo que quede constancia, y en eso me dirijo a mi amigo el representante de Pakistán, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, para que quede debidamente constancia en el informe sobre las observaciones de algunos países que formularon al plan de acción.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate for Argentina. I am not an expert in drafting, I am afraid. We have a Drafting Committee, and the Drafting Committee will draft the text for this matter. The Committee has its Chairman, unanimously elected, and it is his duty to fulfil this task which you can be sure he will fulfil both satisfactorily and perfectly.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I believe you have answered the question and I simply want to state my understanding of your statement - namely, that it would be indicated in the report that there were some countries who did have reservations, and who wished to discuss this matter further at the Conference.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Yes indeed, that will be done.

G. de BAKKER (Observer for the Netherlands): As an observer, and also as a member of the Community, I would like to ask you a question about what I think is quite vital for our position, that is, what is the legal position of countries who are not members of the Council at present? Have they also taken part in the consensus?

If not, does the Council, with its 45 or however many members there are, take this decision on behalf of the Conference? Have they the right to act in this on behalf of the Conference, because if that is the case they are included. If that is not the case, then I feel in a difficult position to make it clear that there is not a new misunderstanding arising at ten minutes past six.

We can fully go along with this consensus, but this is not the point, the question is what is the position of a member state in the decision taken in consensus - is that consensus expressing the wish of the 140 member states or only the consensus of the 45 states?

I would like to get some clarification about the legal position.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the delegate of the Netherlands. I am expressing a personal view but I think the legal position is that it would be possible for the Council to adopt the decision in the general Conference. The decision will be one of the Council which involves the members here sitting in Council. I may be wrong, of course, and I therefore give the floor to the Director-General who will give you further information.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to answer to the delegate of the Netherlands and remind him very kindly that he was heading his delegation during the meeting of the Committee on Food Security. He had with him the four people, he has adopted this Plan of Action, and he has adopted this resolution. I am afraid that today we are playing with words and we do not know where we stand anymore !

I have asked the representative of France whether he would accept a report saying that the Council has "adopted" and he said "No". However, when, a few minute later, it was stated by the delegate of Argentina that the Council had "adopted" the Plan of Action, the delegate of France did not object.

Being only an observer, the delegate of the Netherlands should not worry about the wording of the report. If observers disagree they should not be concerned, as this matter will go to the Conference anyway. But the situation is very ambiguous now, since it appears that some members are now challenging the fact that the Committee adopted this Plan in April; however, it is written here.

We, in the Secretariat, would like to know where we stand.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Director-General. He has clarified the position.

G. de BAKKER (Observer for the Netherlands): I was afraid that there was going to be a misunderstanding and it is very clear that it has arisen. It is not that we cannot agree or that our delegation during the Committee on Food Security could not agree: we could fully agree and we agree today. My only point is what is the legal position of a country which is not a member of the Council insofar as a decision on the adoption of this resolution in a consensus of this Council is concerned, is it a decision that binds the Conference? Because the text here in the resolution says that the Council adopts and the Director-General is going to report on action; it does not say that it is referred again to the Conference for adoption; that is not in the resolution. If it is again referred to the Conference for adoption - which I do not find in the text of the resolution - then I am fully satisfied legally. But my point is only a legal one and if you feel that it is going on too late and that perhaps we need the Legal Counsel to explain it, let us come back to it tomorrow morning. I am willing to be quiet now, but let us not have any misunderstanding that we are against this point.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I think that we have on more than one occasion made it clear that this document will be referred to the Conference; the Plan of Action will be presented at the level of the Conference and also the World Food Council. We have repeated this on countless occasions.

A.M. FASLA (Algérie): Je crois que nous nous éternisons sur des questions de détail. Notre collègue des Pays-Bas a le droit de poser une question qui est pertinente. Il a demandé des explications, il fallait les lui donner. Je ne crois pas qu'il soit utile d'entrer dans une polémique à cette heure-ci.

Notre collègue a raison de demander si la résolution doit être le libellé du Comité qui l'a rédigé au nom du Conseil. Puisque nous faisons nôtre la résolution du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, nous devons donc changer partout le terme "Comité de la sécurité alimentaire" par le terme "le Conseil" et nous devons recommander à la Conférence d'adopter la résolution. C'est la pratique des Nations Unies. Si le Conseiller juridique nous avait donné cette explication, notre collègue des Pays-Bas n'aurait pas posé cette question.

En ce qui concerne la participation d'un membre observateur du Conseil, un membre observateur peut prendre la parole mais n'a pas le droit de participer à la décision.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Yes, this is perfectly clear and I think that the Observer for the Netherlands has now been convinced of this.

G.S. MAGOMBE (Tanzania): I believe the delegate of Algeria has been reading my mind. We have two points here. The first point concerns Observers. I had the pleasure and privilege of being an Observer before being elected a Member of the Council, and during that time I never did open my mouth. That does not mean that I did not have some ideas but I left the Council to do its duty. I think we have a basic document; the mandate of the Council is known and also who is making the decisions. I am saying this because I was a very faithful Observer: I was listening, I was observing, as an Observer should. I took notes and ideas and then at the Conference, that is when I opened my mouth. I therefore think it is the Council which makes a decision and much as we tolerate Observers, I think they should allow us to make our decisions.

My second point concerns the Committee on World Food Security. I do not wish to reopen the substance of the matter. I thought we had discussed it in the Food Security Committee. We all endorsed the Plan of Action and our role - since the Food Security Committee has to report to us and we report to the Conference - I believe you have summarized it correctly, Mr, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): I had the honour of representing my country in this Organization for the last year and a half and during that short period of time I have come to learn and to know the various rules and regulations of the Organization. I was therefore surprised by such a question coming up and I am wondering why it has been put to us. As you have said, Mr. Ambassador, and as has also been said by the delegate of Algeria, and as we have said on quite a number of occasions, the report of the Council will be referred to the Conference. At the same time, I should like to recall that we have also attended this Council as an Observer. There are others among you who have also been on Observer status and in some of the sessions of the Council we were not allowed to take the floor as Observers. This proves clearly that the Council with its full members takes the decisions and then submits its report to the Conference. The report is drawn up by the Drafting Committee and its Chairman,

Everyone will agree after these clarifications that no further doubts can arise. Can we then adjourn our meeting and the Drafting Committee will take up its responsibilities and it will reflect the views expressed here. We can thus conclude that the Council has adopted this document and has adopted the Plan of Action before us.

The meeting rose at 18.25 hours

La seance est levée à 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 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 75/PV/5

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1979)

The Fifth Plenary meeting was opened at 09.45 hours J.J. Leido, First Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de J. J. Leido, Premier Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9,45 horas bajo la presidencia de J. J. Leído, Primer Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

10. Preparations for the 20th Session of the FAO Conference;

10. Préparation de la 20ème session de la Conférence de la FAO:

10. Preparativos del 20º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO:

10.3 Date for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council

10.3 Délai de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil

10.3 Fecha para la presentación de candidaturas para Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The Fifth Plenary meeting of the 75th session of the Council is hereby called to order. Due to unforeseen urgent commitments of the Chairman, I have the honour of chairing the Plenary meeting.

Delegates of the Council, it has been conveyed to the Chair by the Secretariat that a number of delegates have expressed sentiments about possibly moving or disposing at an earlier time of a certain item on the Agenda nominated as Item 10.3 originally scheduled for 20 June. This item particularly refers to the date for nomination of the Independent Chairman of the Council, document CL 75/12.

It is therefore requested by the Chair that unless there be vehement objections to considering this item at this Plenary meeting, we will proceed discussing this item.

The Chair seeing no objection, may we now come to the consideration of Item 10.3.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia no tiene objeciones a que se discuta ahora este punto, pero solo, al menos por curiosidad, nos gustaría saber las razones que justifican esta propuesta.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les raisons qui nous ont été données sont très simples: il s'agissait de permettre à certaines délégations de se consulter et, éventuellement, arrêter leur position à l'égard de ce problème.

Au demeurant, comme vous l'avez indiqué, il s'agit, ni plus ni moins, que de fixer les dates auxquelles les candidatures doivent être reçues, à la date limite de notification desdites propositions au Secrétariat général de la Conférence.

Il est tout simplement question de fixer les dates, à moins que le Conseil ait d'autres alternatives à examiner.

Je répète donc que la raison est simple: certaines délégations souhaiteraient commencer dès maintenant à se consulter mutuellement.

CHAIRMAN: We trust that Colombia was duly satisfied with the explanation of the Secretary-General. It seems I received no obvious disagreement. May we again consider that the Council is ready to take the matter up? Therefore, in brief, I feel that what is up for discussion by the Council is the proposal mentioned in paragraph 2 of CL 75/12, that "Having regard to past practice in this matter, it is proposed for the Council's consideration that Friday 7 September 1979 at 17.00 hours be set as the closing date for submission of nominations, and that Friday 14 September 1979 be set as the date by which such nominations will be circulated by the Secretary -General". Other paragraphs in said document refer to certain rules of the Organization and the Council.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como dije antes, la delegación de Colombia no tiene objeción a que se discuta ahora este tema; sólo queremos dejar constancia de que no es procedente, sobre todo para el futuro, que al iniciar una sesión del Consejo se nos distribuya por la mañana un Orden del Día y luego

cuando ya entramos a esta sala se coloque sobre nuestras mesas un documento que, aunque sea simple, debemos discutir inmediatamente. Creo que esto no ha sucedido en el pasado y sería funesto que continuara sucediendo en el futuro.

CHAIRMAN: We take due note of the comments of Colombia, but the Chair has informed the Secretariat and would like to re-state that the documents actually being considered have been previously circulated, and considering the consent of the Council, still, we do take note of the reservations or the objections of Colombia.

With regard to the proposal contained in CL 75/12, do we have any objections or any reservations to the recommendations herein contained? There being none, therefore, the recommendations therein contained in CL 75/12 are approved by the Council.

We now come to Item 8 on the World Food Programme, 8.1, the Fourth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, documents CL 75/7, CL 75/7-Corr.1, CL 75/4, paragraphs 3.115 to 3.121.

8. World Food Programme:

8. Programme alimentaire mondial:

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:

8.1 Fourth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

8.1 Quatrième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide

8.1 Cuarto informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria

May we now call on the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr Vogel, to introduce the report.

G. N. VOGEL (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Members of Council, it is a pleasure for me to be present here with you again today. This, as you understand, is not my report nor is it the report of the World Food Programme. It is the Fourth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which I have the honour to present on behalf of the Committee. It covers the period from April 1978 to May 1979. In so doing, it also covered, therefore, the Sixth and Seventh Sessions of the Committee, and it also covered an extremely busy year for the Committee as well as the Programme.

During that period, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Gamo-Kuba of the Congo, finished his term as Chairman, and the Committee elected Mr. Griffin of Ireland for 1979. I must pay tribute to Mr. Gamo-Kuba and say how much we appreciated his work and how fortunate we were to find someone as capable and experienced as Mr. Griffin to replace him.

During the same period there was also the retirement of Mr. Ustün as Deputy Executive Director of the Programme and his replacement by one of your former colleagues, Mr. Brito of Brazil. Mr. Brito unfortunately is away on travel and could not meet with the Council this time.

Mr. Chairman, I do not want to take a great deal of your time, but I would just like to point out some of the highlights of this Fourth Annual Report which goes to you, to ECOSOC and to the World Food Council.

First of all, paragraph 3, the Pledges to the Programme, the Resources of the Programme, you will note that at the time the report was prepared, pledges for the current biennium 1979-1980 have reached about 738 million. You can look at that in two ways, Mr. Chairman; you can say that it is 28 million more than what we effectively achieved in the entire biennium. That is the optimistic way to look at it. A more realistic way to look at it, however, I think, is to look at the shortfall between 738 million and the target of 950 million, leaving a great gap which has yet to be filled in the remaining 18 months or so of the biennium.

I am disturbed by this. We are doing our utmost to achieve the target, but I must point out to you that at the moment we have achieved only 78 per cent of it.

As I stated in my opening statement to the Seventh Session of the CFA, I am keenly aware of projects that cannot be undertaken unless we get the resources. As I have already said to this Council before, getting resources means not only additional pledges, additional commitment by donor countries, it also means a willingness on the part of donor countries to allocate a higher percentage of their food aid

into the multilateral channels, particularly the World Food Programme, instead of bilateral. That percentage has been slipping. It was as high as 17 per cent; now it is down to about 14 per cent. This I find particularly frustrating because of the number of resolutions that are passed in so many different fora exactly to the contrary but when it comes to realizing results, as I said to the CFA, there seems to be less enthusiasm.

On the subject of resources I would also like to draw the attention of Council to a special problem in this respect and that is the cash position. I have said this to you before, that as the programme has increased - and it has increased considerably - the increase has taken place largely in commodities, and the amount of cash has not kept up. At the moment I cannot and do not say we are short of cash, but I must draw this to your attention, that this is a situation that will worsen unless it is corrected. It cannot go on indefinitely, obviously, and in this connexion I would draw the attention of the Council to the report of the Finance Committee, which is document CL 75/4 in paragraph 3.119, where you will find reference to this problem which was noted by the Finance Committee with concern, and this Council may wish to include it in its report.

The Fourth Annual Report then goes on to deal with other matters. Still under resources, there is the Food Aid Convention. Yesterday there was a considerable debate on what happens under the International Food Grains Convention and the International Food Aid Committee, and that of course has an effect on us. You will see in paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 the substantial additional quantities of resources that the Programme has received from the Food Aid Convention over the years. For the moment for the credit year 1979-1980 we have a firm commitment to the Programme of 70 000 tonnes and potentially expected commitments of perhaps another 200 000 tonnes which I hope may be achieved, but it is, as you understand, a rather hard thing to predict in view of the status of the international negotiations.

You will not note also in the Fourth Annual Report the emergency operations carried out by the Programme and the relevance of the International Emergency Food Reserve to that. As you know, it is intended that the international food reserves should be 500 000 tonnes and replenished to that level. We have never yet achieved that level in a year, as you know.

At the present time the totals contributed to the IEFER, both bilateral and multilateral, is a total of 306 000 tonnes, of which about 50 000 tonnes has already been used. The World Food Programme used about 31 000 of that 50 000, so that there is a quantity unutilized in the IEFER at the moment of 256 000 tonnes for use multilaterally or bilaterally.

In development projects the programme has made good progress. By the close of the Seventh Session a month ago we had 225 operational projects. The committee approved 70 new projects during the year under review, representing commitments of 506 million. The trend in the concentration of our resources in the LDC and the MSA countries has continued. In the total of WFP commitments, 76 percent went to those countries in 1978 compared with 66 percent in 1977. In fact, about 90 percent of the projects approved at the last session of the CFA were to those priority countries, but I did warn the Committee that this was mere coincidence and this would not be maintained for the year, it was unusually high, but it does show our desire to do as much as possible in the priority countries.

To go to policy papers now, which the CFA discussed at its last session. One is the Guidelines and Criteria for Food Aid referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report. You will be happy to hear that the Committee unanimously agreed on a set of Guidelines and Criteria. The squared brackets have been removed and you will find as Annex I to the Report those Guidelines and Criteria, and I appreciate very much the speedy action and cooperation of the Programme of the Committee in finalizing that.

Another policy paper was a general review of food aid policies and programmes which we do annually. I will not take your time on that, but you will find the highlights set out fully in paragraph 13 of the report. You will note also that in response to requests made to the CFA by the United Nations Committee of the Whole and the Committee on World Food Security the Committee agreed to include the following items on its agenda for the 8th session in October: food aid requirements and food aid targets in the 1980s and the role of food aid in strengthening food security in developing countries.

Finally there is the very important matter of the pledging target for 1981-1982. The complete section of the Report of the Seventh Session of the CFA dealing with the subject is quoted in paragraph 17 of the Annual Report before you. You will see that I have proposed a pledging target of 1000 million dollars to the CFA with the concurrence and endorsement of the United Nations and the Director-General of the FAO. There were discussions on this target during the Seventh Session, during which a wide

range of views was expressed. In the spirit of cooperation, however, the Committee eventually decided to recommend the proposed target of 1000 million dollars for this present biennium to this Council

session for approval on the understanding that - and here I quote from the Report - "Such a target should be seen as a minimum and that if major increases in the cost of commodities and transportation of food aid requirements occurred before or during the biennium 1981-1982, donors would make every effort to provide additional contributions to ensure the target is appropriately surpassed in order to maintain a reasonable and real growth rate in the deliveries of WFP."

The Committee urged that once finally endorsed, all countries should endeavour to ensure it is fully met. In proposing the target, the Committee recommended it did not preclude the possibility of exercising its right to review the target again. With these considerations in mind, the CFA has asked you to adopt the draft resolution set out in Annex II of the report before you. You will see that in a sense it is a double resolution. It is a resolution of this Council as it will be a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, which includes a draft resolution for the FAO Conference, or appropriately for the United Nations General Assembly.

You will note that the wording of the resolution incorporates the concern expressed by the CFA.

That is all I can say that will be of help. I draw to your attention the fact that before the conclusion of this debate it is necessary for you to adopt the resolution, to note the report before you and any comments you may wish to make on it which will appear in the Report, and, also, if I may say so again, the reference which I have made to the Report of the Finance Committee which might also be appropriately included in the Council's report under this item.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Vogel. The Council commends the clarity with which the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was submitted to the Council. As suggested by Mr. Vogel there are a few items that may require action by Council, but in the meantime we see the delegate of Argentina would like to make an intervention.

C. O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): En primer lugar, séame permitido agradecer al Dr. Vogel la excelente introducción que ha hecho al documento que se presenta a la consideración del Consejo y que revela, a nuestro juicio, exactamente lo sucedido en el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria. No obstante, me parece oportuno señalar alguno de los puntos que mi delegación formulo en ocasión de discutirse el temario de este Comité.

En primer lugar, deseamos destacar los resultados brillantes obtenidos durante la gestión del Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, Dr. Vogel, que se revela en una buena situación de recursos y actividades de proyectos. En ese sentido, el párrafo 4 del documento CL 75/7 es una prueba con-cluyente de la intensa y fecunda agilidad efectuada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos. No obstante que mi delegación reconoce la prioridad que se otorga a los proyectos de países más gravemente afectados y menos desarrollados, nosotros entendemos la necesidad de que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos se concentre también en programas de desarrollo del resto de los países, y que tenga recursos adecuados a su disposición para proyectos que no involucren simplemente situaciones de extrema urgencia o de extrema emergencia.

En este sentido, me complace haber escuchado al Dr. Vogel que si bien el 90% de los proyectos de 1978 han sido destinados a los países más gravemente afectados esto se trata solamente de una situación coyuntural especial, pero que en el futuro se evolucionará.

Quiero expresar el apoyo de mi delegación a los criterios de compras de productos por parte del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en países en desarrollo que me parece es una política sana que ha sido recomendada en diversas oportunidades en nuestro Comité y en otros foros de la FAO. Por lo tanto, nos complace utilizar esta oportunidad para exhortar al Sr. Director del Programa Mundial de Alimentos a continuar esta política y, si es posible, incrementarla.

También hemos señalado la importancia que mi delegación atribuye a la utilización de buques de países en vías de desarrollo para envío de productos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Esta es una tendencia también que hay que alentar y que es de extremo beneficio para los países que tienen las posibilidades de competir, no siempre en condiciones iguales, con países industrializados con flotas organizadas, aun con un criterio comercial más eficiente.

Con el objeto de conservar la necesaria coordinación de las actividades de asistencia y evitar duplicación de esfuerzos, la delegación argentina entiende que no deben considerarse temas en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos como la seguridad alimentaria sino exclusivamente para los fines que han sido señalados por el Comité Plenario; efectivamente sólo para informar al Comité Plenario, el problema de la seguridad alimentaria está considerado en el Acuerdo Internacional de Cereales, que es un foro adecuado para ello, y en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria cuyo informe hemos tratado en el día de ayer exhaustivamente.

Nosotros apoyamos sin reservas la discrecionalidad otorgada por el Director Ejecutivo, Dr. Vogel, de dar flexibilidad al nivel de compromisos entre 150 millones de dolares; es una discrecionalidad que es necesario otorgarle para manejar con eficiencia y racionalidad el PMA. Esperamos una mayor participación de América Latina en los programas, que ha sido muy reducida en ocasión del último ejercicio, si bien la Secretaría nos ha otorgado explicaciones satisfactorias. Creemos que debe expresarse particular atención en mantener un adecuado equilibrio geográfico en la adjudicación de proyectos. Queremos destacar la necesidad de una utilización más eficiente y racional de los recursos a través de un control de la adjudicación no excesiva de productos. Esa es una cuestión que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos está activamente considerando y estamos seguros de que efectuará los mayores esfuerzos para no desperdiciar oportunidades ni recursos que pueden ser empleados con mayor eficacia en otra parte.

Por último, apoyamos plenamente los objetivos propuestos por el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. En el párrafo 17 debemos formular la observación de que en el texto español del documento 7/20, en el apóstrofe final del párrafo 27, hay un error, al decir: "Esto no incluye la posibilidad..." El texto correcto sería: "Esto no excluye la posibilidad...". De modo que habría que corregir el texto español, en la página 6 del documento 7/20, párrafo 17.

Por último, una vez más deseo agradecer al Dr. Vogel la presentación de este informe que revela exactamente la naturaleza, función e importancia de las tareas realizadas por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

K. CHOUERI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Ma délégation a écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt M. Vogel, Directeur exécutif du PAM. Nous le remercions de cette introduction.

Nous avons également lu le rapport annuel présenté au Conseil par le CPA, et sur lequel nous avons quelques remarques à faire.

Si l'on examine les activités du Programme, on constate qu'au cours de l'année écoulée il y a eu 59 opérations d'urgence, 28 opérations de secours d'urgence aux réfugiés, 19 opérations pour l'aide aux victimes de calamités naturelles et 12 opérations d'urgence pour la fourniture d'une aide aux victimes de sécheresse et de mauvaises récoltes.

Si l'on parcourt les rapports sur le Programme depuis 1974, on constate que ce Programme, depuis cette époque, a consacré de 75 à 85 pour cent du total de l'aide alimentaire aux pays gravement atteints.

On sait que l'aide alimentaire est importante bien sur, mais si l'on veut assurer une sécurité alimentaire, souvent précaire, dans les pays en développement, cette sécurité manifeste son importance surtout dans les cas d'urgence. On comprend donc que l'aide alimentaire qu'il faudrait accorder dépasse souvent les ressources disponibles. Si l'on veut que le Programme réponde aux besoins, il faudra voir quel est le volume de ressources disponibles.

Ici, je peux vous renvoyer aux promesses faites pour 1979-80, et l'on constate que ces promesses ne vont certainement pas au-delà de l'objectif. Espérons que des propositions nouvelles soient faites pour combler ce retard. En effet, certains signes avant-coureurs nous laissent entendre qu'on aura besoin d'une aide d'urgence plus importante encore, car dans beaucoup de pays en développement la situation a empiré.

Je voudrais reprendre l'appel adressé par M. Vogel au mois de mai dernier. Il a dit que le Programme ne peut accorder une aide continue que si l'on atteint l'objectif prévu pour 1979-80. Mais il a ajouté que cet objectif n'a pas été atteint.

Il y a bien sûr des résolutions sur ce point. C'est une idée que l'on répète continuellement, mais on a l'impression que lorsqu'il s'agit de passer à la pratique, les enthousiasmes se refroidissent. Il y a là un creux à combler. En attendant d'adopter les directives et les critères de l'aide alimentaire, en attendant que l'on puisse faire face aux besoins en produisant davantage dans les pays en développement, il faudra recourir à cette aide alimentaire dans les cas d'urgence pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition, également pour hâter le développement social et économique, et pour atteindre enfin la sécurité alimentaire.

A propos de sécurité alimentaire, il faut répéter ce que le Directeur général nous a dit dans ses remarques d'ouverture, ce renforcement de sécurité alimentaire est un des grands objectifs du PAM. Pour atteindre cet objectif, il faut que la collectivité internationale en prenne conscience.

J'ajouterai que ce Programme est un des plus beaux fleurons des Nations Unies. Plusieurs opérations ont été menées avec succès, en particulier dans mon pays lorsque nous passions un moment difficile. Les responsables du Programme ont su montrer qu'ils ont le sens de l'initiative et nous tenons à remercier le Programme en apportant une contribution, si modeste qu'elle soit, qui a doublé quatre fois consécutives depuis la dernière période biennale.

La délégation du Liban approuve la recommandation proposée par le CPA au Conseil contenue dans le document qui porte sur les objectifs 1981-82. Il nous paraît que ces objectifs sont raisonnables. Espérons que les promesses qui ont été annoncées par le PAM seront à la hauteur de la situation. En 1980 se réunira la Conférence. Espérons que l'on arrive au chiffre fixé parce que nous aurions alors la garantie que le Programme pourrait garder toute son efficacité.

Avant de conclure mon intervention, je voudrais féliciter M. Brito. Nous le connaissons, nous savons à quel point il a été un représentant actif du Brésil lors des réunions de la FAO. Ma délégation lui souhaite le plus grand succès dans ses activités.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, queremos sumarnos con suma complacencia al merecido reconocimiento que ha hecho el Director Ejecutivo del PMA sobre la excelente labor realizada por nuestro colega y amigo, Gama Kuba, en la Presidencia del CPA. El Sr. Gama Kuba, representante del Congo ante la FAO, es un funcionario activo, dinámico, inteligente y capaz.

Nos honra, como representantes de países en desarrollo, que una figura tan destacada del Tercer Mundo haya ofrecido este importante servicio a la comunidad internacional. Igualmente nos complace la vinculación al PMA del Sr. Brito, del Brasil. Se reforzará así la insuficiente representación latinoamericana en el Programa. Hemos sido sinceros y convencidos admiradores de las altas elucubraciones filosóficas e intelectuales de que suele hacer gala el Sr. Brito, y esperamos que él convertirá todo ello en actitudes constructivas en favor de la mejor marcha del PMA.

La delegación de Colombia ha estudiado con atención este Cuarto Informe del CPA, que abarca el período de abril de 1978 a mayo de 1979. Nos complace que el PMA continúe con buen éxito sus labores, y así lo confirma el párrafo 4 que se refiere al número de proyectos terminados, a los 70 nuevos proyectos, y a los 225 en curso de ejecución.

Los párrafos 6, 7 y 8 del documento confirman la confianza de que goza el PMA en la Comunidad Internacional. En efecto, además de administrar sus propios recursos de urgencia ha prestado servicios para

la aplicación de donaciones y alimentos procedentes de otras Organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas

y donantes bilaterales, así como ha canalizado otras contribuciones en virtud del Convenio de Ayuda Alimentaria de 1977. Esa confianza que se ha ganado el PMA ha sido ratificada recientemente al alto nivel del Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas, que ha instado a que se sigan canalizando esas ayudas a través del Programa.

En el párrafo (f), del punto 13, creemos que el Consejo debería expresar en su Informe el apoyo a la tendencia de que la ayuda alimentaria se utilice cada vez más en apoyo de proyectos de fomento de la producción agrícola y el mayor empleo en el campo.

En el párrafo 14, como ya lo dijo el Director Ejecutivo, nos parece muy bien que el CPA haya acogido la sugerencia del Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas y que en su 8º período de sesiones, haya incluido en su programa los dos puntos instados en ese párrafo, que tienen relación muy directa con la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que el Consejo debe compartir las preocupaciones expresadas por el CPA en el párrafo 17 sobre el hecho de que todavía no se haya alcanzado el objetivo de 950 millones de dólares para el período 79-80. Como de costumbre haremos un llamado en este sentido.

En el párrafo 27, seguimos la tendencia manifestada sobre los objetivos mínimos para 1981-82. El gobierno de Colombia habría preferido la cifra de 1 200 millones de dólares. Sin embargo, y sobre todo ante el hecho de que la decisión del CPA no excluye la posibilidad de que se revise ese objetivo, tal como se dice en la nota a pie del párrafo 28, por el momento apoyamos el proyecto de Resolución que aparece en el Anexo 2.

Sobre el Anexo 1, en relación con las Orientaciones y Criterios para la Ayuda Alimentaria, creemos que se hizo un buen trabajo y estamos de acuerdo en que la única solución a largo plazo para suplir la escasez de alimentos, es el aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo. Ese es el meollo, el crecimiento de la producción en los países en desarrollo. El consenso general que ahora se dice que goza nuestra Organización entre los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros, el prestigio internacional

de que se nos ha hablado, los recursos, las experiencias y los conocimientos de la FAO, todo ello debe ser canalizado hacia el objetivo básico y fundamental de dotar a los países en desarrollo de bases sólidas y estables sobre las cuales se pueda asegurar un crecimiento permanente y continuo en la producción.

Esas serían realizaciones concretas, positivas, tangibles y realistas, lejos de utopías, demagogias y de idealismos excesivos.

En el Anexo 1, la delegación de Colombia apoya con decisión el apartado (a), y esperamos que se dé cuenta en nuestro informe sobre la necesidad de que la ayuda alimentaria se conceda en forma compatible con los objetivos de los países beneficiarios.

Apoyamos el apartado (d), del Anexo 1, acerca de que los países donantes deben dar prioridad a países de ingresos bajos y deficitarios de alimentos y ha de prestarse también ayuda alimentaria a otros países en desarrollo, para apoyar proyectos que beneficien a los sectores más pobres de la población.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la declaración que hizo nuestro colega de Argentina sobre la necesidad de que se mantenga un adecuado equilibrio geográfico en la distribución de los proyectos.

Aprovechamos esta ocasión para expresar nuestro apoyo decidido al CPA y esperamos seguir contando con su asistencia y valioso apoyo.

L.V. BORGES DA FONSECA (Brazil): I would like first of all to express my appreciation for the precise manner in which Mr. Vogel presented the document we have before us.

The intervention of my delegation on this item of the agenda will be a very brief one, especially because it will only reflect the position already adopted by my country in the discussions during the Seventh Session of the Committee on Food Aid and during which we approved the Report of that Committee which is now presented for our consideration.

First of all my delegation would like to endorse once more the proposed target of \$1 000 million for voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme for the biennium 1981/82. Although, as the Brazilian delegation has already stated during the last session of the Committee on Food Aid, that sum may not be the most appropriate for the satisfaction of the needs of developing countries in the matter of food aid, my delegation trusts that the Directors of the Programme will know how to make the best use of it in the interests of developing countries as a whole. Accordingly, my delegation strongly supports the recommendation for approval of the draft resolution in Annex 2 of the document CL 75/7.

Beyond that my delegation would also like to avail itself of this opportunity to express the gratitude of my Government to the World Food Programme for the approval of the emergency food aid recently accorded to flood victims in Brazil.

I could not end my brief statement without expressing my country's wishes that the target of \$950 million for the biennium 1979/80 be quickly reached by commitments from traditional donors.

Finally, I would like once more to support warmly the recommendations for approval of the draft resolution on next biennium's target.

P. HALIMI (France): Il m'est particulièrement agréable d'intervenir sur ce point de l'ordre du jour et ceci pour deux raisons d'importance inégale. La première est que j'ai suivi pendant de nombreuses années les activités du Programme alimentaire mondial et que j'ai pu apprécier la qualité, la compétence, l'efficacité et le dévouement des fonctionnaires du Programme qui, sous l'autorité de M. Vogel, font face aux nombreux problèmes auxquels ils sont confrontés.

Je me réjouis, à cet égard, de voir M. Brito, actif délégué du Brésil, rejoindre les cadres du PAM.

La seconde, c'est que j'ai eu la semaine dernière la possibilité de me rendre sur le terrain et de présenter aux élèves de l'Ecole nationale d'administration de Tunis, à qui je prodigue un enseignement, un excellent projet de développement du PAM en Tunisie et que j'ai pu constater combien l'aide du PAM est appréciée par les agriculteurs des régions défavorisées. J'en viens au document soumis à notre examen. Les documents préparés par le Secrétariat du Programme sont toujours clairs, concrets et sincères, et ils permettent un débat franc, ouvert et constructif. Pour ce qui concerne le débat qui se

déroule au cours des réunions du CPA, du PAM, j'ajoute que les Présidents du CPA que j'ai connus, qu'il s'agisse de M. Sheffrin, de M. Gamo-Kuba ou de M. Griffin (dont j'ai appréciée toutes les qualités en tant que délégué de l'Irlande), ont su maintenir aux débats un caractère sérieux, sans passion et ont déployé avec talent tous leurs efforts pour parvenir au consensus souhaité de part et d'autre.

C'est pourquoi la délégation française se réjouit de l'accord intervenu, du consensus enregistré au CPA sur le texte des recommandations et critères de l'aide alimentaire. Il s'agit là d'un résultat important pour les pays en développement et dont nous nous félicitons. Nous appuyons la proposition du Directeur exécutif de porter à un milliard de dollars l'objectif des contributions pour le prochain biennium et nous souhaitons que, grâce à l'effort de tous, donateurs traditionnels et nouveaux donateurs, l'objectif de l'actuel biennium sera atteint.

J'en viens à l'aide d'urgence. La position constante de la délégation française est de relever le montant du pourcentage de l'aide d'urgence pour tenir compte de l'accroissement des besoins en la matière. Pour ce qui concerne l'aide apportée aux réfugiés par le canal du Haut Commissariat pour les réfugiés, nous sommes d'accord pour que la durée de cette aide soit supérieure à six mois si nécessaire.

Ces points seront revus par le prochain CPA et nous ne pouvons que souhaiter qu'une attention suffisante sera accordée à cette forme d'aide, rendue nécessaire par la situation difficile constatée dans de nombreuses régions.

D. WARE (Canada): Canada has always strongly supported the work of the World Food Programme channelling up to 45 percent of our food aid through this agency and being the second largest donor to it over the different past years. We believe that the World Food Programme is an effective means of utilizing food aid, not only for development purposes but also as a way of meeting emergency needs. We have found the sessions of the CFA to be marked by a great spirit of cooperation on the part of all and this has been noted by other delegates.

We strongly support the \$1 000 million target for 1981/82 but as the Executive Director has noted in the final analysis of course, it is the level of pledges which are the most important factor and we trust that the current level of 78 percent so far achieved for the 1979/80 target will be exceeded during the next few months.

The Canadian delegation supports the draft resolution as outlined in Annex 2 of this document on the WFP CFA/7/20 and we fully accept the guidelines which were outlined in Annex 1.

I should also note that as a member of the Finance Committee we would also support the suggestion that paragraph 3.119 relating to cash resources of the World Food Programme be duly noted by the Council.

Finally, we wish to congratulate Mr. Vogel and his staff for the effective and efficient manner in which they carry out their most heavy duties.

K.F. KENEALLY (Australia): There are three major aspects of the report of the CFA to this Council which we feel are worthy of comment.

My delegation is very satisfied to note, firstly, the successful conclusion of a set of Guidelines and Criteria for Food Aid. Australia participated actively in the evolution of this standard framework approach to food aid practices over several sessions of the CFA; we draw satisfaction from the knowledge that these were agreed in the CFA by consensus; and we feel they will serve the international community well as a comprehensive set of principles guiding all the major elements of the food aid scene. My government will be happy to report progressively on its implementation of these criteria.

Next, Mr. Chairman, the agreed points flowing out of the Fourth General Review of Food Aid Policies and Programmes have our full endorsement. We will relate our food aid policies and practices as far as possible towards the agreed conclusions of the review although we feel that as traditional suppliers to the WFP we already enjoy a high correlation with the objectives spelled out in that review.

Finally, but of the greatest importance, we are happy to reaffirm our association with the WFP Pledging Target for the biennium 1981-82 of \$1 000 million. This level of food aid surely is a significant milestone. We commend the adoption by the FAO Council of the CFA's draft resolution on the Pledging Target.

As regards the cash contribution position of the Pledging Programme we think the inclusion of the thoughts in paragraph 3.119 of the Finance Committee's report, as suggested by the Executive Director, would be a useful reminder to countries not contributing by way of food, services or non-food items but who could, and we would like to see them do so, participate more actively in the World Food Programme to make it more truly a World Food Programme. Their assistance is urgently needed to help us reach the present biennium target.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): I would like to join the others in thanking the Executive Director for his extremely lucid introduction to this Fourth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the FAO Council. As always we have read the annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes with great pleasure, because we look forward so keenly to the progress that we are almost certain the programme must have made during the year under review. We are never disappointed. The Fourth Annual Report is no exception.

We note with satisfaction the increase in the number of development projects. We are particularly impressed with the performance under Emergency Food Operations. It is a recognition of the World Food Programme's excellent work in this area of activity that even bilateral donors have started channeling food aid through the World Food Programme.

The adoption of the Guidelines and Criteria for Food Aid is another step in the right direction. Since these guidelines were adopted unanimously, and not by consensus as was stated by the delegate of Australia, we expect and hope that they will have the full backing of the international community in their implementation.

There has been some mention of the fact that there should be more equitable distribution in granting project aid. We support this idea, but at the same time would like to stress that the maximum number of people should benefit from World Food Programme assistance and population therefore must remain an important factor.

Insofar as the general review on food aid policies and programmes is concerned we would like in particular to express our disappointment about the decrease in the share of multilateral food aid. This is all the more disappointing since it has been agreed in almost all fora to increase the share of multilateral food aid, but in actual practice it has declined.

We note with satisfaction the increased purchases in third world countries by bilateral donors but would urge that the volume of triangular transactions designed to promote the participation of developing countries in food aid programmes should be enhanced.

We would also like to touch on the replenishment of the International Emergency Food Reserve. We fully support the views of the Executive Director on this.

We would also like to say a word about the cash resources. It has been my delegation's constant position that we should adhere strictly to the regulations on the subject, which said about one-third of the contributions should be in cash. It is only then that we can expect an improvement in the cash resources of the programme. We look forward with keen interest to seeing the two items relating to food aid on the agenda of the Eighth Session.

Coming to the Pledging Target for 1979-80, we can only express our disappointment at the shortfall in pledges for this biennium. We do not think this is the right moment to go into details but we would like to take this opportunity of urging the traditional donors and those in a position to do so to meet the target of \$950 million. This is most important, as we feel that the target for 1981-82 would have more relevance if the target for the previous biennium were to be fully achieved.

The statement by the delegate of Canada is most heartening and we will be looking forward keenly to greater support from his country to the World Food Programme.

Regarding the Pledging Target for the period 1981-82, we agreed somewhat reluctantly to the proposed target of \$1 000 million in a spirit of compromise and accommodation. We feel that a higher target would have been in order. But, Mr. Chairman, we can do a lot with pledges but precious little with a target which does not have the support of major donors. This is a recognition of the fact that during the previous biennium there was some reluctance on the part of the major donors to accept a figure of \$950 million. This time we have gone along with the figure of \$1 000 million and we expect that this will have the fullest support of the donors and the target will not only be achieved but surpassed.

Lastly, we fully support the adoption of both resolutions in Annex II.

P. VANDOR (Hungary): As we can see from the Fourth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, the World Food Programme accomplished commendable work in 1978.

Hungary, as a member of the CFA and a contributor to the World Food Programme, fully shares the view of the Executive Director that it is vital for the programme that donor countries should make every possible effort to achieve the target of \$950 million for 1979-80.

We note with satisfaction the record level of \$17 million for commodity purchases in 1978, most of which was made in the developing countries. These commodity purchases provide export opportunities for a number of developing countries and thus stimulate agricultural production there.

The food aid needs and import requirements of the developing countries will further increase in the forthcoming years. This trend was clearly pointed out in the opening statement of the Director-General. Requests from the LDCs and MSA countries alone would exceed the current level of the World Food Programme resources. Recognizing the fact that a balance must be maintained between the need of the developing countries and the capacity of the donor countries, my delegation would suggest that in setting up the 1981-82 Pledging Target these trends and the upward movement of commodity prices and increased need of the developing countries should be taken into account and the resources of the World Food Programme in real terms should be increased.

With these remarks the Hungarian delegation proposes to adopt the draft resolutions in Annex I and Annex II of this report.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): The United States delegation wishes to note that in the Report submitted to the FAO Council by the Committee on Food Aid there are three important food aid targets: the \$950 million target for the World Food Programme for the biennium 1979-80; the target of 500 000 tonnes of grain for the International Emergency Food Reserve, and the 10 million tonnes objective for the new draft Food Aid Convention. Regrettably none of these targets have thus far been attained. In each case we feel that the United States has contributed substantially - \$260 million to the World Food Programme, 125 000 tonnes to the International Emergency Food Reserve, and we have announced that despite the adjournment of negotiations for a new International Grains Agreement we would implement a new higher commitment of almost 4.5 million tonnes to a new Food Aid Convention, a commitment we made provisionally during the negotiations. We invite other participants in the Food Aid Convention to honour the provisional pledges that were made at that time.

We would also like to encourage other traditional donors and other countries in a position to do so to review their position with respect to the important food aid problems and targets and if possible, to make increased commitments and thereby close the gap in those targets.

The United States delegation would like to join other delegations in support of the adoption of the Report of the Committee on Food Aid, including the Food Aid Guidelines and the draft resolution concerning the target pledges for the next biennium.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair notes the anxiety of the United States concerning the reaching of the target, and also notes the full support which is expressed to the adoption of the report and the draft resolutions.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): Not long before, we had had a very detailed discussion on the WFP performance, the targets and so on in the CFA. We commented in the CEA, as we do today, on the competence of Mr. Vogel and the performance of the WFP in 1978. There have been a number of new record achievements in 1978 by the Programme in terms of total delivery, in terms of focus on the deserving MSA's and LDC's, in terms of the purchases of developing countries, in terms of emphasis on the right type of project for agricultural development, and we again renew our support 'for the right direction the Programme is moving forward in.

We have a few brief comments today on the Report to the Council; first on the target for the current biennium. A word about the past bygone on the previous biennium where there was a dramatic change towards the end and the target was almost fully accomplished. For the current biennium we are still lagging behind. May this Council renew its appeal to the traditional donors for additional contribution «ad also to the potential donors to join in to enable the Programme to fulfil the target of \$950 million.

Secondly, on the guidelines for criteria of food aid, we have been grappling with this issue for quite some time now. I think the Programme as well as the CFA needs to be complimented for having succeeded in unanimously adopting the guidelines and criteria for food aid, which we fully support.

Thirdly, on the emergency operations, the number was 50 percent higher in 1978 than in the previous year, and the total delivery has also been a record figure, including the delivery from the Emergency Food Reserve.

I noted with satisfaction the observation by France that emergency operations of the EFR is a major item which needs our support and if need be, reserves both for the emergency international reserves and also its cash reserves should be augmented. This issue may come before the CFA in its next session.

A word about the focus of projects by the WFP: an observation was made about the geographical distribution, followed by another observation of taking into account the population, but the main point is that this Programme is primarily expected to direct its focus on the LDC's and MSA's wherever they may be, irrespective of their geographical situation. The focus is not on the population and not on the geographical situation but on the criteria of LDC's and MSA's. I remember that we complimented the Programme of the CFA for having approved about 80 percent of its projects to the MSA's and LDC's, and we very strongly feel that that is the right direction and that is what the Programme is meant for, and that is where the success of the Programme lies. When we say this, we do not undermine in any way the claim of other developing countries. We also have a claim which should not be forgotten, but the focus primarily should be first on the LDC's and MSA's, and that is what the Programme is doing, and we compliment the Programme for that.

On the target for the 1980-81 biennium, there was a very detailed discussion on this in the CFA. We very actively participated. It has to be noted that this 1 000 million or 950 million is not an assessment, it is a target which is to be voluntarily contributed by the donors. It is a target, it is an indicated figure. In the past we have seen that the targets were more than over-subscribed and there have also been occasions when there has been a major shortfall in the target. What I feel is that this largely depends on the will of the donors. When adopted, as rightly stated by Pakistan, the target of \$950 million for the current biennium, I recall, did not have the wholehearted blessings of the donors. This time with the 1 000 million, my feeling is it has the wholehearted blessings of the donors, and that is the most important element which has to be taken note of. With this happy omen, we may expect that not only will the target be achieved, but it will be surpassed. We would have been happier to see a higher target to ensure substantial real growth in the Programme deliveries, but we note that while approving the target for 1 000 million, the CFA has made a number of observations: one, that this does not preclude the CFA from reviewing the target at any time should there be a necessity; two, this target of 1 000 million is a minimum, so it is expected that this minimum would be achieved, and if need be it will be surpassed; and thirdly, if there be a major change in the cost of commodities and transportation and need of food aid, the donors would make additional contributions appropriate to the need.

These comments of the CFA take care of any eventuality when one might feel that the target of 1 000 million will not ensure a real growth of the Programme.

With these observations, we endorse the resolutions in the Annex and pledge our full support to the activities of the Programme.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial pour son introduction, et en même temps le féliciter pour sa gestion du Programme. Dans ces félicitations, je voudrais inclure tout le personnel qui sert le Programme.

Le gouvernement de mon pays tient le PAM en haute estime, et j'espère fermement que mon gouvernement parviendra très prochainement à augmenter sensiblement le niveau de ses contributions au Programme. Dans ce contexte, j'ai beaucoup d'espoir que M. Vogel, qui visitera bientôt mon pays, produira sur le ministre compétent qu'il rencontrera l'impression qu'il désire faire, parce qu'il trouvera en face de lui un ministre très ouvert et très sensible aux encouragements des activités du Programme. Je fais moi-même des efforts constants pour documenter convenablement les autorités, et pour susciter un appui croissant des autorités belges aux activités du Programme.

Cela dit, ma délégation tient à marquer son approbation au quatrième rapport du CPA à l'ECOSOC. Ce rapport fait apparaître la croissance continue du Programme. Ma délégation s'en réjouit, et elle appuie en particulier les recommandations et critères sur l'aide alimentaire qui ont finalement été

approuvés à l'unanimité par les membres du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Ces critères et recommandations constitueront un fil conducteur précieux, non seulement pour le Programme, mais pour tous les donateurs d'aide alimentaire tant bilatéraux que multilatéraux.

Ma délégation approuve le projet de résolution qui est soumis à l'ECOSOC, en particulier le niveau de l'objectif des contributions proposé pour un milliard de dollars pour 1981-82. Mon pays était l'un de ceux qui avaient exprimé des doutes lorsque l'objectif avait été fixé pour le biennium en cours. Il espère néanmoins fermement que les engagements continueront à croître et que le total finira par se rapprocher sensiblement du niveau fixé.

Ma délégation pense que l'objectif d'un milliard proposé pour 1981-82 est bien choisi.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): Let me first begin by thanking Mr. Vogel for his brief and lucid introduction to the Report of the Committee on Food Aid. I would be failing in my duty if I do not place on record my country's appreciation of Mr. Vogel's visit to Sri Lanka on the eve of the cyclone we had in December last year.

The World Food Programme has been and continues to be a very important programme to our developing countries and the most seriously affected countries, not only as a source of meeting emergency food requirements but as a method of generating development work in these countries where the resources, both in cash and kind, are limited.

We are sorry, therefore, to note that in the 1977/78 biennium all the pledges made by donor countries have not, been honored.

We also note that the requests for assistance, against which resources are not available, keep increasing each year, and a shortfall of nearly 835 million dollars is anticipated by the end of 1980. We have no doubt, however, that the donor countries would step in to fill this gap.

As far as the document CL 75/7 is concerned, I have few comments to make. The Committee at the end of its deliberations has recommended to the Council an increase in the amount of food aid from 950 million US dollars to one billion US dollars. Sri Lanka feels the proposed target is not a realistic increase. Actually the proposed target would result in a decline in the World Food Programme deliveries in real terms and as a proportion of total food aid. I am saying this because according to the World Bank Price Index for the biennium 1979/80, the increase in cereals which form the major component of WFP commodities is foreseen as 25 percent. This brings down the real value of the target to 750 million US dollars because of the heavy purchases by the Soviet Union, and the decline in the production of wheat and coarse grains in 1977 of 5 percent less than last year's record, and 3 percent below the longterm trend.

In addition to this, there is also a tendency for an increase in the shipping and transport costs of food grains to the needy. This has further reduced the amount which is below the pledge that was made for 1979/80. In these circumstances we would strongly endorse the recommendations made in Annex II of the document to adopt the draft resolution which calls for an early summoning of the Pledging Conference and requires an agreement for establishing a minimum target for the 1981/82 biennium of a sum of \$US one billion.

Ms L. NAVANI (Thailand): Let me first compliment the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Vogel, for his concise and comprehensive introduction.

My delegation noted with regret that the targets for 1977/78 and 1979/80 have not yet been achieved. Therefore my delegation would like to appeal to traditional and potential new donors to increase their contributions in order to have the target met immediately to enable the programme to continue its valuable work which has been of benefit to many developing countries, particularly to the neediest countries and for emergency needs.

With regard to the purchasing policy in developing countries as adopted by the Committee of CFA, this is highly appreciated by my country, which is a food developing and exporting country. However, my delegation is concerned about the implementation of this excellent policy should there be a shortage of cash received from donor countries in the Programme.

In this regard, my delegation would like to appeal to all donors to strictly respect the rule of the Programme, which is one-third of cash contribution.

My delegation would like to take the opportunity of expressing our government's appreciation and gratitude to the World Food Programme and the Director-General of FAO for the assistance granted to Thailand. This assistance has been very effective in terms of helping to alleviate the burden Thailand has to bear, especially the problem of the growing inflow of refugees and displaced persons.

Finally, my delegation would like to endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the Annual Report of the Committee of CFA and particularly the draft resolution on target pledges for the World Food Programme for the next biennium.

RAMADHAR (India): I must compliment the Executive Director, Dr. Vogel, for his excellent introduction.

As several delegates have pointed out, a number of records were established in 1978 in the operations of the World Food Programme. The total delivery during the year was 1.2 million tonnes as against 1.1 during 1977.

My delegation has also noted with satisfaction that the share of the LDC and MSA countries in the overall commitment of the Programme has increased. It has gone up to 76 percent during 1978 as compared to 66 percent during the preceding year.

As Dr. Vogel pointed out in his introductory remarks, there are a number of creditable achievements, and I would like to mention a couple of them. During the last meeting of the CFA we adopted unanimously the Guidelines and Criteria for Food Aid, a matter which had been pending for a long time and which was a subject for discussion in more than one meeting.

There are another two items which were briefly discussed in the last meeting, first the item of food aid requirements and food aid targets in the 1980s and second, relating to the role of food aid in strengthening Food Security in developing countries. My delegation notes with satisfaction that these two items will be the major issues to be discussed in the forthcoming session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

These definitely mark significant improvement and significant advancement in the activities of the World Food Programme.

There are a number of other issues which have been referred to in this document and also mentioned by Dr. Vogel, where the progress had not been satisfactory. These include the non-achievement of the present target for the 1979/80 biennium. The achievement so far is only 78 percent. Out of 950 million dollars the achievement has been only 738 million. There have also been shortfalls in the achievement of the minimum food target of ten million.

We also note with concern that the share of multilateral aid in total food aid had been going down. In 1975 it was 17 percent; in 1977 it came down to 15 percent; and in 1978 it was more or less of the same order. With regard to the International Emergency Food Reserve, again in spite of the commitment of the international community to achieve 500 000 tonnes of international food reserves, the achievement has been only 306 thousand tonnes. Therefore my delegation takes the opportunity of mentioning some of these points just to highlight the urgency of encouraging the International Committee to make efforts to achieve these targets which were unanimously agreed to in other fora.

Coming to the resolution before us and the target for the next biennium, my delegation notes that a number of delegations here have expressed their dissatisfaction with this target of 1 000 million dollars. We had discussed this matter at sufficient length in the CFA meeting and this dissatisfaction which is expressed now is nothing new. There was a large-scale dissatisfaction, and as Sri Lanka has rightly pointed out, if you take into account the effective increase in prices as were worked out by the World Bank, this will come down to 750 million dollars in real terms. We should not think that in going from 950 million tonnes to 1 000 million tonnes we are making an advancement. In real terms it is a decrease.

Taking into account the special circumstances under which this target was agreed in the CFA meeting, and certain conditions attached to this target, my delegation would go along with that and would recommend that this target and resolution is adopted with the clear understanding that if, as mentioned on page 5, paragraph 28, extracted from the report of the CFA, there are major increases in the costs of transportation or food aid requirements before the biennium 1981-82 donors should make every effort to give additional contributions to ensure that the target is surpassed, in order to maintain real growth in the availabilities of resources of WFP. This would also include the right of the Committee to review the target.

Having said this, my delegation would like to reiterate the long and happy association my country had and still has with the World Food Programme. We are of the view that the World Food Programme has been doing excellent work in mitigating the hardship and sufferings of a large part of the Humanity Agriculture Development and it could be a good instrument for accelerating the rural development.

The leader of my delegation spoke yesterday of the Operation Flood which has been assisted by the WFP. Operation Flood has contributed to the dairy development of our country.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): I should first of all like to thank Mr. Vogel for his brief and succinct introduction of what we think is a success story. To us the World Food Programme is one of the United Nations' most effective organs and we give it our strongest support. We supported the conclusions reached at the meeting of the CFA and would like to reiterate our support at this time and particularly our support for the pledging target of \$1 000 million for 1981-1982.

In listening to the debate round the table, it seems to me we have talked a lot about pledges and perhaps lost sight of the great complexity of the operations of the World Food Programme. Pledges are one thing but turning this mixture of resources into a series of programmes scattered all over the world, in adverse conditions, and making these programmes really work is very much a matter of great skill for which Dr. Vogel and his people deserve our grateful thanks. In this connexion I would also like to draw the attention of the Council once again to the point made by the delegate of Colombia. He drew our attention to Annex 1 paragraph (a), and this seems to us here to be the essence of the problem:

"Food aid should be provided in forms consistent with the development objectives of recipient countries".

This is no easy task and I am sure Mr. Vogel and his staff have done a marvellous job in attaining the success which they undoubtedly have attained. There was some talk about geographical distribution of aid and I think the Council feels as a whole that with the World Food Programme the question is essentially one of need, that is that the aid must go essentially where the needs are greatest, as quickly as possible; and this happens to be very much in line with our own aid strategy in the United Kingdom where we want to concentrate on the poorest people in the poorest countries.

Therefore our support for the World Food Programme is all the stronger. There are one or two new developments also to which I think I would like to draw the attention of the Council.

First of all, we welcome the increase in flows from the World Food Programme to the poorest countries, which is a feature of recent years. Secondly, we would like to encourage the trends towards joint programming with other agencies using World Food Programme food as an input to projects sponsored by other institutions. We think this is a very good way of increasing the effectiveness of very large programmes on the ground with minimum input from the World Food Programme resources.

We also support the Executive Director in moves to strengthen project Administration because this is often a great difficulty in the situation in which the World Food Programme works and increasing field staff is one of the ways which will undoubtedly help in this regard.

In general, we are well satisfied with the Programmed activities and we have full confidence in Mr. Vogel and his staff.

H. WETZEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I will be brief. I only want to point out that the Federal Republic of Germany has from the beginning played an active role in both the World Food Programme and the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We fully supported the Fourth Annual Report of the CFA. We fully adopt the draft resolutions in Annex II of the Report. For the period 1979/80, we pledged to the World Food Programme 75 million DM and contributed to the International Emergency Food Reserve 35 000 tons of wheat.

As far as the guidelines and criteria for bilateral and multilateral food aid programmes are concerned, we feel that under the very efficient and helpful guidance of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, the CFA has completed one of its important tasks. I am glad to say that my country follows already many of its recommendations: by means of our bilateral food security projects in Bangladesh and in the Sahel we give assistance in establishing national reserve stocks, storage and marketing. Our Food-for-Work projects in Central America involve the construction of storage facilities,

access roads and similar infrastructures. We combine in these projects food aid delivered under the Food Aid Convention, and food security assistance measures, by using counterpart funds for the establishment of revolving funds used for the purpose of local products such as rice, sorghum and other grains. This has proved to be very successful: from 1979 all revolving funds - with the exception of two - run by themselves, that is, without the need of being replenished.

F. REDA (Interpretation from Arabic) (Egypt): I should like to associate myself with the previous speaker in extending our thanks to the Secretariat of the World Food Programme, to its Executive Director and to the donor countries that make contributions to the Programme with a view to assisting developing countries in consolidating their agricultural development. In particular we would like to thank the Programme for the record figures reached in 1978 which have been submitted to the Committee in its previous meeting, both in regard to the volume of delivery and the increase in the purchases of the Programme in developing countries and also as regards the increase in the percentage of assistance given by the Programme to the MSAs and the LDCs.

We would also like to note with particular appreciation the emergency operations undertaken by the Programme which no doubt represent one of the channels pursued by the international community in order to alleviate the sufferings of some countries facing calamities and disasters.

However, we would like to sound a note of caution that the pledges for 1979/80 have not yet reached the target of \$950 million and also concerning the pledge for the International Emergency Reserve which is 500 million tons. We would like to express our appreciation to the CSA for having, after lengthy and tedious negotiations and discussions during the two previous sessions, set criteria and guidelines for food aid in its final form. There is no doubt that such guidelines and criteria would be the guidelines for the Programme and for the countries so that they can benefit from food aid.

I would like afterwards to take up the pledging target for the period 1981/82. It was our opinion during the last session that this target should be more than \$1 000 million in view of the increase in prices which is closely linked with inflation and since there has been mentioned in other fora the figure of 16 million tons of food that should be achieved by the international community in 1985. However, in view of the discussions and deliberations during that session and during this meeting, and in view of the unanimous agreement, we would like to joint also in this agreement and we accept this target as a minimum for food aid.

In conclusion, we would like to stress our agreement to Annex I concerning guidelines and Annex II .related to the draft resolution.

Srta. C. DOMINGUEZ D. (Panamá): Nuestra delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Vogel por la presentación del documento CL 75/7. Con claridad y precisión nos informó sobre lo ocurrido durante el 72 período de sesiones del Comité en mayo pasado, así como también la magnitud e importancia del Programa.

Expresó el Director Ejecutivo que a pesar de haber un aumento de 128 millones más que lo logrado en el bienio precedente, todavía no hemos llegado a la meta fijada.

Estamos conscientes, señor Presidente, de la necesidad de incrementar los recursos del Programa para poder implementar los proyectos.

En cuanto a orientaciones y criterios para la ayuda alimentaria, que se nos presenta como Anexo I del documento, deseamos manifestar que estamos de acuerdo que en la designación de recursos de ayuda alimentaria se debe dar prioridad a los países de ingresos más bajos y deficitarios de alimentos.

Apoyamos decididamente lo expresado en el párrafo d), cuando se dice que debe prestarse debida atención a las necesidades de ayuda alimentaria en otros países en desarrollo, con el fin de beneficiar a las poblaciones necesitadas aumentando la producción de alimentos de los mismos.

Estamos de acuerdo con lo expresado por el delegado de Argentina sobre la consideración de un-equilibrio geográfico en la adjudicación de proyectos. Damos nuestro apoyo a la meta establecida de 1 000 millones de dólares para el bienio 1981-82.

En fin, señor Presidente, damos nuestro apoyo a los proyectos de Resolución que se nos presentan en el documento.

Antes de finalizar queremos felicitar, una vez más, al señor Brito como Director Ejecutivo Adjunto del Programa. Tuvimos el placer de trabajar juntos como delegados de nuestros países y conocemos la capacidad, responsabilidad y dinamismo que lo caracterizan y que se verán plasmados en el Programa.

J. IÑURRIETA RIGORES (Cuba): La delegación de mi país ha escuchado con interés el informe presentado por el señor Vogel. Le damos las gracias por su magnífica presentación y felicitamos a todos aquellos integrantes del PMA que han hecho posible la fructífera labor desarrollada por el Programa.

Realmente preferiríamos que se aumentara el volumen de ayuda alimentaria para el próximo bienio, pero viendo que aún no se han cumplido las promesas hechas, nos inclinamos a que se mantenga el monto ya indicado de 1 000 millones. Esperamos que se puedan cumplir las promesas hechas, pues cada día se requiere una mayor utilización de la ayuda alimentaria.

Al igual que otros colegas que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, somos del criterio de que los programas del PMA, deben vincularse cada vez más a los objetivos de desarrollo agropecuario de los países en desarrollo.

También opinamos que los países de la región deben seguir recibiendo los beneficios del PMA.

Apoyamos el proyecto de Resolución que se anexa en el Informe y las actividades que figuran en el Programa.

Para mi país, el PMA tiene una gran importancia; mi país se ha beneficiado de sus programas y lo agradece eternamente.

Por contradicciones de la vida, mi país es el mayor contribuyente al PMA de los países de América Latina. Gustosamente nos agradecería ceder este puesto a otro país de la región no disminuyendo nuestra contribución, sino que otro país de la región supere nuestra contribución.

J.A. LEIVA (El Salvador): Nuestra delegación desea felicitar al Dr. Vogel por la magnífica introducción del Tema y por la dinámica que le ha imprimido al Programa. Nos complace, igualmente, que el Sr. Brito haya asumido el cargo de Director Ejecutivo Adjunto desde donde aportará su valiosa experiencia y conocimientos al servicio de la Comunidad Internacional, en especial hacia la gestión de proyectos destinados expresamente a beneficiar a los sectores más pobres de los países en desarrollo.

Nuestra delegación sostiene el criterio de que el PMA cumple una función muy importante con la aprobación de proyectos de desarrollo, en este caso 70 nuevos proyectos para el período mayo 1978-mayo 1979; es una clara definición de que existe el convencimiento de que la ayuda aportada se traduzca en acciones de efectos multiplicadores, que en ningún momento resten iniciativa a los países.

Respecto a las operaciones de urgencia, es obvio, que la ayuda debe acudir con prontitud en las áreas afectadas por desastres; pero la tónica predominante debe estar dirigida a la disponibilidad de recursos adecuados, que no sean exclusivamente para operaciones de emergencia.

La situación de Latinoamérica como área beneficiaria del Programa no es satisfactoria. Sin duda existen áreas deprimidas en la mayoría de los países que no pueden ser evaluadas únicamente por indicadores económicos, cuyos índices fríos no revelan la gravedad de la situación.

Consideramos muy positiva la iniciativa de comprar alimentos en los países en desarrollo, que se traducirá en una respuesta más positiva de parte de los productores, a la vez que contribuye a mejorar la comercialización de los productos.

En cuanto al objetivo de promesas, compartimos la preocupación manifestada por otras delegaciones ante el hecho de que todavía no se hubiera alcanzado el objetivo de 950 millones de dólares, por lo que instamos a los países donantes para que su aporte se haga en efectivo.

En el Anexo I se destaca lo acordado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación y ratificado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, esto es "que la solución a largo plazo del problema de la escasez de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, estriba en aumentar la producción en esos mismos países". Compartimos plenamente este concepto, así como lo sustentado en el literal a) del Anexo I, de que la ayuda alimentaria no debe actuar como factor disuasivo de la producción local de productos alimenticios.

Señor Presidente, le damos nuestro más decidido apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución cuyo texto aparece en el Anexo II, del documento 7/20.

M. NGA - MA (Zaïre): Tout d'abord je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, féliciter et remercier le Dr. Vogel pour l'effort qu'il ne cesse de déployer afin de sensibiliser les pays donateurs de sorte que les moyens nécessaires soient mis à la disposition du Programme alimentaire mondial. Nous avons participé à la septième session du CPA, ainsi qu'aux précédentes, et nous approuvons ce rapport ainsi que les recommandations et critères de l'aide alimentaire. Nous approuvons de même le projet de résolution figurant aux Annexes I et II. Nous appuyons en outre le point de vue exprimé par la délégation française, et repris par d'autres délégués, selon lequel le niveau de l'allocation d'urgence du PAM devrait être relevé à juste titre.

Pour terminer je voudrais exprimer notre point de vue en ce qui concerne l'affectation de l'aide du PAM. Ma délégation pense que l'on ne devrait pas être guidé par des critères tels que "répartition géographique" ou "densité de population", ainsi que l'ont proposé certains délégués. Nous pensons plutôt que le point b) des critères figurant à l'Annexe I traite bien de la question et que l'on doit plutôt garder à l'esprit les besoins des pays nécessiteux.

J. LEVISTE Jr. (Philippines): We wish to commend Dr. Vogel and the secretariat for the Executive-Director's excellent presentation this morning. We in the Philippines know the effectiveness of the World Food Programme in Manila headed by Vincent Gondwe a son of Africa who is now a brother of the Philipinos.

Food aid is something which we Philipinos wish we could do without but it is something which we cannot do without at this time since we as a nation have more than the normal per capita share of national calamities and the emergencies which go with them. Food aid is an issue which requires the joint endeavour of both developed and developing countries, the former for more commitments for food consumption and the stress situations in the short term and the latter for greater capability for food production in the long term.

The donor community we feel should be more committed to the world to help people in greatest need wherever they are. The nations in need in turn must be committed to helping their own people feed themselves. For in the final analysis the problem of food is in the developing countries and therefore the solution to the food problem must also be in our hands.

With this preamble, on behalf of the leader of our delegation the Philippines would like to express our satisfaction on the completion of the guidelines and criteria for food aid.

We trust the pledging target for 1978/79 will be reached. We would nevertheless like to register our own apprehension, as previously pointed out by our colleagues from Sri Lanka and India about the fact that the pledging target for 1980/81 may be lower in real terms than the 1978/79 biennium for the following reasons; first, the handling expenses which represent roughly a third of the resources of the Programme according to the FAO secretariat itself increased in the past biennium at the rate of 12 percent per annum, or 24 percent for the biennium. If the present trend continues, therefore, it will mean an overall increase in relation to the overall budget of 8 percent for handling expenses alone.

Secondly, if we consider that the World Bank predicts a 20 percent increase in the next biennium for the prices of cereals it will be difficult to see how the 1980/81 target will not mean a reduction in real terms in relation to the previous one.

While we rightly want to register our apprehension the Philippines nevertheless will not question the consensus reached at the CFA.

On behalf of the leader of our delegation, therefore, the Philippines endorses Annex 2, page 8 of document CL 75/7 on the target for WFP pledges for the period 1981.

J. TAKI (Japan): My country highly appreciates the activities carried out by the Programme under the excellent leadership of Dr. Vogel.

My country will continue to give its support to the maximum extent possible to the Programme and cooperate with it.

We would like to congratulate heartily the results of the Sixth and Seventh sessions of the Committee on Food Aid Policies. My delegation associates itself with other delegations in agreeing to the proposed pledged target for 1981/82 of \$1 000 million and supports the adoption of the draft resolution at this Council. I hope the target will be obtained at an early stage to meet the urgent requirements of the developing countries battling hunger and malnutrition.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Je voudrais joindre ma voix à toutes celles qui m'ont précédé pour exprimer l'appui de ma délégation au rapport et au projet de résolution. Le Programme alimentaire mondial depuis qu'il a été lancé en 1961 et qu'il est entré en fonction à titre expérimental en 1963, a acquis aujourd'hui ses lettres de noblesse et est devenu un programme pour le développement, un programme absolument indispensable pour amoindrir la crise alimentaire mondiale qui sévit toujours. Je renouvelle donc l'appui de ma délégation au rapport et au projet de résolution qui nous sont présentés et aux opinions qui ont été exprimées ici par les précédents orateurs.

Toutefois, en ce qui concerne le projet de résolution de l'Annexe I, que nous approuvons bien sûr, il est question dans le paragraphe d) de la prise en charge des frais de transport et il est dit notamment à la première ligne (page 8): "les pays donateurs devraient (là, je souligne les mots) sans doute dans toute la mesure du possible, prendre eux-mêmes en charge, etc.". Je pense que les mots "sans doute, dans toute la mesure du possible" apportent une certaine restriction concernant l'aspect extrêmement important de l'aide alimentaire acheminée vers les pays les plus pauvres, surtout les plus enclavés, et c'est un problème auquel ils sont actuellement sensibles.

Dans ces conditions, je me demande si on ne pourrait pas, purement et simplement, barrer les mots "sans doute, dans toute la mesure du possible". Je sais bien qu'on peut faire confiance au Directeur exécutif, M. Vogel, pour, éventuellement en examinant cas par cas, négocier individuellement avec les donateurs pour une prise en charge totale.

A. MARTOSUWIRYD (Indonesia): First of all my delegation would like to thank Dr. Vogel for his outstanding introduction and congratulate him on his able leadership.

My delegation shares the views of the Executive Director that the Programme is succeeding. This is, of course, subject to the fact that the pledges for 1977/78 and 1979/80 have not been reached so far whereas the requirement to assist developing countries to cope with food problems tends to increase further.

On the question of the target for 1980/81 in the spirit of cooperation my delegation accepts the target of minimum \$1 000 million. I would like to underline and express "minimum" since the Programme needs more resources. Therefore, my delegation hopes that traditional donors could increase their contribution and anticipates the donations of new donors.

Coming to the Guidelines and Criteria for Food Aid and the draft resolutions my delegation endorses these, since they are very important and necessary for the more fruitful operation and the success of the programme.

A.N. FASLA (Algérie): Mes premiers mots seront pour rendre hommage et féliciter le Programme ainsi que son Directeur exécutif pour la contribution importante et appréciable qu'ils apportent aux efforts de la communauté internationale en faveur du développement et de l'aide aux pays du tiers monde. La compétence et le dévouement des fonctionnaires du PAN et le sérieux avec lequel le Programme est géré, les critères objectifs qui déterminent le choix des projets et le caractère de développement que ces derniers acquièrent sont autant d'éléments qui militent pour qu'une attention particulière soit accordée par la communauté internationale au PAM, et pour que les ressources de ce dernier soient relevées et accrues conformément aux objectifs qui ont été tracés. ,

Vous voulons exprimer nos préoccupations du fait que les promesses de l'objectif de 950 millions de dollars n'aient pas encore été atteintes, mais nous ne voulons pas perdre l'espoir que d'ici à la fin de l'année 1980 la communauté internationale pourra répondre positivement à ces promesses.

L'objectif d'un milliard qui nous est proposé est un objectif modeste. Nous nous rallions au consensus concernant son acceptation, mais si nous prenons en considération la dépréciation du dollar, cet objectif risque d'être en dessous de l'objectif de 950 millions de dollars pour la période 1979-1980. Le document qui nous est présenté (CL 75/7) est un document excellent et notre délégation partage les critères qui ont été définis pour l'aide alimentaire. Je voudrais toutefois faire certains commentaires et apporter quelques observations*.

S'il est nécessaire que l'aide aille d'abord à ceux qui souffrent le plus, aux pays les plus gravement affectés, nous estimons qu'il faut également tenir compte d'une nécessaire répartition géographique équitable; de plus, il ne faudrait pas pénaliser pour autant les pays qui déploient des efforts pour le développement; ensuite, nous estimons que l'aide d'urgence doit être accrue; enfin, nous estimons que l'assistance aux réfugiés doit être reconduite au-delà des six mois préconisés*

Pour conclure, je voudrais dire que notre délégation appuie les projets de résolution qui nous sont soumis et nous ne manquerons pas de les défendre au Conseil économique et social.

X. VEROINIS (Greece): Speaking on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my congratulations to the Secretariat for the preparation of their excellent document. I would also like to express my satisfaction to Dr. Vogel for his very clear and excellent presentation of the document.

To begin with, we fully support the minimum of \$1000 million as the proposed budget for a reasonable and realistic food aid programme. It is certain that we all look forward to an increased sense of humanity in the world. According to this belief food aid would and must continue to provide emergency relief to combat hunger and malnutrition. Food aid should be provided essentially on a grant basis to developing countries, in particular to the least developed and the most seriously affected by bad weather and lack of resources, but all of us, the developing and the less developed countries, should be agreed that the solution to their food needs all over the world must be found not in short-term measures but in long-term measures. In this connexion donors must help recipients in a more effective way, on the one hand offering commodities for meeting the short-term emergency needs and requirements, but on the other hand offering more valuable assistance, helping the recipients to apply a more constructive, effective and economical plan for increasing their ability to supply food. Also recipients, through their governments, must make good and effective use of the assistance received. The recipient countries should apply more effective policies for achieving self-reliance, reducing poverty and improving nutrition standards. It goes without saying that the long-term solution to the problem of food shortages in the developing countries lies in increasing their production to make them self-sufficient.

I would also like to underline the importance of the data and information concerning food aid and especially its allocation and use for different objectives. This data is necessary for more effective cooperation among the donor countries and between the donors and the recipients.

I agree with the inclusion of the items on page 4 in paragraph 14 in the Agenda for the Eighth Session of the Committee. Probably another item could be included also as important, and that is the effectiveness and the results during the last decade of the World Food Programme. The examination of such a question should contribute effectively to the preparation and application of the future plan of the World Food Programme. It should give us the weaknesses of the applied system and ways to find new directions and priorities for the allocation of food resources particularly. Also it could show how to fulfil the target which is needed to ensure real growth in the programme in the coming years.

Z. RIZVT (UN High Commissioner for Refugees): I have asked for the floor mainly in order to place on record the appreciation and the gratitude of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the speedy and effective action taken by FAO/WFP on behalf of refugees and displaced persons.

In our daily work in the field we see the most tangible proof of what the delegate of the United Kingdom called "a success story" in the FAO/WFP, one of the most effective organizations of the United Nations system, a judgment which no one can dispute.

One of the most painful dilemmas is that the countries that can least afford to have problems are the ones which have the greatest number of them, including in particular man-made disasters, of which refugees are perhaps the most tragic manifestation.

This Council has noted in document CL 75/7, WFP/CFA 7/20, paragraph 5, that the highest number of emergency allocations made by the World Food Programme were on behalf of refugees and displaced persons. It shows the way the world is going and it hardly needs a comment from the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Allow me to say, however, that in line with the thoughts expressed by the delegates of France and Algeria, we feel also that in refugee situations more often than not six months is not adequate in terms of emergency aid. I would not wish to labour this, because I recall that at the CFA many

governments expressed views on the same lines and it was recognized that greater flexibility was required on the part of the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP in connexion with emergency aid to refugees. This is a proposition that we in our experience can only very strongly support.

Finally, we noted with appreciation the appeal that the Director-General of FAO renewed in his opening statement at this Council on behalf of the Boat People and the displaced persons from Lao and Kampuchea. I recall that when the Director-General came back from his trip in Southeast Asia, including your own country, Mr. Chairman, he gave to the Committee on Food Aid a very vivid and moving account of his experience of this ever-growing problem in Southeast Asia. I would not wish to tax your patience with details because we read them in the newspapers every day much more than we would like to. I would only like to say that the discussions that the Director-General had in that part of the world, and in particular the confidence that the governments have shown in him in requesting assistance from FAO/WFP, is for us an extremely important development. Thus we sincerely hope that the Governments in this Council and those outside would heed the appeal launched by the Director-General that the International Community shall rise to the challenge which in its dimensions is tragically increasing every day.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

At this point may we call once again on Dr. Vogel to respond to the statements that have heretofore been made.

G.N. VOGEL (Executive Director, World Food Programme): It is somewhat embarrassing for me to respond. The statements all morning have been so universally appreciative of what we are doing. I am glad that I heard them and I am glad that in the room, on the podium and otherwise there are very many members of our staff who also heard them, because such appreciation is greatly appreciated. I take it as appreciation not only of the Programme? I also take it as appreciation of the CFA whose Report this was. I think the CFA is a very fine Committee and is doing a very good job.

Some delegates yesterday in the debate took the liberty of being poetic. I will take the liberty of being philosophical. Since I joined the Programme now almost two years ago, I have become more and more interested in what can be done with food aid. It well warrants close study. I think when I came

to the Programme I had an idea, which many people do have, that food aid is comparatively restrictive in scope, that there are many things that you can do better with money than you can with food aid. Of course there are. But I am intrigued by the flexibility that is possible in food aid. To describe food aid in its simplistic terms as merely food for work is a great error, because using food as a development tool, using food as a capital itself, it is capable of much more flexible development assistance than merely food for work, and I hope that we are using it that way.

In the discussions this morning, you heard yourselves the various problems with which we all had to cope. There are problems. There is a continuing problem of priority countries, how much priority

they should be given, how much they can be given, how much they can absorb, while still not ignoring the needs of other countries where, as you also heard this morning, there are pockets of poverty and other needs which must be taken into account. There are so many different ways in which these questions can be examined. I think that we have been doing a reasonably good job of taking care of the various conflicting viewpoints. There are some conflicts of interest, obviously, and I think on the whole it works out reasonably well.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Members of Council for the support of the resolution in support of the new target. As many of you, I too would like to see higher targets, but perhaps I am not that much impressed with a target as such. To put it very bluntly, you cannot eat a target, and the only things that count, really, are the resources that come in pursuant to the target, and we have seen great variation in this, as Bangladesh pointed out. If you look at the history of this, you will see the pledge periods where we have been substantially below the target and other periods where we were substantially above it. I think very roughly you will find we have gone in.

one biennium to 60 per cent of a target and in another biennium we received 160 per cent of a target, so you see a target is not an inhibiting figure, it is the political will that counts not only on the part of the big donors, the present donors, but all donors, if this is to be a "World Food Programme".

You heard many countries here today who are recipients but who also take the greatest pride in the contributions they make. I have found this every place in my travels - the greatest pride in some of the poorest countries in the world, the fact that they make a contribution, a pledge, as well as being a recipient, and with this kind of spirit and if it can be enhanced, enlarged, I hope that we shall achieve results.

I am glad that certain delegates did point out paragraph 6 of the Report that is, the work of the Programme of servicing the number of emergency food donations from other UN organizations and bilateral donors. I think this is an important service. We even had an interesting sideline on it recently where there was a gift of food by one donor country on an FOB basis. They gave the food but the question of ocean freight was beyond them. The recipient country needed the food badly, but the payment of freight was beyond them. The Programme was asked what it could do. We could not use our resources to pay freight on a bilateral contribution, but performing the role almost of an honest broker, we very quickly found another bilateral donor that was very, very cooperative quickly to put up the money for the ocean freight for the movement, so there is a role for an honest broker in this, and it is an interesting development.

Finally, I would just like to refer to the comments made by the Distinguished Ambassador of Senegal with respect to guidelines and criteria. I must point out that these are not the Programme's guidelines and criteria alone; these are guidelines and criteria that were developed by the CRA over a period of about two years of discussion and with many compromises, which are intended to guide all food aid, both bilateral and multilateral.

It is not up to this Council to amend them or for the Secretariat here to agree to such amendment. Any amendment would have to come again from the CFA who are charged with the responsibility for developing these guidelines and criteria. Sub-paragraph (e), therefore, is a general comment applying to all food aid. If we are considering only the World Food Programme, the Programme already now has a policy of assisting internal transportation with respect of LDC countries up to a certain percentage under certain conditions. This was intended as a much more general type of a paragraph to apply to all food aid in the world, I do not think you should regard the guidelines and criteria as something sacred and fixed for all time. I imagine they will change with the times as we go along, and perhaps, Mr. Ambassador, at that time, when they are being re-examined, it would be appropriate to again re-examine this paragraph, but the guidelines and criteria, the way you see them, are the guidelines and criteria as they were formulated.

So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you, I thank the Members of Council. I look forward to the passing of the resolution and the preparation of the Report incorporating the various comments which have been made.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Vogel.

As we draw this meeting to a close, may we call on Mr. Gamo-Kuba, the outgoing Chairman of the Committee on Food Aid, the Committee which prepared this report.

G. GAMO-KUBA (President sortant du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, de l'honneur que vous me faites en me faisant prendre la parole en tant qu'observateur. Je ne veux pas prendre la parole en tant que Président sortant. J'avais d'ailleurs demandé la parole auparavant, mais je crois que cela n'a pas été remarqué par le secrétariat. Je voulais intervenir comme tous les autres délégués, mais après l'intervention de M. Vogel, mon intervention n'est peut-être plus opportune. Mais j'avais des instructions, et en tant qu'observateur, je crois que je peux participer aux débats.

Ce que nous avons à dire a déjà été dit fort bien par d'autres délégués qui m'ont précédé. Je voudrais

simplement indiquer la préoccupation de mon gouvernement devant ce rapport. Comme l'ont dit certains délégués, si nous avons pu accepter le compromis lors de la dernière session du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, quant à l'objectif du prochain biennium, cela ne nous empêche pas de dire ici nos craintes quant à l'avenir.

Comme l'a dit si bien notre excellent ami, le délégué du Bangladesh, nous voudrions être sûrs que l'enthousiasme manifesté par les pays grands donateurs nous conduira à l'objectif qui a été accepté ici.

Mais nos craintes se situent à un autre niveau. Comme les délégués des Philippines, du Sri Lanka et de l'Inde, nous craignons, quand nous serons au terme des promesses, que cet objectif ne soit plus rendu en termes réels.

J'ai eu l'insigne honneur de présider le PAM et je l'ai fait avec fierté parce que nous avons constaté que le PAM a changé de philosophie depuis sa naissance. Je crois que l'on n'apprendra à personne, tout au moins pas aux pays en développement, que le PAM avait comme philosophie de favoriser l'écoulement des excédents des pays développés. Il y a maintenant une nouvelle philosophie et je crois qu'elle est très louable. Mais nous craignons que l'objectif qui nous est fixé nous ramène loin en arrière et finisse par ternir la grande image de marque que s'est tracée le PAM. Le délégué de la France ce matin a parlé de l'impact qu'a le PAM au niveau des jeunes étudiants qu'il a mission d'éduquer, et depuis quelques années, le PAM est de plus en plus apprécié. Le PAM a pu répondre à plusieurs demandes de pays en développement. Nous craignons que si l'élan n'est pas maintenu, cette image se ternisse.

Nous voulons partager l'espoir de M. Vogel. Nous avons tous apprécié sa grande capacité intellectuelle, sa grande capacité de gestion, mais avec cet objectif minimum nous craignons qu'il ne puisse mener à bien sa lourde tâche.

Nous insistons donc, et nous pensons que cela a été accepté par tout le monde, pour que cet objectif minimum soit révisé quand ce point sera proposé et que cela soit accepté par tout le monde.

Nous désirons également insister auprès du secrétariat afin qu'il exhorte d'autres donateurs potentiels à venir s'ajouter aux donateurs traditionnels pour que l'objectif ne soit pas non seulement atteint mais dépassé; nous sommes en effet persuadés que le milliard de dollars qui nous est proposé n'est même pas un minimum vital. Le Directeur exécutif lui-même, dans son introduction lors de la session du PAM, avait reconnu que même avec les disponibilités des sommes dont pourrait disposer le PAM, il ne pourrait pas mener à bien toutes les tâches qui lui incombent.

En tant qu'observateur, je ne voudrais pas abuser de votre temps. Je désire apporter l'appui de mon gouvernement à la déclaration qu'a faite ce matin la délégation de l'Argentine concernant la priorité donnée aux pays les moins avancés et le plus gravement touchés. Cela est reconnu par tout le monde et, ainsi que l'a très bien dit l'Ambassadrice de Panama, il ne faudrait pas pour autant négliger ceux qui font un effort pour essayer de décoller économiquement. Chez nous l'on emploie l'image du moribond et du grand malade. S'il faut axer tous les efforts sur le moribond, au lieu d'un seul mort on risque d'en avoir deux.

Nous espérons que le secrétariat tiendra compte de tout cela dans l'élaboration de ce projet.

CHAIRMAN: To sum up, the quality of the Report has induced the incisiveness and articulation as contained in the statements herein made which has allowed all of us to give due credit where it is due, to - if I may borrow the phrase of the delegate of Algeria - "efficiency and devotion of the leadership and management of the Programme as herein epitomized by Dr. Vogel."

Secondly, to the donor countries for their continued spirit of oneness with those members of the family of nations which regrettably have to be forced by circumstances to continue as aid-recipient countries.

Throughout all the statements we can detect the following: the understandably deep anxiety that the quality of the reasonable targets that have been previously set have as yet to be achieved; also the obvious uneasiness that targets sought to be established may not be commensurate with the problems sought to be overcome. But here we must note that in both expressions of uneasiness highest commendation must be paid to the donor countries for their sincere understanding of the problem and their willingness to respond commensurate with their capabilities and resources. Yet, too, we have heard the unadulterated expressions of gratitude of the countries who have been the beneficiaries of the Programme.

Therefore we now ask the Council, as has been suggested, that the Report of the Committee on Food Aid be adopted, that the draft resolutions referred to therein be approved, and the reference to the Finance Committee conclusions be included in the Report. If there be no objections all the conclusions recommended are approved by this Council. All of this is approved and noted as requested.

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 75/PV/6

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1979)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière, est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

6. Report of the 5th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

6. Rapport de la 5^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture"

6. Informe del quinto periodo de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura

CHAIRMAN: We will now take the Report of the 5th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, COAG. This Report deals with the agricultural, social, economic departments and various things, nutrition and so on. It also deals with the Programme of Work and Budget Summary which was submitted by the Director-General to various committees of this Council and I would like to suggest to Council that we should not discuss those aspects of the COAG Report which deal with this Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1981. So that this particular part of their Report can be taken along with the substantive document which we shall start discussing from tomorrow afternoon. That aspect starts on page 8 of CL 75/9 of the English text so if Council will agree to this then when the Vice-Chairman of the Committee introduces he will not cover this particular aspect in any particular detail because we will come back to it. Can we adopt this procedure?

P. MASUD (Second Vice-Chairman, Committee on Agriculture): It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Report of the 5th Session of the Committee on Agriculture which was held in Rome from the 18th to the 27th April. The very large interest shown by member governments in this Committee is reflected in the fact that the Committee now has eighty-two members.

The Report is reproduced as document CL 75/9 which on pages v to viii provides a list of matters requiring the attention of this Council.

As you know the agenda of COAG consists of two major parts, the first concerned with the review of FAO's programme in the food and agriculture sector and the second with an in-depth review of a few selected development issues. Under the first group the Committee discussed three closely related items, the implementation of the Programme of Work of the coming biennium, the medium and long-term outlook for agriculture development and the substantive aspects of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1980/81 relating to the areas falling within the competence of the Committee. The views of the Committee on these items and its recommendations are outlined in detail in the summary which is in front of you. You will note that the Committee stressed the continuing importance of the special action programmes such as the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the Seed Improvement and Development Scheme, the Dairy and Meat Schemes and the Scheme for Agricultural Credit Development. It also supported the proposed programme for the control of African trypanosomiasis and related rural development.

Regarding the special account for the action programme on food losses the Committee noted with special concern that funds available in the special account were insufficient to finance all the project requests received and urged that further contributions be made to the special account to meet the target set by the 19th Session of the FAO Conference and to ensure a continuing activity in this field.

The Committee also urged FAO to intensify its efforts in favour of rural development for which a major impetus can be expected from the forthcoming Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

The Committee gave major attention to the review of the appropriate sections of the Organization's Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 covering the main activities and priorities of the Agriculture and Economic and Social Departments as well as regional offices and joint ventures.

The Committee commended the quality of the background paper and appreciated the greater depth and detail given for each programme in Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture and its usefulness in providing a perspective of the overall programme on agriculture.

In its general assessment the Committee stressed that the Programme's proposals were fully in line with the strategies required by the world situation, FAO's role, the overall policy orientation of the Organization and the generally agreed priorities. It is for the Council to take into account the views graphs 65 to 93 of the Report. priorities established, as indicated in para-

In commenting on this part the Council may also wish to take into account the observations and recommendations of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Programme Committee contained in paragraphs 2.17 to 2.73 of its report contained in document CL 75/4.

The Committee gave considerable attention to the item on nutrition in agricultural and rural development, which was placed on its agenda on the recommendation of the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Council. The discussion on this important item is reflected in paragraphs 94 to 113, and I wish to refer only to its main recommendations: (i) The approach outlined in the background document be supported; (ii) Member Nations should consider nutrition objectives in planning formulation and assessment of agricultural and rural development programmes and projects; (iii) Member Nations should participate in testing the proposed provisional guidelines for the introduction of nutritional considerations into agricultural and rural development programmes and projects; (iv) FAO should strengthen the coordinating mechanism within the Organization to enhance the effectiveness of institutional support to Member Nations; and (v) Food and nutrition be a standing item on the agenda of each COAG session.

In order to reflect the inclusion of nutrition among the areas to be covered by the Committee, COAG proposed amendments to Rule XXXII of the General Rules of the Organization and suggested that the Council might wish to refer to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters the proposed amendments to this Rule. This item was also discussed by the Programme Committee at its Thirty-Sixth Session, which welcomed and fully supported the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture that nutrition should become a standing item on the agenda of its Session and that Rule XXXII paragraph 6 of the General rules of the Organization be amended to include Nutrition in its Mandate.

The views of the Programme Committee are given in document CL 75/4 paragraphs 2.178 to 2.180. The Committee recognized that this, supplemented by the participation of FAO in the ACC sub-Committee on Nutrition and by expert consultations on particular nutrition issues, would provide FAO with the integrated mechanisms required to deal with nutrition.

The Committee on the basis of the excellent background papers had a very thorough and deep discussion on two selected development problems, the first relating to on-farm use of water and the second to agricultural mechanization and its effect on employment and income distribution. Regarding the first item, the Committee supported the priority given to rehabilitation and the improvement of irrigation schemes and for farm water management and approved the programme endorsed by FAO.

With regard to the recommendation, the Committee emphasized the need to give further attention to the small farmer and agreed with the presentation of model projects which provide examples of the way in which external assistance could contribute to the solution of problems relating to agricultural mechanization in developing countries.

The main issue under "Other Matters" concerned the revision of the International Plant Protection Convention. In order to ensure an adequate review the Committee set up an Ad Hoc Consultative Group to report to the Committee on proposed modifications of the revised text which had been submitted to the Nineteenth Session of the Conference in 1977 in order to ensure the widest possible acceptability of the Convention.

You will note that in paragraph 148 of its Report the Committee on Agriculture recommends that the Council submit to the Twentieth Session of the Conference the modified version of the revised text adopted by the Ad Hoc Consultative Group, which has been reproduced as Appendix F to document CL 75/9.

I also wish to refer to the Provisional Agenda for the next Session. The Committee considered a number of possible topics, listed in paragraph 150, but gave their support to the four items outlined in paragraph 151. As food and nutrition will be a standing item on the Committee's agenda in future sessions it will not be possible to select more than two or maybe three for the agenda of the Sixth Session and any comments by Council members on this subject would facilitate the final selection of the subjects.

As a last point I wish to mention that the Committee also reviewed its method of work in the light of the experience at its Fifth Session. It concluded that it was desirable, firstly, to maintain a balance between the general review of FAO's Programme of Work in the food and agricultural sector and in-depth discussion of selected items; secondly, to carry out in-depth discussion of selected items in areas falling within its terms of reference; thirdly, to improve further the layout and format of the documents relating to the implementation of the current programme of work, medium and long-term outlook and summary programme of work and budget, to facilitate the comparison of facts and figures.

I also wish to add that a number of Members suggested that the Committee should receive a progress report on follow-up to its recommendations made at the previous Session.

In conclusion I wish to say that I agree with the assessment made by the Director-General in his opening address to the Council, that the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture was the most fruitful so far. Its review and recommendations should have a significant impact in shaping and carrying out the programme of work in the next biennium and beyond in the important sector of food, nutrition and agriculture.

I am sorry that this has been a somewhat lengthy introduction but the meeting went on for nearly two weeks, therefore I hope you will not mind. I hope that these brief remarks will assist the Council in discussing the items requiring its attention.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Masud, for that clear introduction of the Report of the Committee on Agriculture. We also have with us Dr. Bommer, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture Department, and his colleagues, to reply to detailed questions, also Dr. Islam of the Economic and Social Policy Department. So we have all the experts here. The Report is now open for discussion.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México) : Agradecemos a la Secretaría la presentación del documento CL 75/9. Lo hemos analizado debidamente dentro del contexto del marco programático de la FAO. Agradecemos asimismo la pronta presentación del documento CL 75/4, que también sirve de base para las discusiones de este punto de la Agenda. Los grandes esfuerzos que en estos momentos se están llevando a cabo en los organismos internacionales, permiten apreciar la importante posición de la FAO como principal Agencia ejecutora y promotora de los programas agrícolas y de desarrollo rural en los países en vías de desarrollo por la misma naturaleza de los problemas que nos afectan.

Es necesario considerar que esta importancia deberá ser acompañada de mayores responsabilidades y capacidades dentro de la Tercera Década de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, en el cual los contrastes de las sociedades rurales de los países nuestros con aquellos de los países desarrollados, será una difícil prueba para la incrementación del marco conceptual del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

Las responsabilidades de la FAO y su preponderancia serán llevadas a cabo por los órganos rectores con mayor facilidad si la FAO, en cooperación con los Estados Miembros, desarrolla un eficiente flujo de información sobre sus acciones y mediante el conocimiento de la evaluación, control, vigilancia y seguimiento que permita a éstos valorar la participación, colaboración e impacto de la Organización y sus programas para que, con base en ellos reorientarlos cuando corresponda, tal como ha sido registrado en el Informe de la Conferencia Regional de FAO para América Latina.

Las actividades encaminadas a la solución de los principales problemas de producción agrícola, en las regiones, donde la disponibilidad de la energía alimentaria no alcanza a satisfacer los requerimientos mínimos necesarios para un desarrollo pleno de sus habitantes, entre las que se consideran, principalmente, la determinación del potencial agrícola y la cuantía de los recursos de tierra y agua; es una acción que deberá reforzarse para hacer más efectiva la colaboración de la Organización en nuestras regiones.

Asimismo, y con la debida consideración en torno al impacto ecológico, y a la par de la ampliación de la frontera agrícola debe asegurarse un mayor aprovechamiento de las tierras ahora cultivadas en esas regiones.

En este contexto y con la adecuada utilización de las tecnologías modernas, el programa de telepercepción de la FAO, debe recibir alta prioridad, dado que, entre otras cosas, resulta de singular utilidad para la determinación de las zonas agroecológicas destinadas a la producción de productos básicos de consumo para los mercados locales.

Al respecto, estimamos que la FAO no debe restarle importancia al estudio y aprovechamiento de productos como el maíz, trigo, mijo, yuca y diversos tubérculos que tradicionalmente han ocupado un sitio importante en la dieta de los pueblos y que han sido sustituidos por hábitos no nacionales de consumo.

Por la importancia que reviste el ataque de enfermedades animales, aceptamos totalmente las conclusiones del Comité cuando se refiere al caso de la fiebre porcina africana, que en fechas recientes ha amenazado con extenderse en América Latina. Siguiendo las directrices elaboradas con la asistencia de

la FAO, México ha desplegado un singular esfuerzo para impedir su presencia en nuestro territorio! sin embargo, no cesa nuestra preocupación. Por otra parte, subrayamos la conclusión del Comité de Agricultura, en el sentido de promover intensamente el diseño, establecimiento y operación de grandes unidades pecuarias que obtengan los beneficios de la especialización y las economías de escala, así como las ventajas que reportan las formas asociativas de producción integradas. Insistir en aquellas prácticas que atomizan los procesos, como en la individual atención a pequeños productores aislados, resulta poco recomendable y antieconómico.

Aceptamos las conclusiones del Comité de Agricultura en los puntos referentes a la nutrición, haciendo hincapié en la importancia de que se vigile la contaminación de los alimentos. La nutrición humana es uno de los mayores problemas que se han de resolver, y bajo este marco se deberá incluir el velar por la salud y el mayor desempeño de los habitantes de nuestros países, a quienes deberá dárseles también alimentos sanos. Así, de este modo, la vigilancia de la contaminación de los alimentos adquiere una singular importancia, porque partiendo de la insuficiencia le agregamos el estar contaminados.

Nos complace observar la altísima prioridad que el Comité le atribuyó al Desarrollo Rural, lo cual consideramos como una clara indicación de la disposición de la Comunidad Internacional para considerar en su magnitud el principio de que todo ser humano debe tener derecho al desarrollo y sus beneficios, haciéndose manifiesto, asimismo, ante los Organos Rectores de esta Institución la responsabilidad para que se aumenten los esfuerzos encaminados a resolverlo en el marco de la justicia social, la instauración del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional y la aplicación íntegra de la Carta de los Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados.

Reafirmamos el apoyo de nuestro Gobierno a las actividades internacionales encaminadas a la búsqueda de una sociedad más justa en la que se puedan conjugar la tecnología moderna y el aprovechamiento cada vez más adecuado de los recursos naturales en forma soberana y responsable y el trabajo con la más amplia participación de los productores de nuestros países. Siendo la reforma agraria condición previa al desarrollo rural, ambos deben ser considerados inseparables en la preparación de las condiciones apropiadas para el desarrollo integral.

A nadie escapa que es la FAO, dentro de las Organizaciones del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, la que debe incorporar cuanto antes dentro de sus proyectos, programas y políticas, los valiosos conceptos que esperamos contribuya la Declaración de Principios y el Programa de Acción para que, inmediatamente, se transformen en actividades efectivas a nivel nacional e internacional.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): It is a pleasure, if I may say so, to follow so soon after Mr. Masud's comprehensive and helpful introduction to this Report of the Committee on Agriculture. I think it is probably one of the most basic committees there are in FAO's work, and - I stand subject to correction - one of the oldest, if not the oldest. However, it is a pleasure to follow Mr. Masud's introduction because he has led us, I think, very well through the Report, and I have only a very few comments on the Report, if I may.

In fact, my first comment is that I would like to move that we endorse the Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. I think sometimes we miss the obvious; I think that is the obvious thing to do. It is a very good Report.

Secondly, I would like to record our view, also, that the meeting was a very successful one. As Mr. Masud said, it was very well attended and it addressed itself to some important questions. I think perhaps the strength of this Committee is that it stems from the attention which it gives to technical analysis and discussion, and we for our part would very strongly support the concentration on such specialist subjects. Also, in accepting that COAG is the appropriate body to discuss nutrition's place in FAO's programme, we agree that food and nutrition should be a standing item of future sessions of COAG, and we can fully accept that the terms of reference be amended accordingly.

As Mr. Masud has reminded us, the Committee carries out its functions in two ways. One is its traditional review of FAO's work in food and agriculture, and secondly, the in-depth examination of certain selected issues. I think it is a very good balance, and I think one reason for the success of this Committee is that it attempts to do this.

On the review of FAO's traditional functions, that is to say, the three points which Mr. Masud identified: the implementation of the current Programme, the medium- and long-term outlook, and the Programme of Work and Budget, I am happy to say that FAO's medium- and long-term outlook for agricultural development received general support in the Committee, and attention was also drawn to the difficulties in the way of progress in this field. It is very important that we face openly the problems in going forward.

As regards the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81, the Committee considered only the substantive and technical aspects of the Programme. It did not comment in any way on the budget level. I think that where the Committee endorsed the various elements of the proposed Programme, it was interesting that it laid stress particularly on crop and livestock development. I think again sometimes we miss the obvious, but I would like to make those points.

Now, with regard to the second group of items identified in the Committee's work, the in-depth study of specialist subjects, they were the on-farm use of water, the place of nutrition in agriculture and rural development, and agricultural mechanization. I am bound to say on the first of these, that is, the on-farm use of water, the debate was rather disappointing. Again I think we have to face the fact that when there is a disappointing outcome, we face that, and it is probably due to the lack of expertise around the table at COAG, but in comparison with that, I thought the debate on nutrition was extremely good. There was a considerable level of agreement, and whenever we find means of agreeing, let us for heaven's sake make that clear. I think the more we can agree on things the better.

There was general agreement on the important subject of nutrition, and as I have said before, its inclusion in COAG's future terms of reference.

But I think the other point to stress on nutrition was also the general agreement that it should be seen as part of a very complex process of development and its relationship to the general question of food production and consumption, and I think there is a need for the nutritional aspect of agricultural programmes from time to time to be evaluated.

On the third and final specialist subject which COAG addressed itself to, namely agricultural mechanization, I think possibly, much to my surprise, this attracted the most attention to all. Differing views were expressed on the value of mechanization. I think it is a very good thing occasionally when different views are expressed, because what this brought out was that the importance of mechanization is that it is simply one of the inputs in improving agricultural production, and one needs to stress the need for careful planning to ensure that the appropriate combination of human, animal and mechanized power is brought to bear on any special situation in a particular country. I think that it was very interesting to see this outcome. It is not a black and white situation, it is very important that one gets the right balance, as I say, between the human, the animal and the mechanized power, but finally, what also was of interest was that the whole thing must be seen within the general context of the particular country's national development objectives.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United Kingdom. You mention the age of the Committee. You thought it was probably one of the oldest. In fact, it is not. Well, as you can see, this is its fifth meeting, and I remember I was the Chairman of the first meeting of the Committee, and we started off with a great deal of confusion, but I am glad to see the Committee has really settled down and is now playing such a wonderful role.

C.S. RANGACHARI (India): May I begin by saying that I entirely agree with the United Kingdom when he said that the work done by the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture has been extremely productive and possibly, as Mr. Masud pointed out in his introduction, it has been the most fruitful session of this Committee so far.

India generally endorses the recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, but in doing so would like to make certain specific comments by way of supplementing the findings contained in this Report in respect of three specific areas. One of these is the prevention of food losses and the FAO Action Programme in that regard which has been referred to in paragraph 45 of the Report. The second specific area on which India would like to comment specifically is that of on-farm use of water, which has been referred to in paragraph 116 of the Report, and the third specific area is agricultural mechanization, which has been dealt with extensively in paragraphs 132 to 146.

On the Action Programme for prevention of food losses, India would like to point out that this is an extremely important programme and would therefore like to emphatically go on record that this Programme should receive even greater financial support. In our view, food losses should be viewed not merely in quantitative terms but also in qualitative terms from the point of view of the occurrence of mycotoxins in grains. For this purpose, this delegation would suggest that community

drying facilities be created to assist particularly the small and marginal farmers in reducing the moisture content of grains before storage. It would be extremely useful if FAO initiates a programme of establishing demonstration and training centres in the area of improved post-harvest technology in developing countries. These training centres should pay particular attention to the training of women, since in many developing countries, post-harvest operations are by and large handled by rural women.

As regards the on-farm use of water, again India would like to emphasize that this is a very important programme, and I am inclined to agree with the view of the United Kingdom that this area did not perhaps receive satisfactory attention at the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. As India has been emphasizing, an important aspect of world food security should be greater attention to irrigation and the effective use of water. One of the constraints in the effective utilisation of ground and surface water is the inadequate availability of energy for pumping water either through tubewells or surface and lift irrigation pumps. In this connexion, FAO should carefully review the present status of utilization of solar energy for pumping water. A paper on this subject could be prepared and presented at the general Conference in November. Also FAO could, we suggest, at suitable locations start demonstration-cum-centres where all the available models of solar pumps could be tested and demonstrated. Although solar pumps may not yet be economical, in our view it is important to pave the way so that in a few years' time when suitable models become available the people of the area will be ready to use them effectively.

The third specific area on which the Indian delegation would like to make comments is agricultural mechanization. The Indian delegation supports the view that the aim of mechanization must not be labour displacement but labour's diversification and improvement of the efficiency of conversion of human energy. In addition to the suggestions made by COAG, the Indian delegation would like to suggest that FAO should initiate a systematic study of the kinds of implements and tools which are at present utilized by rural women, and help to improve them.

It is also necessary that techniques like minimum tillage, or no tillage, are tested and demonstrated widely, both to reduce the use of non-renewable forms of energy and for prevention of soil erosion. In fact many developing countries, particularly in the Sahelian zone of Africa, already practise no-tillage method of cultivation.

Instead of trying to change this practice, what is important is to introduce appropriate methods of weed control which will help the farmers to get good crops. Steps should be taken to ensure that the pathway of productivity improvement does not lead to an exponential increase in the consumption of renewable forms of energy.

We emphasize this since, as was so eloquently brought out by the Director-General in his opening statement on Monday, food and energy are going to be the most dominant concerns of the third development decade.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I was prepared just to make the same remarks at the beginning but you have taken them from my mouth. I am pleased you are now in the chair for the discussion of the Committee on Agriculture, as I remember during the first discussion of the Committee when we had a lot of difficulties, and you as chairman in particular had great difficulty in overcoming them. Now I am very pleased you are here, as no-one else could appreciate or know better the progress that has been achieved during these five sessions.

This delegation was privileged to attend the Fifth Session of the Council Committee on Agriculture. We were very pleased to see that after the considerable hesitations during the first year of existence COAG is now on the right track to becoming a very valuable advisory body of the Council. It is indeed a unique position. It deals with a large part of FAO's past, present and future work - and a fact which cannot be stressed enough - purely on technical merits it is not hampered with financial considerations.

The technical officers of member governments gathered in this body express their frank opinion on the desirability that FAO's technical programme discussion should be maintained, expanded and strengthened, and whether new fields of work should be included in the programme of work of the Organization. Then it is up to the Director-General to make his proposals to the Council to examine COAG's recommendations and evaluate the financial and perhaps even the policy implications. This is a particular privilege granted to COAG.

We think that much, and possibly even more, use should be made of it. With some small organizational matters, COAG's work can be considerably enhanced.

We wish to explain our ideas in this respect a little bit more. To our mind, practically the work of COAG's sessions can be divided, not as Mr. Masud just suggested, into not two but three parts. During the first part it deals with FAO's work in fields of competence in three sections: one, the implementation of the current programme of work; two, the medium and long-term outlook for agricultural development; and three, a summary programme of work for the forthcoming biennium.

There are rightly three different working papers on each of these three sections. However, certain trouble and confusion starts in the discussion when each working paper has to be debated separately. Along the same pattern, namely the pattern which is used in FAO's Programme of Work it is evident that both the discussions and the resulting report will have a lot of overlappings and confusing repetition; and last but not least, a lot of time is wasted in the discussions.

We are wondering whether this procedure could not be rationalized. Would it not be better if certain improvements could be made, perhaps of the working papers and the following discussions, as has been pointed out during the meeting by the delegation of Canada, to improve the format of the working papers. We think it would perhaps be better to deliver the three papers together, then to discuss them, subject matter by subject matter, indicating the achievements that justified their continuation, and eventually, in the light of the needs and requirements, new activities.

This delegation also feels that the work of COAG is covered in the working papers, but the discussions are not as complete as they should be. They are limited to the work of agriculture and the economic and social policies, at present. Only by the terms of reference, COAG is much wider and covers a lot of other schemes of the work in other parts of the Organization. To mention only a few, we feel the work which has been carried out by regional offices is not sufficiently covered. The important work which has been carried out in the European Regional Office on Research Networks has only been incidentally mentioned, and not discussed at all. There was only very scarce information in the papers and the discussions of the field work of FAO.

This delegation asks you, Mr. Chairman, and the Council that these general remarks should not be interpreted as criticism but merely suggestions to enhance the working efficiency of COAG which to our mind is an extremely valuable and important committee. We do not pretend our proposals are the best ones, nor in any way do we attach any particular importance to the value of our suggestions. Perhaps this is more a discussion, and there would be much better suggestions and solutions to the same effect.

At this juncture we do not wish to analyse this third part of COAG's session according to the decisions which we have just taken and on which we will have ample opportunity to come back later when the item on the agenda will be discussed in the Programme of Work and Budget. We wish only to add to the general remarks an additional one, that we feel it is a pity that in the preparation of the documentation and the agenda, COAG's character as a static organ of FAO whose work is continuous, was not taken fully into account. A progress report on the follow-up given to the delivery of the resolutions of this last session was lacking, as well as FAO's judgments expressed on the work of the Committee by other and even higher organs of the Organization.

Let me now come to the work on the second part of COAG's section. This is devoted, as mentioned by Mr. Masud, to special development problems with the obvious aim of examining them with the future action in the work of the Organization in mind. This time the second part of COAG was devoted to three problems dealing with questions of nutrition and farm use of water, agricultural organizations and their effect on implement distribution, in particular in developing countries. The debates on these issues were useful, interesting and straightforward. We agree with COAG's conclusions on the last mentioned subject matter and we were particularly interested in the item on farm use of water which is of particular importance to Malta. The working paper was concise, perhaps even too concise. Certain important items such as ground water, energy saving, rainwater management, supplementary irrigation, irrigation equipment and land preparation for the prevention of soil erosion were not dealt with at all or were only touched upon slightly. The discussion on this topic therefore, to our mind, did not bring out important new elements for a new orientation of FAO's work not for influencing governments' policies. The Committee generally agreed that the farmer should be involved in project planning, operation, and in all aspects of water management, and that to this end the training of farmers is essential. Governments were requested to support the farmers in improving technologies for irrigation and drainage, to encourage the setting up of specialized farmers' associations and irrigation associations. It was stressed that agricultural water use must be planned in an overall frame of water development to give it its rightful place in the competition with other users such as domestic and industrial needs. COAG stressed that national actions for rehabilitation and improvement schemes for old irrigation systems should be promoted, possibly with FAO technical assistance. No formal recommendation on this topic was formulated concerning FAO's future activities in this field.

The other special development problems included "Agricultural mechanization in relation to production employment and income distribution in developing countries." The Secretariat prepared an interesting paper on this item to serve as a basis for the discussion. It had to be recognized, however, that there was a lack of basic and in particular statistical, economic and social information in developing countries on this matter. Hence, the paper and the interesting discussions which followed could not really cover the influence of mechanization, employment and income distribution, but concentrated mainly on the role of the different forms of mechanization - from hand tools, animal-driven to mechanical power equipment - and dwelt on the advantages of mechanization, on the timeliness and speed in performing operations.

The importance of farm machinery in agricultural development was fully recognized at COAG but it was pointed out that the inputs - in particular these using petroleum - increased the dependence and vulnerability of farmers due to increasing petroleum prices and possible disruptions in supply. Several delegations called for greater use of agriculture-based energy sources and crop residues as well as other alternative energy sources such as water, solar and wind energy.

The Committee stressed that in order to obtain the benefit from mechanical power, it is necessary that extension advice, fertilizers, improved seeds and credit be available. Infrastructural and institutional support is also essential, and in particular adequate supplies of spare parts, facilities for maintenance and repair, communication and credit arrangements.

The United Kingdom delegation declared that it was prepared to conduct, in cooperation with FAO, a seminar on the organization of spares services. The offer has been accepted with interest by many delegations. It was stressed that there was also a need for the training of operators, mechanics and - last but not least - also of the farmers. FAO was requested to organize such training centres; several delegates offered to make available facilities, personnel and other resources to assist FAO in its efforts.

The debate also stressed the financial implications for mechanization, the necessary credit facilities and foreign exchange availabilities. It was pointed out that the initial investment is only a part of the total investment required. Some delegates also noted that forms and conditions of financial assistance have sometimes resulted in the introduction of inappropriate mechanization.

Of particular interest was the third Special Development Problem, "Nutrition in Agriculture." It was placed before COAG as a follow-up of Resolution 8/77 of the last Session of the Conference, which requested the Director-General to review the FAO programmes on nutrition in order to assess their impact on the nutritional status of the rural and urban poor, and to suggest methods so that nutritional considerations - in addition to the economic point of view - are adequately included in the planning and execution of FAO's agricultural programmes and projects. Indeed, since the adoption of this Resolution, a complete reorientation has taken place in FAO's nutrition activities. While during a former period the Nutrition Division concentrated most of its efforts on theoretical nutrition problems of a general nature, the programme became, over the last few years, more country-focused and practical. A number of commissions assessed the nutritional status and the particular needs of different Member Countries with the aim of advising the respective governments on how to include nutritional considerations in their agricultural planning. This new orientation of FAO's work corresponds to the aims and expectations for which FAO was created. Nutrition is indeed an integral part of development. The solution of nutrition problems has to be found primarily in the adequate orientation of economic and rural development.

We therefore support the FAO approach as proposed in document COAG 79/6, "Nutrition in agriculture and rural development" which was placed before the COAG session and which outlines a methodology to assess the impact on food consumption and on the nutrition status of populations that can be expected from development programmes, particularly in the agricultural field.

Malta hopes that it can count on the cooperation of FAO specialists to lay the ground of a national food and nutrition policy based on the assessment of the present situation and on the analysis of the contributions that the sectors of food trade, production and storage distribution, marketing and processing, promotion and education, can make to solving the problem of the people of the island.

We had the impression during the COAG session that a number of governments were willing to undertake the same essential exercise, by themselves or in cooperation with the FAO Secretariat, and in particular the Nutrition Division. We hope the Nutrition Division will be sufficiently equipped and financed to respond to all the requests for assistance generated by the strong support given to the nutritional approach proposed to FAO by the Committee on Agriculture. At the end of its discussions COAG adopted a formal recommendation concerning the implementation of Conference Resolution 8/77. My delegation accepts the terms of this recommendation and hopes that it will be carried out. It gives its consensus that nutrition should be included in COAG's terms of reference and that to this end the relative sections of Rule XXXII of the General Rules of the Organization be amended.

Finally, we also agree that in this context the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition should be dissolved.

During the third part of its session, COAG was supposed to deal with its future work programme and with the lessons which it learned from the work of the present session, in particular as regards the organization and the methods of its work. Unfortunately, there was extremely limited time left to examine this problem thoroughly, and all the more so as the Committee had also to study and improve the work of an Ad Hoc Sub-Committee which it set up on the revision of the International Plant Protection Convention. It therefore seems to my delegation that in the preparation of the agenda of the future COAG sessions, the time factor should be more closely watched and perhaps it should not contain more than two Selected Development Problems in addition to the main issue which will always be FAO's working programme for the forthcoming biennium.

CHAIRMAN: I hope delegates will be able to condense their interventions in order to save time.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : La delegación de Colombia agradece la presentación clara y adecuada hecha por el Sr. Masud, Vicepresidente del COAG. Estamos de acuerdo con el colega de India al apoyar la preocupación que el COAG expresa en el párrafo 24 de su informe, sobre el hecho de que no se hayan completado los 20 millones de dólares que debían destinarse a la Cuenta Especial para reducir las pérdidas de las cosechas. Cuando en uno de los períodos anteriores del Consejo discutimos intensamente la creación de esa Cuenta Especial, habíamos entendido que aquellos países que recibieron devoluciones reintegrarían, por lo menos, esos mismos valores y aun aumentarían sus contribuciones para lograr esa meta de 20 millones.

Lamentamos que esto no haya sucedido y pedimos al Consejo que inste a los países contribuyentes a que se logre esta meta para que el Programa siga prestando asistencia a los países en desarrollo que sufren pérdidas en sus cosechas por carecer de recursos para evitarlas.

La delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo con el párrafo 28 sobre apoyo a la investigación. Con pideramos necesario mantener estrecha vinculación entre los programas nacionales y las instituciones regionales e internacionales de investigación para facilitar la transferencia de tecnología que pueda contribuir a aumentar los niveles de productividad.

Estamos de acuerdo también con el párrafo 37 en el sentido de que la FAO debe seguir prestando apoyo a la UNCTAD en las reuniones preparatorias para concertar acuerdos internacionales sobre productos agrícolas en espera de que avancen las negociaciones sobre el Programa Integrado para los Productos Básicos.

40 el párrafo 40 el Comité pone de presente la gran necesidad de alimentos que necesitarán los países en desarrollo a fines de este siglo. Esas cifras oscurecen las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario, e imponen una actitud más constructiva para quienes pueden contribuir a que el porvenir sea menos angustioso. Yen el párrafo 41 se habla de los preparativos para una nueva estrategia de desarrollo para el Tercer Decenio; del DD2 pasaremos al DD3 con un aumento de grado menos vertiginoso que el aumento de 400 a 500 millones de seres subnutridos en el mundo.

Siempre acato las instrucciones que usted da sobre los métodos de trabajo del Consejo porque son acertadas; es así como voy a terminar aquí mis referencias al documento CL 75/9. Desearía hacer algunas breves consideraciones sobre el otro documento que se cita en el Orden del Día, el CL 75/4, Informe del Comité del Programa, pero he leído y releído con atención los párrafos 2.178 a 2.180 del Informe del Comité del Programa, y francamente, no encuentro ninguna opinión de la cual valga la pena ocuparse. Es una lástima porque nuestra delegación sentía mucha simpatía en el pasado por los aportes útiles que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas venían haciendo a las labores del Consejo a través de informes críticos constructivos. Naturalmente ahora no voy a profundizar sobre esta materia; lo haré más adelante, la semana entrante, cuando discutamos el punto pertinente y podamos hacer referencias a nuestra decepción por la manera como ahora los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas vienen presentando sus informes. La falta de opinión del Comité del Programa sobre este punto podría deberse en parte, a que según puede verse en los documentos, las sesiones del COAG y el Comité del Programa coincidieron, se superpusieron casi totalmente. Esto es negativo y debería evitarse en el futuro.

J.G. KHARAS (Pakistan): We would like to compliment the Committee on Agriculture for a very-comprehensive report and we congratulate and thank Mr. Masud for his lucid introduction to the report. We have already given our views in the Committee meetings and we would like to add the following comments here while the report is being considered by this session of the Council.

We have read document CL 75/9, which is the Report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture with considerable interest. Agriculture is the most vital sector in the economy of Pakistan. 85 percent of our population is dependent on agriculture. It is, therefore, only natural that this Report receives very close and careful attention by us. I will endeavour not to go into too much detail and will restrict my remarks to Matters Requiring Attention of the Council, as outlined on pages v - viii.

We support the Committee's stress on the continuing importance of the special action programme referred to in the various programmes under Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture. These are well balanced and go a long way to meeting some of the immediate requirements of development countries.

Fertilizer is a key input to increasing agricultural production. Unfortunately, however, of late we have noticed a tendency for an increase in the prices. This is a most distressing development. MSA countries are now vitally dependent upon adequate fertilizer supplies. Any interruption or reduction in the supplies would have a very adverse affect on the efforts being made to increase agricultural production, and the effort to achieve self sufficiency in food. Unfortunately, assistance as recommended by the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly has remained inadequate and much below the level agreed upon. Under these circumstances it is imperative and vital that the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme should be further strengthened. We are grateful to the donor countries who have supported this Scheme particularly the United Kingdom and would urge others to join in and made the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme more effective. It is hardly necessary for us to say that we afford a great importance to the item of the Seed Improvement and Development Scheme and we fully support it.

I need not say much on the prevention of food losses as a great deal has already been said. However, we are disappointed to note that the funds in the special account to finance prevention of food losses projects are inadequate and unless a much more intensive effort is made, it would not be possible to achieve the target established by the United Nations General Assembly to reduce post harvest food losses by 50 percent by 1985. We would, therefore, urge all donors, particularly those who have not yet contributed to the special account to do so and make this really worthwhile programme a success.

We would like to lend our support to all efforts in the field of rural development aimed at improving the conditions of the rural poor and disadvantaged groups. It has become an imperative necessity to bring these groups into the main stream of national development so that they can benefit from the advantages of development.

Although we are aware that the final position regarding evaluation would be much clearer at the time of the next Conference, we feel it important to suggest that in order to judge the impact of various activities and to facilitate the assessment of relative priorities there should be a provision to make a mid biennium evaluation.

We have also noted with special attention the emphasis on production and improvement of oilseeds. My country has already given high priority within the crops programmes to this subject in the ongoing Fifth Five Year Plan and we are hopeful that increased oilseeds production would reduce dependence on imports to meet the requirements of the vegetable oil industry.

Lack of technical and financial resources, especially, the latter are still acting as major constraints to rapid development of training, education and extension needs and in this connection my country would welcome financial assistance to strengthen their national research capabilities. We support the main priorities under the medium and long-term outlook for food and agriculture development. Of course, we will be speaking on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget under a subsequent item of the agenda and would at this stage merely restrict ourselves to giving our support to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1980/81, as related to Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture. On nutrition in agriculture and rural development we support the views of the Committee and would confine ourselves here only to stressing the need to give greater importance to nutrition education.

Very briefly on the subject of agricultural mechanization which was discussed as a separate item by the Committee on Agriculture, we would strongly support the priority accorded to the small farmers and the importance of policy and planning to ensure that mechanization is developed in harmony with overall national development objectives. We agree that FAO should give greater priority to mechanization in order to implement an expanded FAO effort in this field as soon as practicable. In some countries, including Pakistan, the position of labour availability

during the peak season has materially changed and without the help of agricultural mechanization, we would not be in a position to reap all the benefits accruing from the increased production. Even during the current crop year we faced difficulties in harvesting the crop and saving it from wastage. We were very much interested in the item, On-farm use of water. By way of interest I would like to state that my country has one of the most extensive and highly integrated water distribution systems in the world. If all the canals and water courses of Pakistan were put end to end they would go twice around the globe. Unfortunately, the ordinary farmer is not well organized to obtain and apply the irrigation water from this vast network in line with the complex demand of modern agriculture. 45 to 50 percent of the water entering the canal is lost before reaching the farmer's field. The loss in the water courses alone ranges around 50 percent of the canal withdrawals. These figures underline the imperative need of improving the water courses in a scientific way to minimize losses. Even saving 1 percent of water in all the water courses would make available an additional 1 million acre feet. The Government of Pakistan has, therefore, launched a massive programme of "On-farm water management". Use of labour intensive methods lies at the heart of this programme. Under these circumstances, we endorse the proposed national action programme on which we are already embarked for rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation schemes and for farm water management.

Finally, we would like to support the suggestion of the representative of the United Kingdom that we accept the comprehensive report of the Committee on Agriculture.

P. HALIMI (France): Le document CL 75/9 soumis à notre examen est un important document, un document de référence qui nous a été présenté de manière excellente par le Vice-Président du COAG, M. Masud, que je remercie de son introduction complète. Par l'importance des problèmes de développement qu'il étudie de manière sélective à chacune de ses sessions, le COAG qui est, ainsi que vous l'avez dit, chronologiquement le quatrième Comité du Conseil après le Comité des Forêts, celui des Pêches et des Produits, est insensiblement devenu l'un des Comités du Conseil où les problèmes du développement agricole sont étudiés de manière exhaustive grâce à la participation à ses travaux des meilleurs experts des pays membres de l'Organisation. C'est pourquoi, sans méconnaître l'importance de l'avis émis par le COAG sur le programme de travail actuel et futur de l'Organisation, je limiterai mon intervention, ainsi que vous l'avez demandé, à l'évocation d'un nombre limité de questions me réservant d'intervenir sur le programme de travail de l'Organisation lors de la discussion du point 11 de notre ordre du jour.

Examinons tout d'abord les difficultés, les points d'ombre. Les difficultés rencontrées par le COAG depuis ses cinq sessions tiennent à un certain nombre de faits.

Premièrement, le COAG a souhaité examiner la partie du programme de travail et budget du prochain biennium qui le concerne, d'une manière utile et efficace: c'est-à-dire avant la réunion du Comité du programme. Il n'a pu obtenir à ce jour une prise de considération de ce désir légitime, ce qui fait que le Comité du programme n'a pu qu'émettre un avis qui figure aux paragraphes 2/78 à 2/80 du rapport conjoint du Comité financier en matière de nutrition et a semblé ignorer toute l'activité du COAG, ce qui est pour le moins étonnant et certainement regrettable.

Deuxièmement, le COAG a souhaité tenir sa session à un moment où d'autres réunions n'auraient pas empêché certaines délégations de suivre ses travaux. Ceci, également, il ne l'a pas obtenu. Cette situation l'a donc privé du concours de certains pays à ses travaux.

Troisièmement, le COAG a souhaité que le Secrétariat l'informe du suivi de ses conclusions sur les thèmes soumis à son examen et qui ont fait l'objet de recommandations. Ce point figure au par.11 de la page 2 du Rapport dans le texte français. Ceci a été obtenu au cours des premières sessions du COAG, vous vous en souvenez, puis perdu de vue par le Secrétariat. Espérons toutefois que le prochain COAG connaîtra le résultat des travaux de la FAO durant le biennium en matière de petite hydraulique et de mécanisation.

J'en viens maintenant aux quatre thèmes principaux examinés par le dernier COAG. En matière d'hydraulique agricole, où le débat nous a semblé insuffisant, il faut, semble-t-il, intensifier la coopération avec d'autres organisations gouvernementales et non-gouvernementales. Ceci figure au par. 127 du Rapport, et je félicite le Secrétariat d'avoir, depuis lors, intensifié les contacts avec, notamment, la Commission internationale des irrigations et du drainage. Je signale, toutefois, que l'Europe dispose d'un nombre important d'experts qualifiés qui souhaitent pouvoir se réunir dans le cadre de la FAO, ou à défaut, dans le cadre de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. Un groupe conjoint FAO/Commission économique de l'Europe de l'hydraulique agricole serait aussi utile que le groupe conjoint existant de la mécanisation et permettrait, ce qui est essentiel, des transferts de connaissances des pays en développement.

Sur le plan de l'hydraulique agricole, il faut, à mon sens, se préoccuper des raisons de la détérioration des systèmes d'irrigation et ne pas négliger les problèmes de formation et d'encadrement des utilisateurs.

Sur le plan de la nutrition nous approuvons la proposition qui nous est faite d'inclure la nutrition dans le mandat du COAG. Ceci permettra une liaison indispensable entre les problèmes nutritionnels et ceux du développement agricole. L'augmentation de la production agricole doit en effet entraîner un relèvement du niveau nutritionnel des populations rurales; ceci figure au paragraphe 13 de notre rapport. Sur le plan de la mécanisation il faut veiller à ce que l'introduction de la motorisation soit créatrice d'emplois par une bonne décentralisation des activités liées à la mécanisation: (commercialisation, préparation, formation de conducteurs, fourniture de pièces détachées, etc.) Ceci a, semble-t-il, été réussi au Pendjab, en Inde, ainsi que nous l'a dit le délégué de l'Inde pendant le COAG. J'appuie d'ailleurs ce qui a été dit au sujet de l'énergie par le délégué de l'Inde et celui de Malte, et je salue à nouveau l'initiative prise par les Nations Unies d'organiser une Conférence sur l'utilisation de nouvelles sources d'énergie. Nous approuvons les conclusions des travaux du groupe ad hoc chargé de la révision de la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux et souhaitons que la prochaine Conférence de l'Organisation parvienne à un consensus. La délégation française déploiera quant à elle tous ses efforts en ce sens.

Enfin les sujets qui nous paraissent les plus intéressants pour le prochain COAG nous semblent être: premièrement la protection des végétaux, deuxièmement la conservation des sols. Le second sujet nous permettra de connaître l'application faite par la FAO de la Charte mondiale des sols (je dis bien la Charte et non la carte) votée par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation.

Pour ce qui concerne la présentation du document, la suggestion du délégué de Malte a retenu, je crois, l'attention du COAG et nous souhaitons que des progrès puissent être enregistrés en la matière pour éviter des interventions parfois répétitives.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): My delegation wishes to endorse all the recommendations made by the Committee and wishes to thank them for the excellent work done. I do not propose to comment on all the aspects which have been dealt with by the Committee, as we do not dispute that they are all equally important.

My comments are mainly confined to the deliberations and recommendations made by the Committee on the Nutritional aspects of agriculture. The Report of the Fifth Session of COAG, I am pleased to say, has responded well to the request made by Sri Lanka, together with Pakistan and several others, at the last Council Session to look more closely into the nutrition activities of FAO. We raised the issue whether there should not be a separate standing committee on nutrition in view of the high importance that we all attach to the maintenance and improvement of nutritional standards to ensure the well-being of the poor communities. We are happy to note that the Committee has made a suggestion that the General Rules of the Organization should be amended to include Nutrition among the areas to be covered by COAG.

I hope it is not out of place to mention here that we in Sri Lanka have all along paid attention to factors which affect food consumption, such as income distribution, employment, better and improved wages, availability of land for cultivation, and food price policies. In consideration of these needs the Government recently adopted measures which may be of interest to fellow delegates. The Government has exempted all public servants from the payment of income tax on their emoluments. Over half a million acres of land which came under the Government under the Land Reform Laws of 1972 and 1975 are to be distributed among landless families on the basis of half an acre per family under the Land Grants Bill. Under the Government's Job Bank Scheme one unemployed person per family will be found employment in the State services per year during the next five years. A Food Policy Coordinating Committee consisting of the Permanent Secretaries of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Food and Trade, have been set up to ensure a balance in the distribution of cereals, pulses and lentils in order to provide adequate supplies to the consumers, supplementing them with imports when needed to ensure that fair prices will prevail both to producers and consumers at all times. These are important steps which are being implemented in order to ensure that the community will have adequate purchasing power to obtain their requirements of food in relation to quality as well as quantity, while at the same time ensuring that local production continues to expand.

A. BERGQVIST (Sweden): The Swedish delegation has with great interest studied the report of the COAG, and like previous speakers would like to endorse it. Since many of the questions dealt with by COAG will be discussed later during this Council when discussing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, I would limit myself to a few comments.

Sweden, together with other Nordic countries, has for a number of years in FAO as well as in other fora stressed the need for giving increased attention to nutrition. Therefore we are pleased to note that COAG at its last session spent some considerable time discussing how Conference Resolution 8/77 on Nutrition could be implemented and how FAO could further develop its nutrition activities. The Committee came to the conclusion that food and nutrition should be a standing item on every COAG session and consequently recommended an amendment to the General Rules of the Organization.

My delegation supports this recommendation and the suggestion in paragraph 115 that the proposed amendment be referred to the CCLM. While giving its support to the recommendation of making nutrition a concern of COAG my delegation nevertheless wants to underline what is stated in paragraph 100, that the nutritional impact of development activities has to be considered not only in relation to agriculture but also in relation to other areas, for example, fisheries. Thus we feel that this matter of nutrition might also be appropriately placed on the Agenda of the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on World Food Security because there also nutritional aspects should be taken into consideration. With the inclusion of nutrition among the areas to be covered by COAG there might not be a need for an ad hoc Committee on Nutrition. My delegation is, however, somewhat reluctant to see the complete discontinuation of the ad hoc Committee: we would rather like to see it suspended for the time being. In the future the need might arise for a more in-depth nutrition deliberation than can be the case in COAG. On such occasions it might be necessary to convene a meeting devoted entirely to nutritional questions and therefore a meeting of the ad hoc Committee might then be appropriate. However, we feel that unnecessary meetings should be avoided.

With a new area the already broad mandate of COAG will be further expanded. There might be a risk that discussions in COAG, because of its vast mandate, will be of too general a nature, especially compared with the discussions in the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forestry. I think the delegate of the United Kingdom dealt very well with that. When selecting topics for future COAG sessions, Sweden feels it necessary to strike the balance between subjects of a more technical nature and subjects that would give the Committee a possibility to discuss matters of a social and economic nature.

As to the timing of COAG meetings, it would to my delegation be preferable if COAG sessions could take place earlier during the interval between conferences in order to give the Committee an opportunity to influence the preparation on the Programme of Work and Budget earlier than has been the case so far. I think the delegate of France also dealt with that, and I support what he said. The other question on which my delegation would like to offer its comments concerns the formulation of a new development strategy for the Third Development Decade. FAO has already played an active role in the efforts of the United Nations to formulate a new strategy, and my delegation, therefore, strongly endorses what is said in paragraph 41, that urges FAO to continue to play an active role in this very important work.

My delegation will be pleased to have an opportunity to discuss elements of the new strategy during the coming Conference. As to the elements of a new strategy, my Government has in other fora stated that in our view, issues of environment and natural resources must be given a proper place in the new strategy. Our views were presented to the Preparatory Committee at the second meeting in April, that is, the Preparatory Committee for the new strategy.

I would take too long to go into detail now on the elements that we have suggested there, so I will just end by quoting a paragraph from a Swedish memorandum that among other things states that "The natural resources of the earth must be protected for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning and proper management. The capacity of the earth to produce essential renewable resources must be maintained, restored or improved. The non-renewable resources must be employed so as to protect from further exhaustion and ensure that benefits from their employment are shared by all mankind.

F. REDA (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): We should like to express our satisfaction with the results arrived at by the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. In our view, this Committee has a particular importance within the framework of FAO, and we also hope that this importance will always be stressed. We did not expect that we would be attending this session nor that world problems of agriculture could be solved through one session of the Committee. However, technological and scientific progress which will go step by step will help us also to achieve progress as time goes on.

On this occasion, I wish to express our thanks to all our colleagues who attended the session with particular thanks to Dr. Bommer and Professor Islam, for we have no doubt that their preparation for this session and their participation therein played an important role in the success of the meeting, as is reflected in the Report submitted to us today.

I also wish to express our support and agreement with everything appearing in this Report. However, I shall stress a few points in the following manner. We would particularly emphasize the special importance we attach to the World Fertilizer Scheme and the support which COAG recommended should be given to this Scheme, since for certain countries, this is a source of hope and they want to see it continuing always and find it a considerable source of assistance.

We now move to the question of crops and to the recommendation made by COAG to the effect that FAO should give certain crops to which it was not attaching importance the same importance attached to other crops.

Next we wish to express our interest in the Programme on Post-Harvest Losses, and we join other members of the Committee who urged further participation in the special measures approved by the Nineteenth Session of the Conference, where the funds amounted to \$20 million.

We further express our deep interest in the role of the Organization in agricultural research programmes, because the role of FAO in coordination and in supporting the various institutions will render a particular service toward agriculture which will be to the best interest of agriculture in general.

We wish also to express our general interest in the various rural development recommendations and programmes, and there is no doubt that the World Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development will be making particular recommendations to this effect, and for this reason we shall not speak on this subject in detail.

We also wish to express our particular interest in the various surveys and studies in which FAO participates, chiefly Agriculture in the Year Two Thousand, and also Agriculture in the Third Development Decade. In this area FAO is undertaking a very active role within the United Nations system, and we hope that these surveys and studies will be available to the various countries at the forthcoming World Conference.

On the subject of the use of water at the farm level, we wish to stress the recommendations adopted by the Committee in this area, particularly the participation of farmers in all projects of water system improvement and maintenance and also concerning training and the effective and economic use of water by farmers.

Likewise we wish to express our support for the recommendation made on the subject of nutrition, as adopted by the Committee, and we would like to see nutrition as a standing item on the Agenda of COAG.

As for rural development, we support all the conclusions and the final recommendations of COAG. We also wish to express our interest and our wish that FAO will attach all necessary attention to such items as will be included on COAG's future agendas, so that documents submitted to COAG will always be on the same level as the documents submitted at this last session.

D. WARE (Canada): On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I wish to make a few brief remarks on the report of the Fifth Session of COAG which was succinctly introduced by Mr. Masud. Our delegation at that session took a very active part, and one of the items was the decision to recommend to Council to modify the terms of reference of COAG to include nutrition as a standing item on the agenda of COAG. Canada fully supports this proposal as outlined in paragraph 114, while we fully recognize also the professional problem involved in measuring the nutritional impact.

We did also suggest at the Fifth Session that at some future time COAG should look at the role and impact of food prices. We think this could be discussed, and we think also that it should be one of the priority items among the many listed in paragraph 150. I fully appreciate, also, though, that COAG needs some flexibility and has to adjust its programme to the needs of the time.

My delegation agrees with the proposal that Council transmit to the Twentieth Session of the Conference the revised text of the International Plant Protection Convention as outlined in paragraph 148.

Turning now to the proposal for the rehabilitation and improvement of irrigation schemes, as outlined in paragraph 129, you may recall we had considerable discussion in CFA about this, and we only hope that such programmes are linked to food aid projects which might help particularly in those cases where possible to rehabilitate such schemes.

Turning to agricultural mechanization, the Committee discussion on this item was most useful, and I would draw the Council's attention to paragraph 138, where it is indicated that mechanization is one of the means of reducing some of the drudgery of farming operations and it is of benefit to rural women. I would also suggest that increased mechanization might be one means of keeping young people in the rural areas instead of having them migrate to the cities.

The concern of Council has been drawn to our remarks which we expressed at COAG and I will not say any more about it.

We also suggested that COAG could play a great part in greater evaluation of projects. This we believe would help all Council members to understand and appreciate the impact which FAO efforts are having or in some cases may not be having on the many agricultural projects which are their purview.

In summary we found this a very useful and good report.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): My government participated actively in the session of the Committee on Agriculture, and we fully support its report. Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, permit a few remarks about the most important subjects which COAG dealt with at its Fifth Session.

In the discussion of the Programme of Work for the agricultural sector, both for the current and the next biennium, my delegation has supported the priorities as set out in the documents submitted. We consider it important that within the framework of the suggested measures priority will be given in particular to education and extension as well as to integrated rural development and, moreover, to the programmes for the prevention of food losses and for the improvement of nutrition. Likewise, we welcome an over-proportional rate of growth for the agricultural sector.

As the document on the summary for the programme of work for 1980-81 which was submitted to COAG only gave a first rough review of the priorities and financial implications of the activities that are planned in the agricultural and rural development sector, the discussion about these subjects could only be of a very general nature. The financial implications of the programme proposals and changes were not included in the discussion. A comprehensive and detailed discussion will only be possible when the whole document on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 is available.

In this connexion, let me still say a word about documentation: as regards this agenda item,, three different documents were available to COAG whose statements often repeated themselves and did not always clearly set out the priorities within the actual programme.

Let me, therefore, ask the same question as the distinguished delegates of Malta, France and Canada, whether it would not be more useful for this discussion in COAG to comprise in one document important items for the assessment of the current programme of work on the medium and long-term objectives, and the summary programme of the work for the next biennium. I am sure that this would allow a more fruitful discussion of this subject in COAG.

As regards nutritional questions, I should like to remark that my government fully supports the strategy developed by the Secretariat to improve nutrition in agriculture and rural development. In this respect we welcome the guidelines suggested to review the project activities with regard to their implications for the nutritional sector, as well as the recommendations to incorporate the aspects important for nutrition in project planning.

COAG has proved that it is competent to deal with nutritional questions. My Government, therefore, supports the proposal to extend COAG's "terms of reference" by "nutrition" and to place "nutrition" as a permanent item on the future agendas of COAG. In our view this also answers at the same time the question that it is no longer necessary to transform the Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Nutrition Policies into a permanent committee of the Council.

As regards the two subjects, water use and agricultural mechanization, I can be very brief. Regarding water use, I only wish to point out that the national programmes suggested by the Secretariat for this period for restoring and improving existing irrigation plants and also on agricultural water use management, find my Government's support in principle. The same applies to the Secretariat's analysis of agricultural mechanization, which as a complex problem can only be promoted within the framework of rural development through very careful planning.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I would like to join with the others who have indicated their satisfaction with the work of the Committee and with the Committee report which is before us. Our representatives also participated actively in the past meeting of COAG. It was a singularly good session. The documents were well prepared, they were received in timely fashion, and as a result the discussions were considered and instructive.

We accept the COAG recommendation that nutrition be an item on future COAG sessions. We believe that having COAG consider matters of food consumption as well as production provides an important new perspective to these deliberations. It should help us all to better understand the relationships between farm policies and food policies. We do know that the two are not identical, and that is precisely why the people who are concerned with each of these important matters need to meet together and work together. Hence we support action by the Council to refer to the Committee on Constitutional Legal matters, amendments which would permit COAG to discuss matters of nutrition, policy and programmes on a regular basis.

However, we wish at the same time to be put on record as being supportive of the observation being made by our colleague from Sweden that having COAG consider matters of nutrition need not necessarily mean that the Committee on Nutrition should be abolished, but we feel it would be premature to do so, and that perhaps the simplest thing would be that the Conference need not take any action on the Ad Hoc Committee while at the same time expanding the mandate of the COAG body.

We would like to make one other observation, and that is that the comments on the work of the COAG Committee that have been made here in the course of the last couple of hours indicate that it is not really possible to discuss the broad range of topics coming within COAG's purview without raising considerations of budgetary implications. Hence we find ourselves in further agreement with our colleague from Sweden that as we think about setting a time for COAG's future meetings, we take into account how the deliberations of COAG can best be brought to bear on the decisions to be made by the Programme and Finance Committees.

Finally, we concur in referring to the Conference the modified text of the International Plant Protection Convention as endorsed by the COAG body.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): At the outset my delegation would like to thank the Acting Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. Masud, for his introduction to these two documents.

We all recognize that the problems of increased production in agriculture are the most crucial and complex ones. It was discussed at length at the last session of the Committee on Agriculture in April. In this connexion, my delegation will not go into details on this report. However, we would like to bring to the attention of the Council a brief remark in connexion with a point on these documents.

In view of the fact that the course and magnitude of food shortage in the food deficit countries are not only the low-yielding varieties, infertile land and insufficiency of water, and so on, but also the loss of food during harvest, transportation and storage. It is well known that an unsolved problem still remains predominant, particularly in the developing countries.

My delegation has strongly supported the Action Programme to reduce post-harvest food losses by 50 percent in 1985 as recommended by the United Nations General Assembly. In this connection, the 19th Session of the FAO Conference set the initial target of 20 million dollars for this purpose, and from this report it appears to us that the amount received fell well below the initial target. In view of the need and urgency we would like to urge that further contributions should be made in order to meet this target as soon as possible.

Srta. C. DOMINGUEZ D. (Panamá): Mi delegación quiere unir su voz para agradecer al Sr. Masud, Vicepresidente de este Comité, por la presentación del importante documento que contiene el informe del quinto período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura.

Deseamos hacer algunos comentarios sobre asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo. Nuestra delegación comparte la preocupación del Comité sobre los lentos progresos realizados para conseguir el objetivo fijado por la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas, de reducir las pérdidas en un 50 Por ciento para 1985. También nos preocupa que los fondos a disposición en la Cuenta Especial sean insuficientes para satisfacer las necesidades de los gobiernos, las llamadas y las peticiones. Ya en una anterior intervención mi delegación manifestó su preocupación por no haberse alcanzado el objetivo inicial de 20 millones de dólares. Instamos una vez más a los gobiernos para que hagan nuevas contribuciones.

El desarrollo rural es una de las preocupaciones fundamentales de nuestro Gobierno. La estrategia para el desarrollo nacional está basada en la idea de que el hombre constituye de manera efectiva el sujeto y el objeto del desarrollo, y esto implica que el hombre debe participar en los beneficios del desarrollo y tener parte activa en la orientación del progreso.

Estamos convencidos de que la incertidumbre en la tenencia de la tierra es una limitación para la explotación económicamente más eficaz de la misma. La solución de los problemas de los precaristas requiere una acción concertada. La solución es la incorporación de los agricultores al proceso de crecimiento económico que requiere asistencia técnica y financiera para mejorar las condiciones de explotación, asistencia social para hacer frente a las necesidades impostergables y la cooperación entusiasta del propio beneficiario para que realmente se induzca una transformación verdadera.

Por estas razones, nuestro Gobierno ha dado su decidido apoyo a la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria que se celebrará en el próximo mes de julio, esperando que las conclusiones positivas que de la Conferencia salgan, se proyecten hacia la estrategia internacional. Antes de pasar a otro punto, queremos dar nuestro apoyo a lo expresado en el párrafo 51 sobre la necesidad de que la mujer participe plenamente en todos los esfuerzos. Apoyamos que el contenido de los párrafos 26 y 48, así como lo expresado en el párrafo 28 sobre la necesidad, y cito: "... la necesidad de seguir manteniendo una estrecha vinculación entre los programas nacionales y las instituciones regionales e internacionales de investigación, para facilitar la transferencia de tecnología y aprovechar más racionalmente los recursos disponibles para la investigación agrícola".

Estamos de acuerdo con la opinión del Comité sobre la nutrición en el desarrollo, y particularmente las recomendaciones contenidas en el párrafo 114. Consideramos de gran importancia el empleo del agua en la explotación de la agricultura, y compartimos plenamente lo expresado por el Comité sobre la necesidad de capacitar al agricultor en la utilización del agua para lograr eficacia, economía y rendimiento.

Compartimos el criterio de apoyar los programas nacionales de acción propuestos para los proyectos de rehabilitación y mejora del sistema de riegos y para el aprovechamiento del agua en la explotación agrícola. Para finalizar, damos nuestro apoyo al resto del informe del Comité que no vamos a comentar para dar cabida a su pedido de ser breves en nuestras intervenciones. Compartimos plenamente el resto del informe.

L.V. BORGES da FONSECA (Brazil): My intervention on this item will be a rather brief one; not that we do not attach a high importance to the report under consideration, the report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, but because we have already approved it in general terms during the session of the Committee on Agriculture to which it refers. My delegation therefore reiterates its support for the recommendations made by that Committee as contained in document CL 75/9.

Nonetheless, we would like to stress the following points. It is with special emphasis that we endorse and welcome the proposed priority to be given to the FAO programme for the prevention of food losses. Indeed, this programme, as reconsidered, will greatly contribute to the increase in agricultural productivity in developing countries. The Brazilian delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the priority with which FAO is supporting research activities in developing countries as referred to in paragraph 28.

Brazil also considers that it is necessary to strengthen agricultural research through technical cooperation, particularly at the TCDC level. In relation to the medium and long-term outlook for food and agriculture development, my delegation endorses the general approval of the report but would like to call special attention to the matters related to the expansion of production and productivity necessary to achieve the present and future world demands for food. The full endorsement of my delegation is also given to paragraph 1.45 which refers to agricultural mechanization activities promoted by FAO.

My delegation also expresses its support for the report of the Ad Hoc Consultative Group on the revision of the International Plant Protection Convention as contained in Appendix F of the document before us.

Finally, my delegation fully endorses the inclusion of food and nutrition as a standing item on the agenda of every future session of the Committee on Agriculture, as also presented by the Programme Committee in the report of its last session. In this sense, we endorse the inclusion of nutrition in the Committee on Agriculture's terms of reference as proposed by the amendment to be submitted to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and as recommended in document CL 75/9.

J.A. LEIVA (El Salvador): La amplitud y complejidad de los temas sometidos por el Comité de Agricultura para la atención del Consejo, nos limitan a comentar algunos de estos puntos. Dentro de la ejecución del Programa de Labores resulta preocupante la escasa disponibilidad en la Cuenta Especial para la prevención de pérdidas en las cosechas. Esto reviste mayor gravedad si consideramos que no se está en posibilidad de financiar todas las peticiones de proyectos recibidas a nivel de nuestros países dando desarrollo a esfuerzos tendientes a combatir las pérdidas alimentarias con el convencimiento de que ello permitirá mayor disponibilidad de alimentos, en consecuencia, mejoras en los niveles nutricionales de la población.

Por lo tanto, estamos totalmente de acuerdo con el Comité al instar a que se hicieran nuevas contribuciones a la Cuenta Especial para alcanzar el objetivo fijado en el 19 período de sesiones y para mantener una actividad constante en este sector.

El Plan de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria propuesto por el Director General fue ampliamente tratado en el tema anterior, habiéndole otorgado nuestra delegación el más amplio respaldo al analizar las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario. Debemos convenir en que la planificación de la nutrición debería integrarse en la planificación global del desarrollo y de la producción. Caro ha sido el precio que han pagado los países cuando al elaborar sus planes de desarrollo no han tomado en cuenta esta consideración los ministros encargados de la producción; no han armonizado sus programas con la salubridad y seguridad públicas en el empleo del agua en las explotaciones agrícolas. Ha sido un aspecto largamente descuidado. Los grandes proyectos de riego y drenaje conciben los aspectos de ingeniería a nivel de tierra, pero poco o nada sobre el manejo del agua a nivel de parcela, donde por desconocimiento de los agricultores, ocurren grandes pérdidas de eficiencia en la conducción del agua a través de los canales terciarios.

Los sistemas de riego deben tener como objetivo las necesidades reales de los países en desarrollo. Ocurre una tendencia a la construcción de grandes presas cuyo mantenimiento resulta oneroso y ofrece menos ventajas respecto a otros sistemas alternativos.

Apoyamos la propuesta del Comité de Agricultura en lo atinente al manejo del agua. La mecanización agrícola como herramienta para el desarrollo agrícola debe marchar acorde con el empleo de la mano de obra existente, en forma tal que la creación de fuentes de empleo sea paralela al uso de la mecanización, lo cual evitaría mano de obra cesante. La generación de industrias que aporten valor agregado a la actividad agrícola ofrece alternativas válidas.

Finalmente, la delegación de El Salvador se permite expresar su apoyo al informe del quinto período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, uniéndose a las demás delegaciones en considerar que este período ha sido muy productivo.

S. PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): With regard to the document before us my delegation would like to present the following comments. First, the report of the Fifth Session of COAG appears to have been favourably received by the Programme and Finance Committee.

Second, on the matter of natural resources my delegation wishes to emphasize the significance of the resources of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Contributions should be further increased so that sufficient amounts of fertilizers can be made available to developing countries which are really in need of fertilizers and which face financial problems in connexion with the imports of these fertilizers. My delegation suggests that FAO assist the developing countries in a study on the proper application of fertilizer in terms of the type and quantity, transportation, distribution, and storage, especially in remote and isolated areas. Third, regarding crops, it is heartening to note that the proposed priority shift in emphasis and budgetary increases has been favourably considered. The production of staple food and secondary- crops should be given high priority. As far as Indonesia is concerned, rice is the staple food. In this connexion, the prevention of food losses, particularly rice, deserve greater attention. My delegation expressed the hope that the special account at the level of \$20 million needed to support FAO's programme for the prevention of food losses will be reached through the generosity of donors who are in a position to contribute more.

Fourth, with regard to livestock, it is essential to make every effort to check the further spread of diseases, otherwise it would nullify all efforts which have already been made to increase animal production. The development of poultry should be taken up as an important effort to assist the small farmer without involving the opening of new lands.

Fifth, in the field of research, the practical aspects of the work should be emphasized and the length between these certain extension works should be strengthened. In this field FAO could play a more important role.

Like previous speakers, my delegation endorses the report of the Fifth Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

M. HAMDOON (interpretation from Arabic) (Iraq): I associate myself with those who have preceded me in that this Committee, COAG, is one of the most important committees of the Council. My delegation has therefore taken part in the work of this committee and given it the attention it deserves. Without wishing to dwell on this topic, I wish to say that this document is a comprehensive one and covers the most important items discussed in the Committee.

I should like to refer to paragraphs 1.60 and 1.51 concerning the provisional agenda of the Sixth Session of COAG. With the importance of the points to be included in the agenda of the forthcoming session, I find it appropriate that the patterns of agriculture should be included in the agenda of the forthcoming session because it is important that these patterns have their role in the improvement of agricultural production. Their absence is one of the reasons for agricultural deterioration. Small-scale farming should be decreased; we must move towards the application of agricultural mechanization through collective agriculture. The developing countries need a strategic change in the patterns of their production if they want to provide crops for their peoples, and in order to avoid political

and economic dependence in the future as a result of their need for food, it becomes too late to decide from now to depend on themselves in the short term. They must give to agricultural patterns the importance they deserve. For these reasons I am of the viewpoint that patterns of production should have the place they deserve during the forthcoming meeting.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We endorse the priorities on the agriculture sector that are discussed and endorsed by the COAG. We feel that the programme of post-harvest losses should also not be looked after by the Special Fund but it should also get priority attention under the agriculture sector.

Nutrition is an important issue but we feel that the recommendation of the Programme Committee with respect to the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition should be upheld by the Council and we endorse that.

B. SUSSMILCH (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): Avec votre permission, je voudrais faire quelques brèves remarques sur la Convention FAO sur la protection des végétaux.

La Commission se félicite des résultats des délibérations du groupe ad hoc à l'occasion de la dernière session du COAG, notamment en ce qui concerne le texte du modèle de certificat phytosanitaire. En effet, la Communauté est intéressée, d'une part, à prescrire un modèle de certificat phytosanitaire qui reprenne la réglementation phytosanitaire de la directive 77/93/CE (JO L n° 26 de janvier 1977) et, d'autre part, à ce que ce modèle ne corresponde pas à celui de la Convention FAO, qui n'était pas satisfaisant sur ce point. C'est pourquoi, dans la directive susmentionnée, la Communauté a déjà inclus le modèle qui avait été proposé par le Secrétariat de la FAO en 1976 pour la modification de la convention. Malheureusement, la Conférence de la FAO n'a pas adopté cette proposition. Le groupe ad hoc susmentionné vient d'apporter à cette proposition des modifications qui sont tout à fait acceptables par la Communauté. Nous espérons que la Conférence de la FAO 1979 approuvera dans sa nouvelle version la proposition de modification de la convention.

En ce qui concerne la nutrition, nous nous réjouissons de l'importance accordée aux problèmes de la nutrition. Nous approuvons la modification du mandat du COAG qui permettra d'examiner tous les 2 ans le suivi des problèmes de la nutrition dans l'organisation et la solution effective aux problèmes nutritionnels dans les projets de développement.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes our discussion on the Report of the Fifth Session of COAG.

P. MASUD (Second Vice-Chairman, Committee on Agriculture): I have listened with great attention to all that has been said about the proceedings of the Committee on Agriculture and I can only express my gratification at the very positive response from the Council to the various recommendations of the Committee. Of course, there was a lot of advice and I am sure that advice was well meant and I am also confident that it will be taken into consideration while preparing for the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture.

The delegate of Malta has raised some points regarding the format. He did so during the proceedings of the Committee on Agriculture. He is of the view that the Committee instead of splitting up into two should split up into three parts, but actually in my introduction I did make it clear that there were actually two major parts, the first concerned with the review of FAO's programme in the field of food and agriculture and the second with an in-depth review of a few selected developments. In the first portion then it was split up into three and this is exactly what he is now proposing. The existing pattern is that the first part consists of the implementation of the work of the current biennium, medium and long-term outlook for agriculture and food development and substantive aspects of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I quite agree, and this point has been made by many other delegations, that there is a certain amount of overlapping and repetition while discussing these but somehow or other it seems to be inevitable. If we were to discuss all these three together then there would be a tendency on the part of the delegates to repeat themselves. It is really a problem and I am sure everybody is applying his mind to this and to find a satisfactory solution. As Dr. Moskovits himself has pointed out the first session of the Committee on Agriculture was somewhat difficult to handle but the last one was not. I acted as Chairman for part of the proceedings and I found it to be a great pleasure and an honour because of the positive response from the delegates so in actual effect it is developing and we hope it will develop further and look into these aspects of the problem also which have been raised by various delegates.

Besides this I have no other comments except that there was one comment that the Programme Committee had not paid sufficient attention to the proceedings of the Committee on Agriculture and in this connection, particularly paragraphs 2.178 to 2.180 a specific problem was posed to the Programme Committee and I happen to be a member. Unfortunately I had to take over from my colleague in somewhat disturbing circumstances but nonetheless I did participate on this and the one position that was presented to the Programme Committee was this and the Programme Committee has come up with a very positive recommendation. I do not see how it can be said that the Programme Committee did not discharge its duties fully.

Besides that I think there has been a considerable unanimity of view and I am once again grateful to the delegates for the very positive response. Of course, I will be reporting this to Professor Thomsen who is the actual Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and to Dr. Ahmed who is the First Vice-Chairman.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I would certainly wish to assure the members of the Council that the Programme Committee has always paid very considerable attention to nutrition and with regard to the specific issue of the future arrangements for intergovernmental consideration on nutrition activities of the house I would only recall that the Programme Committee at its thirty-fifth session studied in-depth the whole issue, especially the Programme Committee studied all relative merits of the proposal of the Ad Hoc Committee to be transformed into the standing committee of the FAO Council under Article V, paragraph 6 of the Constitution and while considering this, and we really spent a lot of time discussing this specific issue, the Committee also examined and suggested to the Council that on a trial basis at least the nutrition concerned should be included on the agenda of COAG and then in the light of the experience gained the Committee would then refer back to the issue and then perhaps be able to recommend to the Council the final solution. This year during the last session of the Committee simultaneously we had the session of COAG, but the Committee certainly wished very much to be fully aware of this specific part of the debate in COAG and since the COAG meeting and before our definite adjournment we paid due attention to the position reached in COAG and as I hope is very very clearly expressed in our report on page 27 the Committee welcomed the Committee on Agriculture's recommendation that nutrition should be a standing item on its sessions. Then again we took some pains and discussed again the whole issue about the future arrangement for intergovernmental consultations. First of all we noted that recently AAC had been established, a specific mechanism for nutrition, special committee on nutrition and advisory group on nutrition. Then we also recognized that FAO bodies established under Article V, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, the standing committees of the FAO Council were quite numerous, eight committees have already been established and all or most of them usually meet in the conference year. Then we also paid full attention to the fact that experience in COAG was quite successful and COAG was really able to discuss nutritional aspects of the FAO programme, overall activities across the house in a very successful way.

Then may I recall that the Programme Committee suggested and the Director-General accepted that the Committee on Fisheries should from time to time place on its agenda nutritional aspects of fisheries and then perhaps be a part of the overall FAO machinery and the overall FAO effort in this field. You will find this accommodation of the Committee in paragraph 2.28 of our Report. Then I might also mention that the Programme Committee has always been keen to discuss and review the nutritional activities of FAO and the Committee in paragraph 2.180 requested that progress achieved in developing the nutritional programme of the Organization be considered further at a future session. So the Committee itself wanted to review in depth the nutrition programme and how it developed.

We also took note of the fact that FAO wanted to convene a number of ad hoc expert consultations covering specific issues in this most vital field.

We also recognize the fact that the Director-General under the authority of the Conference or the Council might always convene inter-governmental consultations if a Member Country so wished.

With all this in mind the Committee definitely came to the conclusion that in the light of all I have said perhaps the Council might wish to consider discontinuation of the ad hoc committee. Otherwise we would have two bodies with exactly the same terms of reference. So if I may I would urge the Council to adopt and approve the position of the Programme Committee since this is the result of a very thorough study of the issues.

F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I can be very brief because there are no real questions to answer. We can only add our voice to the voice of the Vice-Chairman of COAG, appreciating the discussion we had and the very valuable efforts that have been made during the discussion including the constructive remarks made in the COAG session. All this is noted. We will try to accommodate as far as possible in the future deliberations in the work of COAG the comments made, including the new proposals made for additional studies to be performed. We will look into the matter to see how far such proposals could be accommodated in the already designed and agreed programme. I would like to repeat here the appreciation of both of us and of our colleagues who have been here this afternoon ready and prepared to answer any questions that you might raise. We are very satisfied with this section.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I do not really have anything to add to what my colleague Dr. Bommer has already said, except to add my voice to the detailed reasoning and explanation which the chairman of the Programme Committee has given about the role of COAG in the field of nutrition and experience which we have gained through the last COAG meeting on this subject.

I would like to add that the discussions on COAG demonstrated conclusively that the subject is in the discipline inter-sectorial and the best way to handle nutrition in the context of overall rural agricultural development, which was the main intent of the Conference Resolution is by putting nutrition into COAG with the addition that from time to time the Committee on Fisheries would also widen and increase the opportunities of discussing nutrition in the context in which all the Members of the Conference and the Council want it to be discussed. The Chairman of the Programme Committee has also indicated that he has additional mechanisms, such as expert consultations, as well as the possibility of inter-governmental consultation, and when necessary, to take care of exactly the point which the delegate from Sweden pointed out, there may be a need, perhaps after a considerable interval of time, to look at the entire problem, and if necessary there could be an inter-governmental ad hoc meeting which could be called by the Director-General. So in the light of all the various possibilities that are here to take account of all the necessary requirements on nutrition, I think it would be in the fitness of things that Council would accept the recommendation of the Programme Committee for the discontinuation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition.

CHAIRMAN: This brings to an end the discussion on this item. Like the delegate of Malta, I am indeed gratified to see the way that this Committee has developed because, as the Director-General knows, at the beginning we were not sure how it was going to develop, but over the years it has matured and is still maturing.

The very useful criticisms and suggestions made for formats and for method of work, debates, etc., is the sort of thing that has improved the work of the Committee over this period, and I am sure that the Secretariat will take into account all these very useful suggestions.

There have been no recommendations of the Committee which have been thrown out, all the suggestions made have been accepted. Recommendations have been made for a change of emphasis in certain ways but this has not resulted in any real change in the Report as we have it.

On nutrition it has been accepted that the Committee has dealt with this very well and the recommendations have been made that the rules be changed to include nutrition in the responsibility of the Committee. That nutrition be a standing subject has been accepted by all, and the recommendation made by the Programme Committee is not very much different really from the substantive recommendation made in this Report. In any case, this is the Report which will be acted on by the CCLM when the time comes and I am sure that this will lead to better treatment for nutrition. If in future meetings of COAG, as has been explained, there is no satisfaction, then of course the situation can be changed. But I think that the whole issue of nutrition has been discussed both by the Programme Committee and COAG and things are evolving on nutrition. Nutrition has been recognized as one of the most important subjects which should be integrated at an early stage into any agriculture plan, rather than bringing it in later on.

Having said that, I would say that the recommendations in the report have been accepted by the Council, and the various points on which action has to be taken I am sure will be pursued, those that have to go up to Conference will go up to Conference. I would like to thank you very much for this very useful debate on this subject.

Tomorrow morning the meeting will be chaired by Ambassador Baeyens of Belgium, the other Vice-Chairman.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La séance est levée à 17h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 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 75/PV/7

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1979)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours H.Baeyens Third Vice-President of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40 sous la présidence de H. Baeyens, Troisième Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.40 horas bajo la presidencia de H. Baeyens, Tercera Vicepresidente del Consejo

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, je déclare ouverte la septième séance plénière de la soixante-quinzième session du Conseil de la FAO.

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS,. FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

13. Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

13. Coopération technique entre pays en développement

13. Cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo

LE PRESIDENT: Ce point figure pour information du Conseil. Je pense que le Conseil n'a, strictement parlant, pas de décision à prendre, mais je pense que vous voudrez faire connaître votre point de vue, non seulement sur la teneur du document, mais d'une façon générale sur ce que l'on attend de la FAO dans ce domaine. Le secrétariat accueillera certainement avec faveur les observations constructives que vous aurez à faire. Moi-même, je me réjouis d'apprendre de vous des choses qui m'intéresseront beaucoup.

Je demanderai au Sous-Directeur général, M. Yriart, qui a ce domaine dans sa compétence, de nous faire l'introduction d'usage.

J.F. Yriart (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): El concepto de Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo ha sido frecuente y detalladamente discutido en los últimos años, tanto en foros internacionales como en los órganos rectores de esta Organización. Esto es indicativo de la importancia del tema en el marco de las discusiones sobre el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, pero exige del Secretariado ingenio y dinamismo para poder tratar el tema desde ángulos distintos cada vez que es considerado en esta augusta asamblea.

Permítaseme en primer lugar reiterar, aun a riesgo de irritar los oídos de algunos de los Señores presentes, que un verdadero progreso en la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo depende de las acciones que ejecuten directamente las instituciones y los gobiernos en los países en desarrollo, para establecer elementos de cooperación entre ellos, en áreas de interés mutuo.

El papel del sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluso de la FAO o cualquier otro agente externo, es a lo sumo catalítico y de apoyo. Estoy convencido de que es hora de que los representantes de los países interesados, se posesionen de la iniciativa y usen éste y otros foros para intercambiar información sobre las acciones específicas que los respectivos gobiernos o instituciones están llevando adelante para explorar o establecer acuerdos de cooperación sobre los mecanismos o procedimientos que han utilizado, los obstáculos encontrados en cuanto a financiamiento o estructura de los problemas de comunicación, acceso a información relevante, etc. Tal intercambio de la información y presentación de casos, ayudará enormemente al Director General a encarar más realísticamente el papel que debe desempeñar el Secretariado de la FAO para promover y fortalecer la CTPD en aquellas áreas que no son de nuestra responsabilidad directa.

Si los países no tomaran ellos mismos la iniciativa, correríamos el grave riesgo de que las discusiones sobre cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo serían limitadas a informes periódicos sobre las acciones que la FAO desarrolla, con los recursos limitados de que dispone, o a esquematizar los progresos hechos en aquellos aspectos marginales de la CTPD. Por ejemplo, el reclutamiento de expertos entre países en desarrollo y la utilización de los recursos de esos países en la ejecución de las actividades de la FAO. Ese es justamente el aspecto importante que el documento CL 75/14 caliza en considerable detalle.

Recordarán los Sres. representantes la referencia hecha por el Sr. Director General en una sesión precedente respecto al trabajo pionero de la FAO en materia de CTPD. EL documento CL 75/14 también ilustra los esfuerzos hechos por la Organización para promover la CTPD a nivel regional y nacional. Los representantes de la Organización tienen instrucciones de identificar instituciones nacionales que puedan participar en la CTPD y brindarles ayuda para reforzar su capacidad para prestar asistencia técnica.

En las Conferencias Regionales de la FAO del año pasado se han adoptado resoluciones específicas en el ámbito de la CTPD, y nuestras Oficinas Regionales tienen un rol de preponderante importancia en su promoción; rol que ha sido reconocido, como leerán ustedes en el documento que tienen a su

disposición, en las propuestas que hace el Director General para el próximo Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Permítaseme ahora dirigir la especial atención de los representantes sobre el párrafo 7 del documento, que se refiere al establecimiento de un punto focal. La unidad cuyo establecimiento no tiene consecuencias presupuestales, ya que se crea mediante la reasignación de responsabilidades entre el personal de la División de Ejecución de Programas de Campo, en nada afectará la obligación de las divisiones técnicas de la Organización, de reorientar sus actividades en apoyo de las CTPD. Cuanto sea factible, el cometido del punto focal es ayudar a movilizar todos los recursos disponibles en la Organización con miras a sistematizar la búsqueda de nuevas ideas y efectuar el seguimiento del progreso que se haga en el cumplimiento del Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires y en las actividades de la FAO..

Como mencioné anteriormente el documento muestra ampliamente el relieve que el Director General da a la CTPD en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del próximo bienio y al progreso continuo en la utilización de las actividades de la FAO, y a la capacitación de los países en desarrollo. El Director General dará un panorama más amplio y concreto sobre estos aspectos y, particularmente, sobre el progreso hecho en la utilización y fortalecimiento de las Instituciones nacionales en la próxima Conferencia de la FAO.

Para concluir desearía, Sr. Presidente, llamar la atención de los representantes sobre el párrafo 34 del documento, con el objeto de que el concepto de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo sea visto en su justa perspectiva. Como ya se ha afirmado repetidamente, la CTPD no es una panacea para acelerar el desarrollo ni una alternativa a la transferencia de tecnología que se está desarrollando y mejorando continuamente a través de inversiones masivas incluso en los países desarrollados.

Hay varios campos en los que los países en desarrollo tendrán que continuar utilizando la tecnología avanzada de los países desarrollados, pero coordinándola con sus programas propios, y los países en desarrollo mismo, adaptarán mucho más eficazmente esas tecnologías a sus condiciones locales. Este concepto imprime a la CTPD una dimensión universal en el verdadero espíritu y un nuevo orden económico internacional.

Espero, señor Presidente, que lo que digo sirva como invitación para que los señores representantes nos den una firme y clara visión de las actividades que desde sus respectivos gobiernos están desarrollando y desarrollarán en el campo de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y del apoyo que deberán recibir de la FAO. En este sentido deseo agradecer el reforzamiento patente en mi intervención que, usted, señor Presidente, tuvo a bien hacer al comenzar la consideración de este punto.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie des opinions que vous avez exprimées en introduisant ce ;/?/ je constate que vous espérez, comme moi, les contributions dont le Secrétariat pourra tirer profite/?/ présume que la plupart des délégués pourront préparer une documentation qui pourra donner satisfaction à M. Yriart.

F. WILLIAMS (United States of America): The United States strongly supports technical cooperation among developing countries as a development concept entirely appropriate for this time. Many development programmes have made limited use of Third Country facilities, but we are confident that FAO's emphasis on these activities will help all of us to make better use of this important development mode.

We think TCDC has such significance that we want to congratulate FAO on the preparation of document CL 75/14, but we also want to make some specific comments for consideration in this important area.

We want specially to endorse efforts to supply training to developing country personnel within their own nation when possible, and in every case to supply training in situations most similar to those in the recipient nations. This will ensure that training is most relevant to the needs of the developing countries.

Technical cooperation among developing nations should be enhanced at every opportunity, but all concerned will agree that requirements for long-term technical assistance personnel should be examined by the participants to ensure that the country supplying expertise is not being unduly disadvantaged by the transfer of talent to another country. The effects of "brain drain" on the supplying country are not dependent on the relative developmental stage of the receiving nation. The same principle, of course, applies to the movement of scarce talent from developing countries into international organizations.

The United States supports the establishment of a focal point for TCDC within the full development programme, and endorses the terms of reference set forth in CL 75/14. The concentration of TCDC efforts in activities related to food production security is also commendable. We hope all concerned will be especially alert to match the more pressing needs within the least developed nations with a surplus, or near surplus, talent available in the more advanced developing nations.

Within the TCDC context, we agree increased efforts should be made to ensure that qualified developing country suppliers are included in FAO and bilateral bids for goods and services. We suggest, however, that the interests of the recipient developing countries should also be kept in mind, so we are opposed to waivers of competition in favour of any supplier. The principle of maximum effectiveness should guide.

While the principles underlying TCDC are not subject to geographic bounds, the special significance of TCDC in development will be initially felt in neighbouring nations. Here the cultural encumbrances are less, and the lessons learned in one nation are most likely applicable in another. We want to endorse development efforts among neighbouring nations or within regions, and we stand ready to cooperate with middle-income or other developing nations wishing to mount technical cooperation programmes with their close neighbour or within a regional and inter-regional context.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como usted lo ha dicho, éste es un debate para información, de manera que no merece mayores comentarios; pero lo que deseamos es expresar que la delegación de Colombia encuentra muy adecuada la forma en que este documento describe los esfuerzos de la FAO por estimular la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

Nos parece muy bien la información que aparece en los párrafos 13 y 14 sobre el aumento de los expertos usados en los proyectos de campo provenientes de los países en desarrollo y la dedicación de las Oficinas Regionales para identificar candidatos de países en desarrollo que puedan participar en estas actividades. Sin embargo, nos preocupa la frase final del párrafo 15 donde dice, que el número de candidatos de países en desarrollo recusados oficialmente por los gobiernos, fue significativamente mayor que el de candidatos de países desarrollados. Creemos que ésta es una discriminación injusta que se debe corregir y pedimos al Consejo que en su informe inste a los gobiernos a que ofrezcan igual atención a aquellos candidatos de países en desarrollo, porque ya nuestras naciones tienen personal capaz de ofrecer aportes útiles al desarrollo internacional.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Nosotros también seremos sumamente breves, por cuanto se acordó en nuestro orden del Día, que este documento se nos presenta para información y no para debate; pero sería injusto para el señor Yriart, que desde hace tiempo se dedica con tanto entusiasmo al problema de la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, y sería también injusto para este Consejo no tratar, y sobre todo no proporcionar un apoyo sustancial por parte de mi delegación a las actividades de la FAO en materia de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Como sabe, señor Presidente, se trata de un tema de gran interés y tal vez uno de los más importantes para el futuro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. No hay prácticamente campos de acción, y en particular dentro de la jurisdicción de la FAO, en que no se pueda con un poco de imaginación y con un poco de dedicación y, por lo tanto con la adjudicación de los recursos correspondientes estimular la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo para impulsar efectos beneficiosos multiplicadores y atenuar la cada vez mayor dependencia que pueda haber en diversos sectores de la tecnología con los países altamente industrializados. Al aplicar el principio de mayor eficiencia, recientemente citado por el distinguido representante de Estados Unidos en su intervención, debemos también tener en cuenta el beneficio no solamente en un solo sentido, sino de una mayor eficiencia en los dos sentidos: sea por el que proporciona la asistencia técnica, así como por el que la recibe.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que en la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, la función de la FAO no debe ser solamente catalítica y de apoyo. En este sentido agradecemos entusiastamente

lo que acaba de expresar el señor Yriart de que la política de la FAO ha sido en el pasado identificar un punto focal, pero que será reemplazado en el futuro por un enfoque más preciso, apenas sea posible y apenas las condiciones se den para ello.

En ese sentido compartimos plenamente y creemos que se ha hecho poco - el primer apartado del párrafo 7 cuando en su punto (a) dice: "Identificar y difundir nuevas ideas, conceptos y métodos para promover la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo en los sectores agropecuario, forestal y pesquero".

No se trata, a nuestro juicio, sólo de orientar la contratación de expertos, de becas, contrataciones y adquisiciones; se trata de algo más y en este sentido nosotros apoyamos plenamente la disponibilidad de la FAO, de llegar a evolucionar en ese sentido.

Ha sido un compromiso importante el que se ha logrado en Buenos Aires; ha sido una decisión adoptada de trabajar conjuntamente y en un área que en el futuro podrá proporcionar no sólo la autosuficiencia de los países en desarrollo, sino la obtención de resultados verdaderamente importantes a corto plazo.

En lo que se refiere a algunos problemas principales de los sectores agrícola, pesquero y forestal, susceptibles de solución a través de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, en el párrafo 28 se señala la necesidad de difundir sistemáticamente la esencia de estos nuevos conocimientos, sobre todo entre los demás países en desarrollo.

Habíamos hablado en otras oportunidades de tratarse este tema de la posibilidad de promover en la FAO un banco de datos que pudiera identificar sectores prioritarios a los cuales los países pudieran recurrir. Comparto lo que expresó el Dr. Yriart, porque son los países los que tienen que tomar iniciativas precisas a través de ese banco de datos, que pudiera disponerse en la FAO y orientar las posibilidades de acceso en el campo de la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

Compartimos plenamente lo sostenido en el párrafo 34 de que la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo no es, evidentemente, una panacea o un reemplazo de lo que puede obtenerse a través de la mayor tecnología de los países desarrollados, industrializados, pero sí creemos, y creemos plenamente lo que posteriormente se sostiene en el párrafo 35, que las posibilidades de esta cooperación en los sectores agropecuario, pesquero y forestal, son virtualmente ilimitadas y tenemos que estimularlas a cualquier costo.

H. MOKHTARI (Argelia): Nous avons suivi avec un intérêt particulier l'introduction par le Secrétariat du document CL 75/14 portant sur la "Coopération technique des pays en développement". Ce point a été inscrit à l'ordre du jour pour information mais l'importance que revêt la coopération technique entre pays en développement et qui constitue une nouvelle dimension de l'autonomie collective des pays du tiers monde nous amène à faire quelques commentaires sur cette question.

La Conférence de Buenos Aires avait adopté un vaste plan d'action en vue de promouvoir cette coopération, grâce notamment à l'apport des institutions des Nations Unies. Notre Organisation en souscrivant aux décisions de la trente-troisième session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, et en formulant une série de propositions pour donner suite aux négociations de Buenos Aires, manifeste ainsi ses intentions dans le sens des intérêts des pays en développement.

Les trois domaines d'action proposés dans le paragraphe 5 du document soumis à notre examen recueillent notre adhésion. La création d'un centre de coordination au niveau de la division du développement du programme de terrain et les tâches qui lui sont assignées, constitue une initiative que nous ne pouvons que soutenir.

Nous pensons que ce Centre pourra être utile s'il réussit à orienter et à canaliser cette coopération vers les secteurs les plus préoccupants qui concernent le problème de la sécurité alimentaire, la sécheresse, la lutte contre la désertification, la défense des cultures et les maladies animales, pour ne citer que quelques exemples.

Il est nécessaire que l'on fasse appel, de plus en plus souvent, à l'expertise disponible des pays en développement par le recours aux consultants et l'encouragement de la coopération entre les différents instituts de recherche existants dans nos pays. Afin que cette coopération prenne toute sa signification, il est indispensable que cette information sur les possibilités existantes dans les pays

en développement soit communiquée systématiquement dans tous les Etats et qu'un traitement préférentiel en matière de passation de marchés soit réservé aux pays en développement. L'information doit également porter sur les pratiques des firmes et des sociétés transnationales qui font obstacle à la promotion de la coopération entre pays en développement. Aussi sommes nous d'accord avec le représentant des Etats-Unis sur la question de la fuite des cerveaux mais cette fuite se fait essentiellement vers les pays en développement qui ne déploient aucun effort pour l'enrayer, ce qui porte préjudice à nos pays.

Pour conclure, je voudrais indiquer que ma délégation partage pleinement le contenu des paragraphes 34 et 35 du document.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de l'Algérie a fait quelques suggestions très concrètes dont la FAO pourra tirer profit.

L. V. BORGES de FONSECA (Brazil): I wish to make only a few comments on this subject and I will be very brief. In view of the peculiarities of climate, soil, technology developments and other elements that regulate agricultural activities, the Brazilian delegation would like to stress once more that TCDC in agriculture is particularly useful when accomplished between countries having similar geographical conditions or similar development conditions. This favours a quicker assimilation of the knowledge and experience of the country which supplies the cooperation. In this sense TCDC represents a modality of technical cooperation particularly fitted to the needs of agricultural development in the research areas: specific cultivation projects, seeds, equipment, methods of cultivation and so on.

My delegation sees with satisfaction the inclusion of an importance given to TCDC in the areas of FAO activities as well as the improved utilization in FAO programmes of the existing capacities of developing countries. FAO should pursue its efforts in increasing the participation of experts and equipment from developing countries when carrying out its programme.

Finally, my delegation would like to suggest that FAO study the possibility of expanding from one to two months the term in which governments can express their approval on the nomination of their nationals to participate on a personal basis in technical meetings. The term of one month after the dispatch of the Secretariat note, and after which FAO considers the indication as accepted is far too short, in our opinion, for governments to give a timely answer. Very often - as has recently occurred with my Government - the note of the Director-General arrives to the knowledge of the competent body in Brazil just a few days before the expiration of the term and this can prevent governments from duly analysing and considering the participation proposed by FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que Monsieur Yriart aura pris note du souhait que le délégué du Brésil vient d'exprimer de voir changer cette règle et qu'il en tiendra compte.

T. J. KELLY (Australia): We gladly take the opportunity to commend in general what we regard as a first-class initiative taken within this Organization. Having said that, I think it would be proper for a country like Australia to leave the rest of the discussion to those of the developing countries which are most concerned.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous ne sommes pas du tout déçus par la contribution que vient de nous apporter le délégué de l'Australie.

P. HALIMI (France): La délégation française note avec satisfaction que conformément aux recommandations antérieures du Conseil, la coopération technique entre pays en développement a été inscrite à l'ordre du jour du présent Conseil et le sera par la suite périodiquement selon les besoins.

La délégation française se plaît aussi à souligner la valeur du travail de pionnier accompli par la FAO dans le domaine de la CTPD. S'agissant plus particulièrement du présent Conseil, il est pris acte des mesures envisagées et des résultats obtenus dans ce domaine qui concerne notamment: 12) La création d'un centre de coordination au sein de la Division du Développement du programme de terrain dont le mandat a été défini sans ambiguïté. Cette création n'aura aucune incidence financière ainsi que l'a dit M. Yriart et nous soutenons cette création; 29) L'inclusion de la CTPD dans le Programme de travail et budget 1980- 1981 en vue d'axer davantage les activités de la FAO sur l'aide qu'elle procure à des Etats Membres en vue de les rendre plus à même de satisfaire leurs propres besoins dans les domaines qui relèvent de la compétence de l'Organisation, en mettant notamment l'accent sur les problèmes présents de sécurité alimentaire: sécheresse, criquet pèlerin, défense des cultures, maladies animales, etc.; 32) La meilleure utilisation des capacités des pays en voie de développement dans les programmes de la FAO. A cet égard, en matière de recrutement d'experts, débourses, de contrats, nous insistons pour que, dans l'intérêt de l'Organisation, soient respectés les critères de faisabilité opérationnelle, de qualité, d'assistance technique ainsi que de rapidité d'action; 42) La promotion de la CTPD aux niveaux national et régional. On ne saurait que se féliciter des mesures prises par la FAO au plan des Etats Membres et des régions, afin d'assurer le plein succès de la CTPD grâce à une collecte généralisée des renseignements nécessaires à la prise des décisions et en vue de leur application pratique dans les pays et régions concernés; 52) Les grands domaines névralgiques des secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et des forêts qui se prêtent à des approches fondées sur la CTPD. Les thèmes cités dans le document et notamment la mise au point et l'introduction de variétés de céréales et autres graines à haut rendement, les mesures de lutte contre les parasites et les maladies des cultures et des animaux, les techniques de conservation de la terre et des eaux dans les zones arides et semi-arides, le recyclage des déchets organiques, la canalisation de l'énergie hydraulique et éolienne et solaire en vue de la production agricole, constituent assurément de notables percées technologiques constatées au cours des dernières décennies dans certains pays en développement qui doivent être systématiquement diffusées dans d'autres pays en développement présentant des conditions socio-économiques et écologiques comparables.

Sur le plan de l'énergie solaire, mon pays est prêt à apporter sa coopération aux travaux effectués par la FAO. Ainsi seront accrus les résultats déjà remarquables obtenus par la FAO dans les pays en développement. Le potentiel ainsi offert à la CTPD s'avère très vaste, mais, en tout état de cause, les efforts à entreprendre dans les domaines considérés dans les pays en développement ne sauraient dispenser du transfert de technologies en provenance de pays développés (paragraphe 34). Ainsi que l'a souligné le Comité de l'agriculture à sa dernière session, l'association des quinze instituts de recherche des pays en voie de développement aux dix réseaux coopératifs de recherche créés pour les pays européens est un modèle de ce qu'il faut faire dans toutes les régions afin d'assurer le transfert des connaissances. Le délégué de l'Algérie a d'ailleurs mis l'accent sur ce point.

LE PRESIDENT: L'intervention du délégué de la France est fort intéressante. Il a dit beaucoup de choses très substantielles dont M. Yriart a certainement pris note.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): Pakistan takes great interest in the affairs of developing countries and being one herself is keen to cement friendly relations with them. These countries share common aspirations. For over a decade Pakistan has shared its knowledge and expertise with developing nations for promoting technical cooperation among developing countries.

We have provided technical assistance to countries of Africa, Middle East, the Colombo Plan and the RCDC. Others in the fraternity have also extended their cooperation and technical assistance to us. We have entered into bilateral exchange programmes, multilateral pacts and even ad hoc exchange programmes with as many as twenty-six developing countries. Scientific and technological cooperation agreements also exist with a number of them. To further strengthen our economic and technical cooperation programme with the various developing countries IFAD joint commissions on a bilateral basis have been set up with eleven countries.

Pakistan has allowed its engineers, scientists, educationalists, its teachers and other technicians to be drawn upon by developing nations. Simultaneously it has opened more universities and colleges and embarked upon skilled development projects to make up for shortage of trained manpower in the country. Within its own limitations Pakistan has also been offering training facilities to other developing countries in its educational institutions under its technical cooperation for developing countries' programme. It has also been cooperating in several fields, including agriculture, irrigation and consultancy services with other developing countries.

Pakistan feels that the world plan of action adopted at the Buenos Aires Conference was an important step forward in promoting technical cooperation amongst developing countries.

Pakistan has also lent its support to all the recommendations contained in the World Plan of action.

We have studied document CL 75/14 with careful interest. My delegation has taken note of the activities of FAO in line with the concept of TCDC and expresses its full agreement with areas of cooperation identified by the Director-General. We would further like to point out that representation of developing countries in recruitment of experts and equipment purchase is meagre and concentrated effort is needed to utilize their expertise.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Pakistan de nous avoir exposé la contribution que son pays a déjà apportée dans le domaine de la coopération technique aux pays en développement.

S. MADEMBE SY (Sénégal): Mon pays est un pays qui est tout à fait partisan de la coopération, notamment au niveau international, mais nous pensons aussi que la meilleure forme de coopération est celle qui s'institue d'abord entre voisins immédiats. Ensuite, on l'élargit aux amis un peu plus éloignés du continent, puis aux amis d'au-delà des mers. C'est ce que nous appelons au Sénégal la coopération suivant la formule des cercles concentriques.

Si je voulais intervenir, c'est sur un point précis (page 3, par. 7) en ce qui concerne le mandat au centre de coordination, notamment le paragraphe b), où il est dit que le centre de coopération devrait établir une liaison avec les services techniques et autres. Là, il me semble, d'après ce que je viens de dire, qu'il serait peut-être indiqué qu'une liaison soit également établie entre les organismes de coopération sous-régionale et régionale qui existent notamment au niveau de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, tels que - OMVS (Organisation de mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal), OMVG (Organisation de mise en valeur du fleuve Gambie), CEAO (Communauté économique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest), CEDEAO (Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest).

Je pense que si l'on pouvait assigner au centre de coordination le mandat d'établir une liaison avec les organismes de coopération sous-régionale et régionale déjà existantes, ce serait une bonne chose.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Sénégal de son intervention et tout particulièrement pour la suggestion qu'il vient de faire en dernier lieu.

D. WARE (Canada): Canada has always been enthusiastic in its support for the TCDC concept and we agree with the principle of better relevance of methods and techniques among countries at similar stages of development and types of agriculture and we note with enthusiasm FAO's pioneering work in this field. I would also say that this idea is somewhat similar to our work in IDRC which often uses its resources to facilitate the exchange of scientists between developing countries.

The other point I would like to make is that as the delegate of Argentina noted in paragraph 34 we should remind ourselves however that TCDC is not a panacea or a cure-all and we must not let TCDC dilute the importance and I would suggest a responsibility of continuing to change and transfer technology between developed and developing countries also.

M. ROSALES RIVERA (El Salvador). Mi delegación no quería que finalizara este cambio de impresiones sin hacer sentir su voz en el sentido de dar su más completo apoyo a lo expresado en el documento que está a nuestra consideración.

La delegación del El Salvador estima que la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo viene a ser un concepto que ha venido fortaleciéndose poco a poco dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y precisamente, este área que toca la FAO es fructífera para que prospere y dé los mejores resultados.

Nosotros compartimos la filosofía que está detrás de este documento que consideramos queda enmarcada básicamente en el párrafo 34 y en el 35.

La expresión de que no constituye la cooperación entre países en desarrollo una panacea ni una alternativa son expresiones verdaderamente ciertas por cuanto los países en vías de desarrollo consideran que en el campo de la tecnología si bien ha existido, por decirlo así, un enfrentamiento en pedidos de transferencia de tecnología, lógico era que se viese la posibilidad real y el ejemplo de que precisamente pueden fructificar las transferencias de tecnología comenzando en este caso por las transferencias entre países en vías de desarrollo.

Nosotros creemos que en este documento, que habla del establecimiento de un punto focal con un mandato expreso, permitirá delinear las actividades en este área con mayor precisión y que un estímulo permanente lo constituye el refuerzo presupuestario de los cuatro oficiales regionales y la decisión de utilizar cada vez más las instituciones nacionales.

Para el caso de la región latinoamericana el refuerzo destinado al programa de cultivos debe emplearse tomando en cuenta, lógico es, las condiciones ecológicas de los países para así lograr una mejor utilización. Este punto tiene mucha vinculación con lo expresado por el distinguido delegado de Argentina, quien sostuvo la conveniencia de que FAO dispusiera de un banco de datos al servicio de los países. Este servicio prestaría una utilidad y los datos estarán justificados porque su utilización y sus beneficios harían más fácil las planificaciones nacionales para compatibilizar áreas de producción de características homogéneas, aplicando en este caso, las más recientes tecnologías del uso mayor de los suelos.

También compartimos la preocupación expresada por otro delegado que se refirió a la resistencia manifiesta para que algunos gobiernos aceptaran la contratación de expertos provenientes de países en desarrollo.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Observateur pour le Congo): Notre délégation n'avait pas l'intention d'intervenir puisque ce problème très important sera à l'ordre du jour juste après notre session du Conseil, et nous aurons alors tout le loisir d'intervenir. Ce problème revêt une importance capitale et si nous intervenons dès maintenant c'est parce que nous voulons échanger des idées.

Je crois que l'intervention du délégué d'El Salvador a dissipé les craintes de notre ami du Canada, qui pense que le développement de la coopération technique entre pays en développement puisse arriver à diluer la coopération entre pays développés et pays en développement, diluer le transfert de technologie. Bien au contraire, nous pensons que cela va favoriser un meilleur transfert de technologie parce que les actions seront plus coordonnées, au lieu d'avoir des actions disparates dans chaque région. Je crois que ce transfert sera donc plus coordonné si déjà il y a un ensemble homogène.

Reprenant ce qui a été dit par un délégué, nous pensons que l'action de la CTDP devrait être encore plus dynamique qu'il ne l'est dit au par. 35: "La FAO et l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies exerceront tout au plus une fonction de catalyseur ou d'appui".

Nous voudrions que cela aille au-delà d'une simple fonction de catalyseur et d'appui. Je crois que la FAO a les moyens d'être un élément moteur, même incitateur. Parfois, il faut pouvoir créer les besoins, les définir, ce que peut-être tous les pays, surtout ceux d'Afrique que je connais mieux, ne savent pas encore faire. Je crois donc que la FAO dans ce domaine a un rôle de promoteur et d'entraîneur. Quand on dit: "Tout progrès réel dépendra de la volonté de coopération et de partage", cette volonté existe, mais elle est mal définie, et la FAO pourrait aider les pays à mieux définir leurs besoins: Je crois que ceci servirait au bien de tous.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): My delegation feels rather uncomfortable with paragraph 15 of the report under review, stating certain reluctance on the part of some governments to accept candidates from developing countries, in general, or from particular developing countries. We believe that, if this situation is to be allowed to continue, it will be a real threat to the TCDC principle.

We believe that this has been due to FAO's limited collection of information on expertise existing in developing countries, thus causing some reluctance on the part of some governments to accept candidates whose knowledge and experience have not been clearly described.

To solve this problem, my delegation is of the opinion that the FAO effort in the collection of such information has to be intensified and that a close follow-up is needed, so as to enable all countries to know exactly where the specific know-how can be obtained.^{1/}

77 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

LE PRESIDENT: Si personne ne demande plus la parole, je vais demander à M. Yriart de répondre aux questions et de faire le bilan de ce qu'il retient de ce débat. J'espère qu'il sera satisfait de la contribution du Conseil dans ce domaine.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): En efecto, hay dos o tres puntos sobre los que creo que debo dar una respuesta o hacer una aclaración, pero antes como usted me invita, desearía sacar alguna conclusión de este interesante debate.

En primer lugar, quiero decir que haremos un análisis cuidadoso de las intervenciones, pero en general tengo la impresión de que el Consejo continúa compartiendo la orientación que da a la FAO en esta materia el Director General, y principalmente en cuanto a las áreas creditarias de cooperación que hemos tratado de intensificar para hacer allí mayores esfuerzos en promover las CPTD, varios de los Sres. delegados, delegado de Francia, delegado de Argelia, especialmente se refirieron a esta materia, y creo que los párrafos 29 a 33 del documento, con algunos ajustes en el fondo, sustentan las mismas ideas que ellos.

También es satisfactorio para nosotros saber que la política que se impulsa conscientemente de buscar principalmente el adiestramiento de expertos, de becarios en países en desarrollo o por lo menos de condiciones muy similares a los propios, es una política en general compartida por el Consejo. Igualmente quiero agradecer al Sr. delegado del Congo, Observador del Congo, porque me parece que es muy útil que siempre recalquemos que el concepto de CPTD no es excluyente, como lo dije al comienzo, de las formulas más clásicas de cooperación técnica, de transferencia de tecnología; muy por el contrario, va a utilizar esas formulas para fortalecerse él y va a facilitar las formulas clásicas de transferencia de tecnología posiblemente creada por los países desarrollados en cuanto que los países en desarrollo adquieran una nueva capacidad para adaptarla y para utilizarla.

Quisiera ahora referirme también a la intervención del Sr. representante de Pakistán, que mucho he apreciado y mucho agradezco, pues nos ha dado casos concretos sobre el tipo de cooperación que su Gobierno desarrolla y además sobre formulas y procedimientos que utiliza el Gobierno de Pakistán que nos es muy útil conocer para fomentar su cooperación técnica con otros países en desarrollo. Finalmente, quiero también agradecer al distinguido representante de Colombia que nos ha llevado a la oportunidad, como era todo el tiempo nuestro deseo, de citar en el Informe una recomendación del Consejo dirigida a los mismos países en desarrollo en cuanto a la utilización de expertos de países en desarrollo.

Necesitamos, en efecto, de apoyo del Consejo en nuestros diálogos con los países en desarrollo sobre la formulación de proyectos de cooperación técnica, porque es en ese momento, en la formulación de los proyectos, en que tenemos que llegar a un acuerdo sobre la conveniencia también de utilizar expertos de países en desarrollo. No podemos continuar teniendo todavía una tan alta tasa de no aceptación por los países en desarrollo de expertos de países desarrollados. Es de nuestra responsabilidad presentar candidatos idóneos, competentes, pero cuando lo hacemos esperamos que los países en desarrollo les den un igual tratamiento en consideración de que aquellos expertos vienen de países desarrollados.

Sobre el problema del banco de datos, creo que lo compartimos, y en tal sentido yo quisiera referirme a una cantidad de expertos de la Organización en el fondo, Caris, Agris, nuestras mismas publicaciones, son todos elementos que eventualmente serán apoyo de un banco de datos, y ciertamente la política de publicación del Director General también está hoy en día orientada a conseguir prácticamente los mismos fines que los Sres. representantes que se refirieron al banco de datos buscan, y es la difusión de nuevas tecnologías, pero también la difusión de nuevas tecnologías a nivel de productor, a nivel de productos más pequeños y a veces al menos favorecido. Y en este sentido, no sólo buscamos con cierto nivel de publicaciones, he mencionado a Caris, Agris, alcanzar a los técnicos, servir a los técnicos, sino que vamos más allá, y creo que es en el espíritu también latente el tratar con nuestras publicaciones de llegar a aquellos que las utilizarán directamente en los esfuerzos de productores y mejoramiento de su vida rural.

El Sr. representante del Brasil hizo una sugerencia que naturalmente vamos a tener muy en cuenta y considerar cómo se podría llevar adelante. Pero quiero decirle que también es una preocupación del Director General, personalmente del Director General, el problema de la comunicación con los gobiernos, en tiempo para que puedan tomar sus decisiones, respecto a una multitud de cosas, entre ellas la concurrencia a reuniones técnicas; y en este sentido, el Director General ha instruido muy especialmente a sus representantes en los países para que no sólo sean ellos el medio de comunicación de invitaciones, evitando demoras que hasta ahora han existido por complejos problemas postales y de malas valijas diplomáticas, sino que también sean ellos quienes puedan inmediatamente informar un poco más allá de la invitación escrita a las autoridades competentes del sector sobre qué ventajas tendría concurrir a esa reunión, etc. Es así que el delegado del Brasil ha tratado un punto que en efecto es muy de preocupación nuestra y estamos tratando de buscar soluciones.

Y últimamente, con su venia, quisiera permitirme decirle al Sr. representante del Senegal que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con él que en ese esfuerzo de cooperación técnica, las organizaciones subregionales y regionales están llamadas a jugar un rol muy importante, tal vez el más importante de todos. Sin embargo, los términos de referencia del punto focal que aparecen en el párrafo 7 del documento, no mencionan esto porque este punto focal solo va a actuar relacionando los servicios internos de la FAO y el problema de enlace con los organismos regionales y subregionales; es el problema que tiene primera prioridad en las impresiones de los representantes regionales, es decir, son las Oficinas Regionales las que por un lado tienen como principal cometido, ahora uno de los principales cometidos, promover la CPTD, y dentro de ese cometido tienen como prioritaria función el enlace con los organismos subregionales y la identificación de formas de cooperar con ellos y de fortalecerlos para que sean donantes de cooperación técnica. Así que la preocupación del Sr. representante del Senegal es la que informa las instrucciones que nosotros tenemos sobre la promoción de la CTPD. El punto focal tiene una función más pequeña porque está dedicado a la movilización interna dentro de la Casa.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie vivement M. Yriart pour son exposé extrêmement instructif.

POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. NGA-MA (Zaire): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. En fait, je prends la parole pour un point d'ordre.

Peut-être avez-vous remarqué que je viens d'arriver: J'habite très loin et je me sens un peu étranger à Rome. J'aurais un point de vue à exprimer au sujet de ce document, mais j'arrive au moment où on le résume. Puis-je dire quand-même ce que pense mon gouvernement?

LE PRESIDENT: J'invite le délégué du Zaïre à exprimer son point de vue. Nous avons tout le temps de l'entendre.

M. NGA-MA (Zaire): Je vous remercie beaucoup, Monsieur le Président, je serai très bref.

Je voudrais simplement appuyer fermement la manière dont la FAO conçoit la coopération technique entre les pays en développement, et ma délégation associe sa voix pour appuyer toutes les propositions - et je dis bien toutes les propositions - qui ont été faites, qui tendent à renforcer cette façon de voir les choses par la FAO.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Como siempre, el Dr. Yriart ha sido claro, preciso respecto a los puntos que han sido tratados en nuestro debate. Pero sí puedo efectuar algún comentario destinado a ser tenido en cuenta cuando se redacte por intermedio del Comité de Redacción el Informe de esta reunión. Creo haber advertido en la síntesis que el Dr. Yriart efectuó de los comentarios e intervenciones realizados en el Consejo, en el cual, en general, todos han aprobado el curso de acción de la FAO, me pareció advertir la necesidad de un mayor estímulo por parte de la acción de la FAO, de una mayor acción que no solamente sea un apoyo, sino más bien una exhortación a proporcionar ideas nuevas, nuevos enfoques y una acción más dinámica.

Es decir, que el Consejo no solamente aprueba el curso de acción de la FAO, sino que lo estimula a seguir en ese camino con nuevas ideas, con mayores esfuerzos y con nuevos enfoques, tal como está de acuerdo señalado en el párrafo 7, inciso(a). En cuanto a la aclaración formulada por el distinguido Dr. Yriart sobre el banco de datos, en el sentido de que Caris y Agris son útiles, a juicio de nuestra delegación eso es exacto, pero es necesario a nuestro entender, procurar sistematizar esta información dentro de términos de referencia correspondientes a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo que sean precisos, y en ese sentido, creemos haber interpretado las inquietudes formuladas por intervenciones anteriores en este Consejo.

A.M. FASLA (Algerie): Nous avons écouté avec un grand intérêt le commentaire du Dr. Yriart, et nous partageons les observations qui viennent d'être faites par le délégué de l'Argentine.

Notre délégation a abordé le problème des sociétés transnationales et de leur pratique, qui souvent constituent un frein à la coopération des pays en voie de développement.

Je voudrais poser une question au secrétariat. Que pense faire le secrétariat en matière de transparence de marchés, et quelles informations sera-t-il en mesure de communiquer aux pays en voie de développement? Nous constatons, hélas, que ces sociétés - pardonnez-moi le terme - "raflent" pratiquement tous les marchés, même lorsqu'il s'agit de marchés de soumission provenant du système des Nations Unies, alors que dans les pays du tiers monde, les sociétés n'ont pas encore tous les moyens d'information, n'ont pas les moyens de communication nécessaires.

Je me demande s'il ne serait pas utile qu'une coopération s'instaure entre la FAO et le Centre d'information des Nations Unies sur les sociétés transnationales pour promouvoir le rôle des pays du tiers monde en matière de contrats et en matière de passation de marchés, parce que les tableaux qui nous sont soumis à la page 9 du document CL 75/14 montrent clairement un déséquilibre.

Il est certain que l'assistance provenant des pays développés est en deçà de ce que nous attendions et ce que l'on donne de la main gauche est repris par la main droite à travers les contrats et les marchés. C'est sur cette question que peut-être la FAO pourrait nous donner des informations ou préparer une étude détaillée à l'intention du prochain Conseil et de la Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué de l'Algérie qui a posé un certain nombre de questions concernant, par exemple, la transparence des marchés, les activités des sociétés transnationales, le lien entre la FAO et l'échange d'informations sur la FAO et le Centre d'information des Nations Unies sur les transnationales et d'autres encore. Je demande donc à M. Yriart s'il a un commentaire à formuler.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General del Departamento de Desarrollo): Creo, señor Presidente, que la línea de conducta del señor Director General en materia de empresas transnacionales en el ámbito del desarrollo agrícola, es claro. El Consejo, en oportunidad anterior, ha debatido este asunto en relación con el Programa de Industrias, que antes tenía su sede en la FAO. Quedo bien claro allí las preocupaciones del señor Director General sobre ciertas actividades de estas empresas miembros, que al mismo tiempo dan la bienvenida a toda contribución al desarrollo que puedan ser integrantes del sector privado.

Habiendo dicho esto quisiera, en respuesta al representante de Argelia, decir algo concreto y práctico, y es que tendremos la satisfacción de llevar a la próxima Conferencia para el África, siguiendo una recomendación de la Conferencia para el África del año pasado, un proyecto estableciendo un servicio de inteligencia de precios de productos agrícolas, lo que consideraremos, si es aprobado en la Conferencia Regional, como un proyecto piloto; pero, absolutamente, comprometidos en la necesidad de que en materia de información de mercados a la Organización, cooperaremos con los gobiernos miembros en una forma eficaz y objetiva, así que, señor Presidente, creo, verdaderamente, que es una iniciativa que llevaremos el año próximo a la Conferencia del África que va a ser otra etapa en el cumplimiento de las responsabilidades de la Organización.

Nuestras relaciones, señor Presidente, con el Centro de Información sobre empresas transnacionales de las Naciones Unidas, es muy buena y, justamente en una primera investigación que hizo el Centro hace casi dos años, al cual asistimos todos, lo que motivó fue un estudio importante sobre las políticas de las empresas transnacionales en las industrias alimentarias. Mantenemos esa colaboración con el Centro, que al igual que nosotros también tiene recursos limitados, metas fijas, sus prioridades y, en esas prioridades, a cuanto tienen que ver con la agricultura, prestamos nuestra colaboración.

Sobre el problema de la utilización, por parte de nuestros propios programas de insumos, ya sean humanos o en equipos, de los países en desarrollo, quiero decir que los párrafos que figuran en este documento, a pesar de lo bien que escriben mis colegas, son sólo pálido reflejo de los esfuerzos que hacemos, al punto que ahora hemos establecido un procedimiento de seguimiento de monitores dentro de la Organización para poder identificar diariamente como resultado los esfuerzos para utilizar insumos de los países en desarrollo.

Muchas veces encontramos dificultades, que no son, verdaderamente, debidas a perjuicios, sino, inclusive, a problemas de gerencia, de administración, como es el caso de que muchas veces las empresas de los países en desarrollo tienen dificultades para participar en licitaciones internacionales y es el poder licitar el que nosotros, por nuestros reglamentos nos vemos obligados a hacer.

En el documento hay un breve comentario en cuanto a los esfuerzos que hacemos en esos casos para que las empresas de países en desarrollo se asocien también con empresas de países desarrollados para tener una mejor competencia en el mercado internacional en el que se mueve nuestro programa de campo; pero les aseguro que para nuestras Divisiones Técnicas, para nuestros servicios de contratos y de compras, el problema de ayudar a competir a los países en desarrollo en alimentar nuestro programa de campo, es un problema diario en cuanto diariamente está en nuestra conciencia la necesidad de lograr esos objetivos.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie vivement M. Yriart pour ces explications complémentaires. S'il n'y a aucune autre demande de la part des orateurs, je crois que nous sommes arrivés aux termes de notre débat de ce matin. Nous n'avions que ce seul point à notre ordre du jour.

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours La séance est levée à 11 heures Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 75/PV/8

Seventy-Fifth Session**Soixante-quinzième session****75° período de sesiones**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1979)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presidingLa huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du ConseilSe abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV - QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION(suite)

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1980-1981

11. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1980-1981

11. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 1980-1981

CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The meeting is called to order, and this afternoon the subject of our Order of the Day is Item 11, which is Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. The documents concerned are CL 75/3 and CL 75/4, which is the Report of the Finance and Programme Committees. The relevant paragraphs of that report are listed in the Order of the Day. As I said at the beginning, this is the most important subject that we have to deal with because the whole existence of the Organization is based on its Programme of Work and Budget, and when that is approved then the Organization can function. Therefore, we shall now go step by step as directed by Council and Conference, first, to discuss the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Now, this is a summary; there should be no confusion with the full Programme of Work and Budget which contains all the minute details; that will come later. The purpose of this exercise is to give Council and its committees and bodies, and also member countries an opportunity to look at what the Director-General intends to do in detail later on. But they want to look at the summary of it, an overview of it so that members can discuss these proposals which will go into the detailed Programme of Work and Budget as we know it.

Before we go into the actual paper, I should like to call on the Director-General himself to introduce the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget and after that I will call on the chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees who are here with us also, to say something about their Committees' work on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget submitted by the Director-General. Then, after that we will go into discussions which I hope we will be able to conclude in the one and a half days allocated to this subject.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the Programme of Work and Budget is the cornerstone of our activities for the coming biennium. It will be produced in final form in September for approval by the Conference. Member Governments may, of course, have different degrees of interest in the various programmes and activities, but in fact there has never been such a consensus as there now is on the strategies, priorities and means of action.

As regards the strategies, these have been fully supported not only by FAO bodies but also, more recently, by the UN Committee-of-the Whole in New York. It has explicitly confirmed the direct and overwhelming relevance of FAO strategies and priorities to the NIEO and to the new international development strategy. You will find this also confirmed in the report of the Programme and Finance Committees.

Mr. Chairman, details of the priorities are contained in the relevant sections of the Programme of Work and Budget. All activities have been reviewed, not just proposals for increases. Proposals for increases were admitted at certain levels but only against parallel proposals for decreases. Decisions were based on a selection of decreases and increases which varied in scope and size. I have just been describing the internal exercise through which we went when I prepared the Programme of Work and Budget with my colleagues. We had a series of meetings with the various Division Directors and their senior colleagues. We selected priorities, decided to decrease some programmes, to increase others and, ultimately, we formulated this Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

The Programme and Finance Committees were satisfied about the consistency of the application of the policies approved in 1976, about the emphasis on action in the field, decentralization to the country level, particularly through the creation of FAO offices, and the increasing use of consultants and contractual services including national institutions, technical cooperation between developing countries, etc. instead of large increase in posts, particularly at Headquarters.

In summary, I am glad to note that the joint report of the Programme and Finance Committees, last May, states:

"The Committees agreed that the summary Programme of Work and Budget followed the approved format, was clear and concise, provided a satisfactory basis for Council consideration and for preparation of the

final document. They agreed that the strategies and priorities were in accordance with the world situation and previous policy guidance by the Council and Conference, and recommended that the Council should endorse the major programme proposals and the balance between them. The consensus was to recommend to the Council the level of the budget proposed."

The proposed level, expressed at 879 Lire to the US Dollar, is \$271 260 000. This is very modest. The figures in the Summary Budget are all at Lire 879 to one US Dollar, for the sake of comparison with the budget of 1976-1977.

The figures in Comparison III of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, on page 18 of the English text, should be used. These show that:

the 1978-1979 cost of the programme level of US \$210 150 000 would - in 1980-1981 costs - be

US \$256 660 000; in other words, the same programme would, of course, cost more if we had to keep it

as it is but to implement it in the next biennium.

The real programme increase proposed is thus US \$13 600 000, which represents 5.3 per cent for the next two years, or 2.6 per cent a year; less than 3 per cent a year over the two years 1977 and 1979! The average percentage increases of eight other United Nations Agencies have been considerably higher than FAO's. For the delegates who would wish to consult them, we have all necessary data about the budget increases of the other UN organizations during the last ten years, including percentage increases and so forth.

Yet, overall aid to agriculture is still under one-fifth of total assistance commitments. Only 10 to 15 per cent of bilateral donors¹ aid is for food and agricultural development, despite the need to invest US \$8 to 10 billion a year in order to reach a growth rate of 4 per cent in food production. It is, therefore, not surprising to note that we are not reaching the annual target of 4 per cent increase in agricultural production. In Africa it is one per cent. In the most seriously affected countries it is around 2.5-2.6 per cent.

Thus the Regular Programme, and particularly the increase proposed for the priorities in 1980-1981 will not just be spent on studies and meetings in Rome but will mobilize very important amounts of extra-budgetary funds for direct employment in the field.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have tried to be consistent in the policy of decentralization to the country level, and , at the same time, in increasingly employing the tools of technical cooperation between

developing countries, including the use of national institutions. Thus, it is to be stressed that

the percentage of expenditures on established posts to the total budget went down substantially in 1976-1977 and is being further progressively reduced, not only in the current biennium, but also in 1980-1981; and this despite the fact that, with each reduction, a further reduction becomes more difficult. If somebody is fat, it is not very difficult for him to lose five or six kilos in six or seven weeks; but, later on for each kilo he wants to loose he would need much more time! This also applies to the budget, unfortunately. If the provision for salaries for staff in regional offices, liaison offices and FAO representative offices is excluded from these calculations, the reduction would be even more substantial. Moreover, these field elements will be getting a higher average percentage programme increase than units in Headquarters. Thus, the proportion of expenditure in the field to total expenditure will again increase.

A measure of the success of our policies in this field is that, in the short space of two years, a remarkable shift has been achieved in the number of consultants employed from developing countries and national institutions.

Nearly half of the consultants employed in 1976/77 came from developing countries. In absolute numbers, the figures rose from 280 in 1974/75 to 500 in 1976/77 from developing countries. I am appealing to the representatives of developing countries to continue to assist me in locating qualified people to be employed as consultants and I would very much appreciate all the help I can receive from them in this regard. The number of national institutions employed rose from 20 in 1974/75 to 77 in 1976/77. Here again I would appreciate receiving advice and proposals.

On particular issues I would first mention the FAO offices. The present authorized number is 47. Nearly all of these will have been established by the end of this summer. We already have requests which would take us up to a number of 70 if all were implemented. More will no doubt come. The proposal in the Summary Budget is for a further 15 offices, bringing the total to 62. There will be still eight governments unhappy with me, because I will not have the budgetary means to establish offices in their countries.

Another special issue is the Technical Cooperation Programme. I think this time it is not a controversial issue. The increase proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is in line with the overall budget strategy. The Technical Cooperation Programme was evaluated and the evaluation was considered by the Council in 1978. As a result of this evaluation certain adjustments are being made but the basic structure and approach of the TCP remains the same.

In my opening address I stressed the need for renewal of voluntary contributions to extra budgetary funds such as the special account for the prevention of food losses, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Seed Development Scheme etc. I hope that this will receive support from the majority of member countries and that their emphasis will also be on contributions directly to FAO, rather than in the form of separate trust funds.

In conclusion I would like to emphasize my concern that this Organization should have adequate resources in the coming biennium. We might be faced with another acute food crisis. In any case, the task of feeding the world in the next two decades will pose great problems. The demands on our services will continue to grow. As I said before we cannot do everything, nor shall we try to do so. We should concentrate our efforts where they are most needed and where they can be most effective.

We must, however, have adequate resources for this, both in extra-budgetary funds and in the regular programmes. The increase I have asked for in the Regular Programme is very small, it is less than it should be. It is less than I had originally in mind to propose. Thus, the programme increase I have proposed is more than 20 percent lower than in the previous budget. It is only 2.6 percent per annum. This was because, as usual, I listened to all governments; I took account of realities; and I had the hope that, by paring the budget down to the smallest amount, I would enable all countries, all governments, to join together in a consensus, if not in complete unanimity.

I know I have the support of the vast majority of member nations, among them the poorest whose sacrifice in contributions is proportionate to those of the richest. I hope, however, that I shall not be disappointed by reactions from some of the major contributors. It is to be noted that, owing to currency developments, some of the main contributors will in fact pay rather less in real terms than the apparent percentage increase as presented in this document would suggest.

I hope that my attempts towards obtaining a willing consensus will not prove unsuccessful. If, however, they are unsuccessful, then clearly I should have proposed a far larger increase, because I would receive just as much support from the great majority of member nations while incurring the same degree of disagreement from a few of the richest countries. This would be a sad lesson to teach the majority.

Whatever the outcome, my conscience will be clear since I know that I have done my best in a professional, careful and economical way to meet the needs of the situation, the demands placed on the Organization, the wishes of the great majority of the member nations of this Organization, including many developed countries, who share with me, not only concern for the poor and hungry of the world, but are really prepared to translate this into action by this Organization.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. Director-General for this very brief but very clear introduction to the Summary Programme of the Budget. I hope that this brief but clear and concise introduction will set the tone for the debate as well because there are no confusions, no waffling around - direct.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): Since each report is almost the tip of the iceberg and reveals only a substance of the two weeks' hard work of the Committee I would wish, if you allow me, to give the Council a more vivid account of the Committee's debate on this extremely important subject.

I might start by saying that the very first paragraph of the Programme Committee Report, paragraph 2.6, witnesses the wish of the Committee to study the Summary Programme of Work and Budget so as to make sure that it, as the report says, "...represented an adequate response to the needs and opportunities for FAO action in 1980/81 in the light of all the relevant factors." Indeed, if the time spent could be at all used as a kind of indicator I might perhaps add that the Committee in fact almost doubled the time originally scheduled for consideration of the Summary. Of course that does not necessarily mean that I would do the same in presenting the report of the Programme Committee. In fact I would I be reasonably brief, confining myself to only a few basic features of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

The Committee first came to the conclusion that despite some quite obvious drawbacks the summary stage nevertheless provided a useful opportunity to the Committee and indeed to the Council to review in broad terms the policy, strategy, priorities and outlines of the resource allocations and consequently the Committee would wish to recommend to the Council that the Summary form be continued.

Coming now closer to the substance, I am very glad to inform the Council that the Committee unanimously agreed that the Director-General in framing his proposals into the summary had fully and consistently followed the basic policy directives, approved again with full unanimity by the Council and Conference, on the basis of his review of FAO policies, structures and programmes which actually started in 1976. In other words the Council agrees that the summary reflected further a thrust towards the country level and action,, I am, of course, referring to a complex decentralization process, including reorientation in most of the FAO's regular programme activities aimed to achieve that result, centering on the FAO presence in the countries, Technical Cooperation Programme, promoting of the economic cooperation among the developing countries, greater use of national and regional institutions and so on, the whole process which would eventually lead FAO to be increasingly recognized by the governments as an efficient agent of progress in its most vital field of competence.

The Committee certainly wishes to note with satisfaction that the Director-General rigourously pursued the so-called zero base method, thus making considerable amounts of shifts between, so much more "so within programmes and sub-programmes, again with a view to further harmonizing the priorities with the policy already approved. Here is, I feel the proper place to underline the Committee's warm commendations to the Director-General for his very precise definition of priorities, precise but clear analysis and, more generally, the all-over presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget which the Committee considered as being a remarkable improvement over all past attempts.

One of the basic features of the new FAO policy is certainly a genuine effort to keep the posts increase at Headquarters at an absolute minimum. Here again the Committee is pleased to note that this policy had been rigourously pursued, and the Director-General, after careful evaluation of the need for new posts and after a number of conciliations as well as switches to the areas of higher priorities, has proposed a very moderate increase of only four professional posts at Headquarters. I need not emphasize specially that a low post increase and consequently further reduction of the staff share in the FAO's Total resources is not an aim in itself but rather an instrument in making more resources available

we consultant and contractual services. In this connexion the Council commends the Director-General's firm intention to channel increasingly FAO again through national and regional institutional systems, with the aim also of promoting economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, which certainly should be an increasingly important goal of the Organization.

Finally I want now to give the Council as concise as possible an account of the Committee's position with regard to the overall programme and consequently the budget level.

I feel that I should emphasize that the majority of the members expressed themselves quite explicitly

that even a much larger increase in real terms would have been fully justified taking into account the world food situation, which again became very precarious and in many respects indeed critical, as well as the need for FAO to respond adequately to the increasing requests from governments for assistance. Even so, some of the members were, to a certain extent certainly, disappointed with the level proposed, expressing some doubts about the FAO ability to cope with the problems in the next biennium.

However, being aware that the Director-General has been faced with a number of constraints and indeed with explicit requests on the part of some developed countries not to increase substantially the overall programme level and after a considerable debate, the majority agreed with the proposed level but with strong emphasis that it should be considered as an absolute minimum, still allowing FAO to cope with the most burning problems in the years ahead. With this in mind the Committee recommended the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to the Council for endorsement as a sound basis for further planning and for further presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

As delegates have seen, one member of the Committee - and I would rather try to use his exact words - was not able to or did not share this conclusion, because of his Government's advocacy for an appreciably lower net real programme growth in the 1980-81 budget.

As I promised at the beginning I will not go into any detail now, otherwise I will take too much of your precious time. I believe, Sir, that the report reflects the Committee's view with regard to the programmes and sub-programmes. It is quite visible from the report that in essence the Committee lent its full support to the proposals. Here and there the Committee made some suggestions, observations and remarks, to be taken into account in the final preparation of the document. I stand ready to answer any questions or to provide clarification with regard to the position of the Committee if members of the Council wish me to do so.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Programme Committee, for that concise account of the work of your Committee.

M BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Avant d'entreprendre l'examen de certains points spécifiques figurant dans le Rapport du Comité financier du paragraphe 3.5 au paragraphe 3.49 et concernant le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget de 1980/1981, j'estime qu'il est utile et nécessaire de retracer au Conseil les considérations générales qui ont servi de toile de fond aux discussions du Comité et qui ont conduit le Comité à présenter au Conseil les recommandations qui sont soumises à sa discussion et pour son approbation.

Dans ses débats, le Comité financier a tenu compte des éléments suivants:

- 1) Les principales priorités du programme 1980 et 1981 reflètent les décisions prises par le Conseil à sa session spéciale de juillet 1976 et prennent en considération les orientations formulées par les Etats Membres aux Conférences régionales, à la Conférence générale de 1977 et aux divers Comités techniques de l'Organisation.
- 2) L'effort déployé par le Secrétariat pour réévaluer certaines priorités et redistribuer les ressources et ce, dans le souci de ne pas compromettre le programme intéressant les pays en développement et répondant dans une mesure modeste de l'avis du Comité, et dans la marge des crédits limités de l'Organisation aux besoins urgents de ces pays.
- 3) Le souci du Directeur général, en réponse notamment aux vœux des principaux bailleurs de fonds de l'Organisation, de contenir l'accroissement du Budget en éliminant les activités non prioritaires, en rationalisant les programmes de la FAO, en opérant des transferts de ressources à partir de secteurs moins essentiels pour financer des tâches plus importantes et de nouveaux postes, évitant par là un accroissement supplémentaire de crédits.
- 4) L'importance des problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est reconnue non seulement par les organismes nationaux des pays développés et en développement mais également par les plus hautes instances internationales. C'est cette importance qui fera de ces problèmes l'une des principales bases de la nouvelle stratégie de développement pour la prochaine décennie.
- 5) La nécessité pour l'Organisation, devant l'accroissement des divers éléments de ce problème et, par là même, des besoins des pays en développement, d'évoluer pour y faire face dans la mesure de ses possibilités.
- 6) Le fait de constater que le taux d'accroissement proposé reste inférieur à celui des biennia précédents.
- 7) Et enfin, l'incertitude de la situation concernant le taux de change dollars/lires et le fait que si on peut parer aux effets prévus de l'inflation, on n'est pas toujours certain de pouvoir le faire quant aux effets des fluctuations monétaires qui sont imprévisibles.

Avec ces éléments en tête, je voudrais à présent souligner, à l'attention du Conseil, les remarques du Comité à propos de certains points spécifiques.

Tout d'abord, je voudrais me référer au contexte mondial, c'est-à-dire au paragraphe 3.8 où le Comité estime que l'Organisation devra concentrer son activité sur les actions concrètes orientées vers le terrain et les pays. Au paragraphe 3.13 le Comité estime que le programme ne saurait subir un taux de croissance zéro ou tout autre minimum, ou dirais-je maximum, cela dépend des interprétations et des points de vue, arbitrairement fixés.

Au paragraphe 3.14 le Comité exprime son appui à l'ensemble -des propositions du Directeur général qui impliquent les recommandations des organes directeurs de la FAO tout en estimant qu'un effort a été fait pour contenir les majorations de programme. Enfin, au paragraphe 3.16 le Comité considère que le niveau budgétaire proposé de 271,66 millions de dollars est raisonnable et le recommande par consensus à l'approbation du Conseil, tout en soulignant que le taux de change de 879 liras pour un dollar retenu pour le calcul du budget n'est que provisoire, dans l'attente de la décision de la Conférence.

Au paragraphe 3.19 le Comité appuie le renforcement du programme d'investissement destiné à faire face à l'augmentation de demandes d'aide à la FAO dans ce secteur et souligne qu'aucun nouveau poste ne sera créé à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne les représentations, le Comité relève la poursuite graduelle de la politique de décentralisation de l'Organisation et l'augmentation de crédits proposés pour l'ouverture de 15 nouveaux bureaux au cours du prochain biennium. Le Comité a été informé, en réponse à ses questions, que ce nombre ne pourra pas répondre à toutes les demandes. Concernant le personnel proposé pour ces bureaux,

il estime qu'il s'agit d'un minimum et qu'il est difficile d'être rigide à cet égard, compte tenu des différences dans les conditions des pays concernés. Tout en approuvant la majoration qui aurait été supérieure sans l'apport volontaire des pays en développement intéressés en biens et services et en espèces, le Comité recommande que le Directeur général ne doit épargner aucun effort pour contenir dans des limites raisonnables les crédits alloués à ces bureaux.

Concernant le programme de coopération technique, paragraphe 3.23, le Comité a été unanime à apprécier l'utilité de ce programme pour les pays en développement et recommande l'approbation de l'accroissement proposé.

En ce qui concerne les bureaux de liaison de la FAO (paragraphe 3.24 et 3.26) et pour les raisons mentionnées dans ces paragraphes, le Comité a approuvé la réduction des effectifs du bureau de liaison de New York et l'ouverture d'un bureau à Genève, étant donné la participation accrue de la FAO aux activités du système des Nations Unies.

Pour les objets de dépenses (paragraphe 3.28-3.32), le Comité apprécie la modération du Secrétariat quant à la création de nouveaux postes au Siège et la tendance à la baisse dans le budget total du pourcentage des dépenses consacrées aux postes ouverts. Il reconnaît l'utilité, pour la mise en oeuvre des programmes de l'Organisation, de l'emploi accru de consultants qui pourraient se révéler économiquement avantageux à long terme mais il estime nécessaire le maintien équilibré d'un effectif permanent qualifié pour l'exécution du Programme. Il relève avec satisfaction l'amélioration de l'équilibre géographique (il faut entendre par là entre pays développés et pays en développement) dans le recrutement des consultants.

Concernant les voyages, il reconnaît que les déplacements sont nécessaires aux activités de l'Organisation, mais un contrôle rigoureux sur l'utilisation des crédits y afférents doit être maintenu. Pour toutes ces rubriques, l'approbation des crédits proposés est recommandée.

En ce qui concerne l'augmentation des coûts aux paragraphes 3.33 à 3.46, le Comité a pris note des explications détaillées qui lui ont été fournies en réponse à ses nombreuses questions à propos de ce chapitre, et dont l'essentiel figurant aux paragraphes susmentionnés se passe de tout commentaire de ma part.

Le Comité relève trois éléments déterminants pour l'augmentation, à savoir l'inflation, l'accroissement des salaires et les biens et services. Il estime qu'au stade actuel les justifications pré-, sentées sont convenables et acceptables et que la brochette d'hypothèses qui a servi de base à ces

calculs est raisonnable, compte tenu de la situation actuelle qui prévaut tant en Italie que dans le

reste du monde, et compte tenu des divers éléments déclenchant ces augmentations. Le Comité estime que ces augmentations de coûts peuvent être recommandées à l'approbation du Conseil.

Enfin, le Comité attire l'attention du Conseil sur le tableau de comparaisons au paragraphe 3.49 et estime qu'il reflète clairement la situation du budget proposé en comparaison avec les deux précédents.

Pour ce qui est des autres principales priorités, les majorations prévues sont acceptables au Comité et sont à recommander au Conseil.

Quant au reste, le Comité a examiné les orientations générales concernant les services de soutien et les services communs figurant au sommaire du programme de travail et budget, document 75/3, chapitres V et VI de l'Annexe du sommaire. Mais la discussion détaillée de ces rubriques sera faite quand l'édition finale du Programme de travail et budget lui sera soumise à sa session de septembre prochain.

En conclusion, je voudrais souligner que le Comité dont la nouvelle formation permet à toutes les régions de l'Organisation de représenter leurs intérêts a essayé de faire de son mieux pour examiner consciencieusement les propositions qui lui étaient soumises de tenir compte du souci de toutes les parties concernées et de présenter les recommandations qu'il estime raisonnables et conformes aux objectifs que poursuit notre Organisation. Il appartient à notre Conseil de les commenter et - le Comité l'espère - de les approuver, tout en tenant compte du fait qu'il ne s'agit que d'un rapport sur un sommaire et en tant que tel il n'est ni faisable ni économique de présenter à ce stade toutes les informations détaillées que le Conseil aurait souhaité obtenir à cette session.

CHAIRMAN: We are about to start the debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General in such debates always comes under crossfire between two opposing camps. I know the Director-General, Dr. Ralph Philips, and some members of the Council have been associated with FAO for a long time, but I have been here since 1963, and this is my ninth budget, and the regularity of the budget debate is such that it can be predicted.

What happened always and will happen perhaps now is that the poor developing countries will accuse the Director-General of not making a big budget, because naturally they benefit their development programme with the programme of FAO. But their share of contribution is relatively small. In the other camp are the rich industrialized countries some of whom fire on the Director-General for making a very big budget, but they have to pay and they do not really get any direct benefit from the budget, they do not need FAO, where the poor developing countries need FAO.

A good example happened when I was a member of the Council ten years ago, and at that time, in 1969, Mr. West, the present Assistant Director-General of Programme and Budget was the British delegate, and in the debate spoke and said that the budget was big, the level must be reduced and so on, and when I took the floor, I said how wicked Mr. West was, that he did not want development in poor countries and so on, and then later that day Mr. West said to me, "Now look, I am all for development, I am all for big budgets, but I represent Her Majesty's Government here in the Council and I have to reflect the views of my Government ", so I said to Mr. West, "All right, next time I'll attack the British Government, not you." |

So this has been happening all the time. What we have to realize is that we represent governments, governments have got their own policies which are not determined by us but by elected representatives, but in expressing the views of our Governments we should spare the Director-General from pain, so that if the developing countries want a bigger budget they should not accuse him too much, and if the developed countries want a bigger budget, well, they should not accuse him too much, because he is working for the benefit of all of us.

H. MENDS (Ghana): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor at this early stage in our debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1980/81. My delegation has closely studied the relevant documents, and taking the floor at this stage is a privilege that my delegation values highly. We had an opportunity at the outset of the debate to indicate my Government's position and views on this subject to the extent that 'our views reflect this, and other delegations, we note, did likewise.

As a corollary, my taking the floor at this early stage entails some obligations. Had we intervened later, my task would have been a little simpler as I could have listened to the comments of preceding speakers. Now, however, I feel an obligation to provide some sort of framework for our consideration at this stage of the agenda item. I shall try to do so willingly, as my Government attaches great importance to this matter and has a clear position on all its aspects.

This is the third Programme of Work and Budget which bears the distinctive imprint of our Director-General. I count as the first one the major surgery he undertook at the request of the Conference in 1975 to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1976-77 and which we approved at our 69th Session. By now we are accustomed to the clarity of his presentation and proposals as he ably introduced the subject this afternoon. Once again he has not disappointed us. The Summary proposals now before us contain all the elements of rationale and justification for the full proposals which he will submit to the Conference later this year.

My delegation firstly wishes to express its complete agreement with the strategy adopted by the Director-General which leads to these proposals. The strategy is firmly based on the New International Economic Order. It is completely responsive to the affirmation of our Conference and its Resolution 375 that the Organization should play a fundamental role in the implementation of the New International Economic Order in the field of food and agriculture. Indeed, it is a Programme of Work such as the one now proposed which is rapidly confirming the role of FAO as a central world organization for food and agriculture.

Secondly, my delegation wishes to express its full acceptance of the priorities proposed. These priorities do not meet merely the individual needs of my Government and for that matter of the developing countries but have been judiciously examined and selected to be a communality of our needs.

As for the proposed level of the budget, that is US \$ 271 660 000, this is absolutely untouchable. We realize that the Director-General has arrived at this proposed figure after a great deal of searching and in a genuine mood to take into account the wishes of those Governments who seek to restrain increases in the budget. Indeed, were the Director-General not attempting to seek unanimity of opinion on this matter in this Council and if he framed a budget level which was geared above all the needs, we have no doubt that he could easily and convincingly have justified a level considerably higher than the one proposed.

The Programme increases proposed are minimum, as can be seen from the table of comparisons on page 18 which he referred to in document CL 75/3. The Programme figure of 210.15 million in the 1978-1979 budget would cost 256.66 million in the 1980-1981 budget. The real Programme increase is only 13.06 million, barely over 5 percent, as we have been told. After all, the 5.84 percent increase means a heavier financial burden to the developing countries than to their colleagues in the developed industrialized countries whose capacities to absorb this modest increase the Director-General proposed in the budget may, I suspect, have been greatly improved by the appreciation of their currencies in real terms on the recent money market, as the Director-General has told us at the end of his speech. I shall be grateful, Mr. Chairman, if through you, the Director-General will confirm this state of affairs before we wind up this debate.

As regards cost increase, we are completely satisfied that the Finance Committee has gone into this matter in depth and concluded that they were soundly based and should be accepted. A genuine policy discussion about the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget, however, should not be limited to questions of budget level, programming cost increases and Programme priorities. Of equal importance should be an attempt to examine how the proposed Programme changes the qualitative effort of our Organization in responding better to our needs. This involves an examination of the ways and means

by which it is proposed to deliver the Programme.

First of all, we are delighted to see that the Director-General is firmly continuing the policy of containing the growth of established posts at Headquarters and in the Regional Offices. A net addition of only five professional posts is envisaged. The proportion of the budgetary expenditure on established posts continues to fall dramatically from almost 75 percent in 1972-1973 to just over 60 percent in the budget proposals for the next biennium.

By the same token, we are delighted about the continuing decentralization. What is of importance is not whether financial contributions are given but whether the reduction is complementary, no matter where the sources are located. The relative decline in reliance on established posts is offset by the greater consolidation of consultant services. We attach the highest importance to this, as it is a uniquely effective matter of greater resources to institutions in developing countries. The purpose of technical cooperation at the outset has been recognized, to make the developing countries self-sufficient.

Finally, let us admit developing countries have reached the stage when, if they are not entirely self-sufficient in everything, they are more than self-sufficient in many fields to assist one another. It is a matter of such policy importance that it is a key policy rather than in terms of relative costs, because it is the core of cooperation among developing countries.

I should now like to turn to the matters which are of importance to my country, and which we would like to support with vigour. We attach the highest priority to the establishment of FAO offices. As indicated in the proposals, there are more requests from governments than can be met in the present biennium. The Director-General's proposals are so modest that the requests will not even be met in the present biennium.

If anyone here cannot understand why we attach such priority to FAO's offices, let me clarify them. An FAO office is not to be thought of as the service of one or two staff members. This one-man representative is a key to the strengthening of the maintenance of effective collaboration between the offices in each developing country and FAO. He is the interlocutor through which the entire ring of FAO expertise becomes more relative to our government and who, through the understanding of agricultural problems, can ensure the most prompt and clear response from the FAO.

Closely related to the establishment of FAO offices is the implementation of the special programme. All of these, whether the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Seed Development Scheme etc. are based on the accumulated research of FAO, and translate these into action at the country level.

The immediate consequence of these action programmes is increased investment. We cannot but be impressed that whilst over the last 14 years FAO has formulated investment projects of some 13 billion dollars, nearly half of this amount has been approved in the last two years alone. This is a tribute to the effectiveness of the Director-General's policies regarding the activities of FAO. We are gratified to know that he proposes to maintain this impetus.

While there are many other priorities to which my government attaches importance and in which we fully support the proposals of the Director-General, I do not wish to enumerate them at this stage. I am sure my colleagues in other countries will enumerate their priorities, which my delegation would wish to support with them.

In this connexion I would like to reserve the right of my delegation to contribute again to this item at a later stage, but I should like to conclude by urging this Council to accept the proposals of the Director-General, as has been endorsed by the Finance and Programme Committees, and which my government looks forward to accepting at the next session of the Conference.

A. ECHEVERRÍA ZUNO (México): Sean nuestras primeras palabras para reconocer la magnífica manera en que el Director General ha presentado el programa de trabajos y el presupuesto para 1980/81, así como las precisiones formuladas por los señores presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas*

Sin duda que ahora iniciamos uno de los temas más importantes de este período de sesiones del Consejo; someter a debate consideraciones de orden programático y presupuestario en todo momento significa, pero sobre todo en la víspera de un evento trascendente como es la próxima Conferencia de la FAO, un análisis simultáneo de evaluación en retrospectiva y de enunciado de actitudes y compromisos para el futuro; momento crítico en el que el juicio y la serenidad como componentes básicos de la responsabilidad deben imponerse.

Sin duda que el documento que resume nuestro colectivo quehacer para el bienio 1980/81 y que nos presenta la Dirección General aporta elementos suficientes como para reconocer su oportunidad y también su calidad, hecho que se demuestra por los trabajos y conclusiones de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa en sus últimos períodos de sesiones que acompañamos.

La Organización de las Naciones Unidas a casi tres décadas y media de su creación, y por lo tanto de la propia FAO, ha de enfrentarse a las causas reales de la miseria y el hambre que en la actualidad siguen siendo las mismas de siempre. EL fenómeno, cuya raigambre y dinamismo es inobjetable testimonio, amenaza con hacerse permanente y dañar irreparablemente las más elementales capacidades de cientos de millones de seres humanos, negando los más imprescindibles derechos.

Pensamos que nadie, absolutamente nadie, está exento de hacer rápida y solidariamente todo aquello que contribuye a la erradicación de éste que es el problema número uno. Resulta inconcebible que en nombre de claros ideales se mantengan regímenes económicos y sociales anacrónicos que depauperizan a las masas del tercer mundo y que las tasas de incremento de los recursos para el bienestar general sean infinitamente menores que las registradas en la adquisición de elementos destructivos. Este no es un reto que sólo se resuelve con declaraciones de buenos propósitos ni con modestas acciones administrativas, ni con pocos recursos. Demanda por sobre cualquier acción el establecimiento del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, proyecto histórico no de un grupo de naciones, sino compromiso de la comunidad mundial donde la FAO, como expresa una importantísima resolución de su Conferencia, debe desempeñar un papel fundamental en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación y como lo supone su constitución. Los Estados que la aceptan están decididos individual y colectivamente a cumplir cabalmente su mandato. En el contexto en que nos encontramos hoy día, no podemos hacer menos que reforzar y hacer más dinámicos y efectivos los instrumentos disponibles que, como la FAO, deben evaluar sus políticas, programas y acciones para atender estrictamente a las prioridades reales y soberanas de los pueblos que solicitan su presencia y destacadamente tener la actitud y disponer de la aptitud para cumplir el papel contemporáneamente asignado y que justifica su razón de ser.

Pobre papel haríamos si de antemano supiéramos que las crecientes necesidades del futuro van a ser atendidas con capacidad institucional y financiera.

A menos de concretarse este último marco, a fines de siglo, continuaremos con la perspectiva que ya era antigua antes de fundarse esta institución.

No hay reunión o documentos serios que no reconozcan que aún falta mucho por hacer y hacemos referencia, por ejemplo y para no ir muy lejos, a la Declaración Universal sobre la Erradicación del Hambre y la Malnutrición, a la gran mayoría de las resoluciones de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, a las Declaraciones de Manila y Mexico del Consejo Mundial, a las recientes conclusiones de la UNCTAD y a lo que razonablemente se puede anticipar que contengan las Declaraciones de Principios y el Programa de Acción que resultarán sobre la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y por supuesto teniendo presente el marco normativo contenido en la Carta de Derechos y/?/ res Económicos de los Estados.

Se presenta un panorama íntimamente relacionado con un buen contraste entre voluntad política y realizaciones, y entre compromisos y renuencias. No resulta fácil creer ante múltiples indicadores que las circunstancias cualitativas en el corto plazo se modificarán. Sin embargo, los países subdesarrollados, a pesar de la creciente brecha y de la corriente en que se hallan inmersos se esfuerzan y no hay duda que lo seguirán haciendo, para corregir en principio las tendencias a la distorsión que intentan enseñorarse y sabrán responder a las circunstancias. De esto no podemos tener duda. La experiencia histórica es el mejor respaldo.

Al tiempo que se incrementa asombrosamente el número de hambrientos, la tasa del crecimiento de la producción agrícola y la cooperación están considerablemente por debajo de las metas y las importaciones de productos agrícolas aumentan sin cesar al igual que las dificultades para adquirirlas. Se clausuran las posibilidades remunerativas de terceros mercados y las capacidades financieras están erosionadas.

Como nada es autocorregible, debemos proceder. Efe un asunto de derecho, de equidad y de cooperación. Todos los contribuyentes de la RAO y su Administración han de tomar esto en cuenta para afinar las prioridades y los programas de la Organización, así como las magnitudes financieras requeridas para garantizar el cumplimiento de los objetivos reconocidos por sus Órganos rectores. Todo ello exige sacrificios, pero ninguno será lo suficientemente grande en aras de la paz y el progreso de la humanidad* Quisiéramos que el meollo del asunto y no la ceremonia fuera lo sustantivo. EL pleno reconocimiento de la capacidad está en función de los esfuerzos hacia la congruencia y la racionalidad. Sobre todo cuando nuestro objetivo ha recibido prioridad absoluta, siendo la PAD el organismo mundial más importante en lo técnico e informativo y requiriendo de facilidades tanto para su función directa como para la catalizadora, debemos tomar en cuenta que el presupuesto propuesto significa un incremento real de los programas que apenas si se aproxima a lo más mínimo imaginable para mantener su situación actual, y que de presentarse circunstancias fuera de su control, para fines del próximo bienio habremos de realizar un esfuerzo singular para mantener sus capacidades. Esto gana dimensión cuando se subraya que el incremento propuesto es menor que el registrado en varias ocasiones anteriores, circunstancia que demandará, sin duda alguna, que el ánimo, orientación y eficiencia de toda la Secretaría deberán incrementarse y promoverse, tarea en que la Dirección General deberá profundizar los encomiables esfuerzos de la Administración, bajo la responsabilidad del Sr. Saouma, y donde la descentralización integral destaca como medida esencial.

La coherente prioridad otorgada por los países subdesarrollados al problema global del desarrollo y el bienestar en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación, se reflejan en la esfera de la FAO, entre otras muchas cosas más en el creciente número de solicitudes de asistencia, en el deseo de tener una representación de la institución en su territorio, en el propio comportamiento del programa de cooperación técnica y en los requerimientos para reducir las pérdidas de alimentos; igualmente, en la búsqueda de alternativas a través de la cooperación general económica y técnica, principalmente entre nosotros, en la promoción de sucesión de productores en el desarrollo agro industrial y en tareas de comercialización que no sólo tienen la dimensión nacional, sino que apuntan inclusive hacia lo regional. También se refleja en la exigencia de que se contraten consultores de nuestros países en mayor número, se utilicen nuestras instituciones nacionales y se adquieran nuestros insumos y equipos* Los países subdesarrollados, a la par de su entusiasmo, no esperan ver frustradas sus expectativas, por ejemplo, en todo cuanto corresponde a medidas concretas y operativas, y una mayor acción sobre el terreno, y en los países con imaginación y voluntad, debemos proceder y encontrar las mejores fórmulas, pensando no sólo en lo inmediato y en lo coyuntura, sino en lo que deje huella en la historia dentro de las categorías de la dignidad y lo racional*

G. /?/ Hoyos (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo con el párrafo 4.5 del documento básico, según el cual no es posible que se pretenda aplicar el crecimiento cero al Programa Ordinario de la FAO. Aceptar esa teoría, a juicio de nuestra delegación, sería desconocer los avances positivos que ha logrado nuestra Organización, los cuales merecen estímulos; y sería también sobre todo, ignorar la magnitud inmensa de la tarea que corresponde cumplir a la FAO en favor de los países en desarrollo en los importantes campos de la agricultura y de la alimentación. Por ello, la delegación de Colombia apoya sin ninguna reserva el nivel propuesto de 271,66 millones de dólares para el bienio 80/81. Sumamos nuestra voz a la intervención del primer orador, distinguido delegado de Ghana para rogar a todos los miembros del Consejo que, ojalá en forma unánime, este organismo pueda recomendar ese nivel a la aprobación de la Conferencia. Lamentamos que la mayor parte del aumento propuesto sea absorbida por los costos, y sólo un 5,3 en los próximos dos años sea el incremento de los programas, o sea, menos del 3 por ciento anual, cuando hace ya varios años habíamos convenido en un mínimo ideal del 5 por ciento anual para el fortalecimiento de los programas.

El hecho de que en relación con el aumento total el programa crezca tan reducidamente se debe sin duda a los efectos de la inflación, pero también podría pensarse en buscar métodos que conduzcan a una mayor eficiencia administrativa, lo cual podría facilitar en el futuro la posición de los países desarrollados frente a los necesarios crecimientos del programa.

A la delegación de Colombia le parece muy adecuado el lenguaje franco y claro en que está redactada la parte II de la Introducción - Situación Mundial. Nos abstendremos de hacer referencias a la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura porque ello lo hicimos en la discusión de un tema anterior y esperamos que esto aparezca debidamente en el informe. De manera que preferimos pasar al párrafo 2.7 de la Introducción, que contiene una afirmación enfática que apoyamos: "Es esencial que los países desarrollados inviertan la creciente tendencia hacia el proteccionismo contra las importaciones del mundo en desarrollo". Para muchos países en desarrollo, particularmente en América Latina, el problema no se limita al crecimiento de la producción, sino que se basa esencialmente en la carencia de mercados, con volúmenes estables de exportación y precios remunerativos.

Por eso, una vez más, la delegación de Colombia pide a los países desarrollados, particularmente a la Comunidad Económica Europea, que revise sus políticas proteccionistas y abra los importantes mercados de esos países a las exportaciones agropecuarias de las naciones de América Latina que no hacen parte del acuerdo del OME (?)•

Una vez más nos dirigimos a la Comunidad Económica Europea con pleno conocimiento de la deplorable situación existente y con la autoridad de que dentro de 3 semanas, el próximo 5 de julio, el Presidente de Colombia, Julio César Turbaján Ayala hablará en Bruselas ante la Comunidad Económica Europea en nombre de los cinco países sudamericanos que integran el Grupo Andino, para destacar la importancia de nuestra integración y la necesidad de que se establezcan relaciones constructivas entre esos dos grupos de países.

Después de esta declaración de orden general, vamos a coger su llamado y limitaremos nuestra intervención a puntos muy específicos, que a juicio nuestro podrían merecer aclaración. En el Capítulo III, Programa de Campo, en el párrafo 3.11 aparece una curiosa y tal vez contradictoria información sobre la cual la delegación de Colombia pide aclaración de la Secretaría o del representante del PNUD, porque si hay grandes reservas en efectivos no utilizadas, ¿cómo dice ese párrafo: "la aprobación de nuevos proyectos viene sufriendo una considerable demora?". Son citas textuales del párrafo a que me estoy refiriendo y, naturalmente, las víctimas de 3ª situación un poco incomprensible, a nuestro juicio, son siempre los países como veremos en seguida.

En efecto el párrafo 3.12, indica que no obstante haber mejorado la situación económica del PNUD en 1979 las entregas apenas alcanzarán a 120 millones de dólares logrados por la FAO a finales de 1975, es decir, una vez más vamos hacia atrás.

Si fuere posible desearíamos que se nos informara también sobre el párrafo 3.13, ¿qué pasó después de la preparación de este documento?. Si tuvo lugar ya en Ginebra la reunión del Grupo Interdepartamental del PNUD y qué curso están tomando las propuestas del Administrador del PNUD sobre el cambio en el sistema de reembolsos.

En el párrafo 3.15? parece que se perfilará una fricción entre la FAO y el PNUD en materia de ejecución de proyectos. Quisiéramos saber cuál es la realidad de esa situación ¿por qué el PNUD está utilizando otras agencias para ejecutar proyectos del sector agrícola y ese mismo PNUD está ensanchando su propia capacidad de ejecución?. Desearíamos que el representante del PNUD nos diga aquí en el Consejo si hay insatisfacción por la manera cómo la FAO viene ejecutando los Proyectos o cuáles son las razones para que nuestra Organización haya descendido del 30 al 26 por ciento en la ejecución de proyectos financiados por el PNUD.

En el párrafo 2.89 del documento CL 75/4, el Comité del Programa ensaya una justificación de ese descenso. Dice el Comité del Programa que se debe sobre todo a que ha aumentado el número de organismos de ejecución. De todas maneras queremos apoyar la actitud del Comité del Programa, organismo que al final de ese párrafo 2.89, pide que se realicen consultas entre la FAO y el PNUD para que se esclarezcan aquellos aspectos, sobre todo los proyectos interdisciplinarios, a fin de definir clara y exactamente la responsabilidad de ejecución de cada organismo.

Creemos que el Comité del Programa ha asumido una actitud racional y justa que el Consejo debe apoyar. Nos corresponde a nosotros, y ojalá así lo consignemos en nuestro informe, preservar y fortalecer la condición de la FAO como agencia de ejecución esencial y, ojalá única en el campo de los proyectos del sector agrícola.

En el capítulo IV, el contexto financiero para 1980/81, en el párrafo 4.7, se afirma que se examinaron las actividades existentes para eliminar aquellas que producen pocos beneficios o no son fundamentales. Esto nos parece muy bien, hay que cortar las ramas muertas de que hablamos en el pasado, pero ni el documento CL 75/3 ni el documento CL 75/4t ni 'en las tres intersecciones' /?/ les de la discusión de este tema, oímos referencias concretas a esas actividades de menor prioridad que hayan sido eliminadas; si fuera posible la delegación de Colombia agradecería que se señalen específica y concretamente cuáles han sido esas actividades de menor prioridad que se están eliminando en el programa de nuestra Organización.

En el párrafo 5.12, apoyamos la mayor atención a las inversiones. Quisiéramos saber qué cambios serán introducidos en el departamento de desarrollo, según se anuncia en ese párrafo y si esos cambios ya aparecen contenidos en el version definitiva del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio entrante.

El aumento de 1 665 000 dólares para el PCT nos parece muy modesto. La delegación de Colombia, habría deseado que el programa de cooperación técnica se incrementara más sustancialmente; sin embargo, lo apoyamos porque ésta es la propuesta que se nos hace y aprovechamos esta ocasión para testimoniar aquí el reconocimiento del Gobierno de Colombia a la FAO, por haberse aprobado recientemente dos proyectos del PCT que contribuirán al desarrollo agropecuario colombiano.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, en el párrafo 6.5, nos preocupa o nos preocupaba, podríamos decir mejor, el enorme aumento del 25, y hasta un 30 por ciento para consultores. Dije nos preocupa, porque las declaraciones recientes, según las cuales se está incrementado el número de consultores provenientes de países en desarrollo, nos tranquiliza un poco, así como la afirmación de que el uso de consultores puede resultar más económico a largo plazo que el aumento de las plantillas. Sin embargo, con aumentos tan exagerados podría esa pretendida economía resultar un espejismo.

De todas maneras quisiera preguntar al amigo y Presidente del Comité de Finanzas si ese Comité se ocupa con frecuencia de los consultores, si conoce la lista de las personas a quienes se les asignan consultores, los honorarios, que suelen ser muy altos, los objetivos de las misiones y sobre todo el resultado de éstas. Creemos que una acción vigilante del Comité de Finanzas sobre los consultores podría conducir a que se eviten desviaciones y se asegure que las consultorías se asignen dentro de términos correctos y adecuados.

El Comité de Finanzas en el documento 75/4 dedica tres párrafos a los consultores, del 3.29 al 3.32 y en el último de ellos el Comité pide que siga ejerciendo controles estrictos sobre los viajes. Quisiéramos pedir a la vez al Comité de Finanzas que ese importante organismo asesor del Consejo ejerza estricta vigilancia sobre los consultores.

Sobre los programas técnicos y económicos, el capítulo II del anexo, estamos de acuerdo en que esos programas, que son la columna vertebral de nuestra Organización se incrementen sustancialmente. Sin embargo, observamos que en el programa 2.1: Agricultura, del cambio neto propuesto de 5 215 000 dólares 4 425 000, o sea cerca del 90 por ciento corresponde a la sede y sólo 794 000, el 10 por ciento, a las oficinas regionales. En Pesca, el cambio propuesto de 900 000 dólares, 80 000 serán para la sede y sólo 10 000 para la Oficina Regional de América Latina. Y de los 500 000 dólares propuestos para Montes, todos son para Roma. Nos preguntamos si estas propuestas corresponden a la política de descentralización anunciada en 1976 y sobre la cual se hicieron referencias también hace poco.

Hasta aquí, señor Presidente, nuestra intervención. Hemos expresado estos puntos de vista inspirados en el ánimo constructivo de contribuir a que la FAO entre realmente en acción, no sólo en favor de los países en desarrollo sino de toda la Comunidad Internacional. La FAO es una Organización muy importante que es necesaria también a los países desarrollados; la preservación de cuya prosperidad de hoy depende la paz social que sólo se alcanzará cuando se logren los objetivos del nuevo orden económico internacional.

M. S. SWAMINATHAN (India): My delegation would like to endorse the views expressed by the earlier speakers with reference to the appropriateness of the budget proposals of the Director-General. We also endorse the recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees and we would like to express our gratitude to them for the thoroughness with which they have gone into the proposals.

We are, of course, rather shocked that there should be a discussion on zero growth rate in this forum. Apart from the fact that zero growth rate really means stagnation, means death whether it is in population or in finance, but this is an organization which everyone professes, proclaims as being the most important among the United Nations agencies because it deals with the primary need of man.

I personally have a feeling that it is not lack of resources which leads to a suggestion of this kind but probably a feeling that the funds are not yielding the results which they ought to. I was just trying to compare the growth in budget of another body with which I had the privilege of being associated with for six years, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. In the 1970-71 biennium the budget of FAO was \$71.5 million. The proposal for the beginning of the next decade by the Director-General is \$271.6 million. In fact it is less than four times and most of it is taken away by costs escalation and so on. In 1971 when the CGIAR was founded by FAO, UNDP and the World Bank with many other donors, the budget of the CGIAR was about \$10 million. This year it is \$120 million just for

the year alone, not for a biennium. In fact my guess is that in the 1980/81 biennium the CGIAR budget will be more than that of FAO. So therefore the logical conclusion is that the money is available in the sense that CGIAR is largely supported by developed countries and by private foundations and I am therefore confident that funds will be forthcoming but I suppose the major question is do we really get the value for the money spent; and that is why we are happy that a detailed exercise has been undertaken by the Director-General and his colleagues on exploring the possibilities for redeployment of staff, for realignment of priorities, but as far as priorities are concerned it is very likely that in an intergovernmental body of this kind one's country's priority may have no significance at all to another country, therefore I know that it will be very difficult to cut out projects because when you cut out something some country or the other will be affected. Nevertheless we must now commend the Organization, I am now talking from the experience of India, for the relevance of the programmes they have initiated at any rate in my country. It is but natural that they are relevant since the proposals originally emanate from the national government itself because the unique advantage of FAO is that it is an intergovernmental non-political United Nations body and my own country's proposal will be that we must further capitalize on the competitive advantage of such an organization in the field of food and agriculture. If one tries to do things which are probably better done by bilateral than other means, naturally the competitive advantage of FAO, the unique advantage of FAO cannot be fully exploited. This is why we are more and more happy that more and more projects of a regional nature, regional corroborative nature are being undertaken and we would like to suggest, you yourself suggested, Mr. Chairman, that some of us will suggest enhancement in the budget, but I believe there are a large number of activities which are crying for attention and they will have to be attended to because these transnational boundaries will have to be done either by regional groups of countries or under the aegis of FAO.

I have already mentioned earlier the importance of pest proofing of major crops in the regions. I had also mentioned the need for conservation of resources. We are happy that the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources has come into existence and FAO is providing the Secretariat here. It is a serious attempt to conserve and collect resources but: I think a similar body or bodies are required for animal genetic resources, fish genetic resources and forest genetic resources because one does not realize how fast so many of them are getting depleted and thereby we would deprive the possibility of fruits of thousands of years of natural and human selection.

Now, coming to cost effectiveness of programmes which must be an important criterion for supporting financial organizations like FAO, again I would like to compliment the Director-General on the low-cost approaches he is adopting. Institutional consultancy in our point of view is very important in addition to individual consultancy, institutional consultancy using developing countries' institutions as well as developed countries' institutions. We have seen in India, for example, some of the training programmes organized by FAO with financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency, or from DANIDA or NORAD and so on. Many of these are very low cost, some little effective input and you have a very effective programme.

One of the disturbing trends today in the international job market is what I would like to call the growing salary and privileges gap between employees of national governments in developing countries and international agencies and if this gap widens, the salary and privileges gap, it would cause serious disturbances because after all, individuals are individuals and therefore there are problems of various kinds and this is why we wholeheartedly approve of the Director-General's proposal of using more and more institutional consultancies and where necessary individual consultancy approaches because they will, on the one hand, provide opportunities for people from developing countries to get exposed to a wider arena and at the same time not deprive the country of the person for a long period of time. I would like to urge that the Organization should continue to give thought to this problem because it is a very important problem in the matter of translating programmes into action. In fact our friend from Colombia asked about the UNDP and so on, in many cases the relatively low disbursements come from the non-availability of personnel, the delay in recruitment and the whole variety of problems associated with programme implementation. That is why we appreciate FAO's initiative in this respect.

Finally, I am not going into the details because I think the Programme and Finance Committees have done an excellent job but I would like again to reiterate, although it is too late probably to ask for an enhancement in the budget, but after all we all know in our national governments we go in for supplementary budgets, I would like to urge the Director-General of FAO to start seriously planning for a programme of timely action on the early warning. I asked for it earlier. There are, in the latest lists of the alerts for FAO, 17 countries with abnormal food situations and 24 countries with unfavourable weather conditions. In my view it is not enough just to distribute this document. It is very important that we follow it up with a timely action.

TCP is a wonderful programme and that was the first time that FAO started with responding in a timely and in a speedy way, because in many cases time is of the essence. We are not happy that the TCP is being enlarged in a very small way. We think the budget proposals which have been put up will just meet

the costs of cost escalation and so on, it is not going to be any real progress but we would still like to ask the Director-General to explore, maybe with non-budgetary, extra budgetary resources with countries that may be interested in developing a programme of timely action on the early warning procedures.

With these observations, although we are a poor country, we would be very happy to support any enlarged budget because we feel that the fight against hunger should not be mainly a slogan. We are all overfed people in this hall, expressing sentiments on hunger but to all the hungry it is always a problem.

The other day the Director-General mentioned that the budget of Unesco, WHO and so on are much higher than FAO. Take the World Health Organization, I think remarkable work has been done in the terms of smallpox but immediately now we are facing serious problems with new strains of malaria, encephalitis and so on all over Asia. This is by the very nature of progress and this, as I said earlier, is why stagnation is death and we should not talk in this forum of zero growth rates. We can also talk about realignment of priorities but it is always important to remember that action, every action has many reactions. Everything we do provokes change and a change will produce a number of unforeseeable factors and our Organization should always have the capacity to respond to those situations. Therefore we have pleasure in strongly recommending for the approval of the Council the small increase in the budget proposals for the next biennium.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación ha venido estudiando con el máximo interés y muy en detalle toda la materia relacionada con el programa de labores y presupuesto para el bienio 1980/81 tal como el Director-General lo ofrece a nuestra consideración en este Consejo en el documento CL 75/3.

Adoptamos la costumbre que podríamos calificar de altamente positiva. El mismo Director General informo a todos los representantes permanentes acreditados ante la FAO, en los meses precedentes a este Consejo, sobre los alcances de este presupuesto, sobre el programa de labores y sobre las bases en que el mencionado instrumento presupuestario se elaboro. Fue ésta, lo reconocemos, una iniciativa muy positiva la cual nos permitió entrar con claridad y con gran detalle en la estructura del presupuesto.

Por otra parte, Venezuela, como Miembro del Comité del Programa, ha tenido y aprovechado una ocasión muy especial al objeto de seguir empapándose sobre esta materia. En todas estas ocasiones hemos participado activamente comunicando nuestras observaciones e ideas al respecto.

Venezuela ha sido siempre especialmente sensible al marco conceptual derivado del nuevo orden económico internacional, cuya instauración consideramos inaplazable.

Es por esto que nos complace altamente observar cómo este contexto es adoptado así como los fondos para el Programa de Labores de la FAO. Siempre hemos pensado que es labor fundamental de la Organización proveer con eficacia y efectividad a la solución de los grandes y graves problemas alimentarios y agrícolas del mundo, pero muy particularmente los de los países en desarrollo pues son estas áreas prioritarias y básicas en esta pronta instauración del nuevo orden económico internacional.

Observamos que las necesidades y solicitudes nacionales y regionales han sido tomadas en cuenta a los efectos de la citación de prioridades presupuestarias; entendemos claramente que el diseño de la estrategia no hubiera podido hacerse racionalmente sin adoptar un programa de actividades básicas de alcance mundial, lo cual significa una vía de continuidad con las acciones ya emprendidas o factibilidad de ponerse en funcionamiento en el futuro.

Vemos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1980-81 responde y trata de reflejar al máximo las políticas generales que la administración actual de la FAO ha impuesto desde un principio a su actuación. Lo anterior nos satisface plenamente pues fue este cuadro concreto de políticas el que Venezuela apoyó en su oportunidad. Hay programas específicos a los cuales nuestra delegación, nuestro Gobierno, ha venido apoyando con gran entusiasmo y desea seguir apoyando, particularmente por los resultados hasta ahora alcanzados. Especialmente me refiero al programa de Cooperación Técnica, pues consideramos que responde a las mejores intenciones y que debe seguir siendo apoyado ya que representa ciertamente un magnífico instrumento de ataque a las emergencias y catástrofes que tan continuamente se vienen sufriendo en el mundo.

El plan de asistencia para la seguridad alimentaria, así como el programa de acción para la prevención de pérdidas alimentarias son igualmente objeto de nuestro interés y lo apoyamos.

Nos felicitamos por los avances que viene teniendo en sus actividades el Centro de Investigación de la FAO; ciertamente se debe contar con la colaboración financiera cada vez más de las instituciones nacionales y el incremento de las corrientes de inversiones.

Hemos conocido algunos lineamientos que se adoptarán a este fin, al objeto de adecuar al máximo en este sentido el departamento de desarrollo de la FAO. Estos lineamientos los consideramos útiles a los fines propuestos.

La descentralización es otra actividad de reestructuración útil y, por consiguiente, la vemos como necesaria para el establecimiento de nuevas oficinas de la FAO en los países en desarrollo.

No obstante la simpatía de nuestra delegación por el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ofrecido a nuestra consideración, y el cual apoyamos, faltaríamos a un deber de sensata franqueza si omitiéramos confesar nuestra preocupación al comprobar lo que, a criterio nuestro, ha debido y ha tenido casi la obligación de ser un presupuesto agresivo, más ambicioso en sus fines, lo cual, en resumen, no representa sino la más realista intención de satisfacer las inminentes y gravísimas necesidades del mundo en desarrollo. Lo hemos dicho en otras oportunidades y lo repetimos hoy aquí: esta Organización tiene el mandato de actuar para eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo, pero tiene también la obligación de maximizar las acciones para tal fin.

El mismo Director General al inicio de esta reunión nos señaló que el presupuesto que elaboró es menor que el de la UNESCO y mucho menor que el de la OMS. ¿Podemos entonces considerar que a esta casa le corresponden mandatos y obligaciones de menor importancia para la humanidad que las de la organizaciones citadas? Realmente no lo creemos y no podemos convencernos de ello.

Hemos analizado muy al detalle el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y hemos comprobado la modestia, e incluso me atrevería de calificar, la timidez de su elaboración. Hemos analizado y comparado el nivel de los programas y subprogramas de las regiones para los últimos años y se puede atestiguar muy claramente lo que afirmamos. Hacemos referencia a los recursos destinados a nuestra región de América Latina, y concretamente en programas que son especialmente necesarios a una zona en desarrollo como ésta y donde coinciden graves necesidades. Me refiero a áreas como cultivos, apoyo a la investigación agricultura.

En el Comité del Programa último Venezuela dejó constancia de esas impresiones, las cuales hoy repite en este Consejo.

A nuestro país le hubiera agradado ver un presupuesto que cumpliera más a fondo con los deberes que nos hemos impuesto dentro de la FAO; pero hechas estas observaciones, creo que puedo llegar al final de mis reflexiones diciendo lo siguiente: por supuesto que apoyamos el nivel de presupuesto que nos ofrece el Director General; por supuesto que apoyamos los términos en que se estructuró el mismo y ello, incluso, sobre una base que calificaríamos de legal por las conclusiones y recomendaciones que al principio de ese debate los presidentes de los Comités de Finanzas y de Programa nos sometieron.

Finalmente, deseo por su intermedio, señor Presidente, exhortar y hacer un llamado a este Consejo para que a pesar de lo señalado adopte por consenso el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1980-81 porque lo consideramos una cuestión de justicia social internacional y solamente una FAO fortalecida podrá coadyuvar a poner en práctica el nuevo orden económico internacional.

R. RALIBERA (Madagascar): Depuis quelques jours, nous n'avons fait dans cette enceinte que discuter des problèmes concernant l'amélioration de la production alimentaire et des problèmes que pose au tiers monde la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Nous n'ignorons pas non plus que les pays en développement attendent beaucoup de la FAO. Or, ce qui nous préoccupe, c'est que le niveau du budget qui nous est présenté est, à notre avis, au-dessous du minimum et avec un minimum d'augmentation. De plus, quel fut notre étonnement en apprenant que certains pays prônent le principe de la croissance zéro pour le budget de la FAO. Vous comprendrez que notre délégation s'élève contre cette prétention qu'ont certains de vouloir faire appliquer le principe absurde de la croissance zéro au budget d'une organisation créée spécialement pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. La faim, malheureusement, est bien loin de la croissance zéro, et ma délégation, quoique déçue par la modestie du niveau du budget présenté, ne manquera pas de l'approuver expressément. Que ce montant soit maintenu pour cette fois-ci, d'accord, mais à l'avenir le Conseil devra voir la question autrement pour pouvoir répondre aux besoins des pays en développement.

Notre appui n'est pas seulement une question de principe; il procède d'un examen attentif du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget ainsi que des rapports fort clairs et précis du Comité financier et du Comité du programme.

Bien que nous approuvions globalement les recommandations et les conclusions contenues dans ces rapports, nous tenons à souligner les questions revêtant une importance particulière pour les pays en développement. Il s'agit des chapitres consacrés aux politiques alimentaires et agricoles et à l'investissement, car ils abordent les problèmes clés et reflètent sans doute très fidèlement la stratégie d'ensemble à adopter par le Directeur général dès sa prise de fonctions.

Ma délégation, confiante dans la mise en oeuvre du Nouvel ordre économique international, note avec une satisfaction particulière que le Comité du programme réaffirme son soutien au programme intégré pour les produits de base et au suivi de la CNUCED V.

Citoyens d'Afrique, nous nous réjouissons de voir la FAO répondre positivement aux recommandations de la dernière Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique en proposant de mettre en place un système africain d'information sur les produits.

Toujours dans le même esprit, nous désirons exprimer notre enthousiasme à l'égard du Plan d'action du Directeur général pour la sécurité alimentaire, en particulier dans les zones d'Afrique et autres régions exposées aux catastrophes. Pays révolutionnaire et soucieux de pratiquer la réforme agraire, Madagascar ne peut que souscrire à la priorité des accords et au développement rural dans les programmes de terrain de la FAO.

Nous appuyons aussi le programme de coopération technique bien que le montant prévu à cette rubrique nous semble insuffisant. En effet, nous souhaiterions que la FAO puisse intervenir rapidement et directement sur les terrains sans dépendre de toute autre organisation.

En ce qui concerne l'investissement, nerf de la lutte que la FAO mène inlassablement contre la faim, nous tenons d'abord à dire combien nous avons été favorablement impressionnés par les efforts réalisés pendant ces deux dernières années et fort bien résumés dans le tableau de la page 24 du document CL 75/4.

Par ailleurs, ma délégation partage entièrement l'avis du Comité du programme exprimé dans les pages 25 et 27 du document et relatif à la politique observée par le Centre d'investissement. Nous tenons cependant à en souligner certains passages: le paragraphe recommandant une mobilisation plus large du personnel de la FAO autour des activités d'investissement; le paragraphe mettant l'accent sur le caractère privilégié des relations de la FAO et du FIDA; enfin et surtout cette phrase du paragraphe 2.16O que ma délégation se plaît à citer: "Il faut veiller à ce que les services d'investissement de la FAO ne soient pas conçus en fonction des donateurs et que le Comité étudie les moyens de rendre

le Centre plus indépendant..."

Ma délégation émet le vif souhait de voir le Conseil adopter les résolutions proposées par le Comité financier sur le barème des contributions de 1980-81 et sur la situation financière.

Enfin, la délégation malgache remercie chaleureusement le Directeur général de ne pas avoir ménagé ses efforts pour nous présenter un sommaire de programme de travail et budget qui, malgré son niveau bas, est conforme aux recommandations de la Conférence.

Par la même occasion, ma délégation adresse ses félicitations aux présidents du Comité du programme et du Comité financier pour le travail qu'ils ont fourni en nous présentant leurs rapports d'une façon exhaustive. Tout en exhortant les membres du Conseil à approuver à l'unanimité le Programme de travail et budget, ma délégation se réserve de prendre la parole plus tard si elle le juge utile.

O. BORIN (Italie): Nous avons examiné avec la plus grande attention le document CL 75/3, sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, et nous avons écouté avec le plus vif intérêt l'allocation adressée par le Directeur général au Conseil au début de nos travaux ainsi que ses pertinentes déclarations d'aujourd'hui. Le document et les deux déclarations du Directeur général s'intègrent réciproquement et dressent un tableau de la stratégie et de l'activité de la FAO, de la politique et de la gestion de l'Organisation que nous partageons complètement et auquel nous donnons notre plein appui. Nous avons toujours été en effet plus en faveur de l'action sur le terrain que de la théorisation des grands problèmes; plus en faveur de l'assistance directe aux pays en voie de développement, pour planifier, investir dans l'agriculture, sortir par un effort accru du sous-développement avec la mobilisation des propres ressources de ces pays, qu'en faveur des grandes études théoriques.

Tout cela, maintenant, semble être acquis définitivement comme orientation de fond de l'activité de l'Organisation et nous voulons en féliciter ici le Directeur général.

Nous espérons aussi que dans l'avenir on mettra encore davantage l'accent sur le transfert aux pays en voie de développement d'une technologie adéquate à leurs propres nécessités, à la recherche appliquée aux principaux produits agricoles des différents pays en vue d'en assurer une meilleure production alimentaire qualitative et quantitative. Nous sommes sûrs que tout cela est déjà présent à l'esprit de la Direction de la FAO, mais nous avons quand même voulu le rappeler parce que la ligne de développement du programme de son travail est telle qu'elle pourra compter sur l'appui total de la délégation italienne.

Ayant dit ceci, je dois aussi ajouter que maintes fois j'ai des difficultés à m'orienter sur les différents projets du programme de travail, puisque, en les comparant au programme de travail du biennium précédent, on p'arrive pas à détecter les raisons pour lesquelles certains projets ont été abandonnés et quels sont les résultats réalisés jusqu'à présent, ou ceux qui, au contraire, continuent.

Je me pose alors la question de savoir s'il ne serait pas souhaitable d'avoir, à l'intention de la Conférence, un document succinct qui rende compte de l'activité de la FAO durant le biennium écoulé. Mise à part toute considération sur l'opportunité d'une meilleure information disponible pour pouvoir juger en meilleure connaissance de cause du programme futur de travail, je suis convaincu que la FAO aurait tout à gagner à donner un aperçu plus complet, dans un document officiel, de ses réalisations et des résultats obtenus avec les différents projets dans les pays.

J'en viens maintenant à la question du niveau du budget, et là je dois reconnaître que le Directeur général a fait des efforts considérables pour réaliser des économies dans les secteurs non essentiels. Cet effort doit être poursuivi et j'indiquerai, à titre d'exemple, le personnel des bureaux des représentants dans les pays, qui doit être maintenu au niveau strictement nécessaire à leur fonctionnement, sans consentir aux requêtes d'augmentation de personnel que les intéressés seraient constamment tentés de faire.

Dans cette nouvelle optique, il sera peut-être utile de réviser les cadres organiques des bureaux régionaux pour éviter le double emploi de fonction et de personnel avec les représentants dans les pays.

Je suis conscient qu'il s'agit là de remarques de détail qui ne touchent pas à la substance du budget qui nous a été présenté, en cohérence avec son programme, par le Directeur général.

Mais quelle est la position de l'Italie vis-à-vis de cette question?

Je dois dire tout d'abord que nous avons une grande estime de la FAO et de son Directeur général. Nous pensons que les problèmes alimentaires et de développement agricole, qui sont essentiels pour l'avenir de l'humanité, feront de plus en plus de la FAO l'organisation principale et la plus importante du système des Nations Unies.

/?/, notre intérêt pour la FAO n'est pas rhétorique, mais il est prouvé par les faits. Très bientôt, nous allons mettre gratuitement à disposition de l'Organisation un nouveau bâtiment, ce qui comporte pour nous une dépense de 7 milliards de liras, et pour la FAO des économies sensibles sur les loyers.

De plus, nous envisageons, et nous sommes déjà au travail, la construction d'un centre des Nations Unies pour l'agriculture mondiale qui fera encore plus de la FAO la plaque tournante du système.

Mais si nous sommes - et nous le faisons très volontiers - disposés à venir à la rencontre des nécessités de l'organisation pour en faciliter le fonctionnement et lui permettre de réaliser des économies sensibles, en tant que pays hôte, nous avons quand même une position bien arrêtée vis-à-vis du problème de fond de l'expansion en termes réels du budget des organisations internationales en général.

Nous avons en effet le problème de la réduction de la dépense publique, qui est notre problème clé pour contenir l'inflation, et le Fonds monétaire international nous a même indiqué les montants qui ne doivent pas être dépassés. Nous avons par conséquent adopté une politique générale rigide envers nous-mêmes, à l'intérieur. Contraire à toute augmentation budgétaire, mais, pour ce qui concerne les organisations internationales, nous sommes disposés tout de même à prendre en considération des augmentations très faibles. Je peux même vous donner des chiffres: cette augmentation, acceptable en termes réels, serait à peu près de 2 pour cent.

Mais à ce stade il serait prématuré d'en parler.

Vous n'êtes pas sans savoir, Monsieur le Président, que nous avons eu des élections politiques, mais que nous n'avons pas encore de gouvernement. Il me serait donc difficile de prendre une position

définitive dès maintenant. J'ai tenu tout de même à indiquer les difficultés de caractère général auxquelles nous devons faire face, tout en gardant l'esprit ouvert aux nécessités réelles de la FAO en réitérant notre plus haute appréciation pour la direction de l'organisation.

Vous ne serez donc pas étonné, Monsieur le Président, si je suis dans l'obligation de réserver la position du gouvernement italien quant au niveau du budget.

A la Conférence, nous serons à même de mieux préciser cette position.

C. McLAIN (Liberia): On behalf of my delegation, I give my full support to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General rightly intends to present his full proposals to the FAO Conference in November next.

We are encouraged to note that the strategies of FAO are fully supported by the Committee of the Whole and the United Nations General Assembly and that these strategies are firmly based on the new International Economic Order. We base our support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget on the fact that it received a most searching scrutiny and overwhelming approval of the Programme and Finance Committees at the last session. We appreciate the thoroughness and precision with which these Committees carried out their work.

We note with appreciation that the Director-General in his proposed budget has shifted great amounts of resources from lower to higher priorities. This strategy is indeed responsive to our needs and must be increasingly employed. Based on our needs, we wished that the Director-General had submitted proposals for a much larger Programme similar to those of Unesco and ILO. We hope not to hear from some of our colleagues that their governments cannot bear the burden of a higher budget. They should notice in the Report of the Finance Committee the comparative figures of three biennia. It is evidenced therein that the Programme increases in FAO's budget over the three biennia have come down from 23,4 percent to 5.3 percent or an amount of \$276.66 million, considerably lower than Unesco's current budget or the WHO 1980-81 budget.

Mr. Chairman, I ask, is food less important than education or health? We appreciate the frugality and restraint demonstrated by the Director-General in his proposal, that is, an increase of only 5,3 percent. We can count on him to use this modest increase to respond effectively and efficiently, as is the characteristic of his leadership of FAO, to respond to the ever-increasing and more frequent appeals for FAO assistance from the majority of member governments. We are convinced that FAO has the competence and capacity to help its member nations, but the Director-General must have the means to do so.

In the last three years, the Director-General has strikingly shown that he could use the modest resources at his disposal to attract and generate amounts many times greater from bilateral donors and financial institutions. This is excellent but should be improved.

As my delegation is convinced of the practical thrust of FAO's Programme activities, we fully support the increases in the Regular Programme including the number of special action Programmes for which the Regular Programme provides the coordinating focus. Our priorities include but are not limited to the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Technical Cooperation Programme and the International Fertilizer Assistance Scheme. We also fully support the creation of FAO country offices because we believe that they definitely assist in more active and practical identification of projects adaptable to country conditions. In Liberia, for example, the FAO representative is making significant progress in the realization of programmes at that practical level.

As Liberia will always support activities of FAO to help hungry people, of which Liberia itself is a needy recipient, I can only urge that this Council give its unanimous approval to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Director-General.

L.V. BORGES DE FONSECA (Brazil): In this current Session of the Council, my delegation wishes only to make the following comments on the subject under consideration.

The Brazilian delegation does not oppose the endorsement of the Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81 as presented in document CL 75/3 and as recommended in the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees.

My delegation considers useful that FAO pursues its efforts in reducing the costs of documentation which corresponds, for instance, to more than three times the total amount proposed for the said Report, as indicated in the Summary in Item 2.1.4 on page 26 of the English version.

The Brazilian delegation also wishes to express its concern, as it has already done in the Programme Committee, at the absence once again of resource assignments to Latin America in research support as indicated in the Summary 2.1.4 on page 26 of the English version.

In this regard, my delegation would very much like, also, that this Council be explicitly assured that a comprehensive programme for Latin America in research support will not only be invested as recorded in paragraph 2.48 on page 7 of the Report of the Programme Committee, but will effectively be carried out.

Finally, my delegation wants to announce to this Council that, according to the Guidelines established by this body concerning the implementation of the decentralization policy of the activities of this Organization undertaken by the Director-General, the Brazilian Government is ready to offer facilities for the establishment and maintenance of the FAO national office in my country.

To conclude, my delegation wishes to declare it fully believes this Council will endorse the Programme of Work and Budget proposed in document CL 75/3.

M, NGA-MA (Zaïre): Je vais tâcher s'être bref pour la simple raison que les inquiétudes et les préoccupations qu'éprouve ma délégation au sujet de la partie du budget, dans le cadre du sommaire du programme de travail et budget 1980-81, que nous examinons, nos inquiétudes, dis-je, ont été partagées et exprimées de façon très éloquente par les distingués délégués qui ont pris la parole avant moi.

Après avoir étudié avec attention le document CL 74/3, ma délégation est arrivée à conclure que si les activités prioritaires et très justifiées qui sont inscrites au sommaire du programme de travail pour le prochain biennium ne pourront à peine couvrir qu'une toute petite partie de la masse des besoins des pays en développement, il convient de souligner que le montant du budget proposé pour mener à bien ces activités est très insignifiant et reste en dessous du montant requis.

J'aimerais, à titre d'exemple, insister en passant sur cette vérité évidente, à savoir que si, jusqu'à ce jour, l'expérience démontre que l'objectif de contribution au programme alimentaire mondial pour chaque période ne peut être atteint ou dépassé en un temps record que s'il y a de nouveaux donateurs qui s'ajoutent à la liste des donateurs traditionnels, il est aussi vrai qu'une telle considération ne devrait pas s'appliquer au budget de la FAO.

Pourquoi? Parce qu'à ce budget chacun des Etats Membres de l'Organisation est tenu de contribuer, quelque soit le montant. Je tiens à rappeler ici que je suis originaire d'un de ces pays qui, pour payer leurs contributions au budget de la FAO, doivent consentir d'énormes sacrifices pour acheter les devises, car leurs monnaies ne sont pas convertibles. C'est vous dire, comme nous le savons tous d'ailleurs, que la FAO ne pourra être en mesure de jouer pleinement son rôle qu'à partir du jour où le niveau de son budget, pour chaque exercice biennal, sera fixé en fonction des besoins réels et vrais de tous les pays qui ne peuvent se passer de son existence.

Si, jusqu'à présent, la stratégie et les priorités élaborées par la FAO, dans le cadre des programmes de travail pour les différents exercices biennaux, ont toujours été plus ou moins satisfaisantes, il est à noter cependant que les moyens financiers nécessaires pour l'exécution de ses programmes ont toujours été insuffisants. C'est le cas du programme de travail étudié pour le prochain exercice biennal que nous sommes en train d'examiner.

En effet, si nous reconnaissons tous, comme l'a si bien souligné le Comité de l'agriculture lors de sa dernière session, que les propositions du programme de travail pour 1980-81 ne représentent qu'un minimum par rapport aux besoins à moyen et à long terme des pays en développement, nous devons à *fortiori* reconnaître que le montant de 271 millions de dollars que le Directeur général nous propose pour exécuter ces programmes est très insuffisant et ne représente qu'à peine le minimum devant correspondre au minimum du programme.

En fait, j'aimerais que le Directeur général de la FAO, ou quelqu'un du secrétariat, ou même un membre du Conseil, nous explique pourquoi on doit discuter le budget de la FAO, pour les différents exercices biennaux, en termes de pourcentages des augmentations de leurs montants, en laissant de côté le pourcentage d'augmentation de la pauvreté et de la misère, c'est-à-dire le pourcentage de l'augmentation pour ce en raison de quoi la FAO a été créée.

Ma délégation aurait souhaité que le paragraphe 1.4 de l'introduction du document que nous examinons ne s'arrête pas là. Puisque dans ce paragraphe on nous communique le montant de l'augmentation réelle de ce programme, on devrait normalement nous communiquer aussi l'augmentation chiffrée de la pauvreté et de la misère dans les pays en développement par rapport aux périodes passées. On n'a pas pu le faire et pour quelle raison? Je vais essayer de vous le dire: nous pensons qu'on n'a pas pu chiffrer l'ampleur de la pauvreté dans les pays en développement parce que la pauvreté et la misère dans ces pays sont incommensurables et ne peuvent être chiffrées.

A notre avis, la seconde raison c'est que pour chacun de ces programmes de travail et budget la FAO, depuis sa création, a toujours été habituée à ne tenir compte que de disponibilités financières apparentes et fictives des Etats Membres en laissant ainsi de côté les besoins réels des pays en développement, membres eux-aussi de cette coordination.

Tout en reconnaissant que le Secrétariat de la FAO a l'expérience et la compétence nécessaires, je tiens à insister sur le fait que nous estimons que toute nouvelle proposition tendant à modifier les propositions initiales du Secrétariat, contenues dans le document que nous examinons ne pourrait être acceptée et approuvée que dans la mesure où elle consisterait à augmenter le nombre d'activités inscrites au sommaire du programme de travail et bien sûr, à augmenter proportionnellement, par voie de conséquence, le montant du budget qu'il convient de prévoir à cet effet.

Ma délégation fait sien le point de vue exprimé par tous les délégués qui ont parlé avant nous et qui ont reconnu à juste titre que si la partie du programme de travail peut encore représenter à peine le minimum de ce que peut faire la FAO pour assister les pays qui ne peuvent se passer de son assistance, il n'en est pas ainsi de la partie "budget" dont le montant n'approche même pas du montant minimum nécessaire. Nous approuvons le niveau du budget proposé, en insistant pour que cela soit souligné au rapport du Conseil. C'est un niveau non pas modeste, mais plutôt trop modeste, et à l'avenir la FAO devra nous présenter des programmes de travail et budget plus ambitieux, cela pour la simple raison que la Communauté internationale a bien voulu accepter de combattre la pauvreté et la malnutrition dans les pays en développement.

Enfin ma délégation appuie ce qui a été dit par le délégué de l'Inde à propos de la nécessité de renforcer les systèmes d'alerte rapide par l'élaboration des programmes d'action qu'il convient d'entreprendre en faveur des pays où il existe des pénuries alimentaires.

Pour terminer je voudrais, avec votre permission, demander au Secrétariat de bien vouloir tenir compte du point de vue de ma délégation a exprimé le premier jour, à l'ouverture de cette session, et concernant notre réaction aux conclusions exprimées par le Directeur général.

P. MASUD (Pakistan): May I also add my voice to some of the previous speakers and compliment the Director-General for giving us such a clear introduction and explanation of FAO's Programme and Budget for the next biennium. We have already lent our support to the Director-General's proposal in the Programme Committee and would like to reiterate it here in this forum. We are also grateful to the chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their lucid introductions to the reports of their respective Committees.

When we first studied in depth the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81, we were inclined to be a little critical about the modest increase in size of the budget. On the one hand we were informed that according to the World Development Report 1978 of the World Bank, although the past 25 years had witnessed unprecedented change and progress in the developing world, some 800 million individuals continued to be trapped in absolute poverty characterized by inadequate food, illiteracy, disease, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy. FAO's Fourth World Food Survey 1977 indicated an order of magnitude of about 400 million as a conservative estimate of the number of persons under-nourished in developing countries, an increase of more than 50 million between 1969 and 1971, and 1972 and 1974. Available data further indicates that up to 50 percent of young children in the developing world either suffer from malnutrition of varying degrees or are at risk. Infant mortality in developing countries ranges between 46 and 122 per thousand, compared with 15 per thousand in the industrialized countries.

On the other hand, we are being asked to support a very small real increase in the size of the budget for the forthcoming biennium. We repeatedly asked ourselves how an additional sum of only \$13.6 million - which is the real increase - would help in implementing, for instance, the objectives of the new international economic order. However, the passage of time and participation in the discussions of the Programme Committee brought wiser counsel and we began to appreciate the very real difficulty that the Director-General had to face in reconciling the conflicting interests and demand and the

reasons which compelled him to keep the increase in the size of the budget as modest as possible. Today, after listening to the Director-General, we have no reservation in fully supporting the Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81.

The Director-General has already drawn our attention to a comparison of the budget figures on page 33 of the Finance Committee's report contained in document CL 75/4. An examination of these figures would reveal that in 1976-77 the programme increase was 23.4 percent; in 1978-79 it was 6.4 percent and in 1980-81 it is only 5.3 percent. This declining trend is highly disturbing and we feel that it must be arrested primarily in the interests of the developing countries as also of the Organization. What is even more important, priority stemming directly from new policies, strategies, special action programmes and decisions by the Conference, Council and other FAO bodies must be covered by adequate resources and, even in this context, what has been proposed is the barest minimum.

Lastly, we fully support and agree with the delegate of India regarding the inappropriateness of discussing zero growth in a forum dealing with the primary needs of man. Taking into consideration the global situation, overall strategies, urgent need for action, programme activities as well as requirements, we fully support the proposed level of budget and urge all members to accept it without any reservation.

As we consider this item under discussion as the most important before the Council, we reserve our right to take the floor again at a later stage should it become necessary.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): El documento CL 75/3 nos describe de manera clara y al mismo tiempo concisa la situación mundial, la que ha sido tratada exhaustivamente en el tema 4, pero que señala el marco y los términos de referencia adecuados al enfoque del Programa de Campo de la FAO, los diversos factores que influirán en su realización, los fondos fiduciarios y los del PNUD y el objetivo primario que se persigue.

Posteriormente, de los párrafos 4.1 a 4.10 se describe el contexto financiero en el que se desarrollará este Programa y en la Sección V, las estrategias y prioridades para 1980-81 con la enumeración de los puntos específicos de actividad de nuestro organismo.

La Sección VI describe sintéticamente las partidas de gastos, y en la VII el aumento de costos. Posteriormente, en la página 18, la Sección VIII nos propone una serie de comparaciones en las que juegan diversas variables de un proceso complejo, en el que los porcentajes de aumento, según se tomen alguno de los ejemplos propuestos, van del 5,84% al 17,99%.

Por último, el documento nos presenta el Anexo titulado "Exposición detallada de los cambios programáticos, por programas principales y programas", con una descripción de los cambios netos propuestos en los rubros correspondientes, incluyendo los programas técnicos y económicos.

Efectuaremos algunos comentarios de carácter general. No cabe duda que la situación global del mundo en el campo de la alimentación y la distribución de alimentos, es por lo menos incierta. La coyuntura internacional señala aumento de la demanda - que parece excederá el record de 1 100 millones de toneladas previsto para este ejercicio y deberá encontrar una merma de producción de por lo menos el 5 por ciento. Los permanentes esfuerzos de la Comunidad Internacional por aliviar esta coyuntura desfavorable que afecta a los 450 millones de personas subnutridas en el mundo, deben incrementarse y, sobre todo, coordinarse con políticas imaginativas e inteligentes que tengan en cuenta la necesidad de evitar el despilfarro en una sociedad que tiende cada vez más a tomar conciencia de su carácter inter-dependiente, y a proponer cursos de acción que no se limiten a contribuciones que, por lo generosas que puedan ser, no constituyen un paliativo eficaz al mejoramiento general de la situación.

Es así que sólo mediante un incremento - un sustancial incremento en la producción de alimentos -, y las medidas generales de política orientadas para ese fin, podrá encararse de manera realista el problema del hambre y la desnutrición.

En ese sentido lamentamos vernos obligados a reiterar una serie de repeticiones de conceptos, de frases que venimos oyendo desde hace años, de problemas que se tratan invariable y consecuentemente en otros foros, y que parecen una letanía retórica. Es cierto que vamos avanzando lentamente, pero también es necesario exhortar a una mayor acción que involucre ideas nuevas y la necesaria precisión de conceptos que signifiquen un progreso hacia la autosuficiencia y sobre todo a la aplicación de una política racional de producción.

Es por esta razón que coincidimos plenamente con el párrafo 2.7 de este documento, que habla claramente de uno de los problemas esenciales de la falta de incentivos a aumentar la producción de los países en desarrollo y que es, entre otras cosas, la política proteccionista de los países industrializados, ya sean éstos de economía de mercado, o de planificación central.

No compartimos el criterio de la Secretaría de limitar a los "tres países más ricos" - que por otra parte no sabemos a cuáles se refiere - pues es una enumeración limitativa, incompleta, que deja de lado al resto de la responsabilidad de la Comunidad Internacional, que debería sentirse llamada por un gesto de solidaridad y de generosidad a participar activamente en la ayuda alimentaria.

De esta consideración no debe excluirse ningún país miembro o no miembro de la FAO.

Entendemos que tanto la creación del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, como la recuperación financiera del PNUD, han sido elementos positivos dignos de tener en cuenta.

Apoyamos también plenamente el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO mencionado en el párrafo 2.11, que se ha revelado un instrumento útil y provisto de la agilidad suficiente como para encarar problemas de pequeña escala pero de extrema importancia para diversos países en desarrollo que, como el mío, han visto por este medio cimentar una fructífera colaboración con la FAO. En ese sentido apoyamos plenamente al Director General en la necesidad de fortificar y, si es posible, ampliar esta actividad de la FAO.

No es fácil para un organismo ejecutivo como puede ser la FAO, precindir de verse influenciada por lo que sucede en el amplio campo de otras actividades del foro internacional. A este respecto, esperamos una mayor actividad del Organismo en el campo de la Cooperación Técnica entre países en desarrollo, cuyo plan de acción ha señalado ámbitos precisos para estimular esta cooperación de importancia vital para los países en desarrollo. Al tratar este tema en la mañana, mi delegación tuvo oportunidad de señalar puntos concretos y la necesidad de adoptar medidas dentro del marco de referencia para incrementar por parte de la FAO una cooperación técnica efectiva entre países en desarrollo en el sector agrícola y de la alimentación. Celebramos entonces el párrafo 2.12 en el cual se trata esta cuestión, y esperamos que el Programa de la FAO dedique mayores recursos a este rubro.

El panorama que se nos brinda en los párrafos 3.1 a 3.17 es alentador, el programa de campo de la FAO parece contar con un amplio respaldo en virtud del aumento de la participación del Banco Mundial en Proyectos dedicados a la agricultura y al desarrollo rural. Del mismo modo la actividad de los Fondos

Fiduciarios es promisorio y el PNUD ha decidido aumentos a una tasa anual media del 14 por ciento que se van cumpliendo.

La participación de la FAO en proyectos financiados por el PNUD parece así asegurar la posibilidad de una razonable expansión. Teniendo en cuenta el párrafo 3.15, habrá que hacer los mayores esfuerzos para evitar la dispersión de recursos y en los proyectos interdisciplinarios tener en cuenta la importancia del sector agrícola y con ello la participación de la FAO.

Con respecto a la estrategia y prioridades para 1980/81, debe sin duda ser el incremento de la producción de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, destacando la necesidad de la cooperación técnica entre dichos países para asegurar el fortalecimiento de fuentes genuínas y sólidas de crecimiento real. En este sentido concordamos también con el párrafo 5.3, en cuanto a asegurar la continuidad de mantener actualizada la recolección y difusión de informaciones básicas que son esenciales para la programación adecuada y la adjudicación de prioridades en los planes de producción de los países en desarrollo.

Con respecto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, como mencionamos anteriormente, la delegación argentina apoya plenamente la intención del Director General formulada en el párrafo 5.17 de fortalecer este programa, ya sea cualitativa como cuantitativamente, en especial en el sector del desarrollo rural, los cultivos agrícolas y la sanidad animal. Entendemos que éstos deben ser sectores prioritarios de acción de la FAO por intermedio del Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Lamentamos, al igual que lo expresó el distinguido representante de Brasil, la falta de asignación de recursos para el apoyo a la investigación, tal como figura en el párrafo 2.1.4 del anexo, para América Latina. Pensamos que debería encararse una política de apoyo a los buenos institutos existentes en la región y ampliar, si cabe, sus posibilidades dentro de un concepto racional y de eficiencia.

El Gobierno argentino, a través de su delegado al Comité de Finanzas, ha tenido oportunidad de formular observaciones a los aspectos técnicos de las partidas de gastos, aumentos de costos propuestos y, en general, estima que la propuesta formulada responde a las necesidades de la Organización, que los aumentos propuestos son moderados, pese a que representen para nuestro gobierno una importante contribución y un gran sacrificio, y por lo tanto, apoyamos el programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1980/81 tal como ha sido presentado para este Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned till tomorrow morning at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La séance est levée à 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 75/PV/9

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING

NEUVIEME SEANCE PLÊNIÈRE

NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(15 June 1979)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo"

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV - QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1980-81 (continued) (2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

11. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1980-81 (suite) (2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

11. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 1980-81 (continuación) (2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. We resume the meeting and continue with our discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which we started yesterday. Practically everybody is on the list now for the floor.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): First of all my delegation would like to express its profound gratitude and thanks to the Director-General of FAO for his very inspiring and concise introductory statement which he made yesterday morning.

The basic strategy adopted by FAO in working towards the New International Economic Order with emphasis on increasing food production in developing countries, expanding activities aimed at rural development with particular regard to the plight of the most poor and disadvantaged groups including and rendering practical services in the technical, economic and social fields of food, agriculture and rural development in the field at the country level has been of great significance in earning increased faith and confidence in FAO's activities from Member Governments.

The proposed budget for 1980-81 is indeed very modest, too modest perhaps, as expressed by a number of Distinguished Delegates, particularly in view of the Member Governments mandate to FAO to help more than 80 percent of the total population of developing countries in their quest for meeting the most basic need and that is food.

Besides, considering the need for concerted efforts by both national and international communities to ameliorate the problems of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, the demand for assistance from FAO is bound to increase in the future. This, of course, will require increases in the amount of resources at the disposal of FAO.

In relative financial figures, there is an increase of US\$60.31 million in 1980-81 as compared to US\$211.35 million in 1978-79 and most of the increases will be absorbed by cost increases. There is only US\$13.60 million in terms of real programme increase which is not, by any standard, an ambitious one. Moreover, we are pleased to note that a greater part of increase is earmarked for developing rural institutions and employment-generating programmes with emphasis on poorer section of rural communities.

In view of FAO's role in helping Member Governments in their efforts to provide food for all, the Director-General's budget proposal for 1980-81 deserves full support. My delegation in particular strongly endorses the Technical Co-operation Programme of the Director-General and his plan of action on food security.

Before closing, my delegation wishes to propose that while the Director-General has made special efforts to de-bureaucratize and decentralize FAO activities to country offices, he should also, in our opinion, look into the possibility of further decentralization to regional offices.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): My Government has studied with great attention the Summary Programme of Work and Budget submitted for the consideration of the Council. We are in substantial agreement with the priorities selected for FAO activities. We give our full support to the energetic efforts of the Director-General and his attack on key problems such as food production and nutrition.

The initiatives taken by the FAO that face up to the new situation arising from the enlarged economic zones of coastal states and the problems of world food security deserve our admiration and support. The programmes of control of animal diseases and agricultural pests are high priority efforts of immense potential benefit for hundreds of millions of people. We support the strengthening of the Investment Centre and are especially appreciative of the seed-money nature of this activity. We know the contribution made by the Investment Centre - whose activities we were able to examine in the Programme Committee last month - to the support of IFAD and to other international funding organizations such as the African Development Bank, who are increasingly active in the agricultural sector.

We congratulate the Director-General for anticipating in his budget the expected proposals and results of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In general we find the strategies and priorities indicated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget are correct and realistic. We would like to note our comprehension of the difficult position in which the Director-General must have found himself while preparing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget with some member countries - as we have heard in this meeting - urging increased budgetary growth and others desiring financial restraint. The Director-General has obviously made a sincere effort to find the middle ground while preserving the momentum of FAO's action oriented programme.

Not surprisingly, however, our views are influenced by the somewhat different perspective from which we are obliged to regard the document before us. The economic situation in the United States, in common with that of many industrialized countries, is difficult. Respected economists now argue among themselves whether the United States is already in a recession - by that I mean experiencing negative real growth in GNP - or whether a recession will occur in the near future. The American people are seriously concerned with the high tax burden they carry, the inflation that afflicts our economy, and with the shortages, and especially, now, the rising costs of energy. Against this background, the rapid growth of the assessed budgets throughout the United Nations system has been a subject of public discussion and criticism. This has resulted in a United States posture towards that system which necessarily influences our posture towards the FAO, despite the high priority that the objectives of FAO deserve. Every penny spent by the United States' Government for any purpose has to be authorized and appropriated by a legislature which is extremely sensitive to these currents of public opinion'

If I may diverge a moment I can tell you from my own personal experience: today is the day when Americans living abroad have the deadline for filing their tax. That is a painful procedure. From my own personal standpoint - although this may not be typical - it would be a little less painful if a somewhat higher percentage of the gross product was going to official development assistance when I pay my tax; but, pay it I must, along with many other Americans.

In the domestic budget submitted by President Carter to Congress, particularly difficult decisions have been required by the need for fiscal restraint. It is no secret that it was my Government that was unable to join in the consensus in support of the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget level expressed by the remaining members of the Programme and Finance Committees. Both in the Programme Committee and the Committee on Agriculture the United States' representatives were under instructions to make suggestions on areas where economies might be achieved in an effort to achieve a lower level of net real programme growth in the 1980-81 budget. In some areas we suggested that a planned expansion of substantive programmes; for example, the public information programme, could be deferred without detrimental effect. However, the greatest number of our remarks pointed to possible areas of economy in the administrative and non-technical sectors in the budget. While recognizing the steady improvement in recent years of FAO's budget process, we continue to believe that tighter controls and economies can be effected in these non-technical sectors without impairing the priority areas of action where we - and I dare say the consensus of the Council - agree that the emphasis should lie. We have, for example, suggested that certain economies could be effected in the staffing of country representatives' offices in places where FAO programmes are relatively small. We have supported the suggestions of others that a growing FAO presence at the country level should permit some staff reduction at the regional level.

While we welcome the admirable controls on the authorisation of newly established staff positions, we believe that further savings could be effected if they were extended to other categories of personnel. We have questioned whether more savings might not result from the occupation of the rent-free quarters being prepared in Building D and from the postponement of some of the planned renovations.

We also suggested allocating a still greater percentage of investment projects' preparation costs to the investing institutions, given the FAO's established reputation for high quality and modest costs for work in this area. And we have commented in an earlier Council meeting on the question of the

criteria of the Technical Cooperation Programme and how these might relate to budgeting in that area. As my colleagues in the Programme Committee can testify, I trust not too wearily, I explored most of the above areas in the Programme Committee. I got a better understanding of some of these issues, gained some information and got some appreciation of our viewpoint, although, as you can see from the report of that Committee, this was something less than unanimous.

Turning to the area of cost growth, some proportion of the projected cost increases might be absorbed by still tighter cost control across the whole Organization. We wonder in particular whether provisions for post adjustment may not be too ample. I will withhold further suggestions but if the Director-General wants to cut my serving by 10 percent when I come to lunch today I will accept it!

These suggestions are meant constructively since we feel it would be incorrect to urge a budgetary restraint without indicating in general terms which activities might be subjected to further budgetary restraint without detriment to the FAO's important operational programme. We know the difficulty which any institution or any individual experiences in that third or fourth week of the weight reducing programme, when four or five kilos have already been taken off and each new kilo is more difficult. Some senior members of my Embassy who thought that they were in good shape had occasion to experience something like this last month. A very physically fit lady named Rosalyn Carter arrived on the scene and early in the morning invited them to join her for her morning 4-mile jog. Some of them realized that there was perhaps still a kilo or two that could be shed.

We hope our points will be accepted as serious and helpful suggestions as the Secretariat goes about producing the final version of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, since we believe that programme growth can be safely reduced to the 3 percent net biennium growth level we indicated at COAG and that provision for cost growth can also be somewhat reduced.

Among the United Nations Specialized Agencies the FAO has begun to build an enviable reputation for effectiveness of its field oriented and strategically focussed programmes. The control placed on the number of Council sessions, the de-emphasizing of paper work for paper work's sake is widely appreciated and it is an example that other United Nations Organizations can usefully emulate. It is really in support of these trends and in an effort to improve even further the image of the Organization that we favour here, just as we have been doing with our own major governmental programmes, a continued search for further economies. An army against hunger should be lean and operationally effective and these two characteristics usually go together. There are also characteristics which encourage approval and support from governments and legislatures in the constituencies they represent.

The United States government's concern in the struggle against hunger, along with the FAO and other important forces, is expressed in concrete ways. For example, in recent years our assistance programme has been increasingly oriented towards the food sector. At present over 50 percent of United States assistance goes to food and nutrition. Concern for the world food situation has prompted President Carter to establish a Committee on World Hunger chaired by Ambassador Linowitz, which with the inputs of many distinguished witnesses and speakers, including the Director-General on his recent visit to Washington, now is in the final stages of the preparation of its report.

We note with appreciation that our approach to food and agriculture programming with its focus on human needs and the rural poor closely parallels the strategy adopted by FAO. We consider ourselves allied to the FAO, to all effective forces engaged in the war on hunger. I believe that the Director-General's recent visit to Washington, the arguments he put before the Presidential Commission and before those preparing to lead a new development assistance structure, will give greater effect to our joint efforts in the field, where I have seen a number of excellent examples of fruitful collaboration between FAO Country Representatives and United States AID Missions.

In this intervention I have tried to indicate, the economic and political considerations which oblige us to maintain our reserve on the level of the assessed budget, the summary preview of which is before us. I would not have been so frank if I did not believe that the United States and the FAO share a fundamental unity in goals and that these goals can be achieved despite selective economy in the Programme of Work and Budget as submitted to the Council.

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): La délégation rwandaise a écouté avec grande attention le discours d'introduction du point de l'ordre du jour que nous débattons en ce moment, à savoir le sommaire du programme de travail et budget pour la période 1980-81, prononcé par le Directeur général de la FAO, et ceux respectivement prononcés par le Président du Comité du programme et par le Président du Comité des finances. Elle tient à les remercier pour leurs exposés succincts mais très complets.

Ma délégation a pris ample connaissance du document sur le sommaire de programme de travail et budget pour 1980-81, et appuie totalement la proposition du budget opérationnel total de 271,66 millions de dollars.

Cependant, le fait d'appuyer et approuver ce budget ne veut pas dire que nos aspirations soient entièrement satisfaites. En effet, comme certaines délégations l'ont souligné avant moi, nous pensons que l'augmentation réelle de 13,60 millions de dollars aurait dû être dépassée, ceci pour donner plus de portée au programme de travail de la FAO, car le tiers monde, qui a le plus besoin des services et des activités de notre Organisation, ne peut pas supporter des structures statiques, il évolue vers toute une gamme de nouveaux besoins qui exigent des moyens financiers, logistiques et techniques, dont il ne dispose pas. Aussi constatons-nous que l'idée de croissance zéro du budget de l'Organisation ne devrait même pas être mentionnée car elle est contraire aux objectifs de la FAO qui, à notre avis, doivent s'adapter aux objectifs de ceux pour lesquels elle a été créée. Tout en appuyant la proposition du budget opérationnel pour 1980/81, ainsi que les recommandations qui nous ont été présentées par le Président du Comité des finances, nous voudrions lancer un appel, avec votre autorisation bien entendu, au Directeur général de la FAO, afin qu'il fasse tout son possible pour que les budgets des prochaines périodes aillent au-delà du minimum.

Ma délégation est d'accord avec l'idée du Directeur général de la FAO contenue dans le paragraphe 2.6 à la page 2 du document CL 75/3, à savoir que c'est aux pays en développement qu'incombe la lourde responsabilité d'accorder une priorité à leur développement alimentaire et agricole. Nous espérons que par sa haute fonction au sein de la FAO, il sera notre interprète auprès des pays industrialisés ainsi qu'auprès des institutions de financement et autres, afin que les pays en développement puissent sortir du cercle vicieux dans lequel ils s'embourbent souvent, pour mieux s'acquitter de cette lourde responsabilité.

Nous appuyons également l'idée contenue dans le paragraphe 2.7 à la page 2 du même document, à savoir que les pays développés devraient absolument rompre avec le protectionnisme renaissant et s'ouvrir aux importations en provenance du tiers monde, ce qui aura pour effet, sans aucun doute, l'apaisement du sentiment de frustration qu'éprouvent les pays en développement devant l'absence d'une amélioration concrète face à la marche vers le nouvel ordre économique international.

S'agissant des actions menées par la FAO pour le reboisement, ma délégation se réjouit de la politique de notre Organisation tendant à mettre l'accent sur les forêts au service du développement communautaire. Comme vous le savez, beaucoup de pays en développement souffrent d'une déforestation de plus en plus grave et, quand il n'y a plus de forêt l'érosion s'installe, le climat est perturbé et le bois de chauffage manque, etc.

En ce qui concerne les stratégies et les priorités pour la période 1980/1981, nous tenons à soutenir l'idée contenue dans le paragraphe 5.2 à la page 7 du document CL 75/3, c'est-à-dire l'accent qui est mis sur l'accroissement de la production alimentaire et agricole et le renforcement de l'action en faveur du développement rural et la coopération entre les pays en développement. Il est important de souligner ici que le Secrétariat ait pensé à donner une vaste ampleur au développement rural de façon à toucher les catégories les plus pauvres et les moins développées (comme les femmes rurales dans les pays en développement) car nous pensons que c'est là l'un des noeuds du problème. Nous espérons que le Secrétariat, le moment venu, fera un bilan détaillé des actions entreprises à cet effet et ceci, d'autant plus, que nous vivons actuellement la décennie internationale de la femme ainsi que la décennie internationale de l'enfant.

Pour ce qui est de la coopération technique, nous pensons que c'est là un des meilleurs moyens mis à la disposition du tiers monde pour son développement. Je peux vous assurer que le Rwanda l'exploite déjà, avec ses voisins à savoir le Zaïre et le Burundi, et qu'il est membre de la Communauté économique des pays des grands lacs. Il fait également partie de l'Organisation pour l'aménagement du bassin de la rivière Akayera à laquelle adhèrent la Tanzanie et le Burundi.

Ma délégation espère que le Centre de coordination dont le Conseil a parlé lors de l'examen du document CL 75/14, avec l'appui de la FAO bien entendu, pourra donner une assistance particulière à ces deux organisations. En ce qui concerne la décentralisation de la FAO, c'est-à-dire l'installation des missions de coordination dans les pays en développement, permettez-moi de vous dire que ma délégation appuie cette proposition d'autant plus que mon pays en a déjà fait la demande; cependant une contrainte en cette matière semble insurmontable. Il est demandé aux pays qui souhaitent recevoir une mission FAO de mettre des bureaux à la disposition de cette dernière. Cette disposition est souvent irréalisable pour certains pays en développement, notamment les plus pauvres et les moins avancés.

Ma délégation voudrait demander au Secrétariat, et c'est là un détail qui a son poids, s'il n'y aurait pas lieu d'étudier, cas par cas, et faire des exceptions pour certains pays.

Ma délégation a suivi attentivement les paroles que vous avez prononcées avant le début des débats portant sur le document CL 75/3 concernant le sommaire du programme de travail et de budget 1980/81, document que nous sommes encore en train de discuter.

A ce sujet, vous avez indiqué qu'il y aura sans doute deux groupes opposés au sein de ce Conseil: savoir celui des pays en développement et celui des pays développés, gros donateurs en majorité. Mais n'est-il pas clair et indiscutable que le Directeur général de la FAO se soit efforcé de fixer le niveau du budget opérationnel pour 1980-81 à 271,66 millions de dollars, en fonction, non pas de nos espoirs (j'entends les espoirs des pays en développement), mais surtout afin de contenter les gros contributeurs. Serait-il possible que ceux-ci n'en soient pas satisfaits? Ces mêmes pays ont approuvé le budget de l'Unesco et celui de l'OMS, tous deux plus élevés que le budget de la FAO. Les objectifs et les activités de la FAO seraient-ils moins importants que ceux de l'Unesco, ou bien sont-ce les priorités du programme de la FAO qui sont remises en question sans que l'on ose le déclarer ouvertement. Ceci est un mystère inexplicable.

Ma délégation a beaucoup apprécié et appuyé les délégations qui ont jusqu'à présent témoigné leur appui total à la proposition du budget 1980/81, notamment les déclarations de la délégation de Zaïre. Ma délégation tient cependant à exprimer son étonnement vis-à-vis des réserves qui ont été exprimées par d'autres délégations quant à l'appui du même budget. La délégation du Rwanda est déçue du fait que la prudence et l'esprit de conciliation du Directeur général ne soient pas appréciés par ceux-là mêmes qui auraient dû l'en remercier car les pays en développement, on ne le répètera jamais assez, considèrent ce budget bien trop modeste compte tenu de leurs besoins sans cesse croissants.

Il a été maintes fois souligné au Directeur général de la FAO qu'il courait le danger de perdre son pari en s'obstinant à contenter une partie des membres qui feraient sans doute la sourde oreille à ces arguments; il a notamment été informé que la majorité écrasante représentée par les pays en développement souhaite vivement un accroissement plus substantiel du budget, alors pourquoi courir le risque de nous décevoir sans pour autant contenter qui que ce soit? Mais le Directeur général, soucieux de rechercher l'équilibre avant tout, n'a pas écouté la voix de la majorité et en voici le résultat. Ma délégation pense qu'il faudrait tirer une leçon pour l'avenir et que le budget devrait tenir compte avant tout des besoins des pays en développement.

Le Rwanda, ainsi que d'autres pays africains et d'Extrême-Orient, que l'histoire, la géographie et la nature n'ont décidément pas gâtés, sont bien trop anxieux de nourrir à tout prix leurs populations, pour se résigner à encore et toujours demeurer modestes dans leurs exigences.

L'aide publique au développement ne cesse de décroître en valeur réelle; l'aide bilatérale suit la même pente et on nous demande d'être raisonnables et patients dans nos demandes! Pourquoi ne serait-ce pas aux plus nantis de se montrer plus raisonnables en accordant un accroissement des contributions? Pourquoi n'admettraient-ils pas, de bonne foi, que l'aide n'est jamais gratuite et qu'ils reprennent souvent de la main gauche ce qu'ils ont donné de la main droite? Les pays en développement constituent un immense débouché pour les produits et la technologie des pays industrialisés. Ne l'oublions pas, l'aide a aussi pour but de générer une demande solvable. Pour en revenir à la FAO, nous ne serions pas surpris d'apprendre que certains des gros contributeurs sont largement payés en retour lorsque la FAO fait appel à leurs experts, à leur équipement et à leurs produits.

Enfin, ma délégation renouvelle son appui total au programme de travail et au budget opérationnel pour 1980-81, qui n'est qu'un minimum et est en droit d'espérer que le même budget soit approuvé à l'unanimité par le Conseil.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): For a change on this occasion I will refrain from complimenting the gentleman on the left of the podium. Speaking at this juncture I have the advantage of having listened to the opening statement of the Director-General and the statements of many of my colleagues, including the important one which was the one before the last one.

I would begin with remembering the concluding observation of the Director-General yesterday, that in the preparation of his proposals he was guided by professionalism, careful consideration of priorities, and the concern for economy. We have complete confidence in the abilities and professionalism of the Director-General and his colleagues. But in their considerations the guiding factors to my mind were the present situation of food and agriculture in the world which was assessed on the first day of this Council session wherein we saw that hunger and malnutrition are growing at a faster rate than the

growth of food production. In that situation naturally the aspiration of the hungry and the malnourished was to look for ways and means to alleviate the hunger, and FAO has a constitutional responsibility to deal with the hungry and the malnourished.

I feel that the Director-General was also guided by the previous proposals for the programme and budget of this Organization. You will notice that the present proposal is by far the lowest in terms of real growth, compared with all previous programmes and budgets of this Organization. The real growth of 5.3 per cent is the lowest so far proposed and it does not include the proposal which was experienced not long ago in this Organization to have a staff growth of 350. I also feel that the Director-General had a look at the trend and growth in the Programme of Work and Budget of other sister organizations, like UNESCO, which had in the last budget a real growth of more than that proposed for FAO, with the budget level higher than that of FAO. The same applies to WHO, it is much more than FAO, in spite of the priorities that one would attach to FAO. Quoting the Director-General of WHO, he once said that it is recognized by all that food is the best medicine.

I am sure that the Director-General and his colleagues were alive to the need for restraint and economy and in that situation they had to strike a balance in their proposal. I am afraid that while trying to strike the balance it has gone in favour of restraint and economy perhaps at the cost of disappointment of many hungry developing countries.

The question may arise, who bears the burden of the budget of FAO? It is the poor and the rich alike, the poor and the rich proportionate to their abilities. I must stress further, it is the poor who pay more than proportionate to their ability in the case of the poorest, because there is a minimum level of contribution of 0.02 percent which would have been much lower for many tiny developing countries and for the rich there are many for whom there would be no increase in the contribution in spite of this real growth proposed, 5.3 percent, due to the current devaluation. In spite of that, the poor would have liked to see a higher budget level in recognition of the need and that could have been carried by a vast majority in this House. But neither the Director-General nor the developing countries propose that course in the interest of cooperation and harmony that exists in this House between the poor and the rich and the big and the small.

Coming on to the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget, the Director-General was guided by the directions given by this Council in its previous sessions, the resolutions and recommendations in the regional conferences held last year, wherein you will find that there is an undertone, an underline, to see that this Organization responds to the need of the day.

I have heard with great interest, as I said, the statement of the speaker previous to the last, and

it is very heartening to note that that great country agrees with the general strategies and priorities proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget and is in substantial agreement of all the priorities. One can see in the report of the Programme Committee that that country as a member of the Committee has agreed with the major programme proposals and the priorities of Work and Budget. The reasons assigned for this trend are very interesting; it is because of recession or near-recession in that country.

The total growth, real growth, is \$13.6 million, and the share of the country which pays 25 percent will be a little over 3 million and if it reduced to 3 percent it will be a little over perhaps

2 million, so it is perhaps a difference of a million. Wouldn't you think that the members of this Council would be surprised if a country that big is concerned for a million of dollars which would go for the benefit of eliminating hunger and malnourishment?

It has been proposed that somewhere there could be some areas of economy, and one or two have also been cited, for instance, the country offices. Mr. Chairman, you may recall that the proposal of country offices has come by definite direction from this Council and the Conference to decentralize FAO activities to country level. The proposal of country offices you will find in page 30 on the Report of the Joint Committee on the Programme of Work and Budget in paragraph 3.21. The staffing is 2 professionals, including the representative, and 6 general service which includes messengers, cleaners and guards. Could there be a smaller staffing for any representation whether, it be FAO or any other organization to maintain an office without at least two professionals, which includes the representative himself? We in the Finance Committee considered this at length and we are of the view that under no circumstances could there be a proposal for a lower staffing for a country office if FAO means business so that its presence is felt in the country.

Another proposal that was postponed was the renovation of buildings. I am not an engineer. One who knows would feel that if you delay in renovation you may have to reconstruct. While it is for judgement to see whether a reconstruction will be more expensive than a renovation, a renovation in time will save more money than having to take up reconstruction of the same.

There was an observation regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme. You will find in the history of the growth of TCP in this country. This Council in a staff session passed a resolution to improve and strengthen the TCP operation of this organization, but I would say that in spite of this resolution the Director-General has not paid sufficient heed in his proposals. The growth of TCP is just as the growth of the budget, it is 12 percent in the budget in the present as it was in the last biennium. I would feel it to be in the fitness of things if the Director-General were to respond to the Council resolution, the proposal for TCP should have been higher.

There was also an observation about the cost increase. I wonder how this cost increase could be further tightened up by control. One of the examples given is not too frequent post adjustments. I happen to be a silent member, a quiet member of the Finance Committee. The post adjustments are guided by the principles laid down by the United Nations system and which is followed by all the Organizations in the United Nations system, which is a trigger-point of five. When you reach that five point you have to pull your trigger to shoot, you have no other choice, so if you have accepted that principle, I do not know how you could refrain from pulling the trigger. Your finger will automatically go to the trigger and pull to shoot. I do not think the Director-General or anybody in this house has any choice but to have tighter control on not too frequent post adjustments.

I feel that while we agree with the general thrust of the Programme and priorities, there is no choice for us but to endorse the proposed increase and the level of the Programme of Work and Budget. This was considered at length by the Programme and Finance Committees and they have fully endorsed the proposals of the Director-General.

Under the circumstances we feel that the increase is the absolute minimum, although we would have been happier to see a higher budget level, but at this stage we will not press and we will fully support the budget level of 271.66 million at the rate of \$US 1 to Lit. 879 for biennium 1980/81.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Bangladesh. I do not think you can be a silent member of anything.

Srta. C. DOMINGUEZ D. (Panamá): Deseamos manifestar el agradecimiento de nuestra delegación al Sr. Director General por la presentación del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio 1980/81. De igual manera, agradecemos la participación de los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, quienes nos han presentado los informes sobre las labores realizadas en sus Comités respectivos. Hasta el momento hemos analizado los temas relacionados con la situación alimentaria mundial, la cual sigue siendo alarmante, la seguridad alimentaria mundial sigue siendo incierta. Nos toca ahora debatir el documento CL 75/3 sobre el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Todos los países miembros de la Organización, que estamos conscientes del papel cada vez mayor de la Organización en la comunidad internacional, y cada vez más, los Estados Miembros solicitan ayuda para resolver los graves problemas impostergables de la agricultura y de la alimentación por los cuales atraviesan sus poblaciones marginadas.

La solución de estos problemas requiere sin lugar a dudas un incremento en el presupuesto de la Organización. En la introducción del documento, el Director General propone un presupuesto total efectivo de 271,66 millones de dólares, el cual incluye un incremento real de los programas de 13,60 millones de dólares. Nuestra delegación apoya el nivel del presupuesto presentado por el Sr. Director General. No obstante, consideramos que el incremento no va de acuerdo con las urgentes necesidades de los países en desarrollo en lo que a agricultura y alimentación se refiere. Expresa el documento que si bien se ha producido una mejora general, el hambre y la malnutrición no dan señales de reducirse y que el número de malnutridos en el mundo va en aumento.

Reconocemos que las conclusiones del Congreso Forestal Mundial celebrado el pasado año en Indonesia tendrán notables consecuencias para el próximo bienio. El Gobierno de Panamá está empeñado en una importante campaña de reforestación debido a que en las regiones pobladas, los recursos forestales han sido, con frecuencia, destruidos para dedicar la tierra a la explotación agrícola y ganadera. Deseamos expresar el reconocimiento de nuestro Gobierno a la Organización por la valiosa ayuda que en materia forestal nos ha prestado. Apoyamos el interés de la Organización de dar una respuesta a los deseos expresados por la Conferencia pasada en lo referente al Nuevo Régimen Marítimo, y en general, la formulación y aplicación de actividades relativas a las zonas económicas exclusivas.

En general, apoyamos los aumentos en los programas de agricultura, pesca y montes, aunque consideramos que los aumentos son sumamente modestos. Las peticiones de los Estados Miembros sobre el establecimiento de oficinas de la FAO nos demuestra el interés, cada vez mayor, de los Gobiernos en los programas y políticas de la Organización y su deseo de trabajar en programas conjuntos de desarrollo, en los cuales cada vez debe tener mayor participación la utilización de las instituciones nacionales.

Para nuestra delegación, es motivo de orgullo hablar de la mujer. Consideramos que la mujer debe ser plenamente integrada al proceso de desarrollo y que constituye una enorme fuerza productiva. Su integración social no es solo una obligación ineludible de los gobiernos, sino también una necesidad para lograr el progreso económico-social de los pueblos. Nuestra delegación aprueba el incremento propuesto para el programa de cooperación técnica para reforzar cualitativa y cuantitativamente los programas que llevará a cabo, aunque hubiéramos querido un incremento mayor. El programa de cooperación técnica ha sido para nuestro Gobierno un gran aliado financiando y asesorando programas de alta prioridad.

Durante la reciente visita del Sr. Presidente de la República, Dr. Arístides Royo, a la Organización le expreso al Sr. Director General su reconocimiento por la forma positiva y dinámica en que se han desarrollado los programas de la FAO en este bienio. En esta ocasión, nuestra delegación desea ratificar este reconocimiento aprobando el nivel del presupuesto, aunque lo consideramos, como hemos dicho, sumamente modesto, y a la vez alentamos al Sr. Director General a seguir adelante en su empeño por aliviar las necesidades de los marginados del mundo y establecer un verdadero y justo orden económico internacional.

M. PANJSHERI (Afghanistan): My delegation has carefully studied this document CL 75/3 and listened to the introductory remarks of the Director-General's representative. We appreciate the format of the document and in our view it gives the right backdrop to the Programme of Work which the Director-General proposes to implement in the next biennium.

The State of Food and Agriculture in the developing countries remains discouraging. The average annual increase of food continues to stagnate well below the target set out in the strategy of the Second International Development decade; in many countries such as mine it is below the rate of population growth. The incidence of malnutrition has increased, and dietary energy supply may as well have fallen. Food aid has not reached the minimum level accepted in the World Food Conference five years ago.

The International Emergency Food Reserve remains low. In this context we are not surprised that the Director-General shares the frustration and dismay of the developing countries, as indicated in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of the document. Equally, we understand and appreciate the underlying apprehension of the Director-General, as suggested in paragraphs 2.17 and 2.18, that the different organs of the United Nations system are still quibbling about the methodology, the superstructure and the nice ties of roles to be played and underplayed by the specialized agencies.

It is our firm opinion that the time has come to look the facts in the face and give priority to projects and ideas that bring quick and lasting improvement to the quality of life of the poor masses in our developing countries. In my own country, we are engaged in a grim struggle to bring about fundamental and basic changes and eliminate the feudal and exploitative system of the past.

You should not be surprised, therefore, that we find ourselves in almost total accord with the Director-General in his priorities. We are also happy to note that the Committee of the Whole of the UN has supported the strategies worked out by the FAO.

Larger investments through concessional assistance by the development financial institutions; increase in trust fund resources of FAO geared to priorities of their organization already approved repeatedly, in the International Community Special Action Programme and TCP; replenishment of the fertilizer supply scheme which seems to be one source of comfort in a world where fertilizer prices are manipulated at will, making them beyond the reach of a poor country like mine; a thrust towards attaining food security through increased food aid and production in the developing countries; and support to the Five Point Plan of Action initiated by the Director-General, are all designed to focus attention on the immediate and overriding needs of the countries themselves.

We are happy that the Director-General promises to continue the establishment of FAO offices, and very much hope there would be some way of opening all the offices requested in paragraph 5.13. We do not think the impact of all new initiatives of FAO can be felt in individual developing countries without this measure.

We have heard some voices of dissent on the issue of decentralization, and are amazed that the same countries that at other forums agree there is a need for international agencies to find the support costs for their own field work come around to criticising FAO for doing precisely the same. My country has expressed its support earlier, and we would like to reiterate the necessity for and reasonableness of decentralization at the country level.

At this stage we do not intend to go into the details of individual priorities mentioned in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.35. If there is another opportunity, we would like to dwell on the special interests of our country, but we would like to say we admire the tenacity and wisdom of the Director-General in keeping the budget at the minimum level, and we support his refusal to increase posts in Headquarters and Regional Offices.

We have seen the Comparison III chart at page 18 of the document CL 75/3, and feel rather sad that the real programme increase could not be higher than 13.60 million dollars, and that cost increases alone had accounted for as much as 47.91 million dollars.

We consider this budget level as reasonable, and would like to remind the developed countries that we, the developing countries, have to make much greater sacrifice than they in terms of real value of each dollar we spend. Our delegation supports the budget level and hopes that in working out the details, the priorities relevant to the least developed countries would receive utmost appreciation and care.

I want to indicate once again that my delegation fully supports the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1980/1981, as presented by the Director-General.

M. A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Grèce): Prenant rapidement la parole en mars dernier, le jour où les représentants permanents ont été convoqués pour prendre connaissance en avant-première du programme de travail et de budget pour le biennium 1980-1981, je saluais avec satisfaction cette initiative innovatrice du Directeur général. Je disais alors que cela soulignait entre autres la grande attention que le chef de l'exécutif de cette organisation apporte à la bonne préparation et à la bonne exécution de ce programme, puisqu'il avait décidé de le soumettre aux feux croisés d'un premier examen avant la procédure normale qui vient d'être commencée. Je félicitais le Directeur général parce que, en en décidant ainsi, il voulait bien nous apporter un temps largement suffisant pour passer son budget au fil d'une inspection minutieuse et absolument complète, tant de la part de nous-mêmes, représentants permanents, que de la part des autorités compétentes de mon gouvernement.

Je voudrais vous faire part aujourd'hui de quelques observations sur le sommaire du programme de travail et budget sur lequel sera élaborée la version définitive. Ma tâche est considérablement facilitée par la manière dont les documents soumis à notre attention ont été rédigés. De cela, je me permets de féliciter le secrétariat et son équipe rédactionnelle. En effet, la clarté et la concision du sommaire ainsi que la précision du rapport du Comité du programme et du Comité financier - je demande au Président du Comité financier et au Président du Comité du Programme d'accepter ma reconnaissance pour le travail accompli - nous permettent de juger objectivement les activités et l'état financier de l'Organisation.

Tout d'abord, nous reconnaissons tout de suite, à travers les pages de ces documents, l'image de la FAO telle que nous l'avons souhaitée et que nous avons à plusieurs reprises retrouvée dans le fait concret des activités de cette organisation ces toutes dernières années, et pour laquelle nous sommes d'ailleurs unanimement félicités, je parle de l'image d'une FAO nouvelle, rajeunie et dynamique, mais en même temps sérieuse et surtout économique.

La stratégie et les priorités répondent bien à la situation mondiale de l'agriculture ainsi qu'aux orientations des politiques adoptées les trois dernières années par le Conseil et la Conférence. Les propositions répondent aux besoins et aux possibilités d'action de la FAO pour le prochain biennium. Dans ce contexte, nous souscrivons absolument à la décision de l'Organisation de poursuivre une stratégie axée sur des actions concrètes et efficaces orientées vers le terrain et vers les pays.

Nous constatons d'ailleurs avec joie que progressivement le souvenir d'une FAO bureaucratique et rigide cède la place à une organisation rapide, élastique, pratique, directement liée aux exigences des temps modernes.

Mon gouvernement a scruté plus particulièrement, avec une attention concrète, quelques chapitres essentiels du sommaire pour juger de l'orientation générale proposée pour les deux ans à venir.

Tout d'abord, l'investissement.

Comme nous l'avons remarqué à plusieurs reprises, et comme l'a souligné il y a deux jours, de cette même place, le chef de notre délégation, l'investissement est une des pierres angulaire de nos efforts pour accroître la production alimentaire de tous les secteurs de l'agriculture. Nous sommes d'accord avec les observations du Comité financier qui a souligné l'importance du programme relatif à l'investissement pour accroître les courants de capitaux destinés à être investis dans l'agriculture.

des pays en développement. Nous notons en même temps avec satisfaction que l'expansion attendue des activités de prêts à l'agriculture des principales institutions de financement, bien qu'elle impose une charge supplémentaire au programme, n'a donné lieu à aucune création de postes.

Le programme de coopération technique.

Le gouvernement de la Grèce a toujours soutenu le programme de coopération technique. Nous avons à plusieurs reprises expliqué les raisons qui nous ont amené à ce soutien. C'est pour cela que nous sommes soucieux de vérifier si ce programme continue à demeurer fidèle aux objectifs qu'il s'est fixé. A ce titre, les conclusions du Comité du Programme contenues dans le paragraphe 2.102 et 2.103 du rapport semblent à notre avis très encourageantes. Je ne vois donc aucune raison valable de contester la majoration demandée pour ce programme qui s'élève à un peu plus d'un million et demi de dollars. D'ailleurs, je partage les vues exprimées par le Comité financier au paragraphe 3.23 qui fait remarquer que cette majoration respecte le rapport existant actuellement entre le PCT et l'ensemble du programme de travail et de budget, soit 12 pour cent environ. Nous estimons que le programme continue de répondre de manière pratique et efficace aux besoins urgents et à court terme des Etats Membres sans se substituer à d'autres sources de subsistance.

Les bureaux régionaux de la FAO.

Examinant la rubrique consacrée aux représentants de la FAO, je vois là une confirmation de la réussite du processus de décentralisation. L'ouverture de quinze bureaux durant cet exercice est un objectif valable, mais ne peut pas, à mon avis, être considéré comme un objectif très ambitieux. Je note avec satisfaction la participation des gouvernements-hotes aux frais de fonctionnement des bureaux dans les pays. Je me demande, comme il est bien compréhensible que cette participation soit plus limitée dans les pays les plus pauvres, s'il ne serait pas souhaitable qu'elle soit encore plus grande de la part des pays qui auraient les moyens financiers de soulager, par une participation plus grande à ces frais, le budget de la FAO. Cette éventualité, avec la proposition du Comité financier d'envisager la création de bureaux desservant plusieurs pays, ainsi que d'autres suggestions, pourrait sans aucun doute soulager davantage le budget de l'Organisation dans ce chapitre.

Dans ce contexte, je voudrais noter avec joie quelques points aux par. 2.96 à 2.101. Il est dit que les fonctionnaires de la FAO sont expressément chargés d'identifier et de formuler les projets en étroite collaboration de consultation avec les représentants résidents du PNUD et que le représentant de la FAO résidera, en règle générale, dans le même immeuble que le représentant du PNUD ou d'autres institutions des Nations Unies.

J'ai fait ce petit tour d'horizon dans l'espoir de contribuer à renforcer le climat de compréhension et de solidarité que le Directeur général est soucieux de maintenir entre nous tous, pays membres de l'Organisation.

De plus, le Directeur général, comme nous le savons très bien, assure de façon impeccable une gestion saine, énergique, équilibrée, des moyens que nous portons à sa disposition. Cela, de l'avis de notre gouvernement, constitue une garantie supplémentaire pour souscrire à son budget.

A.S. FASLA (Algérie): C'est avec un grand intérêt que notre délégation a suivi l'exposé clair et détaillé du Directeur général et la présentation du Président du Comité du programme et de budget sur le sommaire du programme de travail et de budget 1980-81 qui constitue l'un des points les plus importants de notre Conseil.

Le niveau de budget proposé pour le biennium 1980-81 nous paraît modeste par rapport aux tâches immenses qui attendent la FAO qui a la responsabilité primordiale de s'attaquer à la faim et à la malnutrition, et de promouvoir une véritable coopération internationale dans le domaine alimentaire et agricole, en vue d'assurer le développement accéléré des pays en voie de développement et de contribuer à la croissance économique mondiale. Une augmentation en termes réels de 5,3 pour cent est modeste, réaliste, nécessaire. Son acceptation traduit la volonté de nos Etats de développer les programmes de notre Organisation qui doit recevoir un traitement au moins égal à celui qui est réservé à d'autres institutions du système des Nations Unies. Son acceptation manifeste la confiance de nos Etats, confiance que nous plaçons dans l'Organisation et dans le rôle qui lui est assigné par les textes fondamentaux.

Cette augmentation répond aussi aux nouvelles tâches que doit entreprendre l'Organisation, tels que les programmes de coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement, sa participation

active et sa contribution à l'élaboration de nouvelles stratégies internationales pour le développement, la mise en oeuvre d'un nouvel ordre économique international, la mise en oeuvre de décisions relatives aux zones exclusives, ainsi que d'autres tâches qui ont été présentées dans le programme de travail.

Alors que des milliards de dollars sont engloutis annuellement dans les dépenses d'armement et dans leur perfectionnement, alors que des milliards de dollars sont gaspillés dans des dépenses de luxe, l'augmentation sollicitée est somme toute dérisoire. Elle est inférieure à ce que l'humanité engloutit en moins d'une demi-heure dans les dépenses d'armement.

Nous avons déjà écouté une opposition, ou plutôt j'espère une hésitation, quant au niveau proposé. Il y en aura certainement d'autres, selon les informations que nous avons eues dans les couloirs. Mais nous voulons lancer un appel aux pays développés pour qu'ils acceptent le niveau proposé en ce qui concerne l'augmentation du budget. D'ailleurs, notre collègue du Bangladesh l'a déjà souligné, pour la plupart des pays développés, cette augmentation en termes réels est en fait inférieure à 5,3 pour cent, du fait de la revalorisation des monnaies de ces pays par rapport à la devise américaine. D'autre part, nous ne devons pas oublier que la plupart des contrats, des marchés, pour ce qui est des équipements, sont enlevés justement par les sociétés des pays développés.

Les grandes orientations du programme de travail, les stratégies et les priorités fixées par la FAO, montrent le souci de l'Organisation d'inscrire son action dans le cadre des objectifs d'un nouvel ordre économique international afin de mieux répondre aux préoccupations des pays du tiers monde et afin de contribuer à instaurer un ordre d'équité et de justice.

La décentralisation qui s'est traduite par le déplacement des activités de la FAO du siège vers le terrain et le renforcement des bureaux régionaux, ainsi que par les représentations dans les Etats, constitue un élément positif de lutte contre la bureaucratie en vue d'une meilleure efficacité de notre Organisation.

Nous appuyons le programme de coopération technique qui constitue un instrument excellent pour faire face à certaines situations d'urgence. Ce programme a déjà fait ses preuves, car il a déjà assisté plusieurs opérations ponctuelles dans des pays en voie de développement.

La priorité accordée au programme de sécurité alimentaire, à la réduction des pertes alimentaires, au développement rural, répond aux exigences de la situation alimentaire mondiale, situation critique qui fait peser de lourdes menaces sur une très grande partie de l'humanité.

Notre délégation se félicite des coupes budgétaires décidées par le Directeur général en matière d'administration et de la décision qui a été prise de limiter l'augmentation de postes au siège ainsi que sur le terrain.

Je dois souligner que nous devons oeuvrer, au sein de cette Organisation, pour une plus grande utilisation des représentants des pays du tiers monde, notamment en tant que consultants. Un appel a été adressé hier par le Directeur général à nos pays pour lui fournir les consultants nécessaires. Je m'associe aux commentaires pertinents du délégué de l'Inde lorsqu'il a parlé d'une sorte de discrimination de salaires qui existe entre les consultants des institutions du système des Nations Unies et les fonctionnaires de nos pays et je crois que la situation tendant à faire des requêtes directement aux institutions de recherche et de formation qui existent dans nos pays est excellente. Nous la partageons pleinement.

Je voudrais informer d'ailleurs les membres de ce Conseil qu'au niveau du mouvement des pays non alignés, nous avons déjà commencé une coopération pour dégager les directives concernant le renforcement de la coopération dans le domaine des consultants entre pays du tiers monde. Il serait peut-être souhaitable que l'administration puisse avoir des contacts avec le président en exercice du mouvement pour voir les possibilités existantes.

La lecture de la page 5 du document CL 75/3 montre les difficultés passagères et conjonctuelles existantes dans le rapport entre la FAO et le PNUD.

Nous espérons que ces difficultés seront surmontées grâce à la sagesse et à la clairvoyance des responsables des deux institutions car il y va de l'intérêt de la coopération internationale et de l'intérêt du système des Nations Unies.

Nous comprenons que la coordination est parfois difficile, nous comprenons que la coordination est quelquefois délicate, mais nous estimons qu'il appartient aux Etats, lorsque cette coordination ne peut pas se faire, de trancher.

Ce sont les quelques commentaires que ma délégation voulait faire à ce stade, sur le programme du budget et travail pour le biennium 1980/81. Nous nous réservons le droit de revenir sur la question plus tard, lorsque nous écouterons d'autres orateurs. Naturellement nous réitérons notre appui aux propositions qui nous ont été faites.

J. PILANE (Botswana): Naturally, my delegation should be arguing for a larger increase than has been proposed, but we have to accept, though grudgingly, the Director-General's proposed increase for we understand the situation in which he finds himself. Moreover, we would like to avoid polarisation of this debate if possible. We have therefore decided to modify our original stance. We equally sympathize with some of our colleagues from the developed countries for we can understand their situation. We trust, however, that their governments will be moved by sheer human plight.

The debate here in some way reminds us of some historical incident. We understand that at the time of the French Revolution the Queen of France at the time, hearing people's noises outside, asked her aid what was the matter. When told it was because they wanted bread she asked why they could not be given cake. Our colleagues from the developed countries are, of course, by far more informed than the Queen of France was at that time. They know full well that when we say that our people are hungry we mean there is nothing for them to eat.

The delegation of Botswana wishes to record its full and complete support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, on the basis of which the Director-General intends to present his proposals to the Conference.

It is encouraging to note that the strategies of FAO are fully supported by the Committee-of-the-Whole of the General Assembly in New York. It has confirmed the relevance of all of FAO policies and priorities to the implementation of the New International Economic Order.

While this is important my delegation places its support for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget on the fact that it received the most searching scrutiny and overwhelming approval of our Programme and Finance Committees at their last session. We would like to express our appreciation to the Committee for the thoroughness and perfection with which they carried out their work.

The proposals are a rational but modest extension of the direction and programme already endorsed by the Conference. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's programmes a considerable amount of resources have been shifted from lower to higher priority. The balance among priorities is not only responsive to our needs but also takes account of the other considerations.

In fact, based on our needs, we could say that we wish the Director-General had submitted proposals for a considerably larger programme, as I have already hinted. There could be no question of imposing an arbitrarily determined minimal rate of growth in the level of the budget. I am sure that those of our colleagues who always feel that their governments cannot bear the burden of the higher budget are relieved by the token increase and in fact they will not have failed to notice in the Report of the Finance Committee the comparative figures for the proposed biennium as given on the document CL 75/4. As has already been pointed out by other speakers the programme increase in FAO's budget over three biennia has come down from 23.4% to 5.3%. What more could the Director-General do to prove that he takes to heart the demand for budgetary restraint from governments, at the same time as the majority of the Member Governments are making ever greater and more frequent appeals for FAO assistance.

We have to continue repeating in one way or another, or even in exactly the same way for that matter what our other colleagues have already said, if only to drive a simple point home. If the plight of the many desperate souls around the world is to be alleviated some kind of increase is imperative and the proposed increase is the lowest possible, unless, we can be convinced otherwise that an already hungry man can afford to wait for the world's economy to improve. In our view the proposed increase has struck a unique balance between the demands of donor countries and those of recipient countries.

Our requests, are, of course, based on our urgent and direct need but our turning to FAO for help is based on our proven experience and conviction that FAO has the competency and the capacity to help us. As the Director-General has shown gradually in the last three years, moreover, he uses the modest resources at his disposal to attract and generate amounts many times greater from bilateral donors and financial institutions.

After having listened attentively to previous speakers in this debate I can only say that the Council must give its unanimous approval to the proposals of The Director-General.

I. OZORAI (Hungary): The Summary Programme of work and Budget for 1960/81 biennium was an excellent presentation of the work and the priorities FAO is suggesting for the next biennium. My delegation particularly appreciates the brief introduction of the Director-General on this subject.

The Director-General's introduction, as well as the presentation of the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees were helpful to the delegates to identify quite clearly the general approach and the main considerations to be put into practice in the next two years.

To start with I would like to refer to paragraph 2.20 of the document before us summarizing briefly the main duties and capacities of FAO. My government has full confidence in the work FAO is doing for the improvement of the world food situation and it sees this Organization's role in the United Nations family to be firm and strengthened.

My delegation approves of the level of the Budget as proposed and we are prepared to meet the increased requirements as far as the contributions are concerned.

We do also concur with the views of the Director-General on the highest priorities to be attached to various activities during the forthcoming biennium.

Having said this, with your permission I would like to offer some remarks and comments on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. The document is devoting considerable attention to the financial position of UNDP and to FAO/UNDP deliveries. As you may well know, there are some unused funds piled up from the contributions of my government to UNDP paid in national currency. There have recently been some promising initiative, both from the Hungarian and FAO side to make use of part of these funds for the sake of developing countries through the FAO programme and projects. I wonder whether these first steps could be followed up by the competent divisions of FAO.

May I turn my attention now to some minor items of the Budget. Speaking about zero-base, the document is hinting at the elimination of activities producing little benefit or being unessential to established priorities. We are convinced this the right approach to manage in the most efficient way the resources available to FAO, though I should like to advocate caution in the application of this principle so that the discontinuation of some programmes and their activities should not result in a complete loss in the benefits Member countries have so far had by these activities.

The basic concept about the increased utilization of national institutions and consultants is a current motive of the suggestion the Summary Programme Work and Budget is making on the use of Funds. We do agree with this principle, and we would be happy indeed to be able to see at a later stage the

/?/ in which the Organization is going to put this into practice.

we feel the recommendations of the document discussed on TCDC the other day by this Council as to the full use of consultants, etc., from developing countries may also be taken into account here.

My delegations has already expressed its deep interest in the investment oriented activities of FAO stating our belief that these activities are very important and need to be strengthened. We were happy to note that provision has been made to reinforce investment support and other related units.

We would welcome some information about the structural changes in the Development Department for this purpose as indicated in paragraph 5.11, hoping the Department will be increasingly geared at fostering development in developing countries.

take this opportunity to declare our full support to the reinforcement of the Technical Cooperation Programme and we do agree with the increase of 12% in real terms of this Programme.

May I now touch briefly upon rural development. We share the Director-General's view on the paramount importance of this activity. Rural development has for long been believed by my delegation to be one, if not the most important vehicle of overall agricultural development. Rural development is certainly the programme the benefit/cost ratio of which is the most favourable in the medium and long term. We very much appreciate the Organization's and the Director-General's intention to grant rural development an increase in funds above the average. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget state to have foreseen the possible recommendations likely to be expected by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform Development and to have built in the budget the funds needed for a proper follow-up by FAO. I am not quite sure however, the the impact of the World Conference could have been fully considered at this stage of the preparations. What I would like to suggest is that the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget to be submitted to the Twentieth Session of the Conference should use the possibility of reallocating resources to strengthen further the staff and institutions in charge of this activity, or at least to indicate other sources by which the staff and the consultants assisting developing countries in the rural development programme can be strengthened.

I feel encouraged making this statement by the document which has been distributed to us just this morning about the second regular 1979 session of the ECOSOC meeting and Interagency Action in Rural Development where the very last paragraph 43 is saying about some possible Interagency effort to be determined after the World Conference.

Coming briefly to some subprogramme included in the document I would like to make some brief comments. There are only a few subprogrammes where a fair level of training activities has now been envisaged. We approve of this. We wonder whether the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget could offer an informative proposal on the total level of the funds and resources earmarked for training.

Subprogramme 2.1.8 envisages the discontinuation of commodity projections. May I refer back to what I said before about elimination of some activities?. We feel that a modest contribution of FAO to the battle against the protectionist measures by which some industrialized countries and TNC's are hampering the food trade of developing and socialist countries alike may also consist of issuing from time to time unbiased projections as to the forecasts in trade of some major food commodities.

Finally, may I have a word on the European activities of FAO? I am not of course proposing additional funds to be allocated to the programmes of European activities, though as a delegate of a European country I should like to draw your attention to the fact that very modest programmes carried out by FAO in the European region are of benefit to the developing countries too, for instance the European cooperative research network, which has proved to be a success story in the European region.

In conclusion, I suggest that the Council approve the Programme of Work and Budget as contained in document CL 75/3.

J. OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): Je prends la parole après que différentes délégations ont eu l'occasion d'exprimer leur avis sur les deux points en discussion concernant le sommaire du programme et le niveau du budget pour les années 1980-81.

Je ne vais pas m'attarder à défendre point par point les rapport du Comité financier et du Comité du programme qui concluent tous deux en recommandant l'adoption du budget proposé, comme ma délégation veut le faire elle aussi. Cet exercice a déjà été brillamment exécuté par mes collègues du tiers monde.

Après tout ce qui a été dit, il est bien clair pour nous tous que le Programme de travail et budget est parfaitement satisfaisant et ne pêche que par son extrême modestie. Il paraît malheureusement évident que nos arguments se heurtent à des positions de principe rigide et préétablies et n'ont rien à voir avec les faits.

Bien sûr, certains délégués ont critiqué ici et là tel chapitre du budget pour tenter de montrer des faits alors que ceux-ci en sont absents.

C'est la troisième fois que nous nous réunissons pour discuter de ce budget et c'est toujours la même chose, certaines délégations présentent des critiques et des réserves qui certainement reposent sur des arguments spécieux. Je demande pourquoi les pays qui font des réserves et qui ont critiqué le budget dès le début ne se montrent pas plus directs? Pourquoi se déclarent-ils d'emblée opposés à toute croissance du budget, si minime soit-elle, et quelles qu'en soient les justifications? Ceci faciliterait la tâche de tout le monde et particulièrement des pays du tiers monde qui cesseraient peut-être de miser indéfiniment sur l'esprit de collaboration.

Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de lancer ici un appel dont je ne redoute ni la simplicité ni la franchise: Messieurs les délégués qui avez critiqué, ou qui pensez encore présenter des réserves sur le budget, ne tirez pas trop sur la corde car vous courez le risque de ternir votre image pour quelques dollars qui sont bien peu pour vous, alors qu'ils sont pour nous d'une importance vitale. Nous ne demandons pas la charité. Ce que nous demandons, c'est davantage de justice, de compréhension, en un mot, de bonne foi de votre part.

M. DESSOUKI (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): We have read with great interest document CL 75/3, which includes the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81. At the outset we would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and his assistants, the members of FAO who have laboured in drafting this crystal clear document.

We would also like to commend the Director-General for having submitted to us a balanced programme which objectively deals with the basic activities of the Organization in the field of agrarian and agricultural development. We would like to support the priorities Which he has established for the Programme and we would also like to express our appreciation of the difficulties he has faced, in spite of which he has come up with a realistic programme which aims at objectively dealing with the urgent problems of developing countries.

Before entering into details of the Programme I would like to express our full approval of the Programme of Work and the proposed budget level, both of which were approved by the Programme and Finance Committees. We would have liked to see a larger increase in the programme and budget in order to satisfy the increasing demands of the developing countries, but we can accept this modest increase in the existing circumstances.

Our attention has been drawn in this document to a number of world conferences which directly or indirectly affect agricultural development, conferences whose success we hope for. We agree with the alarm voiced in this document concerning the lack of progress in establishing the necessary steps and measures in the new International Economic Order. Such concern was repeated at the latest UNCTAD conference in Manila, where the developing countries and the advanced countries were unable to close the gap between them and to arrive at a successful conclusion which would respect the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries. We hope that the next conference, which will take place here in July, will come up with results that will benefit agrarian reform and rural development in the world. We also took note of the encouraging steps taken in agricultural investment, as well as the expected developments in this area through regional and international banks.

We also wish to express our appreciation of the activities of the Investment Centre. This we have directly felt in our own country through the means that have been undertaken with the support of the International Bank in order to implement agricultural projects in Egypt. We hope that the Centre will be further developed in order to assist the developing countries which benefit from these activities in the various stages of preparing agricultural projects.

With regard to UNDP, we feel a certain concern in connexion with the redelegation of some of this competence to other organizations and I agree with the delegate of Colombia in this respect. We realise that some of these UNDP projects could be implemented through other organizations. Nevertheless we hope that UNDP will take into account that FAO is the main instrument in agricultural development that must be used as much as possible. As we deal with this item we would like to refer to the Technical Cooperation Programme which the Director-General launched at the start of his term of office and we have already expressed our full support for this programme and for the excellent services submitted by this programme to developing countries as well as the independence and flexibility with which it has been imbued. We would like to express our continued support for TCP, a programme which we hope will be further developed and expanded.

With regard to the priorities of the new programme, we would like to draw attention to the need for attaching greater importance to developing agricultural marketing and agricultural credit facilities in developing countries, because the lack of credit facilities to small farmers and the inefficiency of credit organizations affect in turn the production of the small farmer.

With regard to crops, we would like to express the great importance that we attach to the assistance of different countries in developing high quality seeds and in providing the means of producing such high quality seeds through modern and developed technological practices.

We would also like to express the importance of the prevention of post-harvest losses, losses which often occur due to lack of storage facilities. We also wish to refer to the importance of handling the crops, especially in the post-harvest phase.

Moving on to the field of livestock, we would like to draw attention to the need to provide adequate genetic resources in order to develop livestock resources, especially artificial insemination. Furthermore, we would like to refer to the need to develop poultry production, since through this we could have low cost protein supplies. Such activities could be found existing nowadays in many developing countries. Meat and dairy production also are of great importance and we would hope that the international project for the intensification of meat and dairy products will continue its activities especially through making use of the national institutions involved in this endeavour.

With regard to livestock, we also wish to refer to fisheries, and we would like to express appreciation of the survey on this item. We would also like to refer to the need to develop the various means of preserving fish. This is extremely important, as important as the scheme for the prevention of post-harvest losses.

Because of the shortage of time we do not wish to dwell on the various details of this subject under considerations, but we cannot conclude without referring to the importance of the AGRIS system and to the great advances we have secured in Egypt in this field. Even though our own national institute has only entered into operation recently, we have produced approximately 800 surveys and studies in 1978. Our national institute produces approximately 60 percent of the Arab production and such progress was achieved thanks to cooperation with FAO.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate our congratulations to the Director-General and his colleagues for this valuable programme and for this excellent document submitted for our consideration.

J.J. LEIDO Jr. (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, the Philippine delegation is pleased to endorse the proposal contained in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

We have closely studied the said document and we agree that it is consistent with and supports the priorities that we, the Member Governments, have established for the Organization in various meetings in the past.

It is rational that priorities and programmes, once established, must be supported by adequate resources. Otherwise they would remain simply as statements of good intentions.

We believe that the present level of budget is the minimum required to lend flesh, substance and reality to these priorities and programmes, representing as it does a real increase of only 5.3 percent per biennium or less than 3 percent per annum.

We therefore sympathise with members of the Programme Committee who stated that they would have preferred a larger programme increase.

However, before I go on with further observations on the budget, I would like to make some comments on some points of the Programme priorities for 1980/81.

On rural development: In the field of rural development, we feel that the attention it should get is indeed well deserved. Considering that the majority of the population of the developing countries resides in the rural areas, efforts in this direction are not only desirable but essential as well.

On fisheries: In fisheries, more and more people are beginning to realize that the sea and other waters will have to supply a significant portion of their protein requirements. This highlights the tasks of improving the production capabilities of the survival fishermen, the need to ensure the continued productivity and ecological viability of the production areas and to continue collaborative cooperation among institutions such as SEAFDEC and the Asian Institute of Aquaculture for the development of the appropriate technology for fish farming and increased fish production. The Philippines have made substantial headway in this area, and it is in this context that we truly appreciate the priorities in inland fisheries and agriculture.

On forestry: The area of forestry is of particular interest to us. We have since recognized the value of forests to rural development as well as their central role in the total web of life. My country has initiated several measures which seek to re-establish the verdance of our forest areas, protect their sanctity and still be able to meet the wood needs of our people and of our economy.

We have programmes which have organized the shifting hilly land cultivators and are transforming them from destroyers to protectors of forests. In another effort we have also implemented agro-forestry programmes which combine forest renewal with immediate economic returns for the people. These concerns, we are happy to note, are reflected in the FAO thrusts for 1980/81.

Natural resources: We are also happy to note that natural resources in general will be a priority for the next biennium. More specifically, we refer to remote sensing applications for natural resources management. The Philippines have experienced the efficacy of remote sensors to generate data in assistance to planning and policy making. Through our natural resources management centre, for example, we have completed an inventory of our forest and coral resources of the Philippines Archipelago using LANDSAT images. We hope that through FAO, more countries will be able to avail themselves of the benefits of remote sensing.

The environment and rural life: Our delegation notes with satisfaction the threads of concern for the environment and rural life that weave through the summary Programme of Work and Budget. The environments integrity is essential to the quality of human life. In much the same way, rural life should not be allowed to deteriorate. Rather, rural life should be raised and improved so that mass unemployment and mass migration into cities which creates a disfunctional balance between rural and city life may be avoided.

On FAO's decentralization programme: Our delegation also notes with approval the efforts to strengthen the field operations of FAO. We feel that this is truly reflective of the intention to infuse self-reliance and develop the capabilities of our respective countries.

On the budget: In all these proposals we agree that there should be a consistent and continuous concern for the eradication of hunger. We feel that it might be worth while to remind ourselves of an adage of ancient Rome: "Prius esse quom melius esse." Man must first live, then he can be able to think of improving his lot. Yet it is with some sense of disappointment that we note that the proposed budget is less than that of the World Health Organization and Unesco. Nevertheless, we would like to take the view that the proposed budget is an investment in the future. We realize that the situation for which FAO was created still exists, that this situation could very well take a turn for the worse before it could take a turn for the better, that for a longer time than we would like there will still be hunger and malnutrition in many parts of the world, that procrastination of decision and action will not improve the situation.

It is therefore in consideration of all of these that the Philippine delegation expresses its support for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

On reducing the magnitude of the Technical Cooperation Programme, I believe that the increasing value of requests from developing countries should be the factor to be considered.

This delegation is pleased to note that most Member countries have given full support to the Programme of Work and Budget, including the one country which had made some reservations on sections of the budget, and is in general agreement with strategies and priorities.

Certain economies have been suggested such as that which refers to staffing with a flexibility of country representatives, timing and appropriateness of construction, post adjustments. I submit that these are matters which we could very well defer to the sound and judicious decision of the Director-

General.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation fully agrees with the Director-General when he feels that there seems to be a broad consensus on how in general our Organization could best fulfil its mandate. We appreciate it very much that the Director-General and his staff have contributed so much to a stronger focusing on priorities. We note with particular satisfaction that he made the Secretariat of our Organization work more smoothly and more efficiently. The Director-General will have our support for continuing with this policy.

As a whole, the document CL 75/3 shows extremely well the general framework which the Secretariat defined for the Programme of Work and Budget 1980/81. Necessarily, however, at this stage it is limited to the overall framework within which the Programme of Work for the next two years is outlined in general. Therefore, the document does not give detailed information on the individual programmes and sub-programmes, in particular on their changes in the current budget. That is the reason why it is not possible at the present moment to comment in detail on this Programme and the budget proposed and to take a definite position. Therefore, we are looking forward to a further and closer examination of the complete proposals as soon as these are available.

We state with satisfaction that the Director-General has provided for a strengthening of some programmes which also to us seem particularly important, namely - those set out in Table 1 of the document under paragraphs 2.1.1 and 2.1.6. Among these programmes, we attach special importance to the prevention of food losses, to the control of the desert locust and of the African swine fever. A closer examination of all detailed programmes will probably show that there are also other programmes which will find our full support.

However, in our opinion it is necessary to look a bit closer at the proposals concerning the further decentralization to the country level, in particular to set up FAO country offices. The political decision on this policy taken in 1976 is shared by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. We feel, nevertheless, that we should proceed carefully in setting up country offices and avoid the creation of costly new bureaucracies. The FAO country representative should be an overall agricultural expert and thus an adequate interlocutor for the government of the host country and for the important coordination work with the representatives of other international institutions at the country level.

Concerning that coordination, we are in full agreement with the distinguished delegate of Zaire, who stressed at the first day of our session that the real coordination at country level is the task and responsibility of the governments themselves, and I can assure him that we fully share his warning against the proliferation of new posts of bureaucrats. There is no doubt that the FAO country representative will need a minimum of auxiliary staff. However, what is stated in paragraph 2.99 of the Report of the Finance Committee with regard to the personnel of FAO country offices goes beyond what we consider adequate and should by no means be taken as a must for all FAO country offices. Self-restraint and adaptation to the conditions prevailing in the country as well as the greatest possible use of already existing facilities of other international institutions would, I am sure, be of much greater benefit for FAO than the hasty establishment of overstaffed country offices. We feel FAO should not set a negative example. This should be possible if the work of the country representatives is concentrated on the really important activities.

According to the present proposal, already 5.6 percent of the total budget is intended to be spent on FAO country offices in the next biennium. That is a considerable amount, which will increase even more quickly when further offices are established. This will reduce the resources available for the priority technical work of the Organization. It has, therefore, to be examined whether part of the new posts could be shifted from Headquarters or from the regional offices to the country level.

The regional offices should by no means be expanded. If new tasks are assigned to them, it will be necessary to establish new priorities. Economy and cost-benefit analyses are of particular importance for the assessment of this reorganization process.

The Government of my country asks the Director-General to review the programme proposals when elaborating the individual sub-programmes and projects with an aim to reduce wherever possible the overall financial expenditure. Some savings among others might be possible upon close examination of the individual proposals for the following item: administration, food and agricultural policy and crops with regard to practical demonstration projects at the village level which many countries might be able to carry out themselves.

As far as the increase for rural development is concerned, it is our understanding that this includes costs for activities arising from the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, to which my government attaches great importance.

Furthermore, we would appreciate very much some further clarification on the budget in general, for example, whether the Director-General intends to propose a further adaptation of the proposed budget

to a new dollar/lire exchange rate when we meet again in November and in that case whether the additional amount would be absorbed within the present budget level proposed. We also would like to be informed about the envisaged number of new posts and up-gradings which will result from the budget proposal before us. In this context, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that FAO has permanently a large number of unfilled posts.

In addition, I should like to make some general remarks on the budgetary issues. In paragraph 3.49 of the Report of the Finance Committee, comparisons are made between three different biennia on various budget elements. From these we note that figures for the cost increase which have been US \$25 million in 1976-77 and nearly US \$30 million in 1978-79 are supposed to rise to more than US \$46 million in 1980-81. Unfortunately, there is no reason to hope that this situation will soon fundamentally change to the better. On the contrary, energy problems will probably heighten the actual difficulties. That is why my delegation thinks that in the long run worldwide inflation will not fail to affect also the real growth rate of FAO's Budget. The Director-General, nevertheless, proposes a programme increase which in absolute figures is slightly higher than two years ago. I feel that the annual cost increase will force us, at the latest for the Budget of 1982/83, to critically review all current programmes. Otherwise FAO might no longer dispose of sufficient resources for new priority activities and programmes. We are looking forward to recommendations by the Finance and the Programme Committees on this problem, which so far have not been presented.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate for Germany. I now wish to welcome the Minister of Agriculture of Malta, who has joined us since the session began, and I would like to give him the floor.

F. MICALLEF (Malta): May I first of all take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to the Director-General for his Opening Address, which I have read with great attention, and also for his introduction to this debate on the Programme of Work and Budget 1980/81, to which I have listened with interest.

It is clear now that the year 1976 was an important year for our Organization. It marked the revival of the importance of its objectives in all its activities. The drastic change adopted by the Sixty-Ninth Session of the Council in July 1976 created a new image of FAO and a complete reorganization of its activities. Now, on the threshold of a new biennium, we are asked to share FAO's programme of work.

This induces us to examine, first of all, whether the Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium, which had to consolidate and put into practice the decisions taken in July 1976, has fulfilled our expectations; and secondly, whether the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1980/81 before us now will ensure the continuation of this new trend.

We must ask ourselves which essential elements in the Programme of Work and Budget decided upon in 1976 characterized the turning point in FAO's life after about 30 years of its existence? Summed up in a few words I would say it was a return to the freshness of the original ideas which in an atmosphere of enthusiasm were at the roots of its creation. FAO was set up as an action-oriented body. In the initial period, FAO sent missions to countries to assess their problems. Most of these countries were suffering the consequences of war. The next period of FAO's activities was the development of a worldwide approach to the problem with projects shaped to suit such an approach.

Then we witnessed the first move towards decentralization through the establishment of Regional Offices. This was followed by what I term as a "fluid" approach on a country basis through technical assistance. Though Malta has benefited through the advice of a number of experts and through the establishment of demonstration centres for farmers, we have realized by hard experience that this approach could not suffice. Requests for urgent assistance both in terms of experts and assistance were complicated by the necessity of having to act through other bodies. Most of the time we have had to rely on bilateral assistance from friendly countries, to whom we are most grateful.

we have on several occasions expressed our view that more emphasis should be given in FAO's Regular Programme to projects with an outright country focus.

Therefore we welcomed wholeheartedly the creation of the Technical Cooperation Programme launched by the Director-General which, in our view, removed a lot of red tape through the flexibility with which it is being executed. Let me again commend the Director-General for his continuing efforts for the expansion and administration of this vital Programme.

Through this Programme, to which reference was made by our colleague from Algeria, Malta also received quick initial assistance to enable my government to combat in time the spread of severe animal disease. We would like to see this Programme go further than it is doing now. Assistance for the replenishment of animals destroyed and lost by small farmers through outbreaks of disease should also be considered for inclusion in this Programme. The small farmers have had their stocks taken away in the execution of a plan devised by FAO and agreed by the Government in the interests of not only the country struck by animal disease but also in the interests of other countries. The urgent intervention of the Government, along with the assistance of the FAO, in the re-stocking of these farms is imperative. FAO can intervene directly only in so far as it has the means. It can also intervene in getting Third World countries involved in replenishing the stock.

My own delegation therefore supports fully a continued shift of resources from global perspectives to action-oriented and country-focused activities contained in the new priorities. This should, in our opinion, be the basis for the formulation of the New International Development Strategy, and the achievement of the New International Economic Order. In short, we believe in adequate and timely transfer of resources to deserving recipient countries, especially following natural disasters as in the early days of our Organization.

In all international fora, Malta has played an active role in promoting peace and security, and it is through our actions and initiatives in this field that we are, more than ever before, faced with an urgent need for the development of our agriculture.

May I point out that the closure last March of the military base in Malta has released an amount of labour, our only natural resource, we have absorbed a percentage of this labour in an agricultural corps aimed at settling them on land and helping them to earn their living: through food

production. We have thus avoided their dispersal by emigration. We have embarked on an ambitious land reclamation scheme, and we are requesting assistance for the further implementation of this plan, which includes the provision of water for irrigation. We sincerely hope that our project will gather enough support to obtain the additional finances required.

Our initiatives on the international level are not limited to the political sphere. We are hoping to become the centre for action-oriented programmes in all spheres. We already host in Malta a Mediterranean Oil Pollution Combating Centre, and we shall host a Centre for the Development of Alternative Sources of Energy. Both of these have a special bearing on agriculture and fisheries. The former aims at reducing pollution risks which could be disastrous for fishing, and the latter aims at providing homes for alternative sources of energy for agriculture. In this connexion, Malta would be pleased to host a demonstration centre of solar energy and wind-driven water pumps which was suggested by the delegate of India in the course of the discussions held on the COAG document at this session.

In the field of fisheries, we have realized that a certain lack of technical staff available in the Mediterranean in terms of Master fishermen, engineers, etc. is becoming apparent. We therefore urge FAO to try and improve the situation by holding seminars at expert level and by organizing training facilities. Here again, we offer Malta as an ideal location for such seminars and for training programmes.

While on the subject, I must congratulate the Director-General on his intention to submit a document on Exclusive Economic Zones for Fisheries to the Conference. I would like to ask the Director-General to consider in the preparation of such a document the special conditions of the Mediterranean where the number of countries involved presents special and delicate problems in this section.

Allow me to conclude by stating that in our opinion, as stated already by a member of my delegation in an earlier intervention following the Director-General's Opening Speech, it must be the Regular Budget which should provide all the means to achieve the work that FAO has initiated and has to carry out. I must express our gratitude to all the donor countries and all those who are contributing to the Special Action Programmes of FAO, but this financing is not always available on a continuous basis.

A new target should therefore be considered, since we think that the means calculated are too modest, probably short of the requirement, considering the current rate of inflation, transport cost increases, and the growing needs of the people in the developing countries. It also appears that the trend of increase in emergencies has not been fully taken into account.

Nonetheless, we wholeheartedly commend the Programme of Work and Budget and congratulate the Director-General, the Secretariat and the staff for its preparation. It was indeed extremely difficult to bring the needs and requests of all member countries to a common denominator and the priorities.

I recall the discussion and the resolution of the Sixty-Ninth Council Session with we fully agreed, and in concluding I must emphasize again that our preference should go to practical country-focused projects.

May I here mention as examples the need for the animal health services, the extension of irrigated areas also in the Mediterranean in addition to Africa, and the setting up of regional stocks of grain where national stocks could prove very expensive. These projects should be given the highest priority, and very low priority should be given to theoretical academic studies, which in many cases could be much better carried out by national or international scientific organizations.

V. MRISHO (Tanzania): My delegation wishes to associate itself with all other delegations which support the incremented requirement of \$13.6 million for the 1980/81 budget. My delegation understands that all FAO Member Nations strongly agree that it is our mandate to address ourselves to hunger eradication programmes and raising the nutritional standards of the developing populations. For this reason it has always been surprising to many delegations as to why tense debates have been arising in approving the minimum budgetary requirements for implementing important programmes which we accept and approve as basic strategies for achieving our targets.

My delegation has reviewed and analysed the summary budget for 1980/81 and has found it very justified. The budget touches on some important requirements necessary in several, if not all, developing countries.

The proposed budget of \$271.66 million indicates an incremental requirement of \$13.6 million only, which is actually a result of much closer attention to development problems requiring immediate solutions. As has been indicated, this increase is only 5.3 percent above the budget for the previous two years while it should be noted that over the last ten years the simple average percentage increases of the budgets of eight other agencies have been considerably higher than that of the FAO.

Moreover, looking at how FAO utilizes its budget indicates that the percentage of expenditures on established posts in the total budget went down substantially in 1976/77 and is progressively being reduced, not only in the current biennium but also in 1980/81, despite the fact that with each reduction the next or further reduction becomes more difficult.

It should be realised that a large part of the current cost increase of 5.3% arises from developments which occurred during the previous biennium. The estimates are based on a careful analysis of a large number of individual items based on essential development requirements.

A look at the crucial responsibilities of the FAO and how FAO is proposing its budget for 1980-81 to implement such responsibilities, would indicate that there is need to invest \$8.1 billion a year in order to reach a growth rate of 4% in food production. FAO is making a very important contribution in catalysing resources for investment through arrangements with the World Bank, IFAD and other financing institutions, and its special action programmes. Over the last 14 years FAO has formulated investment projects approved for financing amounting to an average of \$1 billion per year. This important task must be continued and, when possible, expanded to cover several problem areas.

The Regular Programme, and particularly the increases proposed for the priorities in 1980--1981, will mobilise very important amounts of extra-budgetary funds for direct employment in fields such as prevention of food losses, food security assistance schemes, meat and milk development schemes and desert locust control. The application of these programmes is of great importance to Africa and FAO's involvement is a great measure of international desire for hunger relief strategies. FAO's Regular Programme is also the catalyst of large amounts of technical assistance funds. At present FAO is executing 1,750 field projects for an estimated cost of \$850 million. My delegation is sure that the approval of the proposed budget will enable FAO to identify and execute many more projects in order to meet the growing needs of the developing countries.

In connection with the approved decentralization policy of FAO to country level, FAO has authorized the creation of 47 offices. Nearly all of these will have been established by the end of this summer and there are requests by different Member Governments to bring the total number of offices to 70. The proposal in the budget for 1980-1981 is for a further 15 offices, bringing the total to 62 offices. These offices have proved their usefulness in identifying new projects as well as addressing their capacities in solving urgent country needs. They have close access to the government technical departments and therefore they have been very useful in assisting governments in framing their agricultural strategies as well as assisting in meeting some of the technical and financial needs for implementing development projects.

In Tanzania the newly created FAO Office is helping in meeting agricultural needs through the creation of projects which are strengthening our agricultural development plan. It is our delegation's view that the small increase proposed in the budget for the creation of another 15 regional offices is therefore evidently well justified to enhance closer problem analysis in member countries.

The TCP project for which some budgetary allocation is made has proved its usefulness in Tanzania, and indeed in many other countries, particularly in the fields of training and identification of projects for further investment. It is also assisting governments in tackling urgent needs. My delegation supports this programme and believes that it warrants the budgetary requirement as indicated in document CL 73/3.

My delegation also wishes to mention the definitely important role that the Crop Monitoring and Early Warning System project will play in identifying in advance information and assessments to governments on crop production, stocks and supplies of food grains. This will enable governments to expand their production efforts as well as encourage food supply trade among developing countries. These important objectives must be seriously effected and therefore the necessary budgetary implications for implementation of the project should receive positive approval.

The proposed budget emphasizes field action particularly through increased use of consultants and contractual services including the utilization of national institutions. My delegation approves of this trend and in particular those aspects which involve technical cooperation among developing countries.

My delegation supports the proposed programme of work and budget for 1980/81 amounting to \$271.66 million and wishes that other delegations of the Council will give similar approval in total.

On this occasion my delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General of the FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, for his able leadership whose new implementation strategy has made the services of FAO more effective to the developing countries.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I should like to express my delegation's complete support of the summary proposals of the Director-General regarding the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980/81. The proposals are admirable not merely for their clarity but because we see how well they reflect the Director-General's understanding of the complex area of problems in world food and agriculture and, even more important, an intimate knowledge of our needs. It also incorporates the needs that exist to strike a compromise between the haves and have-nots. We therefore fully agree with the strategies and approach of the Programme. The task of our Council is greatly facilitated by the valuable work done by the Programme and Finance Committees in their detailed examination of the proposals. My delegation would like to pay tribute to their Chairmen and members. We find ourselves in entire agreement with the conclusions of these Committees and there is therefore no need for me to repeat my Government's views on each aspect of the matter. I shall confine myself at this stage to drawing attention to those programmes which my Government considers to be of the highest priority. We attach particular importance to work on livestock development and welcome the proposed emphasis on production system at the small farmer level. We are pleased to note accordingly that the trypanosomiasis programme represents a full world development programme. The priority given to rural development will be fully reinforced by the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We therefore also attach importance to FAO being given the necessary resources to assist governments in the implementation of the programme of action that this Conference will approve.

Aside from the sectoral priorities, we are very much aware of the substantial benefits we receive from the orientation field action that the Director-General has given the Organization. This embracer, the special action programmes, the TCPs, the process of decentralization for action at country level. All this means for us an effective FAO of which we are proud to be a member and which assures us of appropriate PD and effective collaboration. My delegation endorses and urges the Council to endorse unanimously, without reservations, the proposals of the Director-General.

D.H.J. ABEYACONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): Like all members who spoke before me I wish to congratulate the Secretariat for their simple and comprehensive presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81. As the Chairman pointed out yesterday, the Director-General's dilemma is one of not being able to satisfy all Member Countries of this Council, or having to accommodate, as far as possible, what developing countries in general want the Organization to do, and of having to assert selective economies at the same time. We do not for a moment doubt his sincerity and eagerness to achieve a compromise.

While we are in general agreement with the modest work programme, the increases proposed in the fields of investment, in the fisheries programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme could have been higher. My delegation would like to see the highest priority given to the development of fisheries, as many poor countries with unexploited coastal belts are trying hard to exploit the seas, as the land and soil resources in which they live and toil are inadequate to provide them with sufficient food. The exclusive economic zones declared by these coastal states require additional resources for formulating plans and implementing them.

We therefore feel that the proposed increase of \$480 000 is inadequate. We see only a sum of \$252 000 allowed for the exploitation of fisheries. You will recall that at the Seventy-fourth Session of this Council we agreed to give the highest priority to this Programme.

Next, we should like to comment on the Technical Cooperation Programme. An increase of Si 665 million is recommended. This figure may have been kept at this level in order to keep it within the 12 percent increase in the total Programme of Work and Budget. Sri Lanka shares the views of all developing countries who have spoken on behalf of strengthening the Technical Cooperation Programme, as it has been of considerable benefit, and that it should be strengthened in the 1980-81 budget. We have been the recipients of assistance under the TCP during periods of distress and the promptness with which such assistance was given is commendable. We should also like to see technical cooperation assistance move into the form of equipment and financial assistance because many developing countries have built their own technical expertise and need other resources to buy the crucial inputs.

We also note that FAO's Investment Centre services to developing countries have been recognized. At a time when we are requesting all aid-giving organizations to expand their volume of lending towards agricultural activities, it would be prudent to have a greater degree of flexibility as to the resources made available to the Investment Centre, to enable it to participate in these activities. We are thinking now of the 1980-80 budget and if we are to help the poor countries it may be desirable to build this flexibility now.

Finally, I would also wish to commend the Director-General for his efforts to decentralize the administration by the appointment of the organization's own representatives to Member Countries. By this arrangement the Country Representatives could have access to the appropriate policy and planning levels of governments in the agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries sectors, which will enable the FAO to play a lead agency role to make the Organization's programme more meaningful and advantageous to the host countries. We are in agreement with the proposal to expand this programme.

As I said at the beginning we would have liked to see more emphasis on areas as mentioned by us. But considering the need for the Director-General to exercise essential restraint on the FAO's purse we endorse the recommendations made by the Programme and Finance Committees and their adoption by the Council.

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 75/PV/10

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(15 June 1979)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 55 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima, sesión plenaria a las 14.55 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV - PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)

IV - QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)

IV - ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1980-81 (continued) (CL 75/3; CL 75/4 (paras 1.2-1.5? 2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

11. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1980-81 (suite) (CL 75/3, CL 75/4 (par. 1.2-1.5; 2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

11. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 1980-81 (continuación) (CL 75/3; CL 75/4 (párrs.1.2-1.5; 2.6-2.109; 3.5-3.49)

A. MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): First of all, on behalf of my delegation I would compliment the Director-General and his staff on the documentation which contains the facts of information and the ingredients which are necessary for achieving the objectives of the FAO in a really integrated manner. We want to compliment the Programme and Finance Committees for their useful work in assisting the Council in its deliberations on the Programme of Work.

My delegation feels that the policy issues which are highlighted and the consideration underlying the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget are on the whole realistic and we fully support them. In doing so, may I refer to two points contained in document CL 75/2, which deals with the Current World Food Situation. We learnt from that document that the increase in world food production in 1978 is estimated at about 3 percent and that the average annual rate of growth for the developing countries during 1970-78 stands at 2.9 percent. These figures are well below the target of 4 percent set for the Second Development Decade. At the same time, the number of the world population continues to rise further, particularly in the Third World, Poverty, hunger and malnutrition appear to follow very closely the increase in the number of those populations.

My delegation is of the opinion and I believe that the members of the Council will agree that highest priority should be accorded to those activities that best fulfil FAO's main objective of overcoming hunger and malnutrition. The focus of those activities should of course be the geographic areas with the greatest need. It is important not only that more food be produced but that sufficient income be generated among the afflicted people. The implementation of appropriate and well-defined agricultural development Programmes call for huge amounts of funds and expertise, and it is understandable that FAO, as the most important international organization dealing with the solution of the world food problem, must do everything possible to carry out its task successfully.

After having assessed the grim situation as depicted in the Reports on the World Food Situation, particularly in developing countries, which show various degrees of suffering, my delegation is of the opinion that the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General for the next biennium is very modest in comparison with the real need for helping the developing countries to free themselves from hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Accordingly, my delegation supports the proposal of the Director-General with the understanding that the level of the proposed budget is a minimum one.

If our approaches are based on humanitarian considerations, the provision of food for needy people through their efforts - and this should be the case - then there would be no objections to effecting an increase in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. A positive response to an increased budget would to a large extent reflect the good will and deep concern for the speedy solution of the problem of hunger and malnutrition which prevails in many parts of the world.

My delegation is satisfied to note that the background of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget includes also the World Forestry Congress. This very important international congress will encourage more countries, regional and international organizations, to make efforts towards an economic utilization of forests. Forestry for people implies many aspects like the betterment of environment, natural resource conservation, including soil conservation which is absolutely necessary for successful farming, and others.

My delegation is indeed grateful that the strategy for 1980-81 will continue to work and concentrate on increasing food production in developing countries, and intensify increasing activities in rural areas, which means to help poor people and farmers directly.

As to investment in the agricultural sector, the FAO Field Programme should be enlarged more in order to establish and provide a broad and solid foundation for food and agricultural development, and my

delegation is satisfied that high priority is being accorded to the Programme for 1980-81 ,

In this context, investment in new agricultural areas should be promoted, since it will not only facilitate efforts to increase production but also help the country concerned, like my country, to cope with re-settlement problems or transmigration.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme which has been instituted in recent years, it has shown its usefulness in helping developing countries to meet their urgent needs within a relatively short time. My delegation is in favour of this Programme being continued and strengthened.

Finally, as regards the FAO's representation, my delegation would express its satisfaction with the increased number of FAO representatives in developing countries, including Indonesia. The FAO representation has improved the effectiveness of FAO's functioning in the countries concerned. My delegation supports the proposal for increasing the number of FAO Country Representatives in the future.

D. WARE (Canada): On behalf of the Canadian Delegation, I am pleased to speak on the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1980-81. We consider the Secretariat has done an excellent job in putting together the Summary which we have before us.

We have, as a member of the Finance Committee, been made acutely aware of the difficulties of budget preparation and forecasts for an Organization as large, as complex as the FAO, especially in the face of a growing number of variables, which include erratic inflation, unpredictable rates of exchange between the Lira and the U.S. dollar, change in interest rates and difficult related staff salary and other personnel cost factors linked to contracts and cost-of-living indexes. Salaries, as you know, Mr. Chairman, make up a high proportion of the FAO Regular Budget. We hope that the staff numbers, particularly here at Headquarters, can be kept to a minimum.

The impact of all these variable factors I have mentioned is magnified and multiplied by the time element - by the need to prepare a budget so far in advance of its coming into effect. In acknowledging these hurdles for the Director-General and his staff, I would remind you that we as countries face precisely the same difficulties when we set out to assess and study the Budget proposals.

Turning now to the Programme aspects of the document, which generates the financial need, Canada finds little difficulty with the general thrust and supports the continuing trend to the more practical action-orientation of our Organization.

We are pleased at the progress made in reducing the number of meetings and the cost of back-up - and we hope this trend continues. I am sure those in the Secretariat who must dedicate so much of their time to the preparation of follow-up of meetings would agree, too. On this point, we suggest that even further economies might yet be found. We also suggest when the country offices come into place the necessity for the number of consultants, or the number of Headquarters staff, to move out into the field to identify projects might be reduced. This is a factor we think should be taken into account in future.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the FAO is one of the oldest United Nations Organizations. Indeed, it pre-dates the foundation of the United Nations itself, reflecting very early international recognition of the importance of the agricultural development and food assistance to the international development assistance process. In the past thirty years, there have been periods of rapid expansion of the FAO and periods of slower budget and programme growth, combined with consolidation of activities and priorities. We now have, we believe, a mature, well-functioning organization, with a solid base of programmes, activities and services in place, and making regular and important contributions to increasing world food production.

There still is, however, a capacity for programmes and priorities within this base to reflect new and evolving needs, and by drawing on resources freed by accomplished tasks and declining or redundant activities. This is the point which I would draw to your attention which is indeed indicated in paragraph 4.7 on page 6 of document CL 75/3.

Coming now to the level of the Budget, Canada believes there is justification for continued real growth in addition to allowances for inflation. As you know, we have suggested a figure of 2 percent per annum. Because of the status of the FAO in the family of the United Nations Organizations, it is difficult to compare the evaluation of its resource needs with some of the more recently formed members. The increasing attention paid to agriculture in the Development Assistance priorities in some of the development banks; the formation of IFAD; the growth of bilateral agricultural funding; the demands from research organizations and the UNDP, are all part of the International Agriculture Development Assistance effort which call upon our limited national resources.

I would like to say a few words on the Canadian national situation which I think may help you in understanding our special approach to this particular Budget. Some of those factors I mentioned as influencing the preparation of the FAO Budget have been working two-fold against Canada's obligations to the international organizations. In contrast to many people's currencies, our dollar has declined considerably during the past year. A rough calculation of the combined impact of inflation and devaluation of our dollar against the United States dollar during the past year, for example, suggests that we will have about a 40 percent increase in Canadian dollar terms, for us to cover our assessment of this draft budget. The final budget will probably be larger because of the current United States dollar /lira exchange rate which can only be decided at the Conference this Fall.

An additional factor for Canada at this particular point is the state of our national budget and the funds that our Government has available for all government spending, both internal and external. You may know, Mr. Chairman, that we now have a new government in Canada, as of two weeks ago. Our present government, working from an already severely cut back federal spending, has instructed a freeze on all our increases in spending and in our commitments to spend until it has had an opportunity to undertake a review of all its programmes, and the issues involved, and then approve or adjust their priorities one to another.

What we in Canada are faced with at present, then, is a tight lid on our government spending and a bold, no-growth instruction for federal departments.

Canadian policies will evolve over the next few months as our progress is reviewed, but as you will appreciate, Mr. Chairman, I must at this time on behalf of my government, reserve our position on the Budget until the FAO Conference in November 1979.

KONG CAN-DONG (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese Delegation has studied document CL 75/3 and related documents, and would like to present its views on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

The Chinese Delegation supports the basic strategy for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization proposed by the Director-General in document CL 75/3, that is to "continue to be working towards the New International Economic Order", "emphasize the increasing of food production in developing countries, and increasing activities aimed at rural development", and "to emphasize Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries."

We have noted that apart from readjustments between various items of the budget, funds have been increased for some priority items. Among the priorities stipulated in the document, while necessary work is to be carried out to coordinate and plan international food policies, special emphasis has been given to the key problem in the development of food production of Member Nations, particularly developing countries, which in our view is quite appropriate.

In this respect, the strengthening of organizational work for promoting technological exchanges between Member Nations in the light of the actual regional conditions, would also help the developing countries in increasing their food and agricultural production.

As regards rural development, we hope, through the deliberations of the upcoming World Conference, a better understanding will be achieved on the contents and priorities of this important work, and this Organization will be enabled to proceed from the actual conditions of each country and make concrete contributions to the solution of the pressing problems confronting the vast rural poor population of the developing countries in developing production and improving their life. In international trade of agricultural products, if the Organization could provide analysis of information and suggestions for improving the unfavourable position of developing countries, it would be in keeping with the aspirations of most Member Nations and conducive to the efforts of developing countries to develop their national economy. In this regard document CL 75/14 outlines the work FAO is to undertake to expand technical cooperation among developing countries. This, we hold, is a question of great importance in establishing a New International Economic Order, and the related measures proposed by this Organization are feasible.

As for the Technical Cooperation Programme of this Organization, there have been affirmative evaluations and recommendations for its improvement. We think it appropriate for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to take due consideration of these evaluations and recommendations.

The Chinese delegation would like to express its appreciation of the Director-General's often expressed conviction that FAO should streamline administration and practice economy and strive to serve Member Nations better by improving and readjusting its work, cutting down unnecessary expenditures, particularly purely administrative costs such as documentation, meetings and other institutional costs, and by focussing its funds on priority items.

We also subscribe to the view contained in document CL 75/3 that the Organization focuses activities on assistance to Member Nations in developing and strengthening their own capabilities in meeting the basic needs of their people. Therefore, emphasis has also continued to be placed on actual effectiveness and efficient management activities. We shall continue to support the Director-General's sustained efforts towards these aims, as before.

The Chinese delegation therefore endorses in principle the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as presented in document CL 75/3. With this as the basis and taking into full consideration all rational proposals put forward at this Council Session, the full Programme of Work and Budget should be formulated for the next biennium and submitted to the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference for approval.

M. ROSALES RIVERA (EL Salvador): Después de que mi delegación ha hecho el análisis de los documentos CL 75/3 y CL 75/4 relativos al presupuesto para el bienio 1980-81 y luego de oídas las explicaciones referentes a los mismos, principalmente la presentada por el Director General, ha llegado a la conclusión de que el documento que contiene el presupuesto que está bajo nuestro análisis no sólo es aceptable, sino que reúne nuestro más decidido respaldo.

EL Programa es realista y balanceado, tomando en consideración los intereses en juego de los países que aportan a la FAO; además se ajusta a la técnica presupuestaria, habida cuenta de las políticas que corresponde desarrollar a la Organización. Pero, también hay que expresarlo, es el mínimo que se puede esperar; hubiésemos querido un Presupuesto mayor, lógicamente.

En efecto, nos habría gustado, por ejemplo, que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica que nació en los momentos en que el PNUD decreció en sus aportes a los países en desarrollo, fuera incrementado en una cuantía que permita una mayor área de cobertura, así en éste y otros campos. Nuestras expectativas estarán cortas y distan mucho de lo que hubiésemos deseado, pero, con todo, en aras de un eventual consenso durante la Conferencia General, aceptaríamos el nivel actual; de lo contrario, o sea, de no lograrse un acuerdo por consenso nos uniríamos en su oportunidad con los países que propugnan por un presupuesto mayor; no es necesario abundar en la razón del por qué, basta con recordar que al inicio del presente período de sesiones del Consejo tuvimos ante nosotros, dentro del tema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, datos que incuestionablemente reflejan el deterioro de la situación mundial en esta materia.

Por otra parte, los programas que desarrolla la FAO quedan insertos en la lucha por obtener un nuevo orden económico internacional. No creo que requiera entrar en los detalles de cifras que se consignan en los distintos capítulos, ya muchos oradores los señalaron y hacerlo ahora sería repetitivo; pero el estudio en forma, tanto parcial como global, refleja un equilibrio que fundamentalmente responde a principios de justicia. No hay, por consiguiente, lesión ni cargas excesivas para ningún miembro de la Organización.

Señor Presidente, la reflexión que merece un presupuesto no es exclusivamente si éste ha experimentado un incremento o una rebaja; hay que cotejar las cifras con las metas que se pretenden a la luz del mandato que al organismo le toca desarrollar. Un rechazo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto entraña un juicio negativo a la finalidad de la Organización y un desconocimiento velado o una voluntaria omisión a cumplir con compromisos aceptados en un marco mucho más general, pero que en este caso toca a necesidades básicas que tienen que ver con el hambre y las secuelas de males que ésta acarrea, en suma, con necesidades vitales.

¿O es, señor Presidente, que estamos cuestionando la existencia de esta Organización?. Mi delegación espera que no y que un espíritu constructivo prevalecerá y hará factible la aprobación del Presupuesto por consenso; consenso que equivale a un reconocimiento de la ejecución de los programas que la FAO tiene obligación de desarrollar.

En síntesis, mi delegación apoya totalmente en esta instancia el Presupuesto presentado por constituir la mejor transacción que pueda lograrse.

C. BATAULT (France) Lors du brillant exposé qu'il a fait en ouvrant nos travaux, le Directeur général a insisté sur son Credo, ce Credo qui est aujourd'hui celui de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture: impact des efforts vers des besoins concrets et urgents sur le terrain, politique de décentralisation, complémentarité entre le Siège, les Bureaux régionaux et l'action dans les pays. Ceci afin de rendre la coordination de plus en plus opérationnelle.

La délégation française partage pleinement ces vues et voudrait adresser ses félicitations à M. Saouma et à ses collaborateurs pour les avoir, définis si aettement dans le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1980-81.

Je voudrais également rendre hommage à la qualité des documents préparés pour la soixante-quinzième session de notre Conseil: le Secrétariat a fait là un travail remarquable qui nous est de la plus grande utilité. Ainsi le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1980-81 témoigne-t-il d'un souci de précision et de clarté dont nous nous félicitons vivement. Nous souhaitons que la présentation actuelle soit maintenue à l'avenir.

Lors de la discussion du rapport du document il nous avait été demandé d'éviter de parler du programme de travail qui a fait l'objet du document CL 75/3, ce problème devant être examiné dans le cadre du point 11 de l'ordre du jour du Conseil. La délégation française avait donc préparé deux interventions sur ce point, l'une sur le programme, l'autre sur le niveau du budget, basées sur le rapport du Comité des finances et du Comité du programme (dont nous souhaitons d'ailleurs, je le dis entre parenthèses, qu'un exemplaire soit envoyé à Paris afin de nous permettre de gagner du temps).

Il ressort du débat auquel nous assistons que beaucoup de délégations qui ont eu le privilège de la discussion sur le niveau du budget, réservent sans doute à la Conférence générale leurs observations en profondeur sur le programme de l'Organisation. Nous n'examinons en fait aujourd'hui qu'un excellent sommaire et c'est la raison pour laquelle la délégation française a décidé, si vous voulez bien, de remettre au Secrétariat le texte complet de l'intervention qu'elle avait préparée sur le programme de travail et sur certains aspects budgétaires.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for shortening your statement in the interest of maintaining the time allocated for this subject. The Secretariat will include the rest of your statement in the record.

C. BATAULT (France): Le document 75/3, comme d'ailleurs tous les autres préparés pour la 75ème session du Conseil, témoigne d'un souci de précision et de clarté dont nous félicitons le Secrétariat. Nous souhaitons que cette présentation soit maintenue. Le document nous semble très satisfaisant, car il permet un bon aperçu de l'activité de la FAO, notamment en exposant les options qui devraient être retenues dans le cadre d'un redéploiement souhaitable des ressources ainsi que l'a dit le Président du Comité financier.

Quelques observations méritent cependant d'être formulées au regard de ce document CL 75/3.

S'agissant maintenant des programmes techniques et économiques en général, en ce qui concerne ceux relatifs aux cultures (pages 24 à 27) et en ce qui concerne particulièrement la prévention des pertes alimentaires après récolte, nous avons noté avec intérêt que l'amélioration de l'emmagasinage est envisagé, à la fois, au niveau de la ferme, du village et de la communauté, de même que les différentes étapes de la gestion des récoltes prises en compte - (manutention et séchage - lutte contre les rongeurs et les ravageurs - carence des systèmes commerciaux) et nous pensons que les différents services français concernés qui ont établi une instance de coordination seraient à même de pouvoir contribuer, chacun selon sa spécialité, à la réalisation de ces actions de formation.

Par ailleurs, la part consacrée au soutien de la recherche (page 29) est maintenant notable, mais, à ce propos, on peut regretter que plus de moyens n'aient pas été consacrés à CARIS, encore très imparfait et à qui la France a toujours accordé son appui.

S'agissant de la décentralisation progressive au niveau des pays ou des régions du travail de rassemblement, de traitement et de publications de données (page 29 in fine), le Gouvernement français, convaincu du grand intérêt de CARIS pour le développement agricole des pays tropicaux et témoin de l'immense espoir placé en CARIS par les pays en développement après le projet pilote, se demande si la décentralisation du programme CARIS, telle qu'elle est envisagée par le Directeur général de l'OAA n'est pas prématurée et ne risque pas de conduire, en fait, à l'éclatement et à la disparition de ce programme.

On ne saurait perdre de vue, en effet, que bien peu d'Etats des régions tropicales - pour ne parler que d'eux - possèdent les moyens de traiter en ordinateur puis de diffuser les données recueillies. A notre connaissance le Brésil, les Philippines et la Tunisie seraient les seuls à avoir réalisé eux-mêmes un répertoire analogue à celui de CARIS. Nous savons que deux organismes régionaux de documentation ont été approchés par l'OAA pour leur demander de prendre en charge l'exécution du programme CARIS dans leur région: "L'Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (A.I.B.A.)" dont le siège est aux Philippines, pour l'Asie du Sud-Est; "el Centro Interamericano de Documentación y Información en Agricultura (C.I.D.I.A.)", localisé au Costa Rica, pour l'Amérique latine. Ces deux centres régionaux auraient donné leur accord mais force est de reconnaître que le passage à l'exécution rencontre des difficultés probablement sous-estimées ou imprévues.

Mais en admettant même que ces deux centres puissent éditer en 1981 ou 1982 des bandes magnétiques et des répertoires^on peut se poser des questions au sujet des autres régions du monde (Afrique, Asie, Moyen-Orient) qui représentent les trois quarts des pays tropicaux et subtropicaux.

Compte tenu des difficultés inhérentes à la réalisation de programmes de documentation informatisée (bande magnétique CARIS) par des Etats ou des centres régionaux encore insuffisamment équipés, et avec le souci de mettre en place le plus rapidement possible une source d'information indispensables à l'essor de la production agricole dans les pays en développement, le Gouvernement français propose:

Que le programme CARIS soit intégré, au moins dans un premier temps, aux activités du programme normal de l'OAA ainsi que le recommandait le CGIAR.

Que la collecte des informations sur les opérations de recherche soit reprise dans tous les Etats intéressés et acheminée et dans les meilleurs délais vers le bureau CARIS de l'OAA à Rome.

Que celui-ci, disposant d'un ordinateur et du logiciel simplifié de traitement des données, entre en mémoire les informations reçues.

Qu'un service payant de questions-réponses fonctionne au Bureau CARIS qui enverra à la demande les informations souhaitées et sous la forme souhaitée.

Enfin, qu'une décentralisation progressive s'instaure à la demande des états ou des centres régionaux qui auront réuni les moyens nécessaires et prendraient l'engagement de diffuser les informations recueillies.

Nous pensons également qu'une mise à jour de la documentation CARIS devrait être effectuée en 1980.

En ce qui concerne AGRIS, la délégation française est heureuse de faire -part au Conseil de ce que la France invitera la FAO à organiser, en France, dans le courant de l'année 1980, un séminaire en langue française, en vue de la formation de documentalistes francophones appelés à participer au système documentaire AGRIS de la FAO.

Un nombre assez important de bourses sera offert aux spécialistes de pays francophones soucieux de parfaire leur formation et susceptibles d'assurer dans leur pays un centre de liaison AGRIS.

Un accent particulier est mis sur la recherche et sur la création d'instituts nationaux de recherche. On semble malheureusement oublier que les ressources tant financières qu'humaines de nombre de pays en voie de développement ne leur permettent pas d'aborder l'ensemble des problèmes de recherche agronomique :

Il faudrait au contraire porter l'accent sur l'aspect de la régionalisation de la recherche (type ADRAO) en fonction des différentes écologies. L'aide extérieure serait beaucoup mieux utilisée et en outre cela permettrait de mieux former les chercheurs nationaux.

Cependant, si la poursuite des recherches en matière agricole présente un intérêt certain, il faut souligner que les résultats déjà connus en matière de cultures et de techniques agricoles en Afrique permettraient de très notables progrès; mais la diffusion de ces nouvelles techniques se fait lentement et rencontre de nombreux obstacles. L'un de ceux-ci, et non le moindre, est l'insuffisance du réseau de vulgarisation et de formation des paysans.

Ainsi, le développement rural ne peut être durable que s'il est soutenu par une recherche nationale dynamique et orientée sur le concret. La recherche internationale ne suffit pas et a déjà montré les limites de son action.

Il y a là un problème dont la solution passera par une concertation étroite, d'une part, entre la FAO et les centrales scientifiques intervenant dans un cadre bilatéral (dont le GERDAT) au plan français.

Des moyens plus importants seront nécessaires non seulement pour les actions citées mais aussi et surtout pour la formation des chercheurs, la création de centres de recherches et la circulation de l'information.

Au surplus, l'activité des réseaux coopératifs européens méritait à notre sens d'être évoquée au titre du soutien à la recherche. Cette activité est évoquée dans le rapport du COAG, aux pages 4 et 8 (par. 28 et 50).

La rubrique nutrition (pages 31 et 32) se situe maintenant à un niveau satisfaisant mais devrait rapidement déboucher sur des projets.

En tout état de cause, indiquer l'importance des denrées locales dans l'amélioration du statut nutritionnel des plus pauvres n'est pas tout. Si elles devaient comme annoncé couvrir 50 pour cent des besoins alimentaires globaux, cela implique qu'un effort considérable de recherche soit fait pour en améliorer la productivité et les conditions de production. Or, tout reste encore à faire dans ce domaine, car même la connaissance de base sur certaines productions locales n'est pas encore acquise (graminées alimentaires secondaires, légumes locaux, fruits et tubercules de cueillette, importance du gibier, etc.).

Toutes les considérations sur la nécessité d'améliorer l'appareil statistique s'avèrent pertinentes, mais l'expérience prouve qu'il s'agit d'un vœu pieux et que les efforts faits n'ont pas permis d'éviter une dégradation continue.

Seules, semble-t-il, les techniques de télédétection associées à des cellules d'observations internationales implantées en des points stratégiques permettront de suivre avec suffisamment de fiabilité et de rapidité d'évolution des situations agricoles dans les zones les plus sensibles du monde. Sur ce point nous ne pouvons que féliciter la FAO d'y accorder des moyens accrus.

En tout état de cause, les options nutritionnelles définies à la page II de ce document, ont incontestablement fait l'objet d'un large consensus lors de la 2ème session du Comité ad hoc des politiques alimentaires et nutritionnelles, et de la 5ème session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Parmi les groupes menacés devraient être cités expressément en raison de la gravité des situations, les femmes gestantes et allaitantes, les enfants, les populations urbaines des quartiers pauvres.

Maintenant, Monsieur le Président, en me réservant d'intervenir à nouveau dans le cadre du point 12 de l'ordre du jour, je souhaiterais préciser quelques points.

Tout d'abord a.s. des Représentants par pays: il semble y avoir contradiction entre le rapport du Comité du programme 2.99, page 15 où il est écrit que chaque bureau de la FAO par pays doit disposer de 8 postes, outre celui du Représentant, et le Rapport du Comité financier, paragraphe 321, page 33, où le chiffre de 8 inclut le Représentant permanent. Quel est le chiffre réel?

Je dois dire que le chiffre de 8 ou 9 personnes par bureau nous paraît excessif pour certain pays et que notre propre expérience prouve qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de disposer de 6 Agents des services généraux, surtout à temps plein. Ce chiffre, nous semble-t-il, doit être modulé suivant l'importance du pays et des besoins.

Je serais également reconnaissant au Directeur général de nous rappeler de la manière qui lui paraîtra la plus opportune, combien de bureaux de Représentants par pays fonctionnent à ce Jour, quelle est leur emplacement et quel est le nombre d'agents dont ils disposent chacun.

Nous serions aussi heureux de savoir, pour les 15 bureaux qui doivent être créés, combien cela représentera de créations de postes, combien de transferts du siège aux représentations à l'étranger ou de redéploiement d'un poste à un autre. Enfin quel est le calendrier de ces créations et quels sont les pays bénéficiaires.

S'il était possible au Secrétariat de nous donner ces informations par écrit dans un bref document de synthèse, cela serait, j'en suis certain, fort utile, non seulement à la délégation française mais à tous les membres de ce Conseil.

Nous voudrions maintenant préciser notre point de vue sur deux sujets qui nous paraissent particulièrement importants. Ainsi appuyons-nous chaleureusement le programme de coopération technique dont l'augmentation nous paraît raisonnable et justifiée eu égard à son efficacité reconnue par tous et au fait que la proportion du budget qui lui est consacrée est maintenue à un niveau satisfaisant.

En revanche, je dois le dire, je suis un peu inquiet de voir que la création sans doute justifiée de quinze bureaux de représentants par pays supplémentaire entraîne la création de 8 à 9 postes chaque fois. Nous pensons que cela doit être modulé selon les besoins de chaque pays.

Maintenant, avant d'aborder la question du budget, je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général et ses services de leur excellente gestion des ressources accessoires mentionnées au paragraphe 3.71, page 42 du rapport. La France soutient également la position du Secrétariat concernant les problèmes des frais de soutien aux agents d'exécution du PNUD. Nous souhaitons que le taux actuel de remboursement soit au moins maintenu.

Enfin, nous avons noté, en page 43 du rapport du Comité financier, qu'est présenté un projet de résolution portant de 0,01 à 0,04 la quote-part des contributions d'un pays membre. Nous appuyons cette proposition puisque le barème proposé par la FAO correspond à celui des Nations Unies, lui-même proposé par le Comité des contributions après étude approfondie et voté par l'Assemblée générale.

Voilà ce que j'avais à dire sur certains aspects précis de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je voudrais maintenant, en conclusion, préciser la position actuelle de la France au sujet du budget de l'Organisation.

Le Directeur général nous propose de porter le budget du biennium 1980-81 à un chiffre qui, d'ailleurs, ne correspond peut-être plus tout à fait à la réalité, au taux de change actuel de 271,66 millions de dollars, soit, si je ne m'abuse, une augmentation de 28,5 pour cent par rapport à celui du biennium 1978-79 qui était de 211 millions de dollars, ou encore une augmentation en termes absolus de 14,25 pour cent par an. A titre de comparaison, j'indique que l'augmentation du budget de la FAO pour l'année 1980 ne sera que de 12 pour cent, ce qui représente pourtant un déficit budgétaire particulièrement lourd du fait de l'augmentation du prix de l'énergie et du chômage engendré par la crise économique mondiale que nous vivons.

Toutefois, un tel calcul ne reflète pas la réalité des ressources mises à la disposition de l'Organisation, puisque la situation des taux de change, et notamment les fluctuations du dollar par rapport à la plupart des autres monnaies convertibles, se répercute directement sur les ressources de la FAO. Aussi devons-nous féliciter le Directeur général, car nous avons bien conscience des efforts qu'il a faits pour limiter la progression des programmes, puisque l'augmentation se chiffre à 5,3 pour cent contre 12,68 pour cent en 1978-79 et 23,4 pour cent en 1976-77.

Cependant, dans les circonstances actuelles, ce taux demeure élevé eu égard à la situation financière des gros contributeurs due à la détérioration de la situation économique mondiale que l'on peut attribuer à de nombreux facteurs, en ce qui concerne non seulement la France mais beaucoup d'autres pays membres de la FAO, développés ou en développement, le principal étant le coût croissant de l'énergie et des matières premières.

Pour tenir pleinement compte de cette situation mondiale, il serait sans doute nécessaire d'envisager des économies supplémentaires, comme par exemple l'a fait à New York notre maison-mère, l'Organisation des Nations Unies, pour son budget 1978-79.

Ainsi, à ce stade, la délégation française n'est-elle pas encore en mesure de faire connaître sa position définitive concernant ce budget. Elle la communiquera lors de la Conférence générale, lorsque sera connu le chiffre final du budget proposé, lorsque nous serons assurés que de nouveaux engagements de dépenses n'interviendront pas en cours d'année et que nous percevrons plus clairement l'inconnue que constitue actuellement l'évolution des taux de change.

Toutefois, tenant compte des buts et réalisations de la FAO, tenant compte de l'importance vitale pour l'humanité des problèmes qu'elle tente de résoudre et afin de rendre hommage à l'effort accompli dans le sens de l'économie et d'une bonne gestion par le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs, la délégation française ne s'opposera ni à une recommandation ni à un consensus sur le Programme de travail et budget qui nous a été présenté pour le prochain biennium et doit être soumis en novembre à l'approbation de la Conférence générale 1/.

O. GARANDI (Tchad): Je me réjouis de prendre la parole pour la première fois à cette séance très importante au nom de ma délégation pour vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, car vous dirigez nos débats avec sagesse et compétence. Nos félicitations vont également à M. le Directeur général de notre organisation pour la qualité des documents présentés au Conseil.

Les contraintes que connaît mon pays ont fait que nous n'avons pas pu envoyer de délégués aux différentes réunions de travail qui ont précédé ce Conseil. Nous avons tenu, malgré tout, à assister à ce Conseil en tant que membre, ceci pour témoigner de la confiance de mon pays en notre Organisation. Ma délégation profite de l'opportunité qui lui est offerte pour apporter un appui ferme au programme présenté par le Directeur général. Ce programme constitue pour nous un programme minimum, réaliste, tenant compte des restrictions liées à la conjoncture économique mondiale. En conséquence, les ressources équivalentes doivent être mobilisées pour financer ce programme que nous jugeons très modeste eu égard aux priorités et aux sollicitations de nos pays en développement, et nous demandons instamment aux pays riches de ne pas durcir leur position ni d'émettre des réserves au risque de maintenir le tiers monde dans son état actuel pendant encore longtemps.

Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage, car mon intervention pourrait répéter ce qui a été dit par ceux qui m'ont précédé, en particulier par la délégation rwandaise, qui a clairement exprimé ce matin l'inquiétude des pays africains, non seulement touchés par les calamités naturelles, mais aussi victimes des guerres. Les stratégies et les priorités retenues pour 1980-81 répondent bien à nos aspirations. Pour ce faire, ma délégation recommande au Conseil d'adopter par consensus le programme et le budget ainsi présentés.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Je voudrais, avant de terminer, lancer un appel pressant, à travers la FAO, à tous les pays donateurs pour qu'ils puissent apporter une aide circonscrite à la population tchadienne pour la campagne à venir, car celle-ci s'annonce catastrophique, compte tenu de la situation qui a prévalu au début de l'année 1979.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): I would like to express our full support to the proposals by the Director-General on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1980-81 biennium. We have studied the many proposals and the in-depth analysis made by the Programme and Finance Committees which is certainly a very comprehensive one.

The statements of the Director-General were very exhaustive and they had our full support.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget is a very solid basis which will allow the Director-General to provide a Programme of Work and Budget which will be submitted to the general Conference.

We fully endorse the policies, strategies, resources and the means and methods for this programme, and because of our full trust in the Director-General we would have liked the level of this budget to be slightly higher but we realise that the Director-General is a very wise man and this is why he has presented the Programme of Work and Budget as it is now and therefore we also wish to support him for his position.

The many delegates who have taken the floor before me have mentioned the Programme they are most interested in, and if I may I would like to express our views. We give high priority to the role of the Organization in increasing investments and resources in the area of agriculture. We are fully satisfied with what is said about the investments of the Organization as we see in the Programme Committee's report. All these projects are of great importance for us and they are in line with the guidelines provided by the Director-General who would like to have full participation with research institutions in the Arab world. We hope that the Organization will help all these financial bodies to provide resources for those activities which are most beneficial to our countries and also channel investments towards agriculture, the agricultural area in developing countries.

I wish to seize this opportunity to express our full appreciation for the many programmes on Fisheries. Among these programmes we have one of great importance a new one which was started by the Director-General and which should lead to the establishment of a new international economic order. Sea and ocean resources are important, not only from a promotional trade point of view, but they can also improve nutrition and the food situation throughout the world. This is why we feel that we should all provide our assistance to coastal countries which have not yet attained their full potential and cannot benefit from this particular sector. This is why we would like the Organization to propose new programmes, new outlines, for cooperation with developing countries in this sector.

My delegation congratulates the Director-General on the wisdom of his proposals. We will endorse these detailed proposals at the general Conference. We truly hope that the Council will adopt by a consensus the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1980-81 biennium.

P. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1980-81 que hoy debatimos, constituye uno de los temas de mayor importancia para la FAO pues representa las directrices fundamentales para el próximo bienio. Dichas directrices se ven claras y precisas y permitirán a la Organización avanzar en el logro de sus objetivos primordiales, como son ayudar a los países subdesarrollados en su desarrollo agrícola, pesquero y forestal, orientándolos a la vez hacia la obtención de incrementos sustanciales en los niveles alimenticios y nutricionales de sus pueblos, así como a cambios cuantitativos y cualitativos en sus desarrollos económicos y sociales.

En el curso de las deliberaciones que hemos venido sosteniendo en este Consejo de la FAO, he observado con regocijo el prestigio y la autoridad que ha alcanzado esta Organización. Todos los delegados que han hecho uso de la palabra han reconocido la encomiable labor desarrollada por la FAO y todos la han instado a que continúe su magnífico trabajo, y es evidente que, con mayores recursos económicos, esta Organización podría cumplimentar tales pedidos.

En las negociaciones relativas a la consecución del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, la FAO se halla, por su proceder, en la primera línea de los organismos internacionales. La FAO, por ello, se ha convertido en la columna vertebral de los países en desarrollo y en vocero de millones de personas que viven casi en la inanición y gravemente subnutridos.

Es por ello que, en estos momentos históricos en los que sobresalen por su fuerza las crecientes necesidades de alimentos aparejado a una población en constante incremento, y enfrentados a la baja constante de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo y a una disminución global de tierras cultivables, mi Gobierno entiende que la FAO debe continuar intensificando sus labores, atendiendo al mayoritario apoyo que ha recibido la Organización por su trabajo. Considero que el presupuesto propuesto por el sector general para el próximo bienio será aprobado.

Para todos es conocido que el modesto aumento que nos plantea el Director General, no será suficiente para atender las grandes metas que se ha propuesto la FAO. Atendiendo lo antes expuesto, mi Gobierno apoya como cantidad mínima el presupuesto total efectivo de 271 millones de dólares que se nos propone. Al referirnos al valioso documento CL 75/3 que la Secretaría nos ha facilitado, queremos manifestar nuestro decidido apoyo al párrafo 2.11 que expresa, con mucha aceptación, que la disponibilidad del Programa de Cooperación Técnica para las operaciones de emergencia normales y en pequeña escala, ha sido muy apreciada por los países afectados.

Mi delegación se manifiesta en favor de que se sigan financiando los Programas Especiales de Acción, tales como el PCT, incluyendo el aumento que se propone; el Programa de Acción para Prevención de Pérdida de Alimentos, y el Plan de Asistencia para la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Consideramos de suma importancia que se sigan estableciendo las Oficinas de la FAO en los países en desarrollo, ya que las mismas han dado un considerable impulso a la labor de la Organización en los mismos.

El presupuesto que se nos propone, señor Presidente, es una nueva oportunidad de contribuir, siquiera en pequeña cuantía, a continuar avanzando en el camino del Nuevo Orden Económico y del que, aunque lejos, aún sigue siendo un objetivo a alcanzar, pero que requiere decisiones como ésta que tenemos aquí hoy ante nosotros.

Por ello, mi delegación no duda ni un segundo en dar su pleno apoyo a este modesto presupuesto para el próximo bienio, conscientes de que con ello cumplimos un deber como miembros de esta Organización y convencidos de que sus propósitos son justos y alcanzables.

Por último, señor Presidente, permítame expresar que hemos seguido con gran atención este debate y mi delegación ha tenido la posibilidad y la oportunidad de oír más de cuarenta intervenciones sobre este tema, en su mayoría de apoyo y ninguno en contra, lo cual da la impresión a mi delegación de que estamos arribando a un punto muy importante para tomar una decisión favorable sobre el presupuesto que se nos presenta.

S. de MARE (Sweden): Like other speakers today I would like to begin my intervention by complimenting the Director-General and his staff for the excellent way in which the different strategies and priorities have been presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget in document CL 75/3. This document gives a very good picture of the content of the programme of work, which is a most essential factor for the evaluation of the budget proposals. We also realize that real efforts have been made to change priorities, both between and within programmes, to comply with advice given by the Council and the Conference and to examine and make more efficient the work carried out by FAO. Thus we find that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget forms a good basis for further deliberation on a full Programme of Work and Budget for the Conference.

In this connexion I would like to make some comments on the proposed budget level. All bureaucracies have an in-built strength to grow by themselves. This is one of the reasons, besides the economic situation, why the Swedish Government have for some time advised all governmental agencies to present budget proposals based on zero growth. We feel, however, that the FAO budget should be judged on the merits of its programme. Against this background Sweden could, as already stated in the Programme Committee, accept the net real programme increase proposed by the Director-General in the document just mentioned despite the very stringent budgetary policy at the national level. My authorities would, however, have great difficulty in accepting any further programme increases if such increases were to be proposed between now and the Conference when the Programme of Work and Budget is finally approved.

When listening to the discussion we get a feeling that one aspect which was already mentioned by the delegate of Canada is somewhat overlooked. We discuss the FAO Regular Programme of Work and Budget as if in the present world food situation it is almost the only means of meeting the needs of the developing countries. We all know this is not the case. The extra-budgetary resources, including UNDP resources, in the hands of FAO for one year are coming close to the annual regular budget of this Organization. IFAD, the World Bank and the Regional Conferences contribute to this sector. We appreciate however that FAO must be given sufficient resources to be able to play its central role in support of these other development cooperation activities.

Sweden's membership of the Programme Committee has already given us the opportunity to make comments concerning the programme of work which also is reflected in the work of the Programme Committee. My delegation could thus associate itself with the conclusions in that report. Still, we would like to make some further comments concerning a limited number of main priorities in the programme of work and add some further viewpoints.

Sweden has always given full support to the policy of decentralization. In our view it is important that not only personnel resources but also different functions of the Organization and power over economic decisions are decentralized to the regional and country levels. Against this background, and despite the considerable costs incurred, we are quite prepared to accept the establishment of fifteen new country offices by the end of 1981. The great number of country offices by that date and all requests for still more offices to be established in the future makes it urgent for some kind of evaluation of the total future need for country offices, taking into account such factors as multi-country coverage, etc. The multi-country coverage for some of these offices would also be a more efficient way to utilize these resources than to discuss the reduction of the minimum staff proposed by the Secretariat for country offices. The possibility of sharing premises with UNDP representation should however also be fully utilized.

As regards investment activities, a thorough examination has been made by the Programme Committee. Sweden appreciates the priority given to such activities and supports the comments given by the Programme Committee.

There are however a few aspects which we would like to underline: first, the inter-dependence between technical assistance, pre-investment and investment; secondly, the development towards programme and sector lending; and thirdly, the need to evaluate investment activities, especially at the project identification level in the light of a more comprehensive independent agricultural outlook based upon agricultural sector plans or national development plans. Planning support for countries whenever requested for the formulation of agricultural sector plans is dealt with under food and agriculture policy. We find it important that FAO develops the capability to respond to such requests as well as training support and we stress the need for close cooperation between the Food and Agriculture Policy Division and the Investment Centre. Today about 45 percent of FAO's extra-budgetary needs are covered by different trust funds. In view of the importance of the trust fund activities, the process of appraisal of different trust fund projects should in our view be even further developed. Also the possibilities of arriving at still greater similarity in the use of overhead cost compensation should be further explored. It is also important that further trust fund projects accepted by FAO for examination should be examined in the light of the objectives, priorities and plans of the host governments and the Organization and not of those of the donors.

Finally, we believe that the most spectacular change or policy is to be found in forestry activities, and we fully support the change of priorities in this programme.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Au cours des trois dernières années, notre Conseil a adopté les stratégies et politiques nouvelles qui ont été proposées par le Directeur général de l'Organisation. Aussi, nous avons le plaisir de remarquer aujourd'hui que les activités de la FAO se sont basées sur les procédures effectives et réelles pour axer ses efforts sur le terrain et sur les petits agriculteurs. En fait, cette nouvelle stratégie a bénéficié de l'appui de pays membres, qu'ils soient développés ou en développement.

Le Comité plénier des Nations Unies a manifesté sa satisfaction pour les activités déployées par la FAO, surtout les activités destinées à instaurer un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus équitable.

Au cours de la réunion de l'Assemblée parlementaire européenne qui s'est tenue dernièrement, cette Assemblée a adopté une résolution dans laquelle elle a rendu hommage aux efforts faits par la FAO dans ce sens.

Il est évident que le consensus se fait partout dans le monde sur la nécessité d'accorder la priorité au développement agricole et alimentaire, sur la nécessité d'augmenter la production agricole et alimentaire, et ce pour l'éradication de la faim dont souffrent des millions d'hommes dans le monde.

Il y a également un consensus à propos du fait que la FAO est l'organisation qui seule doit s'acquitter de cette tâche et doit oeuvrer pour le bien-être de toute l'humanité.

Devant toutes ces responsabilités auxquelles doit faire face la FAO, il nous faudra donner à la FAO les moyens de le faire. Aussi le sommaire du programme de travail et de budget qui nous a été proposé par le Directeur général, qui a été appuyé par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, est en fait un programme que nous soutenons et que nous appuyons pleinement.

A ce propos, nous voulons dire très franchement que nous regrettons, à l'instar des autres pays, que le budget ne soit pas au niveau des aspirations des pays membres. Le budget proposé de 271 660 000 dollars a un montant très modeste, car en fait l'augmentation réelle du programme, tel qu'elle figure dans le tableau de la page 50, ne dépasse pas 2,7 pour cent. C'est une augmentation très minime si nous prenons en considération la tâche que la FAO doit accomplir et si nous comparons ce budget au budget des autres organisations soeurs de la famille des Nations Unies.

Prenons l'Unesco, par exemple. Le budget de l'Unesco, au cours du prochain biennium, est de l'ordre de 303 milliards de dollars, avec une augmentation de 41 pour cent environ. La Conférence générale de l'Unesco a adopté ce niveau de budget. Cela me mène à me poser la question: est-ce que nos pays membres de l'Unesco, qui sont généralement membres de la FAO, considèrent que l'éradication de la faim dans le monde n'a pas la même importance que les efforts fournis par l'Unesco?

Je pense que notre Organisation a une tâche très lourde à remplir. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous nous rendons compte qu'au cours de notre vingtième siècle nous avons des défis énormes qui se posent à nous, à savoir le défi de l'énergie et le défi du manque des produits alimentaires.

Les pays en développement, pour relever ces défis, ont commencé à utiliser certains de leurs produits, comme par exemple l'alcool, à la place du pétrole, pour essayer de pallier au problème énergétique. C'est la raison pour laquelle notre délégation lance un appel à notre Conseil, un appel pressant pour que nos collègues ici présents, et surtout les pays qui ont manifesté certaines réserves sur le niveau du budget, se convainquent de la nécessité de cette augmentation.

Nous sommes également convaincus qu'ils sont d'accord avec le consensus qui se fait. Aussi, nous leur donnons rendez-vous au mois de novembre où j'espère l'accord sur le niveau du budget se fera sans aucune réserve. Nous ne voulons pas que ce budget soit imposé par la majorité.

Avant la fin de notre réunion, nous savons qu'une réunion internationale très importante aura lieu à Vienne, en Autriche. Nous attendons le résultat de la rencontre des deux présidents Carter et Brejnev. Nous formulons l'espoir que cette rencontre historique permettra de signer les accords de Sait 2 et qu'ainsi nous pourrions aboutir à une détente qui permettrait d'investir des milliards de dollars, qui étaient investis pour la destruction dans le monde, dans des programmes de développement agricole pour l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition. Nous voulons que l'espoir nous anime tous et nous espérons que les deux super-puissances ainsi que les organisations qui peuvent le faire, puissent aider notre FAO à s'acquitter de la tâche qu'elle s'était assignée et pour laquelle elle a été créée.

I. TAKI (Japan): First of all, my delegation would like to associate itself with other delegations in commending the Secretariat for its accomplishment of this voluminous work which is summarized in the documents before us, and my delegation also would like to show deep respect for the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, who made full use of his excellent leadership in this challenge.

My Government has studied the Summary Programme of Work and Budget with great attention. First, we would like to express our full support to the priorities selected for the Programme. Our endorsement especially goes to the Secretariat's support for the Centre for Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific, to the establishment of which Japan has contributed since its early stage.

We also support the Secretariat's giving priority to increasing activities on the development of rice production in Asia and the Far East, West Africa and other rice-producing areas, and we appreciate and support, like many other delegations, the Secretariat's strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System which provides us with very useful information.

Turning to the level of the budget, my delegation highly appreciates the efforts of the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, who has tried to rationalize the budget to the maximum extent possible. He best knows the serious situations and urgent requirements in the food-deficit developing countries. At the same time, he is in a position to learn to know the different difficult economic conditions in the developed countries.

My Government is now in serious financial difficulties. The amount of national bonds issued in 1979 reaches the critical level which represents 40 percent of the total revenue. The financial authorities cannot but estimate a zero increase in the national budget for 1980 in the initial stage. However, efforts are being made to curtail every expenditure. The value of the yen is declining. My country will have to pay more yens for the same amount of dollars in 1980 and 1981 that it paid in 1978 and 1979.

In view of such circumstances it would not be honest if I do not say that my Government cannot help being deeply concerned about the general trend of increase in the levels of the budget in the United Nations organizations, including FAO, and it would not be frank, either, if I refrained from saying

that my Government earnestly hopes the Organization will carry out a tighter control on its budget. My delegation does not think that it is impossible to control the budget in a tighter manner without adversely affecting the important activities of FAO.

For example are the following measures that re-emphasize it: first, uniform composition of the staff for each country representative office may be reviewed in the light of flexibility. Secondly, a possibility of setting up one office in two or more countries may also be examined. Thirdly, in the case of IFAD, the new budget was recently approved for technical assistance of the nature similar to TCP, so some coordination between the two may be studied.

Having said this, I do not mean that my Government puts less emphasis on the role and functions of FAO.

My Government will give the highest appreciation in the future to the activities of FAO to be carried out under the magnificent leadership of the Director-General, Dr. Saouma.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to refrain from expressing a final view of the Japanese Government on the level of the Budget.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the delegation of my country I would like to express our reservation on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget presented to us by the Director-General for the biennium 1980/81. In our opinion, this Summary is below the aspirations and hopes of the Member Countries, and is not in keeping with the realities of the Third World and the developing countries, nor is it in keeping with the immensity of the problem of malnutrition and poverty existing in this part of the world.

It is certain that the Director-General in his preparation and elaboration of programmes of work and budget and in the representation of a budget in keeping with these budgets and programmes, the Director-General is aware there would be opposition on behalf of some donor countries to his proposals, and he knows quite well that he might not necessarily succeed, which is why he has presented a very modest budget. This unfortunately does not make it possible for him to fully meet the aspirations of the Third World.

In fact, the Summary of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium 1980/81 was the subject of very strong criticism of certain developed countries this morning. If this criticism was expressed for reasons of fluctuations, inflation etc., all we can do is simply take note of it and the consequences. If we want to try and excuse the Director-General for trying to adapt to the realities existing within the Organization, and the participation of the Member Countries, all we can do is to stand up against those developed countries who are trying to limit their participation in the budget of the FAO, a budget which has the objective of the elimination of poverty and hunger throughout the world.

We are certain the FAO is the only international body which can really do a great deal in this field. We are certain that the FAO, thanks to its experience in the past, and its full and complete grasp of the problem and possible solutions which would be the most appropriate, must see things clearly. It must clearly point out the problems as it sees them and also establish budgets which it feels are necessary to solve these problems, otherwise if this is not done, if the FAO is limited in its activities, then we can only regret this because the FAO will then in fact become an accomplice in this attempt at trying simply to throw crumbs to thousands and thousands of persons who suffer from malnutrition throughout the world. The FAO will be an accomplice to this general tendency of holding these peoples at a level of underdevelopment.

Therefore I would like to ask those members of the Council present at this meeting if the time has not come for the FAO to begin more audacious activities. Is the FAO going to limit itself simply to preparing simple techniques and carry out limited service, or is it not going to try to establish a more general approach in the developing world, and in at least ten developing countries, for each budgetary period so that these countries will have the ways and means available to have at least a minimum for establishing the basic commodities and producing the basic needs which are so important for the future development of their population and their resources? This can be further developed through water resources and through irrigation systems.

Should it not be FAO who should help in this preparation of the small-scale infrastructures? All these elements are well known to the Director-General, and in fact the Director-General is the person who is most aware of these problems. The Director-General is well aware of all these problems, but he also knows exactly what are the financial resources that are available to him and the Organization, and knows quite well if he had proposed such audacious activities to the Council they would not have received the support of certain developed countries, but would have been criticised by these countries.

Therefore, I fully support what was said by the delegate of Algeria when he talked about the sums which are earmarked for arms and the arms race. We wish here to refer to the fact that if one developed country could earmark for agricultural development those resources which they give to one country in our region for arms, it would eradicate this problem. However, this country does not want to understand these realities.

In summary, we would like to say we give our fullest support to the tentative efforts made by the Director-General to present a budget level which is in keeping with the limitations to which he is subject, and we are certain that when the Programme of Work and Budget is presented to the General Conference, we will once again make these same reservations on the very low level of the Budget which does not make it possible for the FAO to carry out to its best ability its objectives and role.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Les autorités belges ont examiné avec la plus grande attention le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1980-81, qui nous est proposé sous la cote CL 75/3.

Ma délégation tient à remercier le Secrétariat pour ce document à la fois concis et clair. Elle remercie également le Directeur général et les Présidents des Commissions, Comité du programme et Comité financier pour l'introduction qu'ils ont faite pour ce point de l'ordre du jour. A ce propos, je voudrais vous dire tout d'abord que mon pays est convaincu de la valeur considérable que représente pour les populations du monde entier l'action de la FAO. C'est d'ailleurs en témoignage de cette conviction que la Belgique augmente, d'année en année, sa contribution volontaire à l'action de la PAD. Je pense qu'il est superflu de citer des chiffres. Je tiens néanmoins à bien faire comprendre que si je suis amené à formuler des remarques critiques sur l'une ou l'autre proposition contenues dans le document il n'y a pas lieu d'interpréter mes observations comme l'expression d'une évaluation négative de l'Organisation et de ses activités. Bien au contraire, mon pays considère que la FAO fait un travail qui est essentiel et le fait bien.

Je voudrais maintenant présenter quelques commentaires sur certaines propositions contenues dans le

sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour discussion. Ma délégation appuie pleinement les priorités énoncées à la section V, particulièrement celles citées au point 5.2, et je voudrais les citer: "La stratégie fondamentale doit continuer à avoir pour objectif le nouvel ordre économique international en mettant l'accent, dans ce contexte, sur l'accroissement de la production alimentaire dans les pays en développement et le renforcement de l'action en faveur du développement rural et plus particulièrement en faveur des catégories sociales les plus pauvres et les plus déshéritées."

Ma délégation salue avec faveur la stratégie générale qui vise le renforcement des actions concrètes au travers de programmes d'action spéciaux alimentés au moyen d'un soutien financier extra-budgétaire. Le document sur le programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire recueille la participation de mon pays. Je cite également le programme d'action pour la prévention des pertes alimentaires créé par la dernière Conférence. Mon pays envisage de poursuivre sa contribution à ce Programme dans l'avenir. A ce sujet, je voudrais me référer à l'Annexe au document où il est dit à la page 26: "le budget consacré à la prévention des pertes alimentaires après récolte sera accru de 175 000 dollars E.-U. pour donner satisfaction aux gouvernements qui ont demandé une aide directe et concrète afin d'améliorer l'emménagement au niveau de la ferme, du village ou de la communauté." Certes, ainsi que je viens de le dire, nous appuyons le Programme de prévention des pertes alimentaires mais il n'apparaît pas clairement pourquoi les contributions versées au Compte spécial ouvert à cet effet et qui s'élèvent à 14,5 millions de dollars E.-U. ne peuvent fournir que les 175 000 dollars E.-U. mentionnés ici. Je sais que c'est un détail mais il se trouve que ce détail figure dans notre résumé de programme et budget, par conséquent il est déplacé de le relever.

Mon pays soutient également avec conviction le programme "Engrais" de la FAO. Ma délégation y reviendra plus en détail sous un autre point de l'ordre du jour.

Quant au programme de coopération technique, à la différence des programmes précités, celui-ci est essentiellement à charge du budget ordinaire. Ma délégation est d'avis que ce programme, dans les limites que lui fixent d'une part les critères établis pour son fonctionnement, et d'autre part les 12 pour cent environ de l'ensemble du budget ordinaire ont non seulement prouvé sa valeur mais se sont avérés parfois d'une utilité exceptionnelle.

Il y a toutefois un programme qui ne manque pas d'inspirer quelques inquiétudes à ma délégation. C'est celui des missions de la FAO dans les pays. La mise en place de ce réseau de missions ira en s'aggravant au fur et à mesure. Il représente déjà plus de 11 millions de dollars E.-U. soit environ 6 pour cent dans le budget proposé pour 1980-81. La comparaison de son coût, c'est-à-dire 15 millions, avec celui du programme de coopération technique, c'est-à-dire 28 millions, fait saisir le poids de ce boulet budgétaire. Un certain nombre de questions ne peuvent manquer de nous venir à l'esprit: quel

sera le coût de ce programme lorsque les 62 postes, dont la mise en place est prévue ici d'ici à la fin du prochain biennium, seront effectivement tous opérationnels ? Ces postes sont-ils vraiment tous justifiés ? Ne peut-on accréditer certains de ces représentants dans plus d'un pays ? Les bureaux doivent-ils vraiment tous comporter la structure en personnel prévu, c'est-à-dire deux fonctionnaires professionnels, plus 6 employés des services généraux ? et bien d'autres questions encore pourraient être posées à propos de ce programme qui, je le répète, nous pose quelques problèmes. Je ne veux pas entrer dans le détail à propos de l'assistance, dans chaque section en particulier. Il me reste néanmoins à faire un commentaire plus général. Nous savons tous que nos gouvernements respectifs doivent faire face à une situation financière extrêmement difficile et contraignante, situation encore aggravée par les récentes majorations du prix du pétrole. Notre budget national a été établi sur la base d'une croissance nulle et des instructions strictes ont été envoyées à mes collègues auprès d'autres institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies pour qu'ils fassent comprendre que la Belgique ne peut en principe accepter une croissance budgétaire dépassant 2 pour cent par an.

Bien que le budget qui nous est proposé ici dépasse nettement un tel taux de croissance, mes autorités reconnaissent que le Directeur général, compte tenu du contexte dans lequel la FAO opère, compte tenu aussi de la tâche exceptionnellement importante et urgente qui incombe à l'Organisation, a fait un effort méritoire de modération budgétaire. Ma délégation est en mesure de donner son appui aux propositions qui nous sont soumises ici.

Je dois cependant insister pour qu'il soit évité que certains postes budgétaires soient majorés ou que de nouvelles dépenses soient ajoutées. Ceci ne serait acceptable que dans la mesure où les crédits nécessaires seraient prélevés sur d'autres articles moins prioritaires. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue, les moyens étant limités, qu'il convient d'établir des priorités. Ne devons-nous tous

pas agir ainsi, tant sur le plan privé que sur le plan national ? Les dépenses les moins

prioritaires doivent, le cas échéant, être éliminées et les programmes les moins prioritaires doivent être réduits, suspendus ou même arrêtés. Certaines mesures, dont l'introduction a été en principe décidée, peuvent être échelonnées sur une période plus longue. Il faut aussi chercher, dans la mesure du possible, à faire usage de financements extra-budgétaires, particulièrement dans le domaine de l'assistance technique. Je songe ici au nouveau programme des zones économiques exclusives dans le domaine des pêcheries; je songe aussi au programme de prévention de pertes après récolte, au programme élevage, etc.

Ceci dit, je répète que ma délégation rend hommage à la direction de l'Organisation et marque son appui au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1980-81.

T.J. KELLY (Australia): We have a profound appreciation of the problem the Director-General has faced in determining a suitable degree of responsiveness to the competing pressures upon him for expansion and restraint. We are most appreciative of the helpful way in which, in introducing this item yesterday, the Director-General placed that dilemma in perspective. So far as the Programme is concerned, it is impossible, we believe not to be influenced by the contributions of the many delegates who have explained to us in flat and unemotional terms the problems of their peoples. Thus we see the general thrust of the Programme as sound and the Programme priorities as well based.

Turning now to the level of the budget, we have already explained in the appropriate Committees and need not labour here the general policy of the Australian Government in relation to international organizations, that desirably there should be nil growth, consonant with domestic restraints which are being imposed on every internal programme. At the same time we recognize what I suppose can only be described as the unique character of this Organization and the work that it is doing around the world. In consequence of that, the Government has agreed that certainly there should be no such attempt at containing the expenditure of this Organization to a zero real growth level and -for reasons which we have explained elsewhere- we have said that the Government presently contemplates some figure in the order of 3 percent real growth as being reasonable in terms of our own capacity to contribute. However, I should like to make a brief reference to the general money supply management and budgetary approach being made by Australia in relation to the forthcoming financial year.

It is the custom in Australia that final decisions on national budgeting are made in the months of June and July and announced in August. This year, uniquely in thirty years of my own experience, the Government has been so determined to contain its domestic expenditures that it introduced in May -four weeks ago- a preliminary budget which is directed to severe reductions in the expenditure on health and education services, and -of particular relevance in our discussion here- severe reductions in expenditure on agricultural adjustment, extension and research. We normally have a reasonable idea at this stage of what will be possible in terms of national budgeting at the August announcement date. The most I could foreshadow at this stage - and prophecy in this area is something of a luxury- is that the indications we have from the preliminary budget and from the targets given to domestic ministries, is that there will be a general all-around containment of expenditure.

The purpose of explaining in this perhaps tedious detail the domestic budgetary processes is to explain to all the delegates, whose contributions have made a significant effect on our thinking, that it is not possible for the Australian delegation at this stage to give a final answer about our view on the level of the budget. What we can do is to assert Australia's continuing support for this Organization, to reiterate in particular our support for the principles and priorities of the Programme we have before us and to say that this Organization is one to which we will always direct our best efforts in terms of financial support.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (Interpretation from Arabic): I do not think I shall go into all the details of the many points we have bear here before us because these matters have already been discussed at length and we have had a great many explanations in the Finance Committee meeting, so I shall not dwell upon these matters here. It is very simple for people to ask for a decrease in the budget of an organization, but convincing reasons for such requests should be put forward. Unfortunately, we have had no such valid reasons. We have a modest budget before us and at the same time we have certain very important matters to solve, such as the food crisis in the world. Considering this, do we have a single convincing reason to reduce the budget? I do not really think that any such reasons exist. We must convince ourselves of this. Some States have expressed reservations; some have called for a reduction in the budget; some have expressed arguments such as inflation, but we feel that inflation is a problem for all the world and not only for one State or a group of States. Inflation should make the hearts of developing countries bleed. It would in no way affect the hearts of developed countries, During the discussion one reason was given and it is to do with the devaluation of the currencies of some of the States. Personally, I feel that this argument has no value whatsoever. Can the Secretariat prove to us or present us with a budget which would reflect the inflation rate, which would consider all these matters? The Secretariat can present us with a budget which will reflect the increase which is due to the economic situation of these States. Then would these States accept that budget and what would be the level of contribution of these developed countries and of the major developed countries which are participating in this budget?

If my country and other developing countries have the picture of this situation correctly as we realize that this Organization has the purpose of fostering the well being of man throughout the world then I would say that my Government, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a full understanding of the needs of these developing countries. We are a developing country, we are part of the developing world. It is stated here, and if I may I would like to read out from the report

which I have here, a report from the EEC, a report which was circulated this year. This report mentioned that despite the fact that the United Nations has approved the fact that countries should contribute 0.7 percent of their GNP, Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, and I am reading from the report, these countries have offered for development in developing countries over 5 percent of their GNP. This is not all. This report also mentions the fact that Saudi Arabia is considered the second state in the world after the United States of America, the second state in terms of contributions to developing countries and therefore, despite the fact that we are a developing country, a country which has to import everything from abroad, not only food but we are importing paper and even pencils, this should clearly indicate to what an extent some developing countries have very special feelings for countries in need, how our country envisaged its role in favour of that part of the world where famine and hunger are rampant.

After this brief statement I would first like to pay tribute to the close cooperation and the fruitful cooperation between the Organization and the Near Eastern region in recent years. This cooperation has shown its true and real aspect in recent years and I am pleased to say that this cooperation appears in paragraph 2.90 and 2.146 of the document before us in the report of the Finance and Programme Committees.

On behalf of the delegation of my country I would like to pay tribute to the very effective steps which have been taken and are being taken to bring an end to centralization and bureaucracy which was present in this Organization and others as well. We are convinced that the results of these steps that have been taken will appear in the coming years, we will not have results in the coming months or in the near future. Some very bold steps have been taken and I am sure that results are forthcoming.

The slight increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme among developing countries has been made to the detriment of other activities and problems which are also of interest to our region, the region of the Near East. These problems, which are of importance to our development, the development of agriculture in our country, water management and proper and suitable water management, rainwater and other additional water, we all know that our needs are not very large, they are limited. It is not because we do not need the organization but we are making a tremendous sacrifice to provide assistance to those countries which are more in need for such aid, for such assistance, as our own region.

Fourthly and lastly, we are all looking forward to constructive and objective technical cooperation between this Organization and other similar organizations and institutes in our region and with agricultural sectors. We have the Arab Agricultural Development Organism and the Arab Centre for the Development of Arid Areas willing to cooperate and we would like to have further information at the next Council meeting. The development of our region is also dependent upon the development of other regions of the world.

Personally and on behalf of my Government I hope that wellbeing and prosperity will find a place in the world and that there will be friendship and brotherly feeling among all the countries of the world and I hope that the Director-General and this Organization will be successful in their work to obtain our common objectives.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Je ne sais pas si je suis le dernier orateur inscrit ou s'il y en a d'autres après moi. Quoi qu'il en soit, je me trouve dans une situation un peu périlleuse, dans la mesure où je risque de donner l'impression de tirer les conclusions générales du débat que nous avons eu, qui a été abondant et constructif, au cours duquel d'éminents orateurs se sont déjà exprimés.

Rassurez-vous, mon intervention n'aura pas de prétention et sera d'ailleurs courte, parce que je voudrais me limiter simplement au budget, plus précisément aux questions qui ont été soulevées au sujet de son niveau.

Je ne voudrais pas du tout avoir l'air d'apporter une voix discordante à ce concert d'éloges et d'approbations, mais je suis impressionné devant ce spectacle étonnant de contribuables applaudissant, voire même demandant l'augmentation de leurs impôts.

Je crois que cela tient un peu à la situation ambivalente dans laquelle nous nous trouvons. Nous représentons nos gouvernements auprès de la FAO, et en même temps nous sommes aussi partie intégrante de la FAO.

Hier après-midi, Monsieur le Président, vous avez rappelé de manière anecdotique le cas de M. West, représentant du Gouvernement britannique, et qui, par conséquent, lorsqu'on propose le budget dit immédiatement "non", mais qui, en tant que partie intégrante de la FAO, vous dit quand il vous voit: "effectivement, il faut augmenter le budget".

Nous sommes à la fois le gouvernement, les contribuables, mais en même temps nous sommes aussi la FAO.

Nous donnons donc ce spectacle étonnant de contribuables qui applaudissent aux impôts et qui demandent qu'on les augmente. On a même entendu hier certains délégués dire: "Cela ne suffit pas, il faudrait porter le budget de la FAO à un milliard".

Mais, ce milliard qui va le payer? Les gouvernements, les pays, mais les pays ce sont les individus, et chacun d'entre nous, à la fin de l'année, s'en rend compte en voyant sa feuille d'impôts.

Il est probable que ce spectacle étonnant est dû à la personnalité du Directeur général qui est l'auteur du budget, qui le présente, cela est dû probablement à son charisme, au charme qu'il a exercé sur nous. Mais cela est dû certainement aussi au fait qu'il a su nous faire partager sa foi dans la mission qu'il mène à la tête de l'Organisation.

Je crois que le mot "budget" est d'origine anglaise. Si je me souviens bien, étymologiquement, il signifierait "bourse" - on peut éventuellement me donner un démenti si je n'ai pas raison. Psychologiquement, dès qu'on touche à la bourse de quelqu'un, le premier réflexe est un réflexe de défense. En l'occurrence, si l'on va vraiment au fond des choses, devant le Budget que nous examinons, ce ne sont pas les représentants des pays riches qui devraient avoir ce réflexe de défense, mais c'est bien nous, les représentants des pays pauvres, car en définitive c'est pour les pays pauvres que la charge est la plus lourde. C'est pour les pays pauvres que les sacrifices sont les plus grands. Ils contribuent au même titre et à égalité avec les pays développés, chacun suivant ses facultés contributives respectives.

Il faut donc abandonner cette distinction entre gros contributeurs et petits contributeurs. Il faut abandonner cette mentalité de donneurs et d'assistés. Nous sommes tous des contributeurs et nous sommes tous des égaux en droit. Au point de vue de la contribution, nous sommes tous égaux en droit, mais je ne dis pas que nous sommes tous égaux en sacrifices. Ce sont des choses qu'il faut dire pour que les représentants des pays développés le sachent et puissent intervenir auprès de l'opinion publique.

Sait-on que dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement les impôts absorbent deux mois de salaire? Que dans ces pays il n'y a pas de troisième mois, de quatorzième mois, voire de quinzième mois de salaire? Sait-on que dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement il y a chaque année un prélèvement exceptionnel d'un jour de salaire en faveur du monde rural et que tout le monde doit le payer?

Donc, les sacrifices sont plus grands pour les pays en voie de développement à l'égard des contributions obligatoires qu'ils doivent verser aux organisations internationales.

J'ai ici le budget du Ministère des affaires étrangères du Sénégal. En 1978, comme contribution aux organisations internationales, nous avons dû payer plus de 15 millions de dollars. Ce sont les Sénégalais qui les ont payés, les fonctionnaires, les commerçants, mais ce sont aussi les paysans, les cultivateurs.

Le distingué délégué du Bangladesh, que j'ai eu plaisir à écouter ce matin, a été le premier à mettre l'accent sur cet aspect du problème, et nous approuvons absolument tout ce qu'il a dit à ce sujet. Il faut en effet prendre en considération cet aspect du problème pour éclairer le débat et éclairer éventuellement l'opinion publique sur la part du fardeau qui revient aux uns et aux autres.

Quand on examine un budget - c'est du moins ce qu'on nous a appris quand nous étions sur les bancs de l'école - on doit l'examiner à la lumière de deux principes pour mieux apprécier son niveau: le principe des services votés, et le principe des mesures nouvelles.

Les services votés n'offrent pas de problème. Ce qui est voté est acquis, éventuellement sous réserve de réajustement, tenant compte plus ou moins du coût de la vie.

Mais lorsqu'il s'agit de mesures nouvelles, c'est là où l'autorité budgétaire devient exigeante, et cela à juste titre, parce qu'il faut justifier ces mesures nouvelles pour pouvoir emporter son adhésion.

Si maintenant, à la lumière de ces deux principes que je viens de dégager brièvement, on regarde le projet de budget préparé et présenté par le Directeur général, on peut dire qu'au fond il n'y a pas de mesures nouvelles, et le distingué délégué de la Colombie, le Président Bula-Hoyos, a déjà souligné que l'accroissement du niveau du budget, que nous sommes en train d'examiner actuellement, est dû essentiellement à l'accroissement des coûts.

Que l'on se rapporte maintenant au document CL/3 au paragraphe 4.6, On y lit: "Le Directeur général n'a jamais cru à l'efficacité automatique de gros budgets " et au paragraphe 9: "La structure en programmes et l'organigramme restent les mêmes, à part quelques différences mineures" - sur lesquelles d'ailleurs il faudrait que le Président du Comité financier s'explique, parce que nous ne savons pas quelles sont ces différences mineures. Le Président Bula Hoyos a eu raison de demander des éclaircissements. Il est bien entendu qu'en tant que Conseil nous n'avons pas d'autorité sur le budget, mais devant la Conférence, il faudrait expliquer quelles sont ces différences mineures.

Etant donné que tout le monde a parlé d'un niveau très bas du budget, on peut se demander si éventuellement ceux qui l'ont préparé n'ont pas sacrifié à l'essentiel.

L'examen du budget en général offre toujours l'occasion de demander des explications, comme c'est le cas en ce moment, mais il offre aussi l'occasion de présenter un bilan. A cet égard, je donne raison à l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, qui a parlé hier soir, lorsqu'il demande que l'on fasse un bilan de l'activité de la FAO dans les pays. En principe, nous n'avons pas de documents sur les activités dans les pays; on ne sait pas ce que la FAO a fait au Panama, au Bangladesh, etc. Je crois savoir que des brochures ont été éditées, mais elles doivent être faites uniquement à l'usage des bureaux, pays par pays. J'ai eu par exemple l'occasion de prendre connaissance d'une excellente brochure pleine d'enseignements: la FAO au Sénégal, là, j'ai vu ce que la FAO fait au Sénégal. On pourrait donc répondre à la demande très fondée et très justifiée de M. Borin, Ambassadeur d'Italie, pour que l'on ait, à l'occasion de l'examen du budget, un document général du bilan de l'activité de la FAO dans les différents pays. Cela permettrait finalement de vaincre éventuellement les résistances qui peuvent se présenter lorsqu'on expose un budget.

En passant, puisque j'ai parlé de l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, je voudrais profiter de l'occasion pour remercier en sa personne le Gouvernement italien qui va mettre de nouveaux bâtiments à la disposition de notre Organisation.

Presque tous les délégués ici présents ont trouvé que le budget qui a été présenté par le Directeur général a été fixé à un niveau modeste, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure. Certains, toutefois, ont été d'un avis, je ne dirai pas contraire, mais disons réservé. On a mis en avant des arguments tirés de la crise, de l'inflation.

Mais quels sont ceux qui en souffrent le plus? Ne sont-ce pas les pays pauvres parce que non seulement eux ils en souffrent mais ils les subissent, non pas de leur fait mais du fait des pays développés eux-mêmes qui exportent ces maux dans leurs pays.

Si malgré tout cela ils acceptent de prendre leur part du fardeau, il me semble difficile aux pays développés de ne pas se joindre à eux. Les pays en développement ne peuvent pas à eux seuls construire le monde. Je constate d'ailleurs que personne ne s'est opposé au délégué de Cuba lors de son intervention. Il y a eu bien sûr des nuances qui ont été exprimées, cela est compréhensible. Je pense donc qu'une porte reste ouverte et, pour l'heure, nous espérons que le Conseil pourra partager favorablement ces vues pour un consensus sur le projet de budget qui a été préparé par le Directeur général et qu'il présentera à la Conférence de novembre 1979 pour approbation définitive.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): At this late hour I will not make a long intervention. The United Kingdom is in general strongly behind what the Director-General is proposing for the next biennium. We have comments to make here and there, but will not take up the time of the Council now; we will send those in to the Secretariat in writing. Because we are in general agreement with the content of the programme and think that it is generally in the right direction that leads us naturally to think very deeply about the budget.

Now when it comes to the budget and especially at this moment in my country where there is cutting of public expenditure all across the board, we have to decide what is really important and what can be either reduced or done away with, exactly in the way that Senegal spoke. It may be that our support for the present figure put forward by the Director-General will remain there - I personally hope so - but once a figure comes into the open and especially in an atmosphere where people are looking for cuts and certainly not looking for increases, our difficulties would grow daily for various reasons if the level of the budget grew towards the time of the General Conference.

Now, none of us know quite what will happen. All I think I need say at this moment is that we will do our best. We will do our best in the sense expressed by France and Belgium and we will hope; and in that spirit we can go along with the consensus of this so long as it is realized that that is the spirit, and let us all hope that we can arrive at a common solution.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for shortening your statement. The Secretariat will include the rest of your statement in the record.

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): Detailed point on Agriculture. The draft PWB makes sensible proposals for the continuation of activities already under way, and the changes in emphasis are in line with the priorities outlined in "Medium and Long-term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development". Presentationally the paper is much improved, providing a greater depth of detail and hence a useful perspective of the overall programme in Agriculture.

Natural Resources (pages 23 and 24). It is gratifying that due attention is being paid to farm management and production economics with emphasis being placed on the small farmer sector. This remains a weak element in development planning in many countries.

While "appropriate farming systems" is given a brief mention the paper leads one to surmise that it is the agro-socio-economic aspects thereof which are to be concentrated on. Adequate emphasis is not being given to the technical aspects of farming systems including intercropping, integration of livestock and crops (including forestry and pastures) and so on, under both rainfed and irrigated conditions. There are no plans at present for further UK contributions of fertilizers through the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, but we are this year increasing our modest support for various fertilizer projects under the FAO Fertilizer Programme.

Crops (pages 24 and 25). Whilst recognising the importance of rice as a staple food and welcoming the emphasis to be given to this crop, it would be useful to know of other major crops which are to receive attention. The Programme Committee's report (para 2.27 page 5) mentions the FAO Seed Improvement and Development Scheme, endorsed recently by the UN Committee of the Whole. We will continue to consider projects under this Programme on their individual merits, rather than contribute to the Programme itself.

We welcome the increased support for the desert locust control system, and in particular for the surveillance and forecasting side of this. We are very pleased that the Centre for Overseas Pest Research in London has been able to play such a useful role here.

Nutrition (page 29). To be consistent with the medium-term objectives of FAO on nutrition, mention should be made in this section of the priority attention to be given to implementing group feeding programmes where fifty per cent of the food used will come from local sources. There are two points of general application. First, although some of the proposed expenditure increases within each programme are detailed, the breakdown of increases according to activities is not adequate and needs to be included throughout the paper for a full understanding of the changes.

Finally, with the exception of the Rural Development Programme, and to a lesser extent the Livestock programme, virtually all of the proposed budget increases fall under the HQ category. There may be good reasons for allocating the funds in this way, but it would be helpful to have them explained a lot more fully. Is FAO now leaving the field to concentrate its activities at Headquarters?

Fisheries. We support the general FAO proposals on EEZs, which we think are well prepared and thought out, building on established ground and a logical development of previous discussions. (It may be worth pointing out that the UK is also doing much similar work in a bilateral role, often in conjunction with FAO). 1/

G. GAMO-KUBA (Observateur pour le Congo): Vous comprendrez facilement qu'un sujet aussi important ne puisse pas nous laisser indifférents et bien que nous n'ayons pas le droit,, comme certains de nos collègues du Conseil de dire s'ils approuvent ou désapprouvent le projet de sommaire du programme' de travail et budget proposé, nous pouvons au moins dire quel est notre sentiment car vous êtes censés savoir qu'à la Conférence, tous les Etats ont le droit de donner leur opinion.

Je voudrais seulement rappeler que le Conseil est responsable devant la Conférence et que les membres du Conseil ont été désignés par la Conférence. Donc c'est une confiance que la Conférence, c'est-à-dire, l'ensemble des Etats Membres de notre Organisation a donné à certains de nos états pour nous représenter et pour essayer de suivre les travaux du Secrétariat. Nous pensons qu'il serait tout à fait normal que les membres du Conseil essaient de mériter au maximum la confiance qui leur a été faite par l'ensemble des Etats Membres. Nous estimons que lorsque la Conférence a pris des résolutions et qu'elle a décidé de mettre en oeuvre certains programmes prioritaires il n'appartient pas au Conseil de remettre en cause ce qui a été décidé par la Conférence. Le Directeur général nous a fait des propositions et vous ne serez pas étonné que je rejoigne ce qui a déjà été dit par plusieurs délégués. Il revient malheureusement toujours aux pays en développement de dire que nos espoirs ont été quelque peu déçus car ce sommaire du Programme de travail et budget ne répond pas à ce qui a été demandé par la Conférence.

Nous pensons que si le Directeur général n'avait pas été contraint d'aller à la rencontre de certaines craintes qui se faisaient jour, peut-être aurions-nous pu avoir un programme de travail plus vigoureux et plus audacieux. Au lendemain de la Conférence mondiale de l'agriculture tout le monde reconnaissait unanimement que la situation était grave et qu'à une situation grave il fallait répondre par des moyens radicaux. Plus d'une vingtaine de résolutions ont été prises, malheureusement la mise en oeuvre a souffert d'une certaine passivité de la part de ces mêmes Etats qui ont pris ces résolutions.

Je ne voudrais pas abuser de mon droit de parole en tant qu'observateur mais vous me permettrez de relever certains points de détail. Nous nous réservons le droit d'y revenir, afin de montrer que ce sommaire du Programme de travail et budget est nettement en dessous de nos espoirs.

Depuis hier, nous entendons parler de gagner cinq kilos, d'en perdre quatre et d'en regagner plus d'un, ou moins d'un. Je crois que l'on parle souvent du problème de la sous-alimentation et de la malnutrition. Mais ce problème est peut-être souvent compris dans un sens unilatéral. La malnutrition ou, sous-alimentation, ce n'est pas seulement se nourrir très peu ou mal, c'est aussi se nourrir plus qu'il ne le faut. Peut-être faudrait-il essayer de sensibiliser certains pays où, je ne l'apprendrai à personne on peut aussi bien mourir de la suralimentation que de la sous-alimentation. Si vous voulez bien accepter cette image du principe des vases communicants: la suralimentation des pays développés dans le système des vases communicants pourrait venir apporter du secours aux pays développés, nous aurions moins de cadavres de sous-alimentés et moins de cadavres de suralimentés. En ce qui concerne les problèmes ponctuels, j'ai été quelque peu surpris par l'allusion faite par notre ami l'Ambassadeur du Sénégal et je crains qu'il y ait une erreur d'interprétation lorsque l'on se réfère par exemple au problème de la représentation de la FAO dans les pays. A notre avis, je crois que le programme proposé par le Directeur général n'a nullement été mis en cause. Même les réserves qui ont été faites n'ont nullement

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

CHAIRMAN: On a point of order, I give the floor to the delegate of Senegal.

S. MADEMBA SY (Sénégal): Je m'excuse vivement auprès de mon ami du Congo, M. Gamo-Kuba. Mais ce qu'il vient de dire ne traite pas d'une interprétation erronée. Je n'ai pas mis en cause le programme de représentation de la FAO au niveau des pays.

CHAIRMAN: Observer from the Congo, you will have noticed that no delegate during this debate has mentioned another delegate by name, so if you could state your own views and finish quickly because we have four others after you.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Observateur pour le Congo) (suite): Je suis désolé d'avoir provoqué cet incident. Si mon cher ami du Sénégal m'avait laissé poursuivre, il aurait compris que je ne l'avais nullement mis en cause. Je répète que je ne veux pas abuser de mon droit de parole en tant qu'observateur et je tiens à dire que la représentation de la FAO au niveau des pays revêt une importance capitale pour nos pays et chaque pays ici qui a déjà bénéficié de cet appui pourrait en témoigner et c'est ce que je voulais dire, et je suis surpris que l'on puisse demander la documentation; d'un autre côté on demande d'effectuer des économies et l'on voudrait que l'on fournisse de la documentation simplement à titre informatif quant à la validité de certaines tâches de la FAO dans tel ou tel pays. C'était le but de mon propos, et j'aimerais que cela soit compris dans ce sens.

Quant au problème de la coopération technique, je me rappelle que le Directeur général a eu le premier le courage de réaliser des économies, or depuis que je suis à la FAO on a rarement entendu parler d'économies qui aient été réalisées. Je crois que le Directeur général a été l'un des premiers à avoir tenté d'effectuer des coupures pour réaliser cette oeuvre qui est maintenant acceptée par tout le monde et mon pays qui a été l'un des premiers bénéficiaires de ce programme de PCT pourrait en témoigner valablement.

Je voudrais parler du fait qu'aucun argument n'a été avancé pour la diminution de ce budget, mais par contre ce que nous voudrions savoir c'est qu'avant la tenue de ce Conseil plusieurs Comités ont eu lieu, (le Comité de l'agriculture et plusieurs autres comités), où des priorités ont été soulignées. On a parlé de la nutrition, de l'appui à la recherche et même de renforcer la coopération technique des pays en développement et, comme l'a dit le délégué de la Hongrie ce matin, au mois de juillet nous assisterons à la Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural qui aura un impact financier très important.

Si ce sommaire de Programme et budget doit être révisé, qu'il soit révisé en hausse, qu'il soit révisé pour tenir compte de toutes ces autres priorités. Nous aurons largement l'occasion d'y revenir lors de la Conférence, et je ne voudrais pas trop vous retarder mais simplement dire que nous sommes satisfaits de la tournure des débats qui ont eu lieu et se sont déroulés sans animosité et, je voudrais une fois de plus m'excuser auprès de mon collègue et ami du Sénégal, car je ne voulais nullement susciter un incident mais tout simplement notifier qu'il fallait éviter de multiplier les documents ce qui apporterait de nouvelles coupures dans les projets de développement.

CHAIRMAN: It is now half past five but I would like Council to extend the time so that we can give the chance to the other Observers to very quickly intervene and then wind up the subject which has been debated so well and so efficiently.

LE VAN SINH (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): C'est la première fois que j'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole.

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier le Directeur général de la FAO d'avoir fourni un document très bien préparé concernant le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1980-81.

Je voudrais également remercier le Comité du programme et le Comité financier de l'excellent rapport qu'ils ont présenté au Conseil.

Ces documents, étant très complets, nous ont mis au courant des problèmes très importants et intéressants des stratégies, des priorités ainsi que des activités concrètes de notre Organisation.

Le Gouvernement du Viet Nam appuie sans réserve les efforts de la FAO et du Directeur général pour l'accroissement de la production alimentaire et le renforcement de l'action en faveur du développement rural.

Nous appuyons pleinement l'initiative de Son Excellence M. Saouma dans l'application de nouvelles politiques en jouissant et en mobilisant des ressources pour une action pratique sur le terrain au niveau des pays.

Nous voudrions renouveler ici, une fois de plus, la haute appréciation de notre gouvernement au programme de coopération technique de la FAO, programme qui nous permet d'obtenir rapidement une aide dont nous avons besoin. Notre Organisation a un but très noble, celui de contribuer par une action particulière et collective à l'expansion de l'économie et de libérer l'humanité de la faim et de la malnutrition. Certes, étant noble, mais aussi difficile, cette tâche demande du temps. Elle est devenue plus difficile à cause du budget limité dont la FAO dispose, ne pouvant pas répondre d'une façon satisfaisante aux besoins croissants des pays en développement.

Nous appuyons pleinement le niveau du budget proposé par le Directeur général pour 1980-81, mais nous devons dire que c'est une augmentation trop modeste. Trop modeste encore, si l'on tient compte de l'inflation fatale actuelle que nous devons tous supporter.

Me référant au rapport du Comité financier concernant la quote-part du Viet Nam dans le budget de la FAO, nous voudrions présenter quelques idées ci-dessous.

Nous avons remarqué qu'il y a une forte augmentation dans la contribution de notre pays, qui passe de 0,01 pour cent en 1978-79 à 0,04 pour cent pour 1980-81, soit quatre fois plus. Alors qu'il y a une diminution pour trois pays, et cette diminution de ces trois pays est tombée strictement sur le Viet Nam (Annexe C, document 75/4, paragraphe 11).

Le revenu national est le seul indicateur qui peut être utilisé comme mesure principale de la capacité de paiement et le revenu national du Viet Nam reste encore trop bas. Suivant l'estimation de la Banque mondiale, le produit national brut du Viet Nam avec sa population de 50 millions d'habitants...

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

CHAIRMAN: On a point of order, I would like to inform the delegate of Viet Nam that this is a matter with which the Council is not directly concerned. If you have a problem on your contribution, it is better to take it up with the Secretariat. So if you could limit yourself to the Programme of Work and Budget contents other than your own contribution, you have the floor now.

LE VAN SINH (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): ... au prix courant en 1975 est de 4 500 millions de dollars. Dans son annuaire 1978, la Banque mondiale a précisé que le revenu national par habitant est de l'ordre de 100 à 150 dollars au Viet Nam. Ce revenu national trop faible est dû à beaucoup de facteurs: les conséquences d'une longue guerre qui a détruit l'infrastructure socio-économique du pays, les catastrophes naturelles consécutives trop défavorables à l'agriculture pendant ces dernières années (sécheresse, typhons, inondations ...) et d'autres épreuves abattues sur le peuple du Viet Nam...

CHAIRMAN: Observer for Viet Nam, will you please keep to the agenda. Carry on.

LE VAN SINH (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): Je dois donc m'arrêter ici. Je veux cependant vous faire savoir que, selon la résolution adoptée à l'unanimité le 14 octobre 1977 par l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, la République socialiste de Viet Nam doit être inscrite sur la liste des pays les plus gravement affectés. J'ai le texte intégral de cette résolution devant moi, mais je n'ose pas me permettre de le lire en raison du temps limité qui nous est imparti...

S. CAMARA (Guinée): J'ai suivi avec grande attention le débat au Conseil sur le point 11 de l'ordre du jour. En tant que membre du Comité du programme, j'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'analyser suffisamment ce document CL 75/3, de faire des commentaires et de donner le point de vue de mon gouvernement, à savoir son plein appui aux propositions du Directeur général, comme cela d'ailleurs a été dit par le président de notre Comité.

Je voudrais, cette fois-ci, faire une déclaration d'ordre général et lancer un appel aux Etats Membres du Conseil.

Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget soumis par le Directeur général à la réflexion du Conseil reflète les préoccupations d'un homme d'action et sa détermination d'insérer la FAO beaucoup plus encore que par le passé dans le processus de développement des pays éprouvés par une longue période de domination et d'exploitation.

On a souvent fait référence dans certaines interventions à la crise économique que traversent les pays développés. Certes, les Etats traversent une phase délicate dans leurs relations, phase due à la lutte que mènent les Etats jusqu'alors dominés et l'affirmation de leur droit inaliénable au progrès et à disposer pleinement de leurs ressources.

Lorsqu'on évoque la crise, on se refuse de parler des vraies raisons, les responsabilités étant rejetées sur d'autres (taux élevé de l'énergie et des matières premières. Mais, qui est la victime, qui est l'exploité, qui est celui qui souffre de la faim? Par ailleurs, qui est celui qui pratique une politique de domination, d'agression économique et de gaspillage?

Ce sont là des questions qui ont des réponses précises et connues de tout le monde.

Point n'est besoin d'être grand clerc, ni statisticien distingué, pour souligner combien le problème de l'alimentation mondiale est déjà alarmant et combien il s'aggraverait encore au cours des prochaines années si les tendances actuelles ne subissent pas un profond changement. Près de la moitié de la population du globe souffre aujourd'hui de la faim et près de 500 millions de personnes de la malnutrition. Pour parvenir à un résultat tout juste satisfaisant, une augmentation de 30 pour cent de la production céréalière s'imposerait immédiatement.

Cette litanie est chantée tous les jours dans de nombreuses enceintes. Mais qui, plus que la FAO, peut attirer l'attention des gouvernants de ce monde? En proposant donc un budget, retenu d'ailleurs assez modeste, le Directeur général souligne l'urgence et l'importance des mesures à prendre. Je n'apprends rien à personne en disant cela. Je tiens cependant à relever que face à un certain comportement, certains ne cherchent-ils pas à se jouer d'autres en leur faisant miroiter une aide visant à les maintenir dans un perpétuel état de quémandeur?

Lorsque je pense à certains écrits d'hommes illustres ou à certains documents pertinents de la FAO traitant du problème de la faim, je ne peux pas dire que je suis surpris mais bien au contraire je me sens renforcé dans ma conviction que la bataille sera dure pour briser les chaînes que les multinationales font peser sur le tiers monde.

Jean Ziegler a écrit que "le monde dans lequel nous vivons est un immense camp d'extermination" et Susan George lui fait écho lorsqu'elle relève que "la faim n'est pas un fléau, mais un scandale". Ce sont là deux phrases fort pertinentes qui nous situent au cœur du problème.

Conformément, donc, aux déclarations faites les jours précédents sur l'évaluation de la situation agricole dans le monde et l'appui apporté au plan du Directeur général sur la sécurité alimentaire, mondiale et si la volonté politique existe, nous devons décider de rompre avec une attitude qui ne trompe plus personne, pour donner un appui sans faille et constant au Programme et au Budget dont les grandes lignes viennent de nous être présentées.

Répondre positivement aux propositions du Directeur général, c'est se munir d'une conscience historique contraignante qui nous fait percevoir le devenir des masses paysannes de façon claire en fonction de ce que nous entendons fournir comme effort pour atteindre les secteurs les plus défavorisés, combattre la pauvreté, accroître l'investissement dans l'agriculture.

Savoir ce dont on souffre est déjà une première démarche nécessaire à l'efficacité de l'homme dans l'action d'amélioration de ses conditions de vie. Cela, nous l'avons fait lorsque nous avons abordé les points 4, 5, 6 et 8 de l'ordre du jour. Mais cela ne suffit pas, il ne suffit pas que l'homme se rende compte du mal dont il souffre; le diagnostic du mal, sa localisation ne sauraient suffire; il faut à cet homme une autre démarche complémentaire et plus utile: soigner le mal et s'en débarrasser. C'est dire que les objectifs et le programme ne sont qu'une simple projection des vues que nous avons de nous-mêmes et de nos activités futures pour une période déterminée et à tous les échelons. Ce qui est déterminant, c'est l'exécution des programmes, c'est leur application et leur traduction en réalisations nouvelles.

Pour ce faire, les Etats Membres ne peuvent pas se montrer d'accord uniquement par de vaines déclarations avec la politique, la stratégie et le programme du Directeur général, sans lui donner les moyens pour que la FAO participe de façon efficace, même si ces moyens sont réduits, à l'édification d'un ordre nouveau.

Alors, et j'en aurai terminé, si le Conseil est convaincu que l'autre moitié du monde meurt de faim, pas uniquement par manque de ressources ou de volonté pour produire pour se suffire, mais par suite d'une politique délibérément voulue et imposée, il se doit, à cette session et avant la Conférence, de renforcer l'action du Directeur général et de l'Organisation, il se doit d'approuver à l'unanimité le projet de budget proposé, démontrant ainsi sa volonté de répondre en partie, si infime soit-elle, mais importante quand même, aux graves problèmes auxquels sont confrontés les deux tiers de l'humanité.

D. VUJICIC (Observer for Yugoslavia): As an Observer, I will not go into detailed analysis of the various chapters of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at this late hour, as it has been sufficiently dealt with in the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and also in statements of more than 50 speakers who intervened before me. My intention is only to use this opportunity to express my Government's support of the proposal of the Director-General concerning the level and structure of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

However, I would like to stress that my delegation, rendering its support to the level of the budget proposed, does it with a certain degree of reluctance which is caused by the fact that the level of resources proposed will not be sufficient to implement all planned programmes of the Organization* Even more, it is probable that with this amount FAO will not be able to implement all heavy tasks and responsibilities which have been given to this Organization by resolutions of previous FAO Conferences, as well as by the United Nations General Assembly, World Food Conference, and other bodies.

Also, we are afraid that the lack of resources will be a limiting factor in the Director-General's practical policy oriented clearly towards revitalization and activation of FAO in order to be more beneficial to all Member Countries, and especially useful to developing countries, in particular to the rural poor which is a very disadvantaged segment of the world's society,

I would like to express the hope and conviction that the Director-General, despite all difficulties and lack of resources, will continue with determination to implement this new trend in the activity of FAO, which has already started to produce positive results.

Expressing the opinion that the budget of FAO should be of a higher level than proposed, we have specifically in mind some projects which should be implemented with much greater speed than envisaged.

First of all, we think that TCP has, over the last two years, proved, to be a very useful and effective tool in solving some of the emergency problems of developing countries and as a catalyst for development. We would be much more satisfied if the proposal of the budget would envisage a much higher increase in the level of TCP than 5 percent, as requested in the budget. We also think that other activities of FAO directed towards a larger Utilization of resources for the development of agriculture in developing countries should get greater support than envisaged. Here we would like to stress the need for greater resources for the speedy implementation of those programmes of FAO which have already been approved and given priority by the FAO Conference. Among those I should like to mention specifically reduction of post-harvest losses, a 50 percent reduction by 1985, because this is one of the effective means to achieve a decrease in the need for food. Then, to mention another one, enlargement of seed improvement programmes for which there was a resolution at the last Conference. Then, provision of fertilizers to developing countries and, to mention one specifically, to achieve the goal established by the General Assembly, achieving a supply to the MSA's to the level of one million pounds of nutrients. Then, improvement of the FAO Fertiliser Programme and the continuation of the enlargement of the Fertiliser Supply Scheme.

We share the views expressed that all efforts should be made to economise with the resources available but we do not think that the savings should be effected at any cost nor in cases where an exaggerated economisation could result in a slowing down of implementation of programmes which have a keen significance for the development of developing countries. With this in mind, my delegation would also like to support the Director-General's proposal for the continuation of the policy of decentralization including the establishment of the Country Representatives in developing countries; in accordance with the principle that the main coordinating authority of development in each country should be the government of the country concerned, we should also bear in mind that the presence of qualified and authorised representatives of FAO would enable and assist developing countries in identifying needs and possible projects and help the country concerned in preparing those projects in a manner to be acceptable for financing by international organizations for development and bilateral donors. In this manner the conditions for a solution of the so-called problem of absorptive capacity of developing countries or of the lack of viable projects, will be created.

We therefore fully support the proposed continuation of establishment of FAO representatives in the developing countries while at the same time encouraging the Director-General to implement this policy in the most effective manner and optimally using available resources for the benefit of the developing countries. Having carefully followed all previous statements, I note that there is general agreement as to proposed priorities and programmes; even some developing countries wanted somewhat larger programmes. Unfortunately there was no such a degree of agreement on the level of the budget.

What surprises me is the feeling that the richest countries are least responsive to the need for a real increase in the level of budget which has to be used primarily for the benefit of the poorest countries. Also, Mr. Chairman; you and delegates probably noted that, speaking of the level of budget, the developing countries kept silent, while many developed countries complained about their economic difficulties and about present or prospective economic recession, about budgetary difficulties and the high burden of taxes on tax payers, the necessity to cut spending, and so on and so forth. The discussion here seems to imply that the developed and rich countries need to be pitied, in a way, and if possible assisted in solving their problems.

In conclusion, confirming again my delegation's full support for the proposed level of the Programme and Budget, and despite our expressed opinion that it is too low to meet the needs and expectations of developing countries, I should like to join all those who appealed to those countries who advocated a lower level of budget to accept and approve the level proposed by the Director-General.

T. MINKOUE (Observateur pour le Gabon): En ma qualité d'observateur, je ne tenais pas à priori à intervenir au cours de la présente session, mais je dois reconnaître que l'enjeu en vaut la peine, pour que l'opinion de la délégation gabonaise soit, avant la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence, connue des titulaires des décisions de la présente Assemblée sur le sommaire du programme de travail et budget 1980-81.

Il est des fois que la position d'observateur revêt certains avantages pour le délégué. Tout d'abord, il demande la parole le plus souvent parmi les derniers, après les ténors titulaires du Conseil, et ensuite il a tout le temps de faire le point de l'évolution des débats. Il va sans dire que dans de pareilles conditions ma tâche devient plus simple.

Bien qu'observateur, donc, j'ai cependant examiné avec le plus grand sérieux les documents relatifs au sommaire du programme de travail et de budget pour le biennium 1980-81. Mon intérêt a été également ravivé par la pertinente déclaration du Directeur général sur ce point, sans oublier les brillantes déclarations des présidents du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Au Directeur général et à son équipe vont toutes mes félicitations pour la valeur de leur travail, oh combien constructif pour l'Organisation.

Au demeurant, mon propos va se limiter non pas à justifier le niveau de 271 600 000 dollars proposé par le Directeur général, et que je me plais à déclarer qu'il acquiert l'appui de la déclaration gabonaise, mais à faire remarquer ce qui suit:

Lorsqu'on aborde l'étude du programme de travail et budget de n'importe quel organisme ou institution, on assiste le plus souvent à une manifestation de passions les plus diverses. Permettez-moi de dire, Monsieur le Président, que pour l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour, la passion la plus positive, la plus constructive et la plus légitime de la part des membres de ce Conseil, est celle qui vise à renforcer l'action de l'organisation. Les propositions du Directeur général vont dans ce sens. Malgré la modestie du niveau de ce budget, notre éloquence le montre, notre sens critique du devoir envers les millions d'affamés que nous sommes oensés défendre doit nous amener à approuver sans réserve ce projet de programme de travail et de budget pour le biennium suivant, budget, nous en convenons volontiers, modeste, voire très faible eu égard à l'étendue du problème à résoudre, le problème de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté dans le monde.

Le problème qui se pose à ce Conseil n'est pas de redéfinir le rôle de la FAO, ses stratégies et ses priorités, comme le rappelle le Directeur général, mais uniquement de trouver des ressources qui permettraient à l'Organisation de remplir sa mission, celle de répondre aux vœux de beaucoup de nos États, c'est-à-dire continuer de mettre en œuvre de manière efficace les stratégies et les politiques approuvés à l'unanimité en 1976.

De ce programme de travail et de budget 1980-81, il ressort que les augmentations préconisées ne visent qu'à mettre en évidence les efforts de la FAO vers les besoins concrets et urgents sur le terrain, la poursuite de la politique de décentralisation, la complémentarité entre le siège et les bureaux régionaux, et l'action dans les pays

N'est-ce pas là l'accomplissement de nos vœux lorsque nous approuvons à l'unanimité - j'insiste sur le mot unanimité - les propositions du Directeur général en 1976? Cette unanimité, acquise en 1976 pour saluer la nouvelle direction des programmes et politiques de l'Organisation, doit nous servir aujourd'hui pour faire disparaître, au sein du Conseil, les quelques hésitations que j'ai eu de la peine à relever parmi les principaux détenteurs des moyens dont l'Organisation a besoin pour fonctionner dynamiquement dans le sens que nous lui avons donné il y a deux ans.

B.E. PHIRI (Observer for Zambia). we have listened attentively to the various interventions made by delegations on the Programme of Work and Budget. Many of the delegations have commended the Director-General and his staff ; they have praised the documents before us. We have noticed that when making their interventions, some delegations have been approving parts of the Programme to support and they have supported the budget with some - I would not say reservations - with some caution. If the Director-General and his staff were to run this Organization on the shower of praise which they received this morning and this afternoon, they would go to bed on a golden bed tonight. They would dream sweet dreams about transforming the world tomorrow into a Utopia, because they have had enough of such praise today. But unfortunately this Organization is not going to be run on praise for the wonderful work they have done on writing up the paper, but by actually providing the financial means to run the Organisation.

When we look at ourselves in the mirror, some of us are probably lucky in that we were made without any flaws at all. When we look at our image we find we look beautifully symmetrical. But some of us unfortunately will find that there are some flaws in our human anatomy: we may have one ear bigger than the other or we may have a nose which is slanting to one side* We may have a flaw such as a tummy that is too big for the body; but this is how we are, and we like ourselves the way we are. We look after ourselves; when we are sick, if we have an earache we rush to the doctor so he can treat it. But let us look at FAO: while people are praising the work done by the Secretariat, they begin picking at individual organs, at this or that particular project which is not very good. But what is this whole Programme supposed to be? What is it supposed to do? Why has this Programme come before us and why did we shower praise on the Director-General and the Secretariat? There is not one project or programme in this document which has received complete condemnation from those who have spoken to it and if there is not one such project which is so bad that everybody is saying this is a bad project and must be condemned, I think there is need to reflect afresh and probably consider our position anew.

Anyone who might have been listening, not particularly to a member of this group here, but listening to the discussions in this room today, they would think that the world is falling to pieces tomorrow economically because of those that appear to be the bulwarks of the world economy today then say in one way or another that the economy is falling apart, therefore they find it difficult to support this figure which has been put before us. But we know that the world is not falling apart, we know that there is adequate capacity for the world to go on economically and despite the problems the international community can support this figure without much problem. People have talked about cutting here, cutting there, we are seriously thinking of pruning our budget, national budget. This pruning of national budgets is not something new, it has not only taken place in 1979. The pruning of the budget is something that is looked at all over the years. Twenty years ago budgets were being pruned; twenty years to come they will be pruning this budget. No government just showers money into a budget like that and therefore we cannot use that as an excuse when we have certain obligations here that because we are pruning the budget at home, therefore we are not very willing to stretch and give to this Organisation. The problems of the world probably will never end but the world must go on.

Now many delegations, particularly from the developed world have been talking of zero growth and that sort of thing* It is easy for people who have to decide on a zero growth budget but for people who are starving, people who are /?/, to think of zero growth is committing suicide. I do not know whether the proponents of this zero growth think that 500 million people who are starving today

below the breadline, some of them only average one meal a day, they should plan on a zero growth, in other words maintaining that one meal a day, they should not have one and a half meals per day. I do not understand this kind of thinking in the world today.

Let me say one thing which probably is not connected with this meeting. Some years ago there was a man called Dr. Livingstone, he was an explorer. He went into the black continent of Africa. He did not speak the local languages, nor did the people he found there speak his language, but he went there all the same. He did not have enough food to carry him for ten months or for ten weeks but he was sure he was going to feed himself there and he was going to find people who were going to look after him; and they did look after him, right up to his death. When he died in the part of the continent with no roads, no airport those people felt "we have got to assist this man even in his death. We shall carry his body from the land-locked country" and that country is still landlocked today. They carried his body from there to the sea. I do not know whether people have ever thought how these people transported the body. They were carrying it on their shoulders, over mountains, across the forests, across the rivers, with hyenas howling around them, lions, snakes, but they felt "we have got to help this man even in his death and see that his body gets back home to his relatives. Probably in the future he will help us". The body finally went home. They travelled miles over what you would normally call virgin land in agriculture, they were travelling on virgin land, undeveloped land. They carried the body of this man; they sacrificed the little they had. They themselves could have been eaten by wild animals but they felt "We have got to help another man even in his death". We come here, you find that countries have got enough resources to help each other but what do they do, they talk of zero growth, they talk of "We can't do this when we are cutting our budget. How can we do that? How can you expect us to help here? How can you expect us to help there?". That kind of spirit of sacrifice has died down. But why am I saying all this? I wanted to tell our colleagues that the survival of this world probably lies in the hand of the fed world countries. Today the developed world has got the resources; these resources may be petering out; tomorrow probably the resources on which the world will fall back are those in the developing world, are those in the third world and it is to the advantage of not only the developing countries but also to the advantage of the developed countries to see that economic growth in developing countries is supported today, not with zero growth philosophies but certainly with an arm -stretched. Probably tomorrow we shall mutually support each other.

We know that FAO is not the only organization which is helping developing countries. We understand this. There are other organizations multilateral as well as bilateral but FAO happens to be the lead organization in agriculture and the starting point in economic growth of developing countries today is agriculture, therefore FAO is the lead organization today in developing the third world.

It is the basis of development today and that is why we feel without flinching we should support whatever measures are being proposed, and as I say the measures have been supported, when I was listening to the delegations I have not seen one particular project which has been condemned by all the delegations who spoke, all the projects have been supported but the problem comes in the financing of those particular projects. What sort of people are we? We support, yes let us do this, but when they say this is what you have to do they say that we are not going to support it. What sort of people are they?

I am appealing to our colleagues since they have not wanted to come out now to support the Programme of Work and Budget, they wanted to come and reflect on it in November, probably hoping that between now and November the economies in their countries are going to pick up. I do not know if this is the thing, if this is what they think.

CHAIRMAN: Zambia, can you please restrict yourself to your own opinion.

B.E. PHIRI (Observer for Zambia): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Oh, you have already given up!

This brings us to the last speaker in this very interesting debate. As the United Kingdom said we have concentrated on policies rather than politics and I think everybody has done his very best to speak from the bottom of his heart to the problems that face the Director-General and his colleagues in preparing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We have not been burdened with the details

of this programme and sub-programmes which are to follow and therefore in responding to some of the points made I am sure that the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Director-General himself will not go into detail on each project and sub-project, These we know are coming. Therefore I am sure they will give us a broad response to the policy issues that have been raised.

M. TKRULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): I doubt if I have any questions to answer except perhaps that one member of the Committee, Mr. John Baker, who represented the United States Government in the Committee, wanted me to witness that he had brought up the same issues in the Committee that he did today before the Council . Yes, I would say that had happened. In the Committee he identified a few areas where he thought some savings might be possible or feasible being not very much detrimental to the overall Programme of Work and Budget, as he pronounced very clearly himself today, but after considerable debate the Committee arrived at what you have seen in our report. The Committee really believed, as I stressed in my opening comments, that the Director-General had pursued a very rigorous programme budgeting method and that he had searched very vigorously again for all potential savings and the Committee believed and concluded that no additional savings would be possible without being really detrimental to the overall objectives and aims of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Besides that I could not but use this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the Committee. First of all I want to thank warmly the Council for having given, at least indirectly, full support to the Committee's views.

I want to thank you, fellow delegates, for the nice words that you have addressed to us. But much more by your words, I think the Committee will be encouraged by the clear consensus that has emerged from your debate as far as the Programme is concerned. We will certainly do our best to serve you. Our next session will be pretty heavy, the heaviest agenda ever to my knowledge. The Committee needs to consider the full Programme of Work and Budget, the evaluation report and the field programme, besides many other things. But I am sure that the Committee will work for the Council to the best of its ability, which will hopefully lead the Council, and indeed the Conference, to arrive at a full consensus not only so far as the programme is concerned but also the budget, thus giving the Director-General a full and unquestionable mandate to carry on his policy with greater vigour, which is certainly promising, as you yourself said, to bring fruitful results.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (President du Comité financier): Je crois que vous avez précédé ma pensée. Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier tous les membres qui ont soutenu sans réserve les recommandations du rapport du Comité des finances et exprimer le vif espoir que les quelques réserves qui ont été formulées, ainsi que les raisons qui les ont motivées, soient levées d'ici à la Conférence.

Pour ce qui est des quelques questions de détail qui ont été posées ou les quelques clarifications qui ont été demandées, je voudrais préciser à ce propos que toutes ces questions trouveront leurs réponses lorsque le Comité se réunira pour examiner l'édition finale du Programme de travail et budget qui sera présentée à sa session de septembre. Je ne peux pas anticiper sur une édition finale alors que le Comité, au mois de mai, comme je l'avais souligné dans mon introduction, ne s'est penché que sur le Sommaire.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Mes collègues et moi-même avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention les 53 délégués et observateurs qui ont pris la parole et je voudrais, au nom de mes collègues et en mon nom personnel, leur exprimer notre gratitude pour l'intérêt considérable qu'ils ont apporté à l'examen du Programme de travail et budget, et aussi pour la confiance et l'appui qu'ils nous ont manifestés à cette occasion.

Ceci est pour nous une source d'encouragement et de stimulation. Je serai très bref et voudrais simplement dire que nous avons noté très minutieusement les commentaires et les observations que Messieurs les délégués ont bien voulu faire à propos du sommaire de Programme de travail et budget. Ceci nous sera très utile dans l'élaboration et la formulation du Programme complet de travail et budget.

J'ai noté qu'un petit nombre de délégations auraient souhaité un niveau de budget moins élevé et j'ai également noté qu'un grand nombre d'autres auraient souhaité un budget plus important et davantage de ressources. C'est vous dire que j'ai la conscience tranquille. J'ai essayé d'être impartial. Il est impossible de satisfaire tout le monde et je n'ai pas essayé de satisfaire un groupe plutôt que l'autre.

J'ai noté également qu'un nombre impressionnant de représentants des pays en développement ainsi que ceux de quelques pays développés, ont proposé que le budget soit adopté par consensus.

Je voudrais remercier, d'ores et déjà, les délégations de la France, de la Belgique et du Royaume-Uni qui ont répondu à ces appels et exhortations en se déclarant prêtes à se rallier à un consensus.

Je suis confiant que le budget et le programme de travail seront adoptés à l'unanimité au moment voulu, c'est-à-dire lors de la Conférence de novembre.

Quelqu'un a dit enfin, en parlant de la FAO et la comparant à une armée, que cette armée devait être svelte, "lean"; à ce sujet, je voudrais rappeler le mot de Napoléon, qui était je crois un expert en la matière et qui disait "que l'armée doit marcher sur son estomac".

Nous avons besoin de ressources pour faire la guerre à la famine et à la pauvreté.

En conclusion, je voudrais remercier une fois encore tous les délégués et leur souhaiter un agréable week-end. Nous leur donnons rendez-vous la semaine prochaine pour continuer ensemble nos travaux, dans un climat aussi agréable et harmonieux que celui qui a régné durant ces deux journées. Permettez-moi, finalement, Monsieur le Président, de vous dire que nous vous devons beaucoup; je vous en remercie sincèrement au nom de tous mes collaborateurs et en mon nom personnel.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you,, Mr. Director-General and Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees. I would also like to thank the members of the Council and the observers for the wonderful cooperation that we have had. In the nearly 20 years that I have been coming here this is the nearest we have got to a unanimous agreement on programmes and budget levels. In the past, as I said, it has been a very big battle - accusations and counter-accusations, political rhetoric, and so on. But today we are all aware of the grave situation of food and agriculture in the world, that people are in fact starving as we are speaking here. Therefore nobody has tried to score any points for his arguments, apart from the fact that everybody wants the problems to be solved. Therefore everybody agreed with the strategy and priorities in the programmes submitted by the Director-General. There has been unanimous agreement that he is going in the right direction in the strategy and priorities of the programme. As the Director-General said, the only slight difficulties came in the budget level. Here the overwhelming majority thought they wanted a higher budget, but they agreed to go along with what has been proposed by the Director-General and a few reserved their views for later on. Also one or two wanted a lower level but this was not done simply to bring down the programme or to criticise the Director-General or the Organization in the way it is conducting its work - no, these hesitations are a result of perhaps circumstances beyond the control of delegates, which I am sure will be sorted out at home, and when the Ministers come there will be complete unanimity. What Council has done is to give the Director-General and his staff by consensus permission to go ahead and prepare a detailed Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 to be presented to the Conference as proposed by the Director-General in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I am very glad that the outcome has been what it is and not what it used to be.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'ai pensé qu'il pourrait être utile aux membres du Conseil, durant le week-end, de compulser leurs documents afin de prendre connaissance dans le détail des questions qui leur seront soumises lundi matin, car vous constaterez que dans le calendrier qui a été distribué certains points ne seront pas inscrits, et après la discussion tout à 1 l'heure du rapport des deux Comités, Programme et Financier, je présume que les indications suivantes vous seront utiles.

Lundi matin nous considérerons le point 12 comme indiqué dans le-calendrier et votre attention sera particulièrement appelée sur les paragraphes suivants du document CL 75/4. Il s'agit des paragraphes 2.116 à 2.166 ; 2.169 à 2.170 ; 3.50 à 3.54 ; 3.87 à 3.90 ; 3.100 à 3.112 et 3.122 à 3.125.

En ce qui concerne les amendements aux Règles XXVI/9 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, vous aurez à consulter dans ce même document CL 75/4 les paragraphes suivants : 2.172 à 2.174 et les paragraphes 22 à 27, ces derniers concernant le document CL 75/5.

Pour ce qui est de la position financière de l'Organisation, les paragraphes 3.55 à 3.73 vous seront soumis, ainsi que le document CL 75/LIM/1.

Le niveau des contributions pour 1980-81 est indiqué dans les paragraphes 3.74 à 3.80 et l'autorisation d'emprunt est contenue dans les paragraphes 3.81 et 3.86.

La Commission de la fonction internationale sera traitée dans les paragraphes 3.91 et 3.99.

Enfin, la nomination des Commissaires aux comptes sera traitée dans les paragraphes 3.126 à 3.132 dans le document CL 75/4.

Ce sont les points de l'ordre du jour dont vous aurez à discuter le lundi matin et le reste demeure inchangé.

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned.'

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 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 75/PV/11

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75º período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

11ª SESION PLENARIA

(18 June 1979)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

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

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

12. Other Matters Arising from the Reports of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Programme Committee, and the Forty-Third Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 23 April - 4 May 1979)

12. Questions diverses relatives aux rapports de la trente-sixième session du Comité du programme et de la quarante-troisième session du Comité financier (Rome, 23 avril - 4 mai 1979)

12. Otros asuntos dimanantes de los informes del 36° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 43° período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (Roma, 23 abril - 4 mayo 1979)

CHAIRMAN: We are going to take first Other Matters arising from the Reports of the Thirty-Sixth Session of the Programme Committee, and the Forty-Third Session of the Finance Committee, document CL 75/4.

You will note that under items requiring attention by the Council, there is Amendments to Rules XXVI-9 and XXVII-9 which are also covered fully by the CCLM report, and I suggest that we should not take this along with the Finance Committee but with the CCLM so that the Finance Committee input can be considered at the time we consider the CCLM report.

You will also note that in the report of the Programme Committee certain items such as the JIU report and the Inter-Agency Relations are covered by separate agenda items. Perhaps when the Chairmen of the two Committees come to introduce their reports they can isolate these items so that we do not go into them here but but at the time we consider the substantive agenda items.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): As you have said there are some other things to be considered later on and one thing that has been already dealt with successfully by the Council, so I will limit my introduction to one point, a very important point, that is the Review of FAO Investment Activities, and then as indicated in the Report of the Committee a fairly broad, factual summary of the document was presented in our report so I will try now first to give you a summary of the summary and then I will only highlight some of the views of the Committee.

Review of FAO Investment Activities

Activités de la FAO en matière d' Investissement

Estudio de las Actividades de la FAO relacionadas con la inversion

M. TRKULJA (Chairman of the Programme Committee): First a very brief reference on the factual part. As a result of priority given to investment in agriculture by the Director-General since he took office, FAO's investment services have been considerably strengthened; developing countries and lending institutions are giving increasing priority to investment in agriculture. However, the amounts involved fall far short of the investment requirements estimated by the World Food Council and there is a continuing need for well prepared investment projects. Main constraints are a critical shortage of trained manpower to identify, prepare and implement projects and the weakness of local institutions in many countries to ensure their successful follow-through.

FAO's instrument for investment promotion and support to developing countries is the Investment Centre, part of the Development Department. Its basic function is to help governments identify and prepare projects for financing. An important service provided by the Centre is the on-mission training. It goes to local counterpart staff investment project preparation with the objective of building up cadres of national staff able to identify, and prepare projects themselves. The Centre is continuously involved in studies aimed at improving the methodology of projects formulation and is currently working on methods to shorten the projects cycle. As you all know, the Investment Centre comprises multi-disciplinary staff divided into two main units, first the FAO-World Bank Cooperative Programme and the Investment Support Programme. The latter is responsible for Investment Centre activities with all financing institutions other than the World Bank.

Both staff and budget of the Investment Centre have grown considerably in the last few years, but the main increase has been to the Investment Support Programme whose rapid growth has been in response to the increasing requests from countries and Investment Centre assistance and an anticipation of the establishment of IFAD.

The Investment Centre's budget does not reflect FAO's full contribution to and involvement in investment work. For example, FAO's representatives support and advise Investment Centre missions in the field. The Investment Centre maintains close cooperation with the main departments and divisions of the Organization, and draws upon their staff for resources information for mission work and for project ideas.

Of the multilateral financing institutions the World Bank is by far the largest lender to agriculture and the major part of FAO's investment work carried out in cooperation with it. About one-third of World Bank agricultural lending is for projects identified or prepared by the Cooperative Programme. This proportion has been maintained in spite of the massive increase in bank lending to the agricultural sector over the past five years. In Fiscal 1978, loans for FAO-assisted projects approved by the Bank totalled \$1.2 billion. An increasing number of these projects are for rural development, aimed at benefitting the small farmer. Project work under the Investment Support Programme involves cooperation with a number of financing institutions, most of which are relative newcomers to the field of agricultural investment, with relatively small resources compared with those of the World Bank. Because of IFAD's exclusive concern with agriculture and the rural poor, FAO has considered it of the highest importance to support the Fund in all its activities. In 1978 the Investment Centre was involved in half of the projects approved by the Fund for financing and expects to prepare more than half the fund initiated projects to be financed in this year, 1979,

The substantial increase in the capital resources of the three regional development banks can be expected to lead to a large expansion of their agricultural lending. This has already resulted in additional requests for Investment Centre assistance. A similar expansion on investment work is foreseen in cooperation with sub-regional financing institutions, national development banks and Arab funds. FAO has now concluded, or is about to conclude, agreements for cooperation with all major financing institutions concerned with lending to agriculture.

The Investment Centre has become a rapidly evolving unit of FAO, bringing to bear for development purposes sums of international finance vastly exceeding FAO's own relatively small financial means. In 1978, for example, investment resulting from the Centre activities totalled \$3.7 billion, including loans of \$1.3 billion, compared with the budget for the whole of FAO for the 1978/79 biennium of \$211 million.

The Investment Centre has become heavily involved in the formulation of rural development projects and at the same time has been increasingly called upon to formulate projects in relatively new fields. In spite of these encouraging advances, a number of issues were brought to the attention of the

Programme Committee, perhaps the most important is the shortage of investment projects. The central concern of FAO must be the formulation of a pipeline of bankable projects. FAO has an extensive field- staff, a growing network of FAO representatives and a deep involvement, in pre-investment activities, especially through UNDP. Several initiatives have already been taken to help solve this critical problem. Besides the closer links established between the Investment Centre and other key units in FAO, partly in order to draw upon on their work for project ideas, an agreement has been concluded with UNDP by which the Investment Centre, in cooperation with other investment divisions, will closely monitor UNDP projects with investment potential and ensure that these are brought to the attention of the financing institutions. Also in order to use the limited resources of the investment support programme as economically as possible, the Centre has begun to mount project identification missions to certain countries jointly on behalf of several financing institutions. There is a serious problem, the capacity of many countries to implement investment projects. It is important that countries give priority to the establishment of project preparation units which can work full time on feasibility studies. FAO can assist in the training of such groups. The Investment Centre's main contribution is through their own on-mission training which it provides to national staff during project emulation.

With the increase in the number of cooperative agreements between FAO and financing institutes, there has been a mounting complexity in the operation of the Centre, particularly of the investment support programme, and there is increasing competition between the various institutions for its services. Some general guidance as to the use of staff under one or other of the various programmes is now necessary. The agreements between FAO and the financial institutions were entered into over a period of many years and reflect the differing needs of the institutions at particular times. The agreements are now being standardized as much as possible.

It is a very brief factual review, a summary of a summary, as I said, of the document provided by the Programme Committee, and now I will come very briefly to some of the basic findings of the Committee.

The Committee was pleased to learn from the well prepared and comprehensive document the rather spectacular results achieved by FAO in a couple of recent years. As the Director-General emphasized

with some pride in his opening address to this Session, that FAO with relatively moderate increase in the Investment Centre resources was able to formulate projects approved by financing institutions for an amount of about \$6 billion in the last two years; or nearly half of the amount of all projects formulated by FAO in the last 14 years. To the same extent the Committee was satisfied with the results achieved, especially smooth cooperation between FAO and the World Bank, demonstrated by the fact that the FAO identified or prepared about one-third of the project value financed by the World Bank.

In the view of the Committee the results should also be measured against the background of the established cooperation with an increasing number of international or national lending institutions which have recently appeared, such as IFAD, several Arab funds, sub-regional institutions, such as the Corporación Andina de Fomento, the East African Development Bank, and Caribbean Development Bank and of course continued cooperation with the three regional Banks and the fifty-six banks or lending institutions participating in the bankers' programme. The Committee recognized the complexity and indeed difficulties stemming from the cooperation with a growing number of institutions each pursuing its own lending policy and to a large extent also its own so-called investment methodology and procedure. In reviewing the FAO's role in the investment field, the Committee noted that FAO was not able to exert tangible influence on the policies of lending institutions in terms of sectoral priorities, and to some degree investment objectives, especially as far as large institutions were concerned. However, with this limitation in mind FAO on the basis of its vast experience and technical competence was in a position to influence quite substantially the composition and in the last analysis the soundness of projects. Proof of this could easily be found in growing competition among lending institutions for FAO services and indeed strong demand on FAO's limited resources. In this context the Committee expressed a general concern over the unduly slow and unnecessary complicated process of project preparation, including all stages from pre-investment studies to the approval of projects. It welcomed very much the study now under way in FAO intended to see how to speed up the process without undue detriment to the quality standard.

The Committee welcomed the measures already undertaken to ensure greater involvement of various technical divisions and units in investment work and urged further mobilization of overall FAO capacity towards investment. It especially stressed the TCP funds, increasing involvement of Country Representatives, and the greater use of staff at all levels, especially for investment missions, etc.

The Committee felt strongly that FAO should continue to attach high priority to investment so as to be able to follow the process of the increased allocation of funds, both national and international, towards agriculture and rural development, including some related activities such as agro-industries, rural infrastructure, storage facilities, etc. The Committee particularly emphasized the need for even closer cooperation with all institutions, notably the World Bank and IFAD. It noted that the World Bank was and would continue to be by far the largest lending institution with a high share (40 percent) of agriculture in overall fund allocations and urged the continuation of well established cooperation between FAO and the World Bank, including IDA. It also stressed the need for further strengthening of cooperation with IFAD taking into account special relationships, similarity of objectives and complementarity of functions between the two. The Committee, however, wanted to underline that despite high priority for investment FAO would probably not be able to meet fully the demand coming from lending institutions and governments especially in the next biennium. In connexion with this the Committee suggested that FAO should give priority to lending programmes on concessional terms, especially to those in support of development efforts of least developed and most serious affected countries, while to the extent possible trying to maintain proper regional balance. The Committee also suggested that the central concern of FAO should be to build up a pipeline of fundable projects, so that greater use should be made of UNDP-financed projects with investment potential as well as of FAO special action programmes. It welcomed ongoing FAO/UNDP effort to explore this possibility fully. It also urged intensification of so-called general identification missions, which combined requests of two or more lending institutions in a country. The Committee suggested further that despite some financial consequences serious thought should be given to the possibility of FAO's own identification missions with full involvement of FAO Country Representatives. Finally in this context the Committee wanted also to emphasize that FAO should take special care so as to avoid to the maximum possible extent donor orientation of its services. As the best way to achieve this important aim the Committee strongly suggested (a) that increased effort should be directed at assisting developing countries to build up their own capability to identify and prepare projects, and (b) that FAO, notwithstanding arrangements with lending institutions, should be first of all responsible to the governments of developing countries and thus FAO should have an independent voice in providing its advice to governments.

The latter moment is closely interrelated with the question of FAO's cost-sharing arrangements with lending institutions. The Committee unanimously agreed that FAO to maintain its indispensable independence in advising governments, and to be recognized as an equal partner, should as a matter of

principle continue to bear a part of the costs through its arrangements with the institutions. While noting that the existing cost-sharing formulas differed appreciably from one case to another, as they have been concluded over a number of years and within the specific circumstances of each institution at that time, the Committee expressed the view that it was both desirable and necessary to ensure to the extent possible a far greater uniformity in cost-sharing arrangements as they came to the negotiating stage. The Committee also wanted to note that as the project cycle developed from identification through preparation to appraisal an increasing proportion of costs was and should continue to be borne by the institutions concerned. The Committee welcomed the fact that this principle had been generally applied, especially in recent years, and it encouraged the Investment Centre to pursue the same principle in the future.

Lastly, through established dialogue with the Secretariat the Committee explored to some extent the possibility of substituting gradually the individual project approach by a more comprehensive sectoral lending concept. In that respect the Committee encouraged the Investment Centre to invest more systematic efforts towards building up national institutions' capabilities to develop within the framework of a national plan a long-term development programme suitable to be presented to financial institutions for co-financing.

This is all I wanted to say on investment. As I said, there are a couple of other things, such as FAO/UNEP cooperation, which will be discussed tomorrow by the Council under item 14 and then the Council may wish to take into account the views of the Committee on the issue. UNDP support costs is another issue. You have seen from our Report that the Committee was fully informed about the development and that the Committee did not discuss at that stage the whole issue, since the Council will be fully informed and updated on what has happened since the last Session of the Council.

Lastly, I feel confident that the Council have already decided on the issue presented by the Programme Committee with regard to the discontinuation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrition.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Programme Committee. The major item for discussion is the in-depth review of investment activities, which is for the Council's information. I attended the meeting of the Programme committee, and the review was very thorough.

As the Chairman of the Programme Committee just outlined, a paper was presented by the Secretariat and discussed, and then the Committee's views have been outlined in the Report and by the Chairman. The subject is now open for discussion.

RAMADHAR (India): I must compliment the Chairman of the Programme Committee on having given an excellent and comprehensive introduction to the subject. As you said, Mr. Chairman, we discussed this matter at sufficient length in the Programme Committee, and the Report of the Programme Committee has adequately high-lighted some of the major issues with regard to the Investment Centre. Therefore, I would not like to repeat what has been said by the Chairman of the Programme Committee on the Report. But I think it is appropriate that I should pinpoint certain major features.

The Investment Centre, as was unanimously agreed in the Report and as the Chairman of the Programme Committee has pointed out, has been doing excellent work on the cooperative programme with the World Bank which was set up in 1974 and the ISP since 1970. It has been playing its important role, particularly in recent years, which is very important. On one side it has been assisting developing countries in the identification and preparation of the projects in collaboration with financing institutions, but on the other side, which I consider more important, it has been working as a catalyst in stimulating the flow of greater resources for agricultural and food production.

As the Chairman of the Programme Committee has pointed out, one-third of the World Bank's agricultural lending for projects has gone to those projects which were prepared by the cooperative programme in 1978. In 1978 the cooperative programme assisted projects accounted for over one billion dollars and during the last fifteen years they aggregated to over four billion dollars. This collaboration and cooperation with institutions like IFAD, regional banks, sub-regional banks, and with other financing institutions and other institutions have been excellent. Also some innovative measures have been undertaken by the Centre like utilisation of UNDP and TCP resources for identification and preparation of the projects and its involvement in new areas like agro-industry, social forestry, nutrition, storage, prevention of food losses and food security programmes.

There are certain other areas which are quite important and have been highlighted in the Report. The Chairman also pointed these out. There is competition between the various institutions for the resources of the Investment Centre. The competition between the various agencies for obtaining the resources of the Investment Centre fully highlights the importance of the Centre and the competence with which the Centre has been working. This Council must endorse the recommendation of the Programme Committee that the resources of this Centre should be fully strengthened so that it is able to carry out its functions and to meet the commitments which it has been called upon to do by the various financing institutions. In this respect the ability of the Centre to make use of the consultants, particularly those from developing countries, is really commendable, because making use of consultants from developing countries will help the developing countries in two ways. On the one side, they will assist in identification and preparation of a greater number of projects; on the other, this will increase the sense of self-reliance of the developing countries and will assist in strengthening and improvement of the national institutions.

The other effort which the Centre is making and which needs particular attention is the detailed study being done by the Centre to reduce the time lag between the initiation stage, and the final preparation of the project, and we are looking forward very keenly to the results of this study.

As the Chairman has rightly pointed out, there has been one particular sphere which was discussed by the Programme Committee, the donors' orientation of Projects, how far we could reduce this kind of orientation. This can be done by increasing the Investment Centre's independence and flexibility. We agree that the FAO has to share a proportion of cost of the mission in spite of the financial constraints, because this is one of the ways by which the donor orientation can be minimized. The other way could be increasing the capacity of developing countries in the project preparation, and this could be done by setting up of the units by the national Governments, with the support and assistance of FAO, particularly of the Investment Centre.

I can say with the experience of India that we have set up in India a project preparation and monitoring cell, and I am quite happy to announce here that the FAO has been assisting us in organizing a couple of training programmes for the people engaged in the preparation and monitoring, and I think similar units in other developing countries could be of great help.

The third way by which the donors' orientation could be minimized is the increased strengthening of the FAO Bankers' Programme. The FAO has been providing excellent leadership and coordinating mechanism in the FAO Bankers' Programme, and we hope that the FAO will continue to do so because the FAO Bankers' Programme is quite important, and two-thirds of its members are the national development banks, and they can always play a very important role in stimulating agricultural investment activities within the national Governments.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I must commend the Report of the Programme Committee and the Investment Centre in meeting this important need of the developing countries.

. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No tenemos dudas de que en esta nueva oportunidad el Consejo confirmará plenamente su apoyo a la conveniencia de reforzar los servicios de la FAO dedicados a incrementar las inversiones en la agricultura en los países en desarrollo.

Confirmamos igualmente la función básica del Centro de Inversiones, que debe ser la de ayudar a los gobiernos a identificar y preparar proyectos de financiación.

Destacamos también la cooperación que el Programa Cooperativo de la FAO viene ofreciendo al Banco

indiai, una tercera parte de cuyos préstamos agrícolas los proporciona mediante proyectos identifi/?/ y preparados por nuestro Programa Cooperativo.

Desearíamos igualmente que ojalá el Centro de Inversiones estimule la política del Banco Mundial con tendencia acertada de orientar cada vez más sus préstamos hacia los pequeños agricultores y el desarrollo rural.

1 Consejo deberá destacar la necesidad de que la FAO continúe su pleno apoyo y estrecha cooperación con el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, el PIDA. Ojalá que mediante la asistencia de la FAO el PIDA acelere un poco su marcha, que fue lenta en 1978, año de la iniciación de sus actividades, y que ahora en 1979 se presenta relativamente más acelerada, ya que el PIDA ha comenzado a financiar proyectos que no son cofinanciados por el Banco Mundial ni los Bancos regionales, sino iniciados y financiados exclusivamente por el FIDA.

La delegación de Colombia ha estado siempre de acuerdo en que debe reforzarse la cooperación entre el Centro de Inversiones y los bancos regionales, particularmente ahora cuando esos bancos regionales están aumentando sus capitales.

Por ello nos preocupa el descenso de los préstamos al sector agrícola por parte del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, BID, de que se habla en el párrafo 2.137 del documento CL 75/4.

Lamentamos que la cooperación entre el Centro de Inversiones y el BID haya bajado al mínimo de cinco misiones en 1977-78.

Preguntamos a la Secretaría si este descenso se deberá al hecho de que la FAO retiró el personal que tenía en Washington en la oficina FAO/BID; y desearíamos saber también si, como se dice al final de este mismo párrafo 2.137 la FAO atenderá la reciente solicitud que ha hecho el BID para que le siga ofreciendo asistencia como nuestra Organización se propone seguir en cooperación con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo; es cuestión que interesa a la Delegación de Colombia.

Igualmente, siempre dentro de ese mismo orden de ideas, apoyamos la cooperación del Centro de Inversiones de la FAO con instituciones subregionales, como la Cooperación Andina de Fomento, CAF.

Sobre las opiniones del Comité del Programa estamos de acuerdo con la idea que aparece en el párrafo 2.148 en el sentido de que la FAO prepare una cartera de proyectos que puedan interesar a los bancos y a las demás instituciones financieras. A esto se podrá contribuir particularmente a través de las misiones, sean conjuntas o separadas, tal como se habla en los párrafos 2.151. y 2.159.

La delegación de Colombia comparte la crítica que el Comité del Programa señala en el párrafo 2.153 sobre la lentitud de convertir una idea en proyectos susceptibles de financiación. Creemos que será necesario insistir ante las instituciones financieras para que ese proceso se acelere. Los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo suelen sufrir decepciones por este retardo y por esa lentitud.

Por conducto suyo, señor Presidente, desearíamos pedir al señor Presidente del Comité del Programa alguna explicación sobre la opinión del Comité del Programa que aparece en el párrafo 2.160, y al que el colega de la India se refirió en forma amplia y bastante adecuada, pero que aún para nosotros no está muy claro, por lo menos en español la primera parte del párrafo 2.160 sobre cómo se podrán atender mejor las necesidades de los países en desarrollo evitando que el Centro de Inversiones de la FAO se oriente en función de los donantes; ojalá se nos aclarara cuál es el alcance de la opinión del Comité del Programa.

EL Presidente del Comité del Programa se refirió igualmente a los párrafos 2.169 y 2.170 sobre gastos de apoyo del PNUD. Quisiéramos ahora reiterar la inquietud que ya expresamos cuando discutimos un punto anterior; si es posible se podría informar al Consejo, si tuvo ya lugar la reunión del grupo intergubernamental de trabajo del PNUD, cuáles fueron los resultados y si hay novedades sobre el curso que haya tomado la propuesta del administrador del PNUD acerca del cambio en los sistemas de reembolso.

Como lo dije en ocasión anterior, me parece muy importante esto, particularmente para los países beneficiarios*

La delegación de Colombia aprovecha esta oportunidad para expresar su simpatía y admiración al doctor Yriart, subdirector general, jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo, por la forma inteligente y capaz como el viene trabajando en las actividades de inversión, así como en la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y los demás asuntos que dependen del importante departamento a su cargo.

Cumplo la honrosa misión del gobierno de Colombia de reiterar nuestro más pleno apoyo al doctor Yriart en el alto cargo que ocupa.

Finalmente, deseo también expresar mi reconocimiento al trabajo que han hecho los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, los distinguidos amigos M. Trkulja y Bel Hadj Amor, con ánimo constructivo; expreso la confianza de que en el futuro los informes de esos importantes órganos asesores del Consejo se redacten en el lenguaje sobrio y austero a que estamos acostumbrados hasta hace tres o cuatro años.

L.V. BORGES da FONSECA (Brazil): My delegation has already stated its affirmative position with relation to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. I would like, however, in this Session and in connexion with the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees to make some brief comments concerning a few items in document CL 75/4.

First of all, my delegation could not refrain from joining its voice to the commendment and satisfaction expressed by the Programme Committee for the active role played by FAO in helping countries fight against the African swine fever, and we are completely sure that those efforts will continue.

My delegation has already referred to the FAO activities on research support. However, as we are here in Italy and as an old Latin proverb says that "quod abundat non nocet", I would like once more to stress the great importance that my country gives to FAO activities dealing with research support in strengthening existing national institutions, and express again the desire of my delegation that the assurance contained in paragraph 2.48 of document CL 75/4 be also included in the Report of this Session of the Council, not only as an envisaged purpose but as a measure to be effectively carried out.

The other item my delegation would like to consider is the one related to fisheries. We feel the need to point out the necessity of reinforcing TCDC on this matter, mainly in view of the sea areas under national jurisdiction, as this last measure would, we believe, greatly help the improvement of social and nutritional conditions mainly for the coastal population of the developing countries.

As I am dealing with the subject of nutrition, I am very pleased to express here - as the Brazilian delegate has already done during the last session of the Committee on Agriculture - the complete support of my Government to the proposed inclusion of the item of nutrition on the agenda of the next session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in asking your indulgence for this rather long intervention, my delegation would like to bring its support to the draft resolution recommended by the Finance Committee in paragraph 3.86 of its report, as well as the one contained in paragraph 3.132 of the same report, dealing respectively with the authorization to the Director-General to make certain borrowings, and with the appointment of the external auditor.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Brazil. You have jumped the gun a bit, but when we come to these items in the Finance Committee to which you have referred you will not have to speak!

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I take this occasion to compliment the Chairman of the Programme Committee for his lucid presentation. We know that the subject is mainly for the information of the Council, but since the subject is very important we would like to offer a few comments. I also take note of the comments made by the delegate of India, who happens to be a very active member of the Programme Committee.

To our mind, the activities of the Investment Centre of the FAO are ones of which the Organization can be proud. In the investment activities in the sector of agriculture, one can very easily see from the figures, of the participation of the Investment Centre in FAO-World Bank operative projects, in the lending activities of the regional banks and of the IFAD, that it plays a very major role, not only as a catalyst, but also in the preparation of inputs for investment activities.

We know that the main area of cooperation has been, and is, the Investment Centre with the World Bank. The figures in paragraph 2.130 will stimulate anyone to compliment the Investment Centre, the highly trained professional staff under the guidance of a very able Director. We are happy to note that as expected in the Preparatory Commission of the IFAD, and then in the governing council of IFAD, cooperation between IFAD and FAO is growing very fast. Already the Investment Centre has collaborated with 50 per cent of the activities of IFAD and we hope it will grow further in the interests of both Organizations.

We find in paragraph 2.137 that investment collaboration of the Investment Centre with major regional banks is also growing, namely the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

A few observations have been made by the delegate of Colombia about the collaboration of the Investment Centre of FAO with the Inter-American Development Bank, and he has asked a few questions for clarification. I have read this paragraph very carefully a second time, and I understand the Investment Centre of FAO responds to the requests of the regional banks. In other words, the request is from the other end. If the request is there, FAO responds.

Just to judge if FAO has failed to respond, if you will read the last line of this paragraph, "To reach its new agricultural lending targets IDB had recently turned again to the Centre for assistance". That means that in the recent past they did not turn to the Centre, and that is why the investment collaboration of FAO with IDB has gone down since 1976. I will request the Chairman of the Programme Committee to clarify, but my reading of the paragraph is that since the Bank is not turning to FAO for collaboration it has gone down, but now it is turning again to the Investment Centre for assistance, it is growing again - and we hope, will grow very quickly.

In the presentation of the Chairman of the Programme Committee I noticed a few important points on which I would like to give emphasis. One is in paragraph 2.153 wherein you will find the suggestion that FAO could assist in the establishment and training of such groups through formal training courses, seminars, etc.; and on-the-job training mission activities. This is to help the developing countries in the identification and preparation of projects.

We know from the delegation of India that they have planning cells besides the Planning Commission in the Ministry of Agriculture. We also have started planning cells attached to other important ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, where we have a very strong planning cell which collaborates and advises and prepares projects. We feel here is an area where the Investment Centre could assist the developing countries in the identification and preparation of projects.

We very strongly endorse the idea in paragraph 2.153. Not all developing countries are fortunate enough to have trained planners. We are still looking forward and looking towards assistance from international agencies and others for assistance in the preparation of projects. It is a highly professional job which needs very trained personnel to prepare acceptable projects. This is an area where we emphasize FAO could come forward to assist developing countries.

The other idea is in paragraph 2.160 about the flexibility in the Investment Centre for helping the developing countries in field investment activities. We also very strongly endorse this paragraph.

We very strongly endorse the views of the Committee we find in paragraphs 2.148 to 2.163, and we compliment again not only the Centre for its activities but also the Programme Committee for a good job done.

SALMON PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): Like previous speakers, I also would like to commend the Programme Committee for its actions and work. As regards IEAD's role in investment, my delegation supports the idea that FAO should, to the largest extent possible, accelerate and enlarge the flow of capital investment to the agricultural sector in developing countries. Through the Investment Centre, FAO should enlarge the assistance to governments in its identifying and planning of projects for financing by various institutions, in particular IFAD and the other development banks.

My delegation notes with appreciation the contribution FAO has already made to the formulation of IFAD's training policies and further, that the Investment Centre is interested in the task of monitoring the projects with investment potentials and bringing them to a reasonable state, and ensuring the interest of financing institutions. Experience has indicated it always takes a considerable time to convert a project idea into a bankable project. While the main responsibility for the preparation of project proposals rests with the government concerned, my delegation would like to point out, in concert with previous speakers, there is a critical shortage of planning experts to identify and plan projects. Training in this special field should therefore be taken up as a matter of urgency.

A. SCHWERRIA ZUNO (México); Ante todo quisiéramos agradecer al señor Presidente del Comité del Programa por la muy concisa presentación de las tareas realizadas en últimas fechas. La precisión con que se ha hecho, para nosotros no significa que sus trabajos y su atinada dirección no hayan sido importantes y detallados. Por el contrario, estamos perfectamente enterados de la acuciosidad con que estimula los temas en el seno de este importante Comité, y lo digo, porque nuestra delegación sabe que América Latina está bien y activamente representada en el seno del Comité, y además, es un conducto práctico y eficiente para que estemos bien informados aquellos latinoamericanos que no formamos parte del Comité del Programa.

Si bien las informaciones y detalles que nos ha proporcionado son para información, no queremos restarle en lo más mínimo la trascendencia de su contenido, tarea que tuvimos la oportunidad de subrayar por la muy atinada sugerencia de nuestro amigo el señor Sylla durante este fin de semana. Puede tener la seguridad de que cumplimos con su enmienda y seguimos la tarea que nos propuso.

Estamos absolutamente de acuerdo cuando en esta oportunidad se ha subrayado el énfasis en el rubro de las inversiones, y sobre todo, cuando están orientadas hacia los sectores rurales más deprimidos, más marginados, y donde tienen prioridad las actividades que por su naturaleza, por el tipo de campesinos pobres que a ellas se abocan y sobre todo, cuando el resultado de estos esfuerzos sea también prioritariamente la producción de artículos alimentarios que ocupen un lugar fundamental en las dietas nacionales y tradicionales, énfasis en el que no debe perderse la orientación de producir para que nuestros pueblos coman de acuerdo a nuestras culturas.

Como en otras ocasiones, debemos subrayar el importante instrumento que significa el Centro de Inversiones y el creciente papel que ha venido jugando. Las cifras que en esta oportunidad evitaré de decir por ser de todos conocidas, muestran efectivamente que en esta institución, y particularmente en este miembro de la FAO, la prioridad reconocida está siendo implementada poco a poco. El Centro de Inversiones es un promotor, también es un catalizador que acude cada vez con mayor frecuencia a esta tarea y que ha respondido con la flexibilidad y la prontitud que su propia capacidad le ha permitido. Por eso subrayamos alguna observación en el sentido de prepararlo, de dinamizarlo de tal manera que, en el futuro, sí sea cada vez capaz de atender las tareas propias de las demandas de servicio y de asistencia que recibirá.

En el transcurso de los intercambios que estamos desarrollando, destaca la insistencia de que cada vez se utilicen a las instituciones nacionales, a las regionales también, sin olvidar que la estrategia de invitar, de convocar y de hacer participar a los profesionales de los países en desarrollo es muy importante, y cuando expresamos esto, entendemos que no solamente es como una tarea de acompañamiento de otros expertos sino también de responsabilidad en las tareas fáciles, pero también acceso a las más complicadas. Qué mejor escuela que la de la práctica y la de la trasferencia de conocimientos para esta difícil y complicada tarea. También se puede desprender que existe una importante dicotomía. Por un lado, desprendemos que en todo tipo de instituciones hay recursos y a veces con cierta ironía se informa que sobran, que están en las casetas de los bancos y de las instituciones financieras esperando proyectos, y por otra parte, se nos dice que hay muchos proyectos en cartera que no son atendidos. Sobran recursos por una parte, pero también sobran proyectos. Nudo importante que exige esfuerzos metodológicos y aptitudes para resolverlos. Nosotros pensamos que en materia de proyectos, obviamente los beneficiarios tienen que hacer un esfuerzo. Por eso pedimos ayuda y asistencia para capacitar a nuestros hombres y a nuestras mujeres y para desarrollar nuestras instituciones, pero hay experiencias recientemente que oreemos no son utilizadas en toda su magnitud, y por otra parte, no es nuevo, pero queremos subrayarlo y que quede sembrado en este Consejo, las experiencias metodológicas crecen sobre la marcha. Creemos que no hay que diferir lo urgente por lo importante. Es decir, pensamos que en materia de identificación y preparación de proyectos puede reinar la confianza y sí prestar énfasis en los momentos de la ejecución y del seguimiento de los proyectos con esto que estamos acostumbrados a reconocer como la flexibilidad, y tener la oportunidad de rectificar sobre la marcha.

Nuestra delegación, tanto en el seno de los órganos de Gobierno del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola como en esta Institución, ha expresado repetidamente que no hay nada más natural y lógico que la verdadera e intensa cooperación entre ambos. En el FIDA, organismo singular por su origen y sus características y orientación, requiere por su tamaño y especialidad de la comprensión y de la colaboración, sobre todo en estos primeros años, de organismos importantes como la FAO.

Como todos saben, México tiene el honor de ser miembro de su Junta Ejecutiva y también, como todos saben, hasta ahora todos los proyectos que allí se han financiado han sido por la vía de cofinanciamiento. Esperamos que quizá para fin de año o principios del que sigue, tengamos la primera experiencia. En esta misma Mesa, hay colegas que trabajan intensamente en esa Junta Ejecutiva y con una gran expectación esperamos tener esa novedad, como digo, por primera vez a fines de este año o en el transcurso del que sigue.

Creo que este Consejo debe subrayar que en el FIDA los países en desarrollo tienen un importante instrumento! pero que debemos proceder con la ayuda, con la orientación y con la solidaridad de la FAO.

Por último, señor Presidente, quisiéramos subrayar que en materia de inversiones la PAD debe seguir jugando un papel importante. La capacidad técnica e informativa de que dispone la obliga, y estamos de acuerdo en que equitativamente deben ser compartidos los costos y los esfuerzos y creemos que no hay razón para que la FAO pierda su identidad, sino por el contrario, creemos que debe seguir distinguiéndose como hasta la fecha.

M. NGA-MA (Zaire): Ma déléga ion voudrait pour commencer féliciter le Président du Comité du programme d'avoir résumé la question que nous examinons.

Au sujet de l'investissement, ainsi que nous l'avions souligné le premier jour de cette session, ma délégation note avec plaisir que le Centre d'investissement de la FAO a réalisé un véritable bond en avant durant ces deux dernières années. Nous ne pouvons qu'encourager une telle évolution et souhaiter que la FAO continue de renforcer les liens très positifs et opérationnels qu'elle entretient avec la Banque mondiale, avec le FIDA, et avec les banques régionales de développement.

Ma délégation estime elle aussi que la FAO devra arriver à utiliser le projet du PNUD de manière plus vaste. Nous estimons nous aussi que l'on doit mettre à la disposition de la FAO tous les moyens nécessaires pour aider les pays en développement à identifier et à préparer leurs propres projets.

En un mot, ma délégation appuie sans réserves les points de vue exprimés par le Comité du programme dans les paragraphes 2.148 à 2.163.

Pour terminer, ma délégation pense que si l'on doit citer l'existence de structures locales trop faibles dans certains pays en développement comme étant un des obstacles à la promotion des investissements dans ces pays, ainsi que cela est dit au paragraphe 2.118 du document, nous pensons qu'on ne devrait pas perdre de vue la nécessité pour la FAO de continuer à aider ces pays afin de surmonter ce genre d'obstacles.

Enfin, nous appuyons ce qui a été dit par le distingué délégué du Mexique, à savoir que la FAO doit jouer un rôle de premier plan en matière d'investissement.

H. MOKHTARI (Algérie): Permettez-moi de remercier le Président du Comité du programme pour l'exposé très complet qu'il nous a fait sur cette question. Je ne reviendrai pas sur ce qui a été déjà dit, et je serai donc très bref, comme vous l'avez suggéré, Monsieur le Président.

En matière d'investissement, le rôle du Centre d'investissement pour promouvoir et renforcer les investissements orientés vers l'agriculture des pays en développement est, à notre avis, d'une importance primordiale. Elle est d'une importance primordiale car le grand problème qui se pose aux pays en développement est celui justement de l'identification et de la préparation des projets en vue de leur financement. Dans le cadre du programme de soutien aux investissements, le Centre a la possibilité d'identifier et de préparer des projets pour le compte des pays en développement. Aussi, il convient de renforcer le Centre d'investissement parce qu'il répond à nos besoins.

D'autre part, ma délégation se félicite de l'orientation de ces investissements en faveur des petites exploitations et du développement rural, et partage les vues du Comité du programme contenues dans les paragraphes 2.148 à 2.163 du document soumis à notre examen et plus particulièrement dans le paragraphe 2.160 sur lequel ma délégation voudrait avoir quelques indications sur les mesures que compte prendre la FAO pour une plus grande indépendance du Centre dans l'orientation de ces investissements.

A.I. BOKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interprétation from Arabic): It would appear that the Investment Centre represents one of the key problems discussed by this Council and especially delegates of developing countries. I think that this indeed reflects the hopes nourished by the developing countries for this Development Centre. One of its main tasks which we find reflected in paragraph 220 and following, echo this. These tasks referred to in these paragraphs show our interest in this.

We would like to congratulate the Committees for their work on this and also to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee for the very clear and concise way in which he introduced this item.

A number of questions in this report aroused the interest of previous speakers, and I too would like to offer a few remarks. Paragraph 2.130 reflects the fruitful cooperation between our Organization and IFAD through the Investment Centre. Such cooperation, we feel, has enabled FAO, through its Investment Centre, to participate in the preparation of fifty projects which have been jointly financed by IFAD and other financing agencies. We are very proud of this cooperation, and, as we have said here and elsewhere, this is a cause for great pride; we have said this at the IFAD meeting too.

On paragraph 2.139 it says that FAO has cooperative agreements or letters of understanding with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Here we should like to have further information on this at the next Council meeting, on what in fact has been achieved within the framework of what we read in paragraph 2.139. This is a question which is of more direct interest to the group of Arab countries and the Near East Region.

In paragraph 2.140 we read that so far only one project has been financed under the terms of joint financing or co-financing between the World Bank and the Arab Development Bank. We say that the Organization should highlight the need for support to be given to development projects in the Near East Region. We are convinced that these projects will play a clear role in the agricultural development in that area. We should be given considerable details of what has been done in this context.

We should like to say how much we support the terms of paragraph 2.150 because it is indeed essential that we should define the key outline of this matter, that is the use of staff for the various programmes decided upon. We read here that the Organization may well indeed be in a position to participate in these activities but we should like to know the actual share or role of the Centre in these two particular fields of activity referred to in paragraph 2.150 and also in paragraph 2.153.

Before I go on to the document CL 75/15, we would like to ask the Secretariat whether this document is available in Arabic because we have not received a version in Arabic, although it seems to have been published in all the other working languages. I very much hope that the Secretariat will have time to arrange this before tomorrow, so that we may join in the discussions with full "connaissance de cause".

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Beaucoup de choses ont été dites et très bien dites à propos du Centre d'investissement de la FAO. Je ne m'étendrai donc pas sur ce qui a été dit.

Je voudrais simplement rappeler ici l'importance du Centre d'investissement pour les pays en développement. Le Sénégal, pour sa part, est particulièrement sensible au rôle de ce Centre d'investissement. Nous pensons que le Centre devrait continuer à concentrer ses efforts dans trois directions essentiellement. D'abord, aider les pays en développement à identifier et à préparer leurs projets, en incluant le plus possible dans cette démarche les cadres nationaux disponibles. Ensuite, aider les pays en développement à surveiller et à contrôler les projets d'investissement une fois qu'ils ont été mis sur pied. Enfin, étendre et développer la coopération avec les institutions de financement, et notamment la Banque mondiale, la Banque africaine de développement, et le FIDA, avec lequel le Centre a entrepris déjà des relations que nous souhaitons voir se développer.

Nous voudrions, pour terminer, féliciter le Président et l'ensemble du Comité du programme pour le travail effectué et pour le document pertinent fourni dont nous avons plaisir ici à appuyer les grandes lignes.

H.L. CLAVARIE R. (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela, señor Presidente, se complace muy especialmente en felicitar por su intermedio al colega y amigo Trkulja, Presidente del Comité del Programa, no sólo por el sobrio y serio informe que nos ha presentado de nuevo en esta ocasión, en relación a la última reunión de este Comité, la número 36, sino por su interesante y concisa intervención de esta mañana relacionada con las actividades del Centro de Inversiones de esta casa.

Como delegado de mi país, señor Presidente, en el Comité del Programa hemos estado en posición privilegiada para conocer a fondo las diferentes materias que este Organismo ha venido tratando y para hacer oír nuestras opiniones sobre las mismas.

Nuestra delegación apoya ampliamente la forma positiva como se viene desarrollando la acción de inversión de la FAO, y en este sentido nos complacemos en apoyar muy ampliamente al señor Subdirector General, Jefe del Departamento de Desarrollo de esta Organización, por la forma en que viene diseñando y dirigiendo estas actividades. Nuestras congratulaciones más sinceras al señor Yriart.

La delegación de Venezuela apoya lo descrito en los párrafos 2.48 a 2.63 del documento, los cuales reflejan las prioridades de las actividades de inversión del Centro. Otorgamos nuestro apoyo a la relación de colaboraciones con las Instituciones Financieras Internacionales, y especialmente con el PIDA, Organismo primordialmente caro a Venezuela y particularmente caro a nuestra delegación.

Día a día nos complace testimoniar el avance de las buenas relaciones entre el FIDA y la FAO y auguramos que estas relaciones continúen desarrollándose sobre las mismas bases.

Igualmente nos complace comprobar la forma como se adelantan las relaciones con el Banco Mundial, de Reconstrucción, de Fomento y los Bancos Regionales de Desarrollo. Apoyamos ampliamente estas actividades.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): I can be brief because I can associate myself very much with what my colleague from the Venezuelan delegation, who is also my colleague on the Programme Committee, has said about this matter. I think it was a very appropriate subject for examination by the Programme Committee. The paper we had was useful, the contributions by the Secretariat very helpful, and it was the kind of discussion at the Programme Committee can most usefully have.

I would particularly like to commend the Organization for some of the new ideas that emerged from this discussion. The efforts that Mr. Yriart and the Investment Centre are making to get attention to the concept of sector lending; the sub-sector lending approach; encouraging countries to develop a longer term approach to problems in agriculture that can attract the attention and lending institutions. Some of the technical assistance work that has been done as related to development projects, are especially commendable.

By the same token the constructive pressure that FAO is putting on throughout the system to get better linkage between technical assistance and investment is very positive and perhaps the country representatives will have a high priority role to play in this regard. I know in some cases they have played a role in United States AID activity by calling to our attention certain pre-investment work, which was worthy

of further development. Generally, when the Investment Centre goes to a country, it will seek to interest more than one institution in the identification work. So we are generally pleased to see the priority and imagination that is being applied in this area.

We have a few ideas which we have expressed in the Programme Committee. For one thing we would give less-priority to the launching of identification missions with Investment Centre or TCP funding in cases in which there is no immediate expression of interest or prospect from financing institutions.

We have also put forward the idea that in view of the competition for the Investment Centre services the Investment Centre can stretch its funding to good effect, and it is clearly doing this with the encouragement of the Programme Committee. I think many of us here, want to transfer as much as possible of the cost burden of missions to the investing institutions. This recommendation emerges from the Programme Committee Report and in our view it is appropriate emphasis, particularly as the FAO moves into more uniformity in its agreements with the lending institutions. We think that especially when the project has reached the preparation stage, given the high quality involvement of FAO's experts, the independence of these inputs is well assured, even if it is a very small part of the financial cost burden.

Finally, I would like to join voice in complimenting the FAO for the development of its relationship with IFAD. We hope that relationship strengthens further; we feel that IFAD and FAO are natural partners and that is a very positive development for the future of both institutions.

CHAIRMAN: As we have now completed the list of speakers we shall go back to the Chairman of the Programme Committee and his colleagues. But before that I would like to call on the Secretary-General to reply to the specific questions raised by the delegate of Saudi Arabia on documentation.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'informe le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite qui a soulevé cette question que l'accord entre la FAO et le FIDA existait déjà à l'Appendice H du Rapport de la soixante-douzième session du Conseil.

Ce texte n'a pas été reproduit car le réajustement qui a été demandé à partir du texte anglais ne concerne que les textes français et espagnol. Par conséquent, le texte arabe, dont j'ai ici une copie à disposition, n'est pas touché par ce réajustement.

M. TRKUL.TA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I feel that especially the delegate of Colombia wanted me to clarify the thinking of the Programme Committee on the subject contained in paragraph 2.160. He mentioned that something might be wrong with the Spanish text only but since the same issue has been raised by the delegate of Algeria I will try to clarify this.

We discussed the programme of donor orientation or donor biases, and a number of members were very much interested, including myself, in the role of FAO in cooperation with lending institutions. We realize, of course, that the overwhelming objective of FAO in cooperating with lending institutions should be to maximize the investment resources of agriculture and that in doing so FAO should not be a passive partner of the lending institutions, that they should not just follow blindly their requests, but should be very keen to have a full independence, since after all that is one of the basic reasons why FAO should bear part of the costs. It should be independent and very much concerned with the interests of the governments themselves first of all. So we did not discuss in detail the kind of biases. But whatever they may be, in the view of the Committee FAO should be very sensitive first to the interests of government concerns and should recognize that it is first of all an agent of the governments and then to the extent possible there should be cooperation with the financing institutions. That is the essence of the view of the Committee on the issue.

I would like to thank members of the Council for the kind words which they expressed to the Programme Committee. As I said before, we will continue and we will not spare our efforts to serve the Council in the best possible way. Some other points will be reflected by Mr. Yriart.

J.F. YRIART (Subdirector General, Departamento de Desarrollo): Creo que podré ser muy breve. Agradezco - también las manifestaciones de apoyo a la labor del Centro de Inversiones y lo único que puedo hacer es, como se lo dijimos al Comité del Programa, reiterar aquí que con la guía del Director General no hay duda de que nuestra labor en materia de inversiones está primordialmente orientada a asistir a los gobiernos y que todas las decisiones que se toman están bajo esa orientación.

Nuestras relaciones con los organismos de financiamiento son fundamentalmente importantes, pero, sin embargo, más importante es el hecho de que el fin del trabajo del Centro de Inversiones es asistir a los gobiernos a identificar proyectos, a prepararlos y, en general, a lograr esas inversiones. Por eso también, además del Centro de Inversiones, hay otras actividades de la FAO, por ejemplo, del Departamento de Asuntos Políticos, Económicos y Sociales que también están cada vez más orientados hacia la materia de seminarios, preparación de proyectos, preparación de profesionales, etc.

EL distinguido representante de Colombia y también el distinguido representante de Bangladesh se refirieron a una mención que se hace en el informe del Comité del Programa sobre las relaciones con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Creo que ésto es un tema más que requiere respuesta.

Es cierto que disminuyó en materia de montos de inversión la cooperación del Centro de Inversiones con el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo; personalmente no creo que esa disminución haya sido consecuencia de la decisión tomada por el Director General y el Presidente del Banco Interamericano de trasladar a nuestra sede el poco personal que teníamos destacado en Wáshington hasta mediados de los años 70. el fondo oreo que también el Banco Interamericano reconocía que dentro de nuestra manera de trabajar ese personal dedicado a la labor con el Banco Interamericano estaría mejor apoyado técnicamente en la sede a que sólo tres o cuatro profesionales estuvieran destacados dentro del Banco Interamericano.

La disminución de las inversiones en la cartera agrícola del Banco Interamericano nada tiene que ver con la amplitud de la colaboración con la FAO; no creo oportuno aquí discutir problemas que son del Banco Interamericano, pero sí puedo hacer esta afirmación, y la realidad es que últimamente en el Banco Interamericano se han puesto condiciones de gran aumento, como lo hemos mencionado, de inversiones en el sector agrícola. Es en ese sentido que el Banco Interamericano tendría deseos, al

igual que nosotros, de acrecentar la colaboración. Hemos tenido hace tres semanas una visita, durante varios días del Director de la División Agrícola del Banco Interamericano, acompañado por un consultor que es quien en los últimos meses, ha estado principalmente asesorando al Presidente del Banco Interamericano sobre inversiones agrícolas y problemas que había encontrado en esa materia el Banco.

Quiero decirle, señor Presidente, que yo creo que hemos tenido una fructífera y cordial semana trabajando aquí con ellos y han tenido acceso a todos los programas que ejecutamos y en este momento están pendientes de una selección que haría el Banco Interamericano de proyectos que solicitaría formule la FAO y que en base a esa colaboración, a los resultados de esa colaboración, se tomarían decisiones mayores o posteriores sobre la entidad de la colaboración futura.

Debo sin embargo decir que los procedimientos del Banco Interamericano tal vez por ser el más antiguo y ciertamente el que tiene hasta ahora la mayor cartera de inversiones en la agricultura, y en general, los procedimientos son bastante diferentes a los de los otros Bancos regionales, y en ciertos aspectos también difieren de los procedimientos que naturalmente sigue el Centro de Inversiones en su colaboración con el Banco Mundial y con los otros Bancos Regionales. Así que tenemos sumo deseo ambas partes de poder adaptar nuestra colaboración, pero tendremos que volver posteriormente a informar a ustedes de estas experiencias que vamos a hacer próximamente.

También estoy seguro que en futura ocasión, al informarles sobre nuestra colaboración con el Banco Interamericano, será también oportuno informarles más detalladamente, como ha solicitado el distinguido representante de Arabia Saudita, sobre la colaboración con algunas de las instituciones árabes de financiamiento.

Finalmente quisiera, con respecto a la intervención del distinguido representante de Estados Unidos, asegurarle que, como nos ha recomendado la 19ª Conferencia de la FAO, verdaderamente no iniciamos labores en el ciclo de identificación y formulación de proyectos sin tener una idea de que existe en principio interés por una institución de financiamiento. Esto, afortunadamente, es una cosa que hemos podido hacer bien porque hay gran deseo de obtener proyectos, así que éste es un servicio de utilidad que podemos prestar a los gobiernos; es decir, aproximándose los gobiernos a la FAO para buscar su apoyo en la identificación o formulación de proyectos, nosotros podemos, si es necesario, si no tiene esos contactos el gobierno, podemos actuar un poco de agentes para ver el interés de las instituciones de financiación; en general lo hemos logrado, y por lo tanto, al hacer una inversión en identificación y formulación ya tenemos una razonable certeza de que el proyecto, o algunos proyectos identificados obtendrán financiación.

Finalmente el señor West es el que se ocupa del tema de los gastos generales de las agencias y lo tratará él posteriormente. No sé si el señor Presidente desea que el señor West responda ahora a las preguntas formuladas.

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be more convenient to all concerned if Mr. West dealt with this later. This subject is a very important one and quite rightly the Council has spent one and a half hours on it. The result is that members endorsed the work being done by the Organization in this field, and some very useful suggestions have been made for improvements which I am sure the departments and the regions concerned will take note of. We will now go to the rest of the agenda item. We have said that the Amendments to Rules XXVI-9 and XXVII-9 will wait until we come to the CCLM. I suggest that we take the other items listed one by one so that we can help the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee in preparing the report, rather than taking the whole bunch and perhaps confusing them. If you agree to this I will call on the Chairman of the Finance Committee to introduce the points.

- Financial position of the Organization
- Situation financière de l'organisation
- Situación financiera de la Organización
- Scale of Contributions, 1980-81
- barème des contributions de 1980-81
- Escala de cuotas para 1980-81
- Authority to Borrow
- Autorisation d'emprunter
- Autorización para contraer préstamos

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je crois que je suis tenté de rationaliser tant soit peu la présentation des questions qui doivent être soumises au Conseil, et je suggère de ne pas suivre tout à fait ce qui est inscrit au document CL 75/OD/6.

Ce que je me propose de faire en premier lieu c'est de présenter les questions qui demandent une décision du Conseil, ensuite je passerai aux questions qui sont pour information importante et finalement j'aborderai les autres aspects.

Je commencerai donc par les contributions et ensuite j'aborderai le Rapport de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale; en troisième lieu, j'aborderai la nomination du Commissaire aux comptes et enfin les locaux au Siège. Pour terminer, j'en viendrai au Rapport annuel sur l'exécution du budget en 1978, et conclurai par les "Autres aspects".

Si vous permettez, je commencerai par la question des contributions qui figure aux paragraphes 3.55 à 3.64.

Nous avons un tableau page 39 du document CL 75/4 qui illustre la situation des contributions au 30 avril 1979. Ce tableau est mis à jour dans le document CL 75/LIM/I distribué au cours de cette session et faisant le point au 31 mai 1979. Il est à compléter par les éléments qui me sont parvenus ce jour. Je précise à cet égard que depuis la fin du mois de mai 14 pays ont versé des contributions, que ce soit au titre de l'année 1978 ou au titre de l'année 1979. Pour qu'il n'y ait pas de commentaires superflus de la part des membres du Conseil, je voudrais vous donner la liste de ces pays. Il s'agit de: Algérie, Bangladesh, Barbades, Bulgarie, Costa Rica, Tchécoslovaquie, République fédérale d'Allemagne, Libye, Namibie, Norvège, Pérou, Somalie, Soudan, Syrie. Il est fort possible que certains autres pays aient déjà fait les démarches nécessaires pour payer leur contribution. Cependant, il faut prendre en compte les difficultés des formalités bancaires qu'on peut rencontrer et qui ont fait que l'Organisation n'a pas encore reçu les avis de versement concernant ces contributions ultérieures. Aussi, si jamais le nom d'un pays manque sur la liste additive que je viens de vous communiquer, c'est une question peut-être de retard dans les transmissions des avis bancaires.

Je voudrais également rectifier les tableaux qui nous sont présentés au document CL 75/LIM/I. Au tableau du paragraphe 2, il faudrait changer le chiffre concernant les contributions reçues jusqu'au 18 juin pour 1979. Le chiffre 3 605 317 devient à ce jour 6 021 217,58 dollars.

D'autres changements seront également à souligner, en particulier dans le tableau qui nous est présenté au paragraphe 3 du document mentionné et je me réfère au deuxième volet de ce paragraphe, à savoir les recouvrements des cinq premiers mois. Le chiffre indiqué pour 1979 de 45 159 922,74 dollars devient 51 305 840,59 dollars.

Il faudra également changer le chiffre du troisième volet du même paragraphe, à savoir les montants restants dus, non plus au 31 mai 1979 mais au 18 juin 1979 (je me réfère toujours à l'année 1979). Le chiffre de 66 751 892,86 deviendra 60 605 975 dollars.

Enfin, dans le troisième tableau concernant le pourcentage des contributions courantes recouvrées et figurant au paragraphe 4, pour la comparaison avec les années 1977-78, le chiffre de 1979 n'est plus de 38,86 mais il devient 44,62 pour cent.

Toujours concernant le document CL 75/LIM/I, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur le paragraphe 8 qui parle du cas du Lao. Je voudrais préciser au Conseil que cette question a été également soulevée et mentionnée dans le rapport de la quarante-deuxième session du Comité financier, au paragraphe 2.9.

Enfin, il y a une petite rectification à souligner à l'Annexe A, page A.2. Il faudra mettre devant Nicaragua la petite lettre b).

A la suite de ces précisions, je voudrais, toujours à propos des contributions, souligner quelques observations du Comité. En effet, le Comité constate que malgré le recouvrement effectué après la réunion du Comité le taux, comme vous avez pu le noter, reste inférieur à celui des années précédentes et le rythme des versements demeure assez lent. Le Comité voudrait souligner au Conseil sa préoccupation devant cette situation et recommande au Conseil d'exhorter les Etats Membres à régler sans retard leurs obligations. Vous avez ces remarques aux paragraphes 3.57 et 3.58. D'ailleurs, cette recommandation du Comité au Conseil est encore plus urgente pour les pays qui doivent régler des arriérés de contribution et qui risquent de perdre par là leur droit de vote à la vingtième session de la Conférence si la date d'échéance n'est pas respectée avant la Conférence. La référence pour cette recommandation est faite aux paragraphes 3.59 à 3.62 du rapport du Comité ainsi qu'aux paragraphes 6 à 8 du document CL 75/LIM/I.

Le Conseil est prié de constater à ce propos que le cas d'un des huit pays concernés reste particulièrement alarmant (il s'agit du paragraphe 3.60) qu'un autre pays a entrepris les démarches nécessaires pour résoudre le problème de ses arriérés, (et vous avez mention de ce fait dans le document CL 75/LIM/I) et enfin, qu'un troisième pays a réglé, à la satisfaction du Comité, tous ses arriérés. Cela figure au paragraphe 3.62.

Il y a encore une mention spéciale qui devra être faite pour Grenade, qui figure parmi les huit Etats Membres qui ont des arriérés de contribution. Le Comité trouvera, à l'Annexe A du document CL 75/LIM/I l'état des arriérés ainsi que le dû pour 1979. En date du 11 mai, l'Organisation a reçu un message du Ministre des finances de Grenade qui faisait état des difficultés financières du pays et demandait à l'Organisation d'envisager la possibilité d'une dérogation et de renoncer à tout ou partie de la dette du pays, étant donné que les circonstances qui ont occasionné l'accumulation de cette dette étaient indépendantes de la volonté de l'administration actuelle. Dans sa réponse, l'Organisation a précisé que cette procédure n'a pas de précédent et que le Règlement ne la prévoit pas. Cependant, la Conférence a approuvé dans le passé les recommandations du Comité des finances et du Conseil dans le cas de certains pays, proposant aux gouvernements concernés de régler leurs arriérés de contribution en dix tranches annuelles tout en s'acquittant à échéance de leurs contributions durant l'année de leur recouvrement. Au cas où Grenade accepterait cette suggestion, le Comité financier en septembre et le Conseil en novembre seront saisis de cette question. Autrement, la requête de Grenade sera soumise à la vingtième session de la Conférence. Il est à préciser que Grenade risque de perdre son droit de vote si le retard dans le paiement persiste. L'Organisation attend encore la décision du Gouvernement de Grenade.

Voilà ce qu'il en est pour les contributions courantes et les arriérés de cotisations. Je voudrais continuer encore avec: la question des contributions avant de donner la parole aux membres du Conseil et attirer l'attention sur le cas du Samoa-Occidental (par. 3.63, 3.64). Le Conseil voudra bien noter que la quote-part du nouvel Etat indépendant du Samoa*Occidental est fixée au minimum, à savoir 0,01 pour cent. Enfin, c'est le dernier volet concernant les contributions, il s'agit du barème des contributions de 1980-81, paragraphes 3.74 et 3.75. Le Conseil note qu'il est invité à soumettre à la Conférence le projet de résolution du paragraphe 3.75 concernant le barème des contributions de 1980-81 objet de l'Annexe C du document.

Le Comité financier voudrait souligner à cet égard le cas du Viet Nam (par. 3.78 et 3.79) et précise qu'il ne s'agit que d'une question de conformité avec les décisions de l'Assemblée générale et que les changements intervenus pour d'autres Etats ne sont que les résultats des calculs utilisés par l'Organisation dans des cas semblables.

Enfin, il est à préciser que le barème pourrait être retouché en cas d'admission de nouveaux membres par la Conférence à sa vingtième session.

Je crois qu'il est logique, puisque nous parlons de contributions, et également des difficultés de recouvrement des contributions, de lier à cette question des contributions l'autorisation d'emprunter qui est soumise au Conseil aux par. 3.81 à 3.86. Là, le Comité soumet au Conseil une recommandation pour l'adoption d'une résolution autorisant le Directeur général à emprunter, en cas de difficultés, de notre situation financière, pour les raisons et dans les conditions stipulées aux par. 3.81 à 3.86. J'espère que les détails qui sont donnés dans les paragraphes que je viens de mentionner sont suffisants pour permettre au Conseil l'adoption de cette résolution. Avant de continuer, je voudrais bien rendre la parole au Conseil et savoir s'il y a des éclaircissements à demander ou des compléments d'information à fournir.

P. VANDOR (Hungary): The Council has before it a draft resolution on the Scale of Contributions 1980-81 to be submitted to the Conference. My delegation notes that the Scale of Contributions set out in the Appendix of this draft resolution is derived directly from the United Nations Scale of Assessments for 1979, and we note as well that on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, the General Assembly had decided on 3 November 1978 that the United Nations Assessment rate for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was .001 percent to .003 percent, and as a consequence, Viet Nam was included in the proposed FAO staff for 1980-81 at .004 percent.

Fully aware of the fact that this question is beyond the authority of FAO, my delegation would like to draw the attention of the members of the FAO Council to the resolution of the General Assembly on the 14th October 1977, in which the General Assembly recommended that the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam should be included on the list of MSA countries. While joining the consensus on this resolution before us, my delegation wishes to express the opinion that as an MSA country Viet Nam should be permitted to pay the minimum US dollar rate.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate for Hungary. As you yourself said, this is a matter on which the United Nations is the body that can give the final ruling. All the same, I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Finance Committee to comment.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Je voudrais préciser que le Comité des finances n'a jamais été informé de cette classification du Viet Nam dans la catégorie des pays les plus gravement touchés. Deuxième constatation, si j'ai bien retenu la date, la résolution est du 14 octobre 1977. Or, je crois que la quote-part du Viet Nam a été établie par les Nations Unies après cette date et la FAO ne fait que suivre le barème appliqué à New York. Troisième point, à ma connaissance - je peux peut-être me tromper - je crois que le facteur décisif pour l'établissement d'une quote-part n'est pas la classification dans la catégorie des pays les plus gravement touchés, ou bien les pays les moins développés; c'est surtout, je crois, le PNB. Je peux faire une erreur, mais je crois que normalement il faut: qu'il y ait une décision spécifique concernant un pays classé dans cette catégorie pour qu'il y ait une suite à donner par les institutions des Nations Unies.

CHAIRMAN: This is quite clear. Now we have before us certain proposals for recommendation to Conference. If anybody wants to take the floor on any of these items which have been introduced by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the floor is open for general discussion before adopting these recommendations. If there are no comments, then I take it that the proposal by the Finance Committee that we as a Council appeal to members who are in arrears to pay up, is agreed to and adopted. And that the recommendation that the Committee proposes to the Council, that a draft resolution be prepared for approval by the Conference on the scale of contributions, is also adopted and agreed to; also the resolution on borrowing.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Since the document was prepared in April and we are now at the end of June, could the Secretariat please give us a clear picture of the contributions due for 1979: Is there a change? Has something new come up? Have contributions been paid between April and now? If there are no changes that have taken place, could it please be clarified?

CHAIRMAN: I think the Chairman of the Committee did deal with this, he did bring it up to date, up to the 18th, but I will call on him to repeat the points he made on updating.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Effectivement, j'avais fait le point concernant la situation au 18 juin 1979. Je sais qu'il est assez difficile d'interpréter les chiffres et il est possible que les interprètes n'aient pas pu donner les chiffres aux délégués.

Ce tableau sera bien sûr publié, mais si le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite veut bien après la séance de ce matin venir me voir, je suis disposé à lui communiquer tous les chiffres, car j'ai ici tous les calculs. A moins que le Conseil, me veuille patienter et dans ce cas je serai prêt à répéter ce que j'avais dit au début de l'introduction de ces questions.

CHAIRMAN: Is the delegate of Saudi Arabia satisfied?

A.Y. BUKMARF (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): My question was whether there had been any changes concerning contributions for 1979. If changes did take place, then I will get in touch with the Chairman of the Finance Committee so as to be clarified.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, changes have taken place because he did give some figures which I remember writing down; so you can contact him to get the figures.

We go on to the next subject, and I call on the Chairman of the Finance Committee to introduce the next item.

- International Civil Service Commission Matters
- Commission de la fonction publique internationale
- Asuntos de la Comisión de Administración Publica Internacional

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Le deuxième volet de ces questions financières concerne la Commission de la fonction publique internationale. Il s'agit des par. 3.91 à 3.99 du document CL 75/4 et de l'Annexe D.

Le Comité a examiné les recommandations du rapport de la Commission de la fonction publique internationale ainsi que les commentaires du Directeur général y relatifs.

En général, il souscrit aux observations du secrétariat et il a pris note des incidences financières de l'application de ces recommandations.

Il recommande au Conseil d'approuver le contenu du rapport, compte tenu des commentaires de notre Organisation et des remarques du Comité lui-même, notamment aux par. 3.94 concernant le congé dans les foyers, 3.95 concernant l'allocation-logement, 3.96 pour ce qui est de l'indemnité de l'installation, et 3.98 concernant la défense des intérêts de l'Organisation auprès de la CFPI.

Enfin, le Comité attire l'attention du Conseil sur le par. 3.99 pour les décisions à prendre.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chairman of the Finance Committee. We have before us proposals by the Finance Committee in connexion with the International Civil Service Commission matters. Do we accept the recommendations made by the Finance Committee in this matter? Yes, then it is so decided.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Can you go on with the next matter, Chairman of the Finance Committee?

- External Auditor Nominations
- Propositions de candidature aux fonctions de commissaire aux comptes
- Nombramiento de Auditores Externos

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Il s'agit de la nomination du commissaire aux comptes: par. 3.126 à 3.132 du rapport du Comité financier.

Comme vous le savez, le Conseil doit nommer le commissaire aux comptes de notre Organisation. Dans ce choix, il est aidé par les recommandations du Comité financier.

Je voudrais également rappeler au Conseil qu'à sa trente-neuvième session, le Comité a demandé au Directeur général de lui soumettre un choix de propositions. A la suite de cet appel, l'Organisation a reçu deux candidatures: celle du Royaume-Uni, qui est l'actuel commissaire aux comptes, et celle du Sri Lanka.

Le Conseil voudra bien considérer en particulier le par. 3.129, car la question a été largement débattue au sein du Comité, et le par. 3.129 reflète les conclusions auxquelles est arrivé le Comité des finances.

Eu égard aux problèmes pratiques qui se posent, le Comité recommande au Conseil de nommer à nouveau au poste considéré le contrôleur et vérificateur général des comptes du Royaume-Uni pour une période ultérieure de deux ans. Cependant, j'attire l'attention du Conseil sur le fait que le Comité estime qu'il serait peut-être indiqué de commencer à réfléchir à la possibilité d'allonger le mandat du commissaire aux comptes.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Chairman of the Finance Committee. We have before us the draft resolution on the appointment of External Auditor. The subject is now open for discussion. If no member wishes to discuss the matter, then I take it that we adopt the resolution submitted to us in paragraph 3.132 by the Finance Committee concerning the appointment of External Auditor.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

The Chairman of the Finance Committee will now deal with other matters which may or may not need specific decisions but which have to be considered by the Council.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): A présent, je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur la situation des locaux au Siège (par. 3.100 à 3.112).

Le Comité a examiné la situation des locaux telle qu'elle est illustrée dans ces paragraphes. J'attire l'attention en particulier sur le bâtiment D. A cet égard, le Comité réaffirme sa grave préoccupation à l'idée que ce local ne sera probablement pas disponible à la fin de décembre 1979, et il invite le Directeur général à insister auprès des autorités compétentes pour l'achèvement rapide des travaux, pour permettre à l'Organisation de réaliser des économies sur le loyer et les dépenses connexes. D'après les dernières informations, il est fort possible que le bâtiment D, ou tout au moins une partie de ce bâtiment, ne sera pas prêt avant la fin du premier trimestre de 1980.

Enfin, pour les autres bâtiments, le Comité a pris note du développement des questions relatives à ces bâtiments.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Is there any discussion on this? If not, then we will go on to the next matter which you would wish to raise.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Pour les autres aspects concernant la situation financières, je voudrais tout d'abord évoquer la question du rapport annuel sur l'exécution du budget 1978, qui figure à l'Annexe A du document CL 75/4. Je crois que tous les détails du rapport figurent dans cette Annexe et l'appendice y afférente. Quant aux éléments saillants, ils figurent aux par.

3.50-3.54.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention du Conseil sur deux points, à savoir que les dépenses pour 1978 n'ont absorbé que 42 pour cent du budget total du biennium et qu'en raison du taux de change défavorable dollar/lire, par rapport au taux retenu par la Conférence pour le calcul du budget, il a fallu prélever la somme de 968 055 dollars du compte de réserve spécial pour couvrir les pertes subies au titre du personnel. Il y a lieu de rappeler que ce compte, spécial, institué par la résolution 27/77 de la Conférence, s'élevait à cinq millions de dollars. Cette tendance risque de se prolonger et d'entamer davantage le compte spécial comme cela est illustré dans le par. 3.69.

Comme autre question, il y a tout d'abord la situation du compte Frais des agents d'exécution du PNUD qui figure aux par. 3.72 ainsi qu'au par. 3.11.

Je souligne à cet égard la préoccupation du Comité à propos de l'incidence financière susceptible d'affecter le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation par l'adoption de formules de calcul modifiées des frais des agents d'exécution du PNUD. Le Comité réitère à cet égard son appui au fait qu'aucune décision ne doit être prise sans avoir été examinée au préalable par les organes directeurs.

Au par. 3.65 jusqu'au par. 3.71, vous avez la situation concernant certains programmes et comptes spéciaux. Je crois que je n'ai aucun commentaire spécifique à faire à ce propos, sauf pour le fonds de roulement figurant au par. 3.70. Je rappelle au Conseil que le retrait qui avait été effectué sur ce compte figure au par. 2.23 du rapport de la 42ème session du Comité financier.

Pour les ajustements de traitement à Rome, par. 3.87 à 3.90, le Comité des finances n'a pas de commentaires spécifiques à formuler à cet égard.

Enfin, la dernière question concerne la Commission européenne contre la fièvre aphteuse, par. 3.122 à 3.125. Je n'ai pas de commentaires spécifiques à ajouter à ce propos. J'attire seulement l'attention du Conseil sur les paragraphes 3.123 et 3.125.

CHAIRMAN: This item is now before us for discussion; if members wish to discuss any of the matters

referred to by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, you are free to do so. Is there any discussion

on this? If not, then I will give the floor to Mr. West who will inform us about the latest developments on UNDP support costs (paras. 2.169 and 2.170).

E.M. WEST (Director, office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): When I last reported to the Council on this matter the situation was that we were expecting a meeting of the Governing Council of the UNDP in New York last January, at which the Administrator was going to put forward his proposal for a new basis for calculating support costs. These were duly produced and contained two or three elements, the main one of which was to introduce a reduction of support costs at various stages of delivery beginning at \$25 million, the another reduction at \$50 million and so forth.

The ACABQ, which is, as you know, the equivalent of the Finance Committee of the United Nations, commented adversely on these proposals and said in effect that really the present system of 14 percent seemed a most adequate solution, but it was really a political decision for governments to take in the respective governing bodies of all organizations.

At the Governing Council, however, it was decided that the Working Group which they had set up to consider the subject should meet further during the course of 1979 and, inter alia, should consider information provided by the specialized agencies, the executing agencies on what effect the application of the Administrators proposals, and on one alternative thereto, would have financially. Accordingly the agencies supplied this information. In the case of FAO we worked out this financial effect in accordance with criteria laid down not by us but by the UNDP itself and we produced figures, reference to which you will find in the Finance Committee Report, which showed that if the system proposed by the Administrator were introduced for the third IPF cycle, the FAO loss-if I may call it that-that is, the amount of money in reimbursement which FAO would not receive, compared with the present 14 percent formula, would be approximately \$3 million in 1982, rising to \$6.5 million per annum by 1986. The cumulative losses during the five years of the third cycle would thus be in the region of \$23.5 million.

A meeting of the Working Group of the Governing Council of the UNDP was arranged for the beginning of this month in New York to discuss the results of the information supplied by the agencies. I went to New York for this meeting. It was due to meet from 4 to 6 June and then to report to the Governing Council. It met late on the morning of June 4th and went into informal session almost immediately. Informal session is one in which the agencies do not participate unless asked questions. At first the agencies were excluded; then they were admitted and allowed to answer questions. The discussions were prolonged and in fact they did not complete their work by the scheduled time on 6 June, and I am awaiting confirmation that they did in fact adopt a draft decision which was under consideration on the night of 6 June when they were due to conclude. Assuming they have adopted this decision, it will go to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Governing Council which is due to meet in a few days time, and then to the full Governing Council itself for adoption. Although we were not officially in participating, since they were in informal session, I did make a statement before they went into informal session, referring to your past decisions, referring to the views expressed by the Programme and Finance Committees, as you have heard this morning, and making it clear that we could not associate ourselves with any other position.

Nevertheless, I should also say that other agencies also made it clear that they were not happy with the situation. I would say that the prolongation of the discussions of the Working Group were due to obvious strong differences between a number of countries, most of them the main contributors. Some of the major contributors made it clear that they considered that it would be best to continue with the 14 percent arrangement; others, however, did not feel that this was sufficient. They all agreed that 14 percent should continue for the 1980/81 biennium. That much is clear. The rest, as I have indicated, is obscure. If this draft decision to which I refer is adopted by the Governing Council, it will place us in a further disappointing and difficult position. Firstly, the Working Group is asking for a prolongation of its mandate: it was due to finish this month; now it is asking to continue.

Secondly, they are asking for authority for a "limited study by an independent consultant". They are also asking the Economic and Social Council to request the agencies to consider the possibility of bringing together, in an annex to their budget documents, information on their technical cooperation programmes and the related support costs financed from different sources based on agreed definitions of the elements to be included in support costs. They would invite the executing agencies to consider

the feasibility of advising the recipient governments of the projected utilization of support costs reimbursed by UNDP or, to the extent applicable, covered from the agencies' regular budget corresponding to the total UNDP financed projects being executed by the agency in a national programme. I do not know what that means, the other two parts were clear but I do not know what the last part means.

The terms of reference of the proposed independent consultant are rather lengthy but they refer, inter alia, to ways and means of instituting adequate arrangements and accounting systems in the executing agencies designed to generate cost data which could give a clear picture of actual support in respect of technical cooperation activities. This set of decisions, if adopted, would, as I have indicated, constitute a problem because it all has to be done by June 1980 when the Working Group proposes to meet again. It was pointed out in the corridors that FAO does already provide much of the information to which they refer in the Programme of Work and Budget. In fact, photocopies of the relative pages of the Programme of Work and Budget were handed to various delegates. One of them said "but this is what we want from all agencies but had no reply to the question. But why do you wish to reduce support costs, more or less only for the FAO and not for others?" It was also pointed out that the budgetary and accounting procedures of each agency were the responsibility of its governing bodies and an independent consultant engaged for a number of weeks could hardly be expected to produce reforms for the whole of the system in all their budgetary and accounting procedures which would be acceptable to their governing bodies. However, the discussions were continuing when I had to leave New York, and I cannot predict the outcome. That is the unsatisfactory situation that I am afraid I have to report.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia); Agradecemos al señor West la aclaración que nos ha suministrado de acuerdo con la intervención que había hecho la delegación de Colombia.

Consideramos que a estas alturas sólo corresponde al Consejo tomar nota de la situación existente y pedir al Director General que se nos mantenga informados del desarrollo ulterior de esta cuestión a la luz de la norma vigente aprobada por la Conferencia, según la cual no se debe tomar ninguna decisión que afecte a nuestra Organización sin previo estudio por parte de los órganos Rectores de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Any other speakers? If not this brings to an end our deliberations for the morning session.

The meeting rose at 12.20 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.20 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 75/PV/12

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING

DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

12ª SESION PLENARIA

(18 June 1979)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance pionnière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12 sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

7. Report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers (Rome, 22-25 January 1979)

7. Rapport de la cinquième session de la Commission des engrais (Rome, 22-25 janvier 1979)

7. Informe de la quinta reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes (Roma, 22-25 enero 1979)

CHAIRMAN: We will continue with the next item on the Agenda, which is Item 7, the Report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers, and I would like, to call on the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Peckham, to introduce this subject briefly.

A.J. PECKHAM (Chairman, Commission on Fertilizers): I think I need not say very much about the Report, because I think such a very good job was done by those who drafted it. Perhaps I may just say that the Commission's meeting in January was extremely well attended. I think there were 54 members of the Commission present. The World Bank, UNIDO, and the other Specialized Agencies all contributed, as did 12 Observers from Industry. I think it would be generally agreed that it was an extremely good meeting and, much more important, it was constructive. I would like to go out of my way to say how much the strong Indian delegation contributed to that meeting.

The Commission really is concerned with five things, very briefly. This of course you will see from the Table of Contents in the Report before you. First is the World Fertilizer situation and Outlook. I might recall here that the Commission was set up to ensure that all countries but particularly the developing countries) have sufficient quantities of fertilizer at their disposal at a reasonable price, so that is the first thing we looked at.

Secondly, we looked at Investment and Production Costs, which are a very material consideration, and thirdly, we looked at the subject of Price Stabilization Measures. Then, fourthly, we examined Fertilizer Aid to Developing Countries and the future of the IFS, the International Fertilizer Supply

Scheme, in particular.

Lastly, we looked at FAO's Fertilizer activities in the broader context, and I think it was probably the first time we examined some of these things in the broader context. I myself found it extremely interesting to see the role which Fertilizer plays within FAO's overall programme in assistance to the developing world. So those were the five main headings I noted, and perhaps when you look at the section on World Fertilizer Situation and Outlook, it might be well to bear in mind what Dr. Bommer said to us when he opened the meeting. He said it was unlikely that the growth of agricultural production in the developing countries during the Second Development Decade would rise much beyond the 3 percent achieved in the sixties. That was a long way below the 4 percent target of the International Development Strategy. He went on to say that if food production in the developing world continued to lag behind the IDS target, there would be a heavy burden on food markets and they might reach unmanageable proportions. I make that point in the Introduction of this Report because I think it is a very important one.

I do not think I will say more about the Introduction, but I will go straight on to the first point, which concerns fertilizer supply and demand. Markets are very susceptible to change, and I do not think for a moment what we have said in this Report in January would exactly match the circumstances of today. The important thing, I think, to note about fertilizer supply and demand is FAO's expectation that there will be a doubling of fertilizer consumption in the developing market economies over the next ten years. That again, I think, is something worth dwelling upon.

As against that statement, we were told by the Indian delegation that India's consumption of fertilizer had in fact doubled in the last four years from 2.5 to 5 million metric tonnes. These are realities which I think it is well worth making. I will not go into details of the different supply and demand situations for different types of fertilizer; they are set out in the Report.

I will now proceed to Investment and Production Costs, the second item which I identified. The important thing about an increase in the production of fertilizer is the time it takes to plan fertilizer plants and to get them into production. New production facilities to

meet the increasing demands which are expected in the mid-eighties are already under consideration, and we had some extremely interesting information from the World Bank's representative, which again I think is shown in the Report, about the very large scale of investment which is involved. Again I refer to the Indian delegation's remarks commending the World Bank's effort. He said the critical point was the planning of projects in such a capital-intensive industry. He said the major role of the World Bank in subjecting fertilizer projects to stringent appraisal was in the interest both of lenders and of the recipient alike.

I turn very rapidly to the third point of Price Stabilization, and we will take a little more time perhaps over this, because this was one of the major and critical items for the Commission to consider. There was in fact a Press Release after the Fertilizer Commission met in January, where the Chairman of the Fertilizer Industry Advisory Committee, better known as FIAC, made the point that Price Stabilization Measures are a second line of defence. That is because, as I was saying a moment ago, the timing of new productive capacity is critical, and there are bound to be ups and down in supply over the next 10 years. It is therefore important that measures are available and can be quickly brought into effect should the need arise to protect the developing countries from the worst effects of price fluctuation. This is where the so-called options proposal comes in. Under this Scheme a manufacturer would be committed during a five-year period to supply an agreed tonnage of fertilizer at a pre-determined price equivalent to sales on the home market on the basis of a firm order and a clear understanding on delivery. As you will see from the Report, this was a step which was very much welcomed by the Commission, although the precise terms of the contract under the Scheme were still to be worked out.

Fourthly, Fertilizer Aid in developing countries and in particular the future of the International Fertilizer Scheme: this again is in the Report, I cannot put my finger immediately on the section, but the interesting thing under this heading was the useful debate which we had between the spokesman of the developing countries on the one hand, who naturally wished the Scheme's activities to be continued and strengthened, and the spokesman for the donor countries on the other, who drew attention to the quite significant increases in Fertilizer Aid under their bilateral programmes. In a sense, therefore, the discussion of the future of aid was a little inconclusive but not, I think, in the sense of the urgency and importance of increasing fertilizer aid.

I might perhaps again single out the announcement on India's part that she would withdraw from the list of the beneficiaries under the Scheme, and moreover, in recognition of the assistance which she

had herself received, announced her readiness to make a token contribution to the Scheme. India, I would like to see, a major part of bilateral assistance channelled through the IFS and directed to the Most Seriously Affected Countries with a positive bias in favour of the small farmer. I am mentioning that because I think it signifies broadly the opinion of the Commission.

I do not think we ought to weary this Council with all the details of the bilateral aid given by the various countries, but I think that the statement of the Netherlands representative, who said that fertilizer aid from all sources was now running at much the same figure of \$350 million a year, which is the annual budget of the World Food Programme, is a very significant statement. As I say, the details of the contributions of other donor countries is available in the record.

I think I would only add under this particular heading that in his summing up, Dr. Bommer said he was interested in the comments which had been made as regards the IFS forming part of FAO's Overall Programme to improve supply and demand of fertilizers.

I think I was right in saying he was firmly of the view that the IFS was an important part of FAO's overall fertilizer strategy.

Finally, to my last point. The end of the Commission's discussion was on FAO's fertilizer activities in the wider context. This was in fact the first occasion on which the Commission received a comprehensive statement of the activities of FAO in this field. Everyone agreed on the usefulness of this overall view of what FAO was doing to promote the use of fertilizer and the extension work therein of staff training, storage and credit facilities, etc.

There was not enough time for a complete and comprehensive discussion, but the Commission welcomed the report of the overall activities of FAO; perhaps I might finish on that note except I would like to make a reference to the Commission's future Programme of work.

It will wish to review local developments of new production capacity, both in regard to nitrogen and phosphate, beyond the mid 1980's. This is because of the time it takes to get production into play.

I should also mention there was strong support at the end of the Commission's meeting that it should meet annually.

I was myself responsible for putting a suggestion, which came originally from the Secretariat, that perhaps we might meet less frequently, but there was such opposition to that that I am quite clear the demand should be met - that is to say, the Commission should meet once a year.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Peckham, for this comprehensive introduction. Now the subject is open for discussion.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La presentación que acabamos de oír del señor Peckman, Presidente de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, ha sido muy clara y completa. Esto facilita la intervención de la delegación de Colombia que se limitará a destacar aquellos aspectos del documento CL 75/17 que, a nuestro juicio, podrían incorporarse en el Informe de este período de sesiones del Consejo.

Estamos de acuerdo en que hay que señalar la necesidad de hacer esfuerzos para aumentar la capacidad de producción de fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo. Apoyamos la recomendación, igualmente, de que las Instituciones Financieras Internacionales proporcionen ayuda en condiciones de favor, particularmente para establecer fábricas de fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia comparte la preocupación expresada por la Comisión sobre la posibilidad de que los altos precios de los fertilizantes afecten la capacidad de los agricultores de los países en desarrollo para utilizar fertilizantes en cantidades adecuadas, lo cual, como es natural, reducirá la producción agrícola en nuestros países.

Nos complace destacar la asistencia adecuada que el PIF ha proporcionado a los países en desarrollo, y pedimos que el Consejo inste a que se intensifique esa asistencia, para ello será necesario, como se afirma en el párrafo 36 del Informe, que se aumenten los recursos del PIF. Creemos que el Consejo debería apoyar el llamado que la Comisión ha hecho en este sentido.

Notamos con satisfacción la cooperación que ha empezado a establecerse entre el PIF y la recientemente establecida ADIFAL, Asociación para el Desarrollo de la Industria de Fertilizantes de América Latina, con sede en México, así como con la FADINAP de Bangkok. Creemos que son útiles estos contactos con organizaciones regionales, y esperamos que de todo ello resulten los mejores beneficios.

Encontramos acertada la colaboración tripartita entre el Banco Mundial, la FAO y la ONUDI; a ese respecto tal vez el Consejo podría apoyar la recomendación de que en la ONUDI se establezca un Comité ad hoc para encauzar estas actividades.

En cuanto al Banco Mundial mismo, cuyo papel es esencial en estas actividades, la delegación de Colombia apoya el párrafo 55 sobre la asistencia a los países en desarrollo para la evaluación y la supervisión de los proyectos en este campo.

Acerca del Programa de Labores y futuro de la Comisión, recordamos que esta Comisión fue creada en un momento difícil particularmente para los países en desarrollo; creemos que viene trabajando bien y que el resultado de su labor se utilizará en los países menos desarrollados y estamos de acuerdo, también, en que la Comisión se siga reuniendo cada año.

C.S. RANGACHARI (India): As the delegate of Colombia said, our task has been made easy for us by the very concise and lucid presentation by the Chairman of the Fertilizer Commission of the iiip,hlip,hts of the discussion at the Fifth Session. It is indeed a tribute to his mastery of the fact and his familiarity with the ground that he was able to cover most of the ground in five to ten minutes.

The Indian delegation would like to place on record in the most positive and emphatic terms its appreciation and acknowledgment of the work done by the Commission on Fertilizers.

As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, to a developing country which is striving to achieve a breakthrough in agricultural production, fertilizer is probably the most crucial input, and to a country like India with its high man/land ratio and the net area under irrigation showing only limited possibilities of expansion, fertilizer, for all practical purposes, is food. We believe in our country, that about 70 per cent of the additional production of food and fibre required to meet the

needs of our growing people in the next five years will have to come from the use of fertilizers. For these reasons, fertilizer holds the centre of the stage in our agricultural strategy and that will continue to do so as we go ahead with greater intensity of cropping.

I would like to bring to the attention of this august body that the work of the Commission on Fertilizers is primarily in three areas: first, the collection, review and dissemination of information on prices as well as the current, short-term and longer-term prospect of availability of a demand for fertilizer; the second area is ensuring the availability of fertilizers at reasonable prices in developing countries, in the short-term, through schemes such as the IFS, the option scheme and the other measures for price stabilization and, in the longer-term by encouraging the flow of financial assistance to developing countries for setting-up new production facilities, including development of infrastructure for marketing and distribution, in cooperation with other United Nations and multilateral organizations and financing institutions; and, thirdly, the review and analysis of factors affecting fertilizer use in developing countries, including pricing, credit, marketing, transportation and other policies, thus making available a large fund of information on governmental measures adopted in these countries and throwing new guidelines on policy desiderata.

In the Commission on Fertilizers we believe an institution has been built up, thanks to the painstaking effort made by FAO and the individuals concerned with it over the last five or six years, which will be difficult to replace.

It is in this background that we note with concern, even alarm, the tendency to view the fertilizer situation with complacency as though the crisis of 1973, in the wake of which the Commission was set up and has played a most useful role, no longer exists, and has outlived its usefulness.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to one or two specific facts. The first is the statement made at the Fifth Session by one or two developed countries to the effect that there is no need for the Commission to meet for perhaps another two years. Fortunately, this complacent viewpoint did not prevail, and the Indian delegation would like to reiterate to this august body the need to convene the Sixth Session of the Commission not later than January, 1980 -for two reasons.

First, as paragraph 36 of the report of the Fifth Session of the Commission notes, a large number of countries had expressed concern at the steady declining of IFS resources in recent years. In this context of the growing indifference of the developed countries to the needs of MSA countries, India announced its intention to make a token contribution to the IFS scheme. In making this gesture, we had hoped it would stimulate other richer countries to maintain and strengthen their support this important programme.

We believe that there is a dire need for vigorous action on the part of this Organization to obtain binding and long-term commitments "from producing countries with the ultimate objective of having all bilateral and multilateral fertilizer aid routed through the IFS scheme. We also believe that countries with smaller requirements of fertilizers (of say, 10 000 tons of nitrogen or 6 000 tons of phosphates) should be provided with not less than 50 per cent of their requirements through the IFS scheme.

We particularly appreciate the new orientation given to the scheme by adding a component of providing to recipient countries consultant expert services for the improvement of the marketing and distribution primarily to small farmers. This could in fact open up a very fruitful area of technical cooperation among developing countries.

In our opinion, it is therefore important to review the fortunes of the scheme at an early date.

Secondly, while I do not wish to create alarm or panic, the fertilizer situation in the international market is deteriorating faster than was anticipated before. The prices of fertilizers are in fact increasing at an alarming rate. I quote the figures in US dollars for each ton in illustrative terms: price of urea in bulk was US\$126.50 per ton in May 1978, and in May 1979 it was US\$135. Di-Ammonium phosphate has increased more markedly from US\$129.50 in May 1978 to US\$160.00 in May 1979 and : similarly, the price of the third important fertilizer Muriate of Potash, has advanced from US\$52.50 in May 1978 to US\$63.00 per ton in May 1979.

Even though India has contracted rather large quantities of fertilizer, supplies received are not very satisfactory. We even apprehend that some of the suppliers may already be holding back supplies anticipating further increases in prices. While the situation is serious for a country like India with its very large import requirements to support its ambitious agricultural production programme, it is not less so for other developing countries, especially MSA countries dependent on imports.

It is therefore essential that the next session of the Commission is convened early.

In fact, if our apprehension that another of those cyclical imbalances between supply and demand of fertilizers may be round the corner is well founded, a time may have come for this Organization to devote greater attention and resources to the problem of efficient use of fertilizer.

Reference has been made to this in paragraph 18 of the report of the Fifth Session, though not in the specific context that I am submitting before this body. The context I am submitting is that of a possible global shortage emerging in the availability of fertilizers in relation to demand at prices which can be afforded by the developing countries.

In this context the need for the Commission or one of its bodies, such as the Consultative Working Group, to study the fertilization practices in different agro-climatic regions and for different crops, and evolve appropriate guidelines to suit different countries, would assume high priority.

M. A. PAPAGEORGIOU (Greece): In the first place I would like to congratulate the Commission and its extremely qualified chairman on the concise and comprehensive report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers presented to us. As we all know, the average annual growth of agricultural production in the developing countries is still much below the four percent target of the International Development Strategy. We also know that hunger and malnutrition continue to spread.

A few days ago the Director-General, in his opening statement to this Session, said that the number of malnourished people has reached the figure of half a million. Food and agricultural production are still far behind the basic target of four percent. This demonstrates the lack of progress towards the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. Efforts should therefore be made to increase agricultural productivity. The use of fertilizer can play an important role in the achievement of greater self-reliance in food supplies of developing countries. The efficient use of fertilizers, together with the other approved practices, accounts for almost 50 percent of the increase in crop yields.

We therefore welcome the recommendation of the Commission that information on supply and demand and data on fertilizer use be made available to Member Governments. The use of fertilizer is a most important input for agricultural production. We have a very good example in India where fertilizer consumption has doubled in the last four years, which has resulted in the increase of land productivity. This example should be followed by the developing countries.

We support the view of the Commission that progress in the establishment of proper marketing, storage and distribution networks down to the village level in the developing countries should be reviewed and the necessary assistance provided. FAO's emphasis on the role of the use of fertilizers in agricultural production in the developing countries is fully justified. My delegation shares the view of the Commission that studies of investment and production costs be continued both in the new and in the existing plans.

We also agree that "steps should be taken to reduce the cost of fertilizer plants, raw materials and relevant infrastructures as low prices of fertilizer will increase its use, particularly by the small farmers in the developing countries. As regards price stabilization methods, we endorse the establishment by FAO of the option system. This system, however, should not replace but rather complement the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme.

Coming to the subject of fertilizer terminology, we support the recommendation of the Consultative Working Group of the Commission for the adoption of the elemental expression of all plant nutrients on an international and national basis. We very much appreciate the appeals made by the Director-General to governments to continue and increase their contribution to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme to enable FAO to reactivate the functions of IFS and to redirect its activities in support of the developing countries, and in particular the MSA countries and their small farmers. In addition to the promotion of efficient and more widespread use of fertilizer, greater efforts should be made for the removal of constraints and for improvement of distribution, marketing and credit systems in order to ensure that small farmers are able to readily obtain fertilizer within easy reach of their funds.

In my country a quick programme in the research field has been designed according to FAO data. We organize seminars for agronomists and training courses for farmers based on the results of this Programme. Furthermore, in order to improve the planning of our fertilizer requirements, we shall carry out in the near future surveys of fertilizer practices as in other developed countries. My Government also intends to change the existing State-run system of marketing and distribution of fertilizers and pass it on to the free trade.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Je voudrais, pour commencer, remercier le Président de la Commission des engrais sur l'introduction présentée, et également attirer l'attention de tous ceux qui se servent du texte français de ce document sur une erreur, quelque peu gênante, au paragraphe 36. J'en suis d'autant plus navré que j'ai été membre du Comité de rédaction et qu'à ce titre je me sens responsable. Le paragraphe 36 en français dit ceci: "Un grand nombre de pays ont constaté, avec beaucoup d'inquiétude,

le fléchissement constant des ressources du Programme engrais au cours des dernières années ".

Dans le texte anglais il s'agit en fait de IFS, le Programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais. Les ressources du Programme en engrais de la FAO n'ont pas baissé ces dernières années mais ont augmenté, à mon avis.

En intervenant à propos du Programme de travail et budget, ma délégation avait déclaré que la Belgique appuyait avec conviction le Programme engrais de la FAO. En effet, mon pays pense que dans les circonstances actuelles il convient de concentrer son attention, avant tout, sur le Programme "Engrais" sans toutefois négliger l'IFS auquel d'ailleurs mon pays contribue aussi. Il y a entre ces deux programmes une différence d'approche qui se retrouve dans d'autres domaines également. Je songe par exemple à l'aide alimentaire. Si je puis faire une comparaison, je dirais ceci: il y a une aide alimentaire qui consiste à fournir des aliments à des gens qui en manquent. Certes c'est nécessaire. Mais ce n'est pas suffisant. Cela ne résout pas le problème à plus long terme. Un autre type d'aide alimentaire apporte de l'aide à des gens qui ont faim et les aide à résoudre leurs problèmes en utilisant l'aide alimentaire à des fins de développement.

Le parallèle se trouve donc au niveau des engrais. A ce propos, je recommande la lecture d'un article paru sous la rubrique "Fertilizers sciences news" dans la brochure "Land and water" de publication interne du Département de l'agriculture de la FAO. La notice technique publiée dans la brochure "Land and Water", mars 1979, démontre clairement que dans certains cas le véritable problème n'est pas de disposer des moyens de paiement pour financer l'importation des engrais.

En effet, sur la base d'une expérience du Programme "Engrais" de la FAO, dans un pays d'Afrique déficitaire en aliments, je veux parler du Burundi, l'article démontre que pour produire le blé, le maïs et le riz, qui font défaut et dont l'importation coûte 187 millions de francs du Burundi au Trésor du pays en question, il suffirait d'appliquer à 11 000 hectares des engrais pour une valeur de 65 millions de francs du Burundi. L'économie nette en devises serait de 122 millions de francs du Burundi.

Pour chaque dollar dépensé pour importer les engrais, trois dollars sont donc économisés sur les importations alimentaires. Le noeud du problème est donc bien dans ce cas la diffusion du bon usage des engrais, et c'est ce que fait le Programme "Engrais" de la FAO.

J'ai tenu à faire ces remarques parce que dans le Rapport de la Commission des engrais, comme dans les documents soumis à d'autres réunions internationales, l'accent est toujours mis sur l'approvisionnement en engrais au travers de l'IFS alors qu'un programme particulièrement efficace et utile, comme le Programme "Engrais" de la FAO, est souvent passé sous silence. C'est tout ce que j'avais à dire.

L.V. BORGES DA FONSEGA (Brazil) : First of all I would like to congratulate the Commission and its chairman for the report presented to us. My delegation notes with deep satisfaction the part of this report which refers to the FAO activities related to fertilizers and would only like on this opportunity to stress the recommendation stated in paragraph 62 of document CL 75/17 that a review of the emerging production capacity for nitrogen and phosphatic fertilizers beyond the mid-eighties should be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.

S.A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): My delegation would also like to associate itself with the gratitude expressed to the Chairman of the Commission on fertilisers for his introduction. We have read document CL 75/17 with great interest and would like to compliment the Commission on this lucid document.

Before we proceed to comment on the contents of this report, we would like to say a few words about the position relating to fertilizers as it exists in Pakistan. To cut a long story short the use of fertilizers in Pakistan during the last six years has increased at a compound rate of 13.8 percent. In spite of this increase, the overall application rate, even in irrigated areas, is only about thirty-six and a half kilogrammes to a hectare, which is one of the lowest in the world. Thus on the one hand we are faced with a situation in which there is a total realization of the fact that the use of chemical fertilizers in correct proportion at an appropriate time and by suitable methods of application is the most effective practice for increasing crop production. On the other hand the situation exists where this vital input is not available to the farmer in adequate quantities.

While we hope to expect to be self-sufficient in nitrogenous fertilisers by the end of 1981, the present domestic production of fertilizers is sufficient to meet only about fifty percent of the total requirements of fertiliser. The balance shortfall has therefore to be imported from abroad. Since the cost of imported fertiliser is much higher than the cost of fertilizer produced locally, the sale of fertilizer has to be heavily subsidized by government. This would indicate the extent of my government's commitment to the use of fertilizers.

The farmer in Pakistan is highly sensitive to changes in fertilizer prices. After all, increased production and availability of fertilizer would be of no avail unless this vital input is brought within the reach of the small farmer who constitutes a majority of the total farming community»

The cyclical trend in international prices, the sharp escalation in the prices of fertilizers, and the formation of cartels of purchases are trends which give rise to concern»

It is therefore in this context that we have examined the report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers and would like to express our support at the efforts of the Committee and especially the Director-General of FAO to complete the Options arrangement in cooperation with interested parties to facilitate its implementation once commitments by fertilizer producers had reached a target figure set by the commission.

We would also take this opportunity of strongly recommending the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, and would suggest that a percentage of bilateral fertiliser aid of traditional donor countries might be channelled through this scheme to reactivate it and at the same time take full advantage of its establishment machinery and experience in this field»

We also fully agree that high prices would adversely affect the capability of farmers in developing countries, particularly of the small farmers who produce and use fertilisers in the required quantities which would in turn adversely affect crop production in these countries.

This may perhaps not be the most appropriate /?/ to point this out but we would like to stress on the fact that in developing countries like ours the use of fertiliser has a close relationship with the extension of credit facilities particularly to the small farmer. Availability of fertiliser is sometimes by itself not enough» The extension of credit facilities brings this vital input within the reach of the small farmer»

In conclusion I would like to say that the use of fertiliser in Pakistan is firmly established» The task of winning its acceptance by farmers is no longer necessary. In fact now adequate availability is the cause for close and careful attention» The use of fertiliser has been assigned the highest priority by the government of Pakistan» In this context, therefore, we hope that FAO would extend its activities in Pakistan in the following fields: training in fertiliser use development, study of the environmental problems and study of the relationship between prices of agricultural products and fertilisers»

We would also like to record our deep sense of /?/ for FAO assistance to the National Fertilizer Development Centre in Pakistan, and the offer of possible fertiliser grant by the European Economic Community. We look forward to further possible developments in this regard»

D. NSABIMANA (Rwanda): Le facteur engrais est une des contraintes importantes que pose l'augmentation de la production dans beaucoup de pays du tiers monde souffrant d'une forte population et accusant par là un rapport homme/terre assez élevé. En effet, dans beaucoup de pays en développement, la terre de culture étant fixée par la nature une fois pour toutes et la démographie croissant chaque année davantage, pour ne pas dire chaque jour, il s'ensuit que le rapport homme/terre se détériore davantage. De ce fait, on est obligé d'adopter des méthodes intensives de culture en mettant l'accent sur l'utilisation des engrais et des fumiers de toutes sortes ainsi que d'autres méthodes d'intensification agricole afin de produire plus sur une même superficie agricole utile.

Le facteur engrais constitue également, il faut le dire, un grand facteur économique et agricole des pays industrialisés; ces mêmes pays en fabriquent en grandes quantités et les utilisent également presque partout dans leur processus agricole.

Ceci dit, ma délégation est très reconnaissante au secrétariat d'avoir inséré dans l'ordre du jour de la présente session du Conseil le rapport de la cinquième session de la Commission des engrais, rapport complet qui nous donne beaucoup de renseignements utiles sur la plupart des problèmes que pose le secteur des engrais dans le contexte mondial. Aussi, nous limiterons-nous à quelques observations sur ce rapport portant référence CL 75/17.

Ma délégation partage l'inquiétude de la Commission des engrais quant à une augmentation du prix des engrais car ceci aurait pour effet la réduction de la demande de la part de tous les exploitants agriculteurs du tiers monde. Je dis bien tous les exploitants, car dans certains pays en développement il est assez difficile de faire une distinction entre grands et petits exploitants agricoles. Cette réduction pourrait d'ailleurs à la longue affecter le sort de l'industrie des engrais. A cet effet, ma délégation appuie la recommandation de la Commission des engrais contenue dans le paragraphe 17, page 3 du document CL 75/17, à savoir que des moyens de réduction du coût des usines d'engrais, des matières premières et des frais annexes d'infrastructure devraient être recherchés à tout prix et que des institutions financières internationales devraient s'efforcer d'octroyer des fonds à des conditions de faveur dans le secteur de production d'engrais. Nous comprenons très bien les difficultés de la conjoncture économique internationale actuelle, notamment avec la crise pétrolière, mais nous pensons qu'avec un effort soutenu de tous les producteurs d'engrais et de tous les financiers intéressés par ce secteur, des résultats satisfaisants de réduction, sinon de stabilisation des prix des engrais, peuvent être trouvés.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, nous pensons qu'une stratégie de promotion d'usines de production d'engrais dans les pays en développement, ne fût-ce que sur une base régionale, pourrait quelque peu débloquer la situation, car un des facteurs de détermination du prix, à savoir la main-d'oeuvre dans ces pays, ne coûte pas cher. Ceci pourrait d'ailleurs s'inscrire dans le cadre de la coopération qui s'en trouverait renforcée dans les pays en développement, S'agissant de la détermination des engrais, ma délégation est très favorable à l'adoption de l'expression "sous la forme élémentaire de tous les éléments fertilisants".

Pour ce qui est de l'aide en engrais aux pays en développement et des activités de la FAO dans le secteur engrais, ma délégation, tout en souhaitant un accroissement toujours soutenu des ressources du programme engrais par les pays et organismes donateurs tient à remercier tous les donateurs, pays et organismes, ainsi que la FAO, bien entendu, pour ce qui a été déjà fait dans le domaine des engrais dans les pays en développement et ne peut que les exhorter à une continuité toujours accrue. Elle tient tout particulièrement à remercier le Gouvernement de la Suisse qui participera bientôt au financement d'un des premiers projets engrais sur le territoire rwandais. Ce projet, qui n'est qu'un projet pilote et qui couvrira moins d'un dixième de tout le territoire, a retenu l'attention de nos autorités. Ma délégation espère que ce projet pourra connaître une continuité et s'étendre sur tout le territoire. Elle espère également que d'autres donateurs de pays industrialisés se joindront à la Suisse et que la FAO, à travers le programme engrais, accroîtra ses activités dans ce pays qui, pour nourrir toute sa population d'une façon satisfaisante, ne peut que compter sur l'intensification de son secteur agricole afin d'augmenter la production agricole.

Ma délégation apprécie les initiatives combien louables de la FAO pour ce qui est des frais de transport des engrais à destination des pays en développement bénéficiaires, car ces mêmes pays ne disposent pas d'un budget suffisant à cet effet. Pour ce qui est des frais de transport à l'intérieur de ces pays, nous nous demandons - et ceci dans la mesure du possible - si la FAO ne pourrait pas supporter ces frais car, ne l'oublions pas, ses apports en projet, engrais ou autres, ont pour effet de soutenir les efforts propres au développement de ces pays bénéficiaires dont le budget est parfois chancelant de par les lourdes dettes qui les accablent, etc.

Pour ce qui est de la méthodologie générale des projets engrais dans les pays en développement, à savoir la vulgarisation des exploitants agricoles afin de mieux utiliser les engrais, l'incitation à la demande des engrais par ces mêmes utilisateurs ainsi que l'augmentation des revenus de ces derniers, ma délégation est très favorable. Afin de réussir cette mission, notamment la vulgarisation pour une meilleure utilisation des engrais, elle suggère aux services compétents de la FAO d'organiser plus fréquemment des stages de formation de courte durée, des séminaires et des visites dans des centres et pays déjà avancés en matière d'utilisation d'engrais pour des techniciens agricoles et même des exploitants agricoles du tiers monde.

En matière d'utilisation des fertilisants, engrais ou autres, ma délégation pense également qu'il faudrait mettre l'accent sur l'association de l'agriculture et de l'élevage pour produire du fumier; cette méthode étant pratiquée chez nous a beaucoup d'effets significatifs quant à l'amélioration des sols de culture. Enfin, ma délégation appuie la recommandation de la Commission des engrais contenue! au paragraphe 62, page 9, document CL 75/17, portant sur le programme de travail futur de cette Commission ainsi que celle contenue dans l'Annexe E du même document se rapportant à la terminologie des engrais.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta) : We are extremely grateful to the Commission for its very valuable work and very valuable contribution it made by its Fifth Session. We realize the success of this meeting was mainly due to the very accurate participation in this of the excellent Chairman who really made the greatest part of the success his own success. We thank Mr. Peckham also very much for the very lucid introduction of this item on our agenda.

In order to be brief, I wish to deal mainly with two aspects of the report, the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, and FAO Fertilizer Activities.

The assistance provided to developing countries through the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme is a very essential one. It is an important, very well organized and managed unit within FAO. We are very sorry to see such a contribution to this excellent programme declining. Expressing our gratitude to those of the donor countries which are contributing their fertilizer aid multilaterally through the IFS we hope that an increasing number of countries will do the same. We are particularly grateful to India for its generous gesture with which it renounced all the aid from the IFS and on the other hand is making a total contribution to the programme*

There is indeed a great need for the contribution to this scheme, not only because the prices of fertilizers are increasing again but also because the government which in most cases have to bear alone the burden of fertilizer donations to their small farmers have a very heavy burden in their balance of payments through the buying of fertilizers. In the circumstances we wonder if IFS should remain entirely an assistance scheme based purely on voluntary contributions. Would it not be possible to contribute a small part of FAO's regular budget to the scheme in order to ensure its continuity?

Coming now to FAO fertilizer activities, this delegation fully shares the opinion of the delegate of Rwanda that there is a great need for more demonstration activities. I recall that we made suggestions during the meeting of the Fertilizer Committee that a demonstration programme on fertilizer use at a relevant training centre be organized for the benefit of small farmers in South Europe and most African developing countries.

K. DEVAHASTIN (Thailand): We would like to compliment the Commission and its Chairman for the excellent document presented to us. We would like to present certain views for further consideration of the Commission and FAO.

Many developing countries, including Thailand, are consuming both the three main single fertilizers and the compound fertilizers. So the information on the compound fertilizers should be included in the document in order that the c.i.f. prices of both types of fertilizers from the exporting countries will be made known. In the case of Thailand, where marketing and distribution of fertilizers is rather inefficient, the fertilizer market is of monopolistic competition type where the collusion of traders or dealers may occur occasionally. So such information will help facilitate the determination of the price of fertilizers that is reasonable to farmers.

It is felt that the establishment of proper marketing, storage and distribution networks down to the village level in the developing countries should be reviewed. Although efforts have been made in Thailand and many other countries, the problems still exist. Small farmers still have to pay more for fertilizers. There is always fertilizer shortage during the cropping season and thus less fertilizer is applied per unit area. The failure may be caused by financial deficiency and ineffective management. Programmes should be designed to launch perhaps a pilot scheme aiming at the development of marketing and distribution of fertilizer in developing countries.

Regarding the studies of investment and production costs, we agree with the request of the Commission that the studies be continued both in new and existing plants. For the existing plants the study should aim at increasing efficiency and reducing costs of production.

The Thai Government is interested in the establishment of a new nitrogen fertilizer plant using natural gas as feedstock. A feasibility study on the investment and managing capital for different size and production processes of the plants is required.

As to the price stabilization measures, various measures, namely the option proposal, long-term contracts and the Iran proposal, are agreeable to the Thailand fertilizer situation. The extent of cooperation among producers or exporters and purchasers is still doubtful. Meanwhile the price of agricultural products is insignificantly correlated with the price of fertilizer. This problem

needs to be further studied so as to bring about an appropriate solution. In view of the steady decline of IPS resources in recent years we believe that it is quite necessary that the IPS resources will have to be reactivated. While being appreciative that the IFS provides fertilizers to those MSA countries, we hope also that the scheme will be extended to cover the developing countries.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): My delegation would like to commend the Report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. As explained by the Chairman of the Commission, there are five very important aspects and we would certainly welcome definite attention and if possible specific measures adapted to the implementation of these programmes as quickly as possible.

All developing countries are trying their best substantially to raise agricultural output in the shortest possible time by resorting to import substitution in the domestic sector and the expansion of agricultural exports in the cash crop sector. There are two ways of solving this: (i) through expansion of the area under cultivation and (2) by intensification of production.

In view of limited land resources the expansion of the area will not be possible under export crops. In the domestic sector it would be possible to double the output in the cultivated area. Such expansion in both the medium and long term will incur heavy investment. This is where the importance of fertilizer is felt.

As recent studies have shown, the levels of fertilizer application in most MSA countries have been very low. The experience of my own country will illustrate this. We import annually about 258 495 tons of fertilizer for three main export crops - tea, rubber and coconut - and of course rice. The cost of imported fertilizer is about £19 million, and the value of output is about £536 million. If the recommended levels of fertilizers are used the quantity needed would be double and the value of production would be almost double. It is in this situation of continuous cropping that demand for chemical fertilizers increases, and especially in paddy production where we are encouraging the use of high, yielding varieties. It is in this context that we should like to see a strengthening of the IPS. We would request countries in a position to do so to contribute to the IFS liberally, also for the FAO to reactivate the IPS and see that through it the fertilizer requirements of the MSA countries are met as far as possible.

We would like next to commend the introduction of a price stabilization scheme for fertilizers, rather than leave the MSA countries at the mercy of intermittent price changes. We all know that no farmer likes to see a price increase in fertilizers during the middle of the season.

Finally, we would like to see a judicious application of the option proposal, long-term agreements and also a measure of bilateral aid where countries have been used to doing so being encouraged.

M. KRIESER (United States of America) : Our remarks will be brief but we did want to comment on some of the issues addressed by the Commission on Fertilizers at its Fifth Session.

First I would like to say that the United States warmly supports and encourages FAO's market data collection and analysis activities. This kind of information is essential for helping to avoid future fertilizer crisis situations. The Commission had for review a study by the World Bank concerning the costs of fertilizer plants, and we think that this kind of study is useful for the Commission to review and that additional studies, perhaps considering additional variables, would also be useful.

Concessional financing for infrastructure associated with the building of fertilizer plants is of course important. However, the final cost of the fertilizer products to farmers may be too high to afford if all the infrastructure costs are charged against the cost of building the fertilizer plant and then built into its pricing structure. As regards an options pricing system that has been suggested, the United States Government is not in a position to speak on behalf of the United States fertilizer industry in this regard. We do think however that long-term contracts offer a more practical approach to the problem of stabilizing international fertilizer prices.

Concerning the Commission's recommendations which would give FAO responsibility for promoting uniform expressions of plant nutrients, we recognize the value of some of this kind of activity but we feel that this probably should be of a somewhat lesser priority for FAO. We feel that FAO's work in helping developing countries in their marketing of fertilizers and in the utilization of fertilizers, particularly by small producers of food crops, is useful and ought to be of high priority.

The Commission also urged bilateral donors to channel a portion of their assistance through the International Fertilizer Scheme. This prompts me to comment on work done by the United States Agency for International Development on a bilateral basis. The United States' aid is providing fertilizer materials, technical assistance and financing for fertilizer production facilities and we think it is doing so rather effectively. The funds allocated for these purposes are carefully monitored to ensure that they are spent efficiently in and for developing countries.

I should also note for the record that about thirty percent of the fertilizer materials moving through all multilateral and bilateral assistance programmes in the past four years have been supplied by the United States.

Finally, a word about scheduling the next session of the Committee. It is our feeling that in the interest of efficiency and economy these meetings might be held biennially unless there is some evidence that a crisis situation is imminent. However, we also recognize the concern that some countries have expressed that this may lead to a lessening of vigilance over the years, and we are therefore prepared to accede to a consensus view on frequency of meetings.

D. RICHTER (Germany, Federal Republic of): In my Government's view, the Commission on Fertilizer has also proved at its Fifth Session to be a useful forum for the discussion of all questions relating to the application, supply and distribution of fertilizers. The delegation of my country has agreed to the Report of this meeting. I can therefore restrict my remarks to a few important aspects.

For the years to come, a further balanced development of supply and demand is to be expected on the fertilizer market. As the situation has eased off for some years, the supply of fertilizers has improved in the developing countries. These countries could substantially increase the consumption of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers in the last five years and expand production considerably. It is, however, often not yet possible to supply agriculture with fertilizers to the extent necessary. In particular for MSA countries it is difficult to cover their increasing requirements through imports. The Government of my country, therefore, takes special account of MSA countries within the framework of its fertilizer aid. It has again substantially increased in 1978 its fertilizer aid with nearly 80 thousand tonnes.

The expansion of production capacities in developing countries will continue and contribute to an adequate supply. A stable as possible supply situation in line with requirements can, however, in view of the high investment cost for new facilities not only be reached by expanding capacities. An even greater weight should in many cases be given to the utilization of all already existing production facilities, because this requires a much lower expenditure. It is necessary, as has also been expressed by other speakers, to continue at the same time the efforts to expand the distribution system and to improve the granting of credit to farmers for the purchase of fertilizers. The Government of my country is prepared to provide in future more capital aid in support of such infrastructural measures.

The Commission on Fertilizers has thoroughly examined various possibilities for developing countries to conclude contracts also in a high price situation on fertilizer supplies at reasonable prices comparable with the domestic prices of supplying countries. The recommended option model can now be applied, since fertilizer producers in, industrialized countries have declared their willingness to cooperate. Let me point out in this connexion that my Government can exert no influence in this respect. Partner of this system can in my country only be the fertilizer industry itself which negotiates with the respective contracting party on price fixing and the distribution system and makes arrangements on quantities and other modalities of the contract.

The necessary increase in food production in the developing countries requires the use of yield-increasing inputs. Fertilizers have in this respect a spearhead function. My Government has therefore substantially increased its fertilizer aid. These measures are in line with the objectives of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme and are notified to FAO. The functions of the IFS could still be improved by the fact that developing countries inform FAO about their planned projects for submitting them to donor countries which could then take such requests into account in their bilateral programmes.

To conclude, let me, like India, recall the appeal that in view of the limited energy and raw material resources available, fertilizers should be used as carefully as possible and in the most effective way. The Commission on Fertilizers has been dealing with these problems in cooperation with FAO's activities in the fertilizer sector. My Government hopes that the Commission will also in future give special attention to this aspect.

G.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): For this Organization, the subject matter under discussion is a very important one. First of all, we compliment the Fertiliser Commission for the Report at its Fifth Session. In any developing country, the most important inputs for speedy increase of food production is water control and use of fertiliser. Water control is an expensive exercise and at times, time-consuming. Fertilizer application, as we have seen from our experience, can grow very fast with more than adequate returns to the investment. We have seen that the application of fertilizer may triple the yield in the particular land if properly applied.

In that context, we see the operation and exercise in the Fertilizer Commission as very important for developing countries.

In Bangladesh when it became independent, the consumption of fertilizer was very negligible.

It grew to 400 thousand tonnes in '76/77 and then over '76/77 in '77/78 it was 600 thousand tonnes and still underestimated. That means an increase of about 50 percent.

In '78/79, which is now concluded in June, it was 800 thousand tonnes, an increase of 33 percent over '77/78 and in '79/80 the production is 1 million tonnes. That means over a period of 4 years it has grown from 400 thousand tonnes to a million tonnes.

Our domestic production is about 300 tonnes. That means our import requirement was 100 thousand tonnes in '76/77, and in the next year, July '79-June '80 it will be 700 thousand tonnes. You can imagine the pressure we have to mobilise the resources and aid to import 700 thousand tonnes of fertiliser for the next financial year, which is July '79 to June '80, but this has paid dividends and we have noticed that application of fertilizer has up to three times increased the yield.

In that context we feel that fertiliser pricing, supply and price stability should receive priority attention from this Organization, and that was the main task of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilisers. In that context, we endorse the recommendations of the Commission, particularly urging FAO to see how best and how quickly they could ensure the Option Proposal, which has been responded to by the industry very favourably, could be put into operation, and I am sure that with the efforts of FAO, this Option Proposal, which has also been favourably responded to by the Industry, could be put into operation.

In the fertiliser activity of this Organization, the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme is a very important element. You may recall that it was recommended and accepted by this Council to put this fertiliser supply scheme on a permanent basis. It is on a permanent basis in this Organization. But the irony is that placing this scheme on a permanent basis, the source has gone dry. You will notice that in '74/75 it had its peak, but since then it has gradually gone out, and today the IFS has virtually no resources. We feel that it is important to put something on a permanent basis, but it is more important to see that the permanent thing operates and works. We have a permanent organisation and mission but it has no resources, which is all the more lamentable. I understand that except for one major donor which I believe is the United States, there is hardly any donor to this Scheme, whereas the fertilizer requirements of developing countries is growing every day. No doubt the IFS can make its efforts, as suggested by Germany, in helping developing countries to identify projects and addressing them to the donors, but it has no resources of its own. I really do not understand how it can effectively keep its reputation and credibility as a means of helping the developing countries in the procurement of fertilizers. So we strongly urge not only that the IFS should be reactivated but the donors should be persuaded, and I am sure that they will say that the IFS is a good source of supplying fertilizers to the developing countries.

We really feel that the Commission has done a good job and if these two important items which we stressed, the introduction of the Option Scheme and the reactivation of the IFS, are done and done quickly, we will feel satisfied that the Report of the Commission had produced some concrete results.

C. PARIAS MARFIL (Cuba): Nuestra delegación desea en esta oportunidad reiterar el apoyo al informe final del 52 período de sesiones de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, como ya lo hiciera en enero pasado durante la celebración del evento; pero, como algunos de los delegados que me han precedido, quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre algunos elementos relevantes de la situación mundial de fertilizantes que creemos que debe ser, como ha venido siendo hasta ahora, preocupación de la Comunidad Internacional.

Según la Resolución 33/62 VII de la Asamblea General se ha situado una meta de contribución al PIF para lograr a final de año un millón de toneladas anuales de nutrientes para las plantas y vemos la situación actual y nos damos cuenta que es necesario para la consecución de este objetivo que las Organizaciones Internacionales y los países donantes aumenten sensiblemente su contribución.

Ya en la 19 Conferencia de FAO se analizó el exceso de los países en desarrollo en la importación de fertilizantes y pesticidas acordándose entonces que ese exceso fuera a precios competitivos y no a precios superiores a los internos de los países desarrollados exportadores, lo cual no ha sido totalmente obtenido, por lo que creemos debemos seguir abogando.

Es de todos conocida la importancia de la utilización de los fertilizantes y pesticidas para el aumento de los cultivos, de su rendimiento, así como la escasez de recursos financieros de los países en desarrollo para su adquisición.

Es igualmente conocida la insuficiencia técnica y económica de nuestros países que impide el necesario y sustancial incremento de las instalaciones y servicios de producción y almacenamiento en estos dos tipos de productos; y como todo ello trae como consecuencia que se mantenga un alto nivel de dependencia de los países en desarrollo con relación a los países exportadores desarrollados, nuestra delegación en este sentido está convencida de que debemos continuar trabajando en función de aumentar las instalaciones de producción y almacenamiento de los países en vías de desarrollo y reducir al máximo ese nivel de dependencia de los países en vías de desarrollo hacia los países desarrollados, para lo cual es necesario, en primer lugar, aumentar la asistencia financiera de las organizaciones internacionales y de los países donantes.

Como se podrá constatar, estos aspectos que hemos planteado de una manera muy escueta y concreta están contenidos en los párrafos del 5 al 7 de los Acuerdos sobre agricultura y alimentación del 22 período de sesiones del Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas, creado en cumplimiento de la Resolución 32/74 de dicha Asamblea General, y decimos esto ya que estos elementos nos demuestran cómo todas las reuniones de los Organismos Internacionales han venido destacando y repitiendo la importancia de los temas tratados y que aquí hemos querido enfatizar una vez más.

Es todo cuanto queríamos señalar, señor Presidente.

L.S.O. SAMIZI (Tanzania): I will start by expressing my appreciation of the work of the Commission and of the excellent presentation of the document. My delegation studied document CL 75/17, the report of the Fifth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers with great interest, and would like to endorse all that has been recommended therein.

Without taking up much of this Council's time, allow me to reiterate our stand on some aspects of this report which we consider as very important.

As a matter of policy, the current Five-Year Development Plan of my country attaches great importance to increase food production and agricultural production as a whole. To implement this objective, two basic strategies are followed.

The first one is the opening up of new agricultural land, and the second one is the utilization of improved agricultural technology. The latter approach calls for an increasing use of fertilizers. The use of fertilizers is not limited to large estates only, but small farmers have also been benefiting by the use of this very important import. Major problems have been incurred in rendering this assistance to small farmers. These range from marketing storage and distribution and is also associated with credit availability and recoveries.

My delegation endorses the view expressed by the Commission at the end of paragraph 12 of their document "that progress in respect of the establishment of proper marketing, storage and distribution network down to the village level should be reviewed and necessary assistance by way of expert advice and consultancy provided where necessary"

When considering the production costs of new and established fertilizer production costs, Tanzania has been experiencing a difficult situation when costs of the fertilizer plant has been very high, thus necessitating an increase in the price of the fertilizer to farmers to the extent that government has to subsidise the farmers heavily in order to enable them to use the fertilizer.

We therefore endorse the view that has been expressed in paragraph 19 of the report, and call for assistance to research and the provision of improvement to new and already existing fertilizer plants.

In addition, my Commission wishes to give support to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, and we pledge our request to donor countries to channel part of their contribution to this scheme. Tanzania has benefited from this scheme. The revenue that has been realized from sales of this fertilizer has been channlded to other areas of development in the agricultural sector.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): Concerning Item 10 of the report, Canada can endorse the comment that in spite of the outlook that the developing countries' market share of fertilizer production will increase substantially by 1982/83, they will continue to be heavily dependent on imports from the rest of the world.

This is particularly true for potash, of which most of the known deposits are in North America and USSR.

In order to meet the anticipated future increased world demand, Canadian production capacity will increase from 7.5 million tonnes to about 10 million tonnes by 1982/83. This will include two new mines in New Brunswick, and an expansion of existing mine capacity in Saskatchewan.

Regarding Item 16, the Commission expressed concern that prices of fertilizers produced in new plants are expected to be higher mainly on account of higher investment costs. We are questioning that assertion, based on experience in Canada, where in 1977 two new nitrogen plants came on stream. So far they appear to be doing fairly well, despite excess capacity in the North American market and high initial investment costs. We believe the reason for this to be improved efficiency in productivity and securing economies in handling and distribution costs.

If the Commission's assertion were true, then one might expect old plants to survive against the new ones in the period of sluggish demand and excess capacity, but in North America this has not been the case. During 1977/78 and 1978/79 numerous old plants shut down as they could not compete with the new plants and new production facilities.

On Item 18 the Commission urged that fertilizer prices should be kept as low as possible through steps such as reduction in investment and production costs, etc. Private fertilizer companies keep investment and production costs as low as possible in order to improve their profits. Fertilizer prices, on the other hand, we find are determined for the most part by competition on the world market; hence, the Commission's concern that high fertilizer prices would adversely affect the capability of farmers in the developing countries is valid in conclusion. However, we question the Commission's suggestion for solving the problems of high prices.

Again, going back to the situation in Canada, our experience is that one of the most important factors putting an upward pressure on fertilizer prices at the local level is the fertilizer storage capacity at the retail level. A recent study by the Canada Department of Agriculture indicates that storage capacity at the retail level in Alberta is insufficient to meet the current distribution requirements. Hence, there have been delivery problems with spot shortages at the peak of the season with consequent upward pressure on local prices.

We feel, too, that the Commission might be more concerned about the availability of fertilizer at competitive prices to the farmer in the developing countries, rather than just low prices. More attention might also be directed towards developing an efficient and adequate delivery and storage network at the retail level.

Fertilizer are of particular interest to Canada. We have an active fertilizer development assistance programme of our own, and we have considerable industrial expertise at both the production and utilization levels. We are currently reviewing the question of bilateral United States and overseas multilateral routes for delivery of the substantial fertilizer components of our development assistance work.

The work of the Commission and the IFS has not gone unnoticed. At present our system responds to bilateral requests for fertilizers as part of individual country development assistance programmes from, Canada.

J. A. LEIVA (El Salvador): Vamos a ser breves en nuestra intervención.

La 5 reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes se celebró en Roma del 22 al 25 de enero de 1979 y le tocó a nuestro país participar por vez primera en esta Comisión.

La exposición del señor Peckham ha sido muy amplia y clara, por lo cual nos permitimos felicitarlo.

Queremos también apoyar la posición del señor delegado de Brasil respecto al párrafo 62 al recomendar la Comisión que el programa de su 6ª reunión se preparase en cooperación con el grupo de trabajo consultivo de la Comisión teniendo en cuenta las conclusiones de la Conferencia sobre la Reforma Agraria y otras reuniones, entre ellas la del CCIF y las conclusiones de la 5 reunión.

Nuestro país utiliza una gran cantidad de fertilizantes para el desarrollo de los cultivos agrícolas, por lo cual los mismos desempeñan un papel importantísimo en la agricultura, por lo tanto, estamos totalmente interesados en el programa de labores futuro de la Comisión, de tal forma que el mismo sea adecuado a los fines que persigue y que se puedan superar todas las dificultades que puedan presentarse.

Finalmente, queremos manifestar nuestro apoyo a la Comisión en el párrafo 17, al pedir insistentemente que se buscara la manera de reducir los costos de las fábricas de fertilizantes, las materias primas fertilizantes y las infraestructuras correspondientes. Asimismo, su recomendación de que las instituciones financieras internacionales se comprometieran a proporcionar ayuda financiera tanto para las infraestructuras como para las fábricas de fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I do not think that any specific question has been put in this very valuable discussion for the Secretariat to respond to. I can only say that from the side of the Director-General and all the staff concerned, we appreciate very much this discussion and the number of valuable comments that have been made, including very specific ones on the study and production costs which we will certainly convey to our friends in the World Bank to see if in further studies the Canadian experience could be taken into consideration, and to check whether the outcome in the next Commission meeting could be revised accordingly. We have taken note of the various suggestions made on the work of FAO's fertilizer activities in developing countries, some of them very specific, and requests from specific countries. Again, we have taken note of this and we will certainly see how we can accommodate this in our programme.

I just want to stress one point that came up several times in our discussion. We are fully geared and committed - as expressed by the delegate of Belgium - that our support activities in the fertilizer field as one of the most important production interests is to combine the message of improved and effective use of fertilizers with the supply side. But the one side is useless, I must say, is a drop in the ocean if there is nothing coming behind it. This means, what is the value of speaking about an efficient use if there is no fertilizer available.

This leads us back to IFS as the international mechanism of fertilizer aid within the context of all other fertilizer aid activities on the bilateral scale, and I would repeat, the only word I have heard from, I think, most of the developing countries in this round stressing the continuous need for this channel, and the hope that this channel will be used. It is nice to hear that recommendations are being made that the scheme be used to formulate projects. We have done this and we have even passed on the project to bilateral donors for possible support but we get a negative reaction. So I think the project formulation loan is not enough: there must be commitment with it that this project can be supported, and there are enough cases in which bilateral activities are not possible or fail for lack of access to a country because of specific relations. Here the Scheme is of very important and possible use.

I therefore think more initiatives from those providing such important assistance in the field of bilateral fertilizer assistance should come forward to make more concise and improved use of this established channel, in future.

CHAIRMAN: This concludes the discussion on this item and we will now go on to item 9.

9. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest

9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun

9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común

9.1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

9.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies qui intéressent la FAO

9.1 Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

Before we go any further, I would like to call the attention of the Council to the front page of document CL 75/8 and, since it is important, I would like to read it because we need to be properly guided in the discussions:

"In this document the Director General reports, for the information of the Conference and Council, on a number of recent developments in the United Nations system. The emphasis is on decisions and recommendations adopted by the General Assembly at its 33rd Session, in 1978. The main decisions of the General Assembly on the re-structuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, which were adopted in December 1977, were reported to the Council at its 74th session in November/December 1978".

Therefore members can see that the report itself is for information. The Director-General is informing us and then we will pass it on to the Conference, what has been happening in the United Nations system. When we come to discuss it we do not want to go one by one: I will open discussion on the whole report-so that members can debate any part of it that they like. Before that, I would like to call on Mr. Walton to give a brief introduction to the papers.

D.J. WALTON (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I do not need to make any extensive introduction of the paper itself but I would like, if I may, just to say one or two additional words of background exploration. It is envisaged that the main paper before the Council, CL 75/8, together with its supplement, will be reproduced again as a Conference document and will be supplemented with a further addendum reporting on any substantive developments that happen between now and the time of the Conference. The Conference will thus have before it the main documents, the comments of the Council and the updating supplement.

I should also like to draw the Council's attention to the fact that several subjects dealt with in the Director-General's opening address appear in the paper before you. Thus, document CL 75/8 contains the full text of the agreed conclusions of the General Assembly Committee of the Whole on certain aspects of food and agriculture. The Director-General in his opening remarks also brought the Council up to date on certain aspects of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. I should explain also that when the Programme Committee considered the question of restructuring, as reported in paragraphs 2.110 to 2.115 of this report, it did not have this document before it and therefore the report of the Programme Committee on this subject is self-contained and a factual account.

The preparation of the new International Development Strategy is another subject mentioned by the Director-General on which work is now proceeding. The Preparatory Committee appointed by the General Assembly is meeting now in New York and was addressed last Friday on behalf of the Director-General by Professor Nouri Islam. Work is going on this week and it is too early to report on the result of this session of the Preparatory Committee.

Finally, I would like to mention that preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development are also moving forward rapidly these days. The report before the Council refers to the possible institutional implications of this Conference for the system. I have myself just returned from a meeting in New York on this subject, which remains obscure to say the least. I need say nothing more about the document but I shall be glad to at least attempt to answer any questions that delegations may have.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos ha parecido interpretar en forma muy adecuada la observación suya, acerca del resumen que aparece en la portada del documento CL 75/8 en el sentido de que dentro de la totalidad de los cambios que están operándose en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, corresponde a nosotros, como miembros del Consejo de la FAO, referirnos exclusivamente a aquellos asuntos que atañen directamente a nuestra organización.

Si es así, la delegación de Colombia desearía declarar, en primer lugar, que le conforta el hecho importante de que las novedades que se están cumpliendo en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, estén orientadas, como dice este documento, hacia el establecimiento del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. En cuanto a la FAO respecta, es satisfactorio registrar el hecho de que el importante Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas se está ocupando a fondo de las cuestiones relacionadas con la agricultura, lo cual confirma la importancia de los cambios especializados que abarca la FAO, y por lo tanto, el papel vital de nuestra Organización en el empleo y general contexto de todas las Naciones Unidas.

Es satisfactorio ver, como según aparece en el párrafo 12, que el Comité Plenario de las Naciones Unidas ha incluido en su programa de trabajo, un tema llamado "Medidas relativas a los problemas alimentarios y el desarrollo agrícola en el mundo". Esperamos que la FAO continúe haciendo, como lo ha afirmado el señor Walton, aportes significativos al trabajo del Comité del Plenario.

Encontramos muy bien que nuestra organización haya participado con otras agencias en la elaboración de documentos para este fin, y también que la FAO, por sí misma, haya preparado un documento sobre el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en los órganos competentes de las Naciones Unidas. Encontramos muy bien igualmente, que los jefes de las agencias hayan destacado la conveniencia de señalar al Comité Plenario la insuficiencia de los recursos disponibles para las actividades operacionales en comparación con las grandes necesidades de los países en desarrollo. Ojalá que en el Comité Plenario se tenga en cuenta esta opinión de los jefes de las agencias, y que ese concepto fundamental que hemos citado, se incorpore en el examen global de las operaciones que hará el ECOSOC por petición de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

En los párrafos 24 y 29, del documento CL 75/8 están descritas algunas actividades de la FAO en estos campos, las cuales apoyamos. En los párrafos 32 a 36 se habla de la asistencia que se ha venido ofreciendo al pueblo palestino con lo cual estamos de acuerdo sobre descolonización y funciones conexas. La delegación de Colombia también apoya la acción de la FAO de asistencia a los refugiados y pueblos de los territorios coloniales de Africa, así como los estudios para determinar en qué medida ciertas políticas han afectado al sector agrícola.

En el párrafo 5 del documento, hay la afirmación de que la nueva estrategia internacional para el desarrollo perseguirá entre otros el objetivo de aumentar sustancialmente la producción alimentaria y agrícola en los países en desarrollo y facilitar efectivamente el acceso de sus exportaciones agrícolas a los mercados internacionales de una manera estable y más predecible y a precios justos y remunerativos.

Esta afirmación, a nuestro juicio, está muy de acuerdo con otra que se hace en el documento, en la cual se dice que casi todas las cuestiones de que se ocupa la FAO tienen consecuencias para otros

organismos. Creo que estas consecuencias expresadas a tan alto nivel, confirman la interrelación de todos los factores que conforman la totalidad del desarrollo y que es una respuesta nítida y enfática a los distinguidos colegas que, en ocasiones anteriores, han dicho que la FAO no es necesaria para ocuparnos de ciertos temas. Nosotros creemos que nuestra organización debe adelantar sus labores en relación directa con todos los otros sectores, de los cuales no puede separarse. Quisiéramos que no se nos insista en que aquí no se traten asuntos de vital importancia para los países en desarrollo, porque no queremos ir hacia atrás.

Tenemos el recuerdo de que, hace unos veinte años, cuando por primera vez vinimos a la FAO, ésta era una Organización inmensa, burocratizada, cargada de experiencias y de conocimientos, pero cansada, anquilosada, encerrada en su torre de marfil, aislada de la realidad económica, social y política del mundo. Afortunadamente, sobre todo a partir de cuando ese gran hombre que es el señor B. R. Sen llegó a la Dirección General de la FAO, las circunstancias han cambiado; los representantes de los países en desarrollo somos más conscientes de la importancia de esta organización, y esperamos que esos cambios sean progresivos.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia desea reafirmar su apoyo a ciertos principios fundamentales que figuran en el Pacto Internacional sobre Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales.

En cuanto a la FAO destacamos los principios contenidos en ese Pacto, del derecho fundamental de toda persona a estar protegido contra el hambre y el derecho del hombre a liberarse del hambre y de la miseria.

A.M. FASLA (Algérie): Ma délégation a examiné avec soin le document CL75/8 et écouté avec attention l'introduction de M. Walton.

Le document qui nous est présenté est un document concis, qui nous donne un aperçu exact et objectif des mutations survenues au sein du système des Nations Unies, soit au niveau des problèmes d'approche du développement et de la coopération économique internationale, soit au niveau des problèmes de la restructuration du système lui-même.

En 1980 aura lieu une nouvelle session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale consacrée au développement et à la coopération. Ce sera la troisième, après la sixième et la septième session, et nous nous félicitons de voir la FAO contribuer à la préparation de cette Assemblée qui, nous l'espérons, pourra donner un apport concret et positif, qui ne se limitera pas seulement à des déclarations d'intention qui finalement demeurent des vœux pieux.

Au cours de cette Assemblée générale, on examinera la mise sur pied de la nouvelle stratégie internationale pour le développement. Là encore, la FAO a un rôle très important à jouer, et ce rôle a d'ailleurs été indiqué par le Comité plénier à sa session de mars, consacrée presque exclusivement aux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous estimons que cette stratégie doit être la stratégie du nouvel ordre économique international, tel qu'il est défini par la sixième session de l'Assemblée générale et par la Charte des droits et des devoirs économiques des Etats. Nous savons qu'il y a des oppositions, mais nous ne perdons pas l'espoir que ces réserves s'estomperont avec le temps et que la raison finira par prévaloir dans un secteur qui est le plus important et le plus vital pour l'humanité, le secteur de l'alimentation, car il s'agit d'éviter à des millions d'êtres une mort lente et terrible et la menace de cette mort que provoque la faim.

Nous avons, au cours de notre déclaration générale, fait quelques remarques sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, et ces remarques s'appliquent à la stratégie internationale pour le développement.

Pour ce qui est de la restructuration des questions économiques et sociales, c'est une question très complexe et très difficile. Nous avons, en tant que pays en développement, au cours de la septième session extraordinaire, demandé que le système devenu lourd, onéreux, où il y avait énormément de double-emploi, où les institutions se disputaient les prérogatives, nous avons donc demandé que l'on s'attaque à ce système avec objectivité, avec dynamisme, pour le rendre plus apte à répondre aux exigences de notre époque, pour le mettre en mesure de répondre avec rapidité aux problèmes cruciaux, urgents, que connaissent les pays du tiers monde. Cette restructuration, tout le monde l'appelait de

ses vœux. Elle visait à rendre le système plus souple, moins lourd, et surtout elle visait à rendre le système plus capable de résoudre les véritables problèmes, et non pas de s'embourber - ce qui est malheureusement quelquefois le cas - dans des considérations de prestige de telle ou telle organisation.

Nous voulions une coordination réelle, qui évite justement que des experts de très haut niveau soient pris par des organisations alors que l'on pourrait, à travers un organe appartenant à tout le système, avoir par exemple un fichier auquel on se référerait chaque fois qu'il s'agit d'un problème touchant à la science ou à la technologie, pour ne prendre que cet exemple. Je dois souligner que tout le monde s'occupe à l'heure actuelle de la science et de la technologie dans les organisations du système des Nations Unies, que ce soit l'Unesco, la CNUCED, l'ONUDI, la FAO. Ce que nous voulons, c'est qu'il y ait une coordination au sein du système qui, hélas, fait défaut. Cette coordination commence à se faire jour, notamment avec la création du poste de Directeur général pour le développement, mais nous connaissons toutes ses difficultés, tous ses obstacles, et je crois que les institutions du système doivent redoubler d'efforts pour parvenir à cette coordination si nécessaire, car elle permettra de redéployer au moins 30 à 40 pour cent du personnel et des experts du système des Nations Unies vers d'autres activités, notamment sur le terrain, et elle permettra d'économiser des millions de dollars qui sont nécessaires pour la promotion de la coopération internationale multilatérale, et pour la promotion du développement,

M. Walton nous a parlé d'une "réunion obscure", si j'ai bien retenu ses mots. Je crois que nous avons l'habitude - je parle pour moi - de ces réunions, et je crois que la FAO, comme toutes les institutions des Nations Unies, devra faire l'effort nécessaire pour que ces réunions obscures se transforment en réunions claires, où les décisions qui seront prises seront des décisions efficaces servant les intérêts des Etats.

Il est certain que l'Algérie ne peut pas diminuer le rôle des institutions du système des Nations Unies, bien au contraire, mais elle souhaite que ce rôle soit renforcé, que les organisations du système des

Nations Unies multiplient leurs efforts pour s'acquitter de leur mandat, et s'il y avait des difficultés qui découlent quelquefois de malentendus, d'une mauvaise coordination, d'un chevauchement des prérogatives, il appartient aux Directeurs des différentes agences, notamment au cours de leurs réunions, de trancher ces problèmes, car il y va de l'intérêt de nos peuples, et il y va de l'intérêt du système des Nations Unies.

Déjà, dans les années soixante-dix, il y a eu une tentative d'essayer de rendre le système plus simple, plus souple. Mais nous avons vu le système s'alourdir et devenir beaucoup plus complexe, et seuls quelques initiés pouvaient comprendre tous les mécanismes qui le faisaient marcher.

Cette coordination est nécessaire et ne devrait pas empêcher les différentes organisations représentées dans nos pays d'avoir accès à tous les échelons du gouvernement, de l'administration, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit des institutions s'occupant d'activités opérationnelles comme la FAO.

Je voudrais préciser que nous sommes d'accord, nous l'avons déjà dit, avec la déclaration du Directeur général lorsqu'il stipulait que la coordination devait d'abord et avant tout revenir aux Etats qui sont mieux placés pour connaître leurs intérêts.

Ce document comporte de nombreuses références aux décisions de l'Assemblée générale, qui demeure l'instance suprême où sont prises les décisions, par les plus hautes autorités de nos pays. Il est tout à fait normal que l'Assemblée générale donne des orientations qui doivent guider le travail et les activités de toutes les institutions du système des Nations Unies et assimilées, qu'il s'agisse de la FAO, de l'Unesco, du Fonds monétaire et de la Banque mondiale. C'est avec satisfaction que nous enregistrons que la FAO entend donner suite à sa résolution et coopère étroitement avec les autres institutions du système à cet effet.

Je voudrais plus particulièrement mettre l'accent sur l'assistance à accorder aux pays les plus gravement touchés. Nous en avons déjà parlé. C'est un thème économique qui revient au niveau de toutes les institutions du système. Mais je voudrais encourager la FAO à poursuivre son assistance aux pays qui se trouvent encore sous le joug colonial et sous la domination de l'occupation étrangère, que ce soit en Palestine, que ce soit en Afrique, notamment en Afrique australe. Nous apprécions le travail déjà réalisé par la FAO, et nous souhaitons qu'elle renforcera son action, car il s'agit de la dignité de peuples qui luttent pour leur indépendance, qui luttent pour être représentés parmi nous. La FAO peut et doit faire beaucoup dans ce domaine. L'Algérie ne peut que l'appuyer et lui apporter tout son soutien dans cette noble tâche, qui est celle d'assister les peuples encore sous la domination coloniale, ou sous l'occupation étrangère.

Nous avons noté avec intérêt la participation de notre Organisation et sa contribution à la prochaine Conférence des Nations Unies sur la science et la technique, qui doit se dérouler en août à Vienne, ainsi que la disposition de la FAO et le début de ses préparatifs pour la Conférence sur les énergies nouvelles non renouvelables, organisée par les Nations Unies. Nous sommes sûrs que les différents services de notre Organisation apporteront une contribution valable, qui permettra à la Communauté internationale de parvenir à des décisions susceptibles de l'aider à résoudre les problèmes qui assaillent l'humanité, et notamment le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition.

M.T.S. SIDDIQUI (Observer for Namibia): At the very outset I wish to convey the profound gratitude of the people of Namibia to the Member States of FAO, whose support and solidarity to the cause of Namibia enabled FAO at its Nineteenth Session in November 1977, in a pioneering and historic act, to admit Namibia to full membership of the Organization.

We are also grateful for the invitation extended to us to participate in the deliberations of the current session of the Council and do recognize the great significance of the issues that are the subject matter of this Session.

My delegation has followed the deliberations of the meeting with great interest and attention and fully shares the concerns and /?/ of the developing /?/

In discussing the present item of our agenda - that is, recent developments in the United Nations System of interest to FAO - and in consideration of the documents CL 75/4, CL 75/8 and CL 75/18 one aspect that engages the attention of my delegation is the singular contribution that FAO has made through its various activities to the promotion of the objectives and implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly. FAO's close cooperation and collaboration with other agencies within the United Nations System indeed deserves special appreciation.

Of particular interest to my delegation has been the activities of FAO to the cause of decolonization and of organization of effective international programmes of assistance, as reflected in paragraphs 28 to 41 of document CL 75/8.

It will be recalled that in Resolution 32/36 the General Assembly requested the specialised Agencies to render, as a matter of urgency, all possible moral and material assistance to the peoples living under alien occupation and foreign domination in Africa. The United Nations Council for Namibia, as the sole legal administering authority for Namibia until the territory achieves genuine national

independence, has actively pursued these objectives and participated in the work of international conferences, the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations with a view to safeguarding Namibia's interests and ensuring that South Africa does not attempt to represent Namibia illegally in any forum.

The United Nations Council for Namibia besides being a full member of PAD is an associate member of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization and has also participated with full status in the work of the United Nations Conference on the succession of States in Respect of Treaties, the United Nations Conference on Desertification UNCTAD V, and others.

In assuming direct responsibility for the territory, through the United Nations Council for Namibia, the United Nations incurred a solemn obligation to assist and prepare the Namibian people for self-determination and genuine national independence. The creation of the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the Institute for Namibia are concrete examples of successful measures designed to assist Namibia.

The United Nations Council for Namibia is deeply indebted to the FAO for the close cooperation and assistance it has received. The great number of activities FAO is undertaking with regard to decolonization are a reflection of its commitment to the cause of decolonization in support of the oppressed people of Southern Africa.

In regard to Namibia, it is my particular pleasure to mention that FAO has played a major role in the development of the nationhood programme for Namibia.

The nationhood programme for Namibia is the first of its kind in the history of the United Nations.

The programme requires technical assistance that can be of particular relevance and importance for Namibia in the pre-independence period. These programmes include training and research programmes for displaced Namibians outside the territory and eventually to assist their return to Namibia after independence. The United Nations Council for Namibia has so far received about 100 project proposals from different United Nations agencies to be integrated into one comprehensive proposal. FAO in particular by its participation in the planning workshop in Lusaka in May 1978 has greatly contributed to these efforts. FAO is, now involved in nine pre-independence projects, totalling \$1 160 700 of special mention is the assistance given to the research and training programmes in developing necessary skills and techniques in the area of agriculture, fisheries and food.

FAO's participation in the nationhood programme, however, is only one part of its efforts geared to Namibia. FAO's Freedom-from-Hunger Campaign prepared a Report on assistance for the preparation of training programmes in rural development and related project areas for the United Nations Institute for Namibia in 1978. This description of FAO's continuous fruitful cooperation with the United Nations Council for Namibia and other specialized agencies within the United Nations System and its valuable contribution to the fight against colonialism as reflected in paragraphs 37-41 in document CL 75/8 certainly offers a very hopeful scenario in view of the crucial role these projects bear upon the future social and economic development of Namibia.

However, we must not overlook that all these activities shall remain of very limited significance unless the people to whom these activities are extended achieve genuine national independence. In this regard, in conclusion I would like to invite the attention of delegates to the recently concluded resumed Thirty-third Session of the General Assembly, which vide Resolution 33/206 has again

underlined the urgent need to ensure the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Namibian people

to genuine self-determination and national independence of Namibia in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and reaffirmed the direct responsibility of the United Nations for Namibia, renewing its determination to ensure the effective and complete discharge of this responsibility and to this end called upon all Member States and bodies and organs of the United Nations to support fully the United Nations Council for Namibia as the legal administering authority until independence in the implementation of its mandate.

My delegation, while expressing its deep gratitude to the FAO and the participating delegates for the consistent support to the cause of Namibia, urges them to redouble their efforts to enable the Namibian people to take their rightful place in the international community as a sovereign and independent nation in the not-too-distant a future-

N.M. MAPELA (Zaïre): Je voudrais remercier M. Walton pour la présentation du document et les explications qu'il a bien voulu nous donner. Bien que ma délégation ne soit pas, en ce moment, en mesure de prédire ce qui pourrait résulter de toutes ces mesures de restructuration des secteurs économique et social du système des Nations Unies, nous partageons cependant les inquiétudes exprimées par le Comité des programmes au par. 2.111 du document CL 75/4. à savoir qu'à la suite de la décision contenue dans la Résolution 33/202 de l'Assemblée générale, le Comité des programmes note qu'il faudra de plus en plus éviter les doubles emplois entre la FAO et les Commissions régionales dans les projets et autres activités.

Ceci dit, et pour terminer, ma délégation tient, une fois de plus, à souligner le fait qu'au niveau des pays la coordination de toutes les activités de développement incombe à juste titre au gouvernement de chaque pays concerné.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): We appreciate having, even though with some delay, the good document prepared for this item and also having the useful introduction given to us by Mr. Walton. The document deals with a number of issues of interest to the FAO and to the members of its Council, among which I will focus on only one or two.

For several years my Government has played an active role in efforts to bring about more coherence and more focus to the farflung and expanding United Nations activities in the economic and social spheres. Our participation in what has become termed restructuring of United Nations activities has been motivated exclusively by a desire to minimize duplication among United Nations Agencies and maximize the relative strength of each in an effort to be of the greatest possible assistance to the developing countries. We visualize the single official described in the documentation as responsible for coordination of United Nations activities in the field. The person would be appointed by the Secretary General to harmonize the work of all agencies in the field, while at the same time recognizing the unique responsibilities of each agency and its representative, including the FAO and its representative, all with respect to the host country. We see this new effort to achieve a more rational allocation of resources available within the United Nations system as fully compatible with and indeed complementary to the decentralization of FAO activities to the field, of which the Director-General is a major champion.

The document before us, CL 75/8, suggests in quite a dispassionate manner that FAO's basic relationships remain governed by the United Nations Charter, the FAO Constitution and the relationship agreement between the two Organizations.

In the field, we would not expect that the kinds of exchanges of information and of views and of cooperative spirit which now exists between the best United Nations representatives and the best representatives of other United Nations organizations will really need to change very much in character. It is our belief that where competent people are involved, cooperation and coordination are already growing. Hopefully the new arrangements will assist and extend this evolution. We believe there is room for improved coordination in some field posts. We do not regard coordination as a bad word. In fact, we believe that FAO's record in the field posts and elsewhere warrants a somewhat more positive posture on the subject than we sometimes hear from FAO. It seems to us that it is not proper coordination but over-coordination or unnecessary coordination, particularly at United Nations capitals that we ought to guard against, and if this is the heart of the concern expressed at the outset of our work at this Session of the Council, we share it, and we will work to resist over-coordination.

With respect to paragraphs 32 to 36 of the document, which has been provided for our information only, I must note my Government did not support the two ECOSOC Resolutions which are addressed therein, although we have been supporting and will continue to support assistance to the Palestinian people. In examining the modalities on assistance under these Resolutions, the recently created Inter-Agency Task Force sets a good example by pursuing its work in consultation with Governments and with relevant Organizations in the area as well as with the PLO, as required by the Resolutions. We believe this example is worth attention, given the normal practice of this and other international agencies of responding to project requests when made by or endorsed by Member Governments.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): At this late hour our intervention will be very brief. We are very happy that, as promised to the Finance Committee, the Secretariat has been able to submit to this Council document CL 75/8. It is a very useful document and contains up-to-date information on the recent developments in the United Nations system which are of interest to the FAO. We are happy to note that participation of FAO in the Committee of the Whole has been active and effective, and the result is the Committee of the Whole resolutions and recommendations on the item food security,

I also feel that FAO will continue to take an active role in the preparation of the Special Session of the General Assembly to be held in 1980 on new international development strategies and in the implementation of a New Economic Order.

One specific item on which we want to comment is appointment of a single official. Bangladesh, as I am aware, is a party to the General Assembly Resolution No. 32/197. Bangladesh, as any other developing country, is in favor of coordination of activities of the various United Nations Agencies operating in the field in all developing countries, but what we are concerned with is that in our anxiety for coordination we do not disturb the equilibrium in a manner which may be detrimental to the interests of developing countries and to the interests of development in those countries. Coordination, as you know, is a sort of a fad with the present-day world, and over-coordination has always a negative effect. You will find in the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees, CL 75/4, in paragraph 2.114, how the FAO Senior Officials are engaged in running back and forth between Rome and Geneva and Rome and New York in the interest of coordination and how much effective and useful manpower and man hour loss that is to this Organization at the Headquarters.

The purpose of this appointment of the single official is coordination, and the name to be given to this official is Resident Coordinator of UN Systems Operational Activities for Development. To understand the implications of this designation will take quite a long time in many developing countries, and the purpose for that is multi-disciplinary dimension in sectoral development assistance programmes. Again a jargon for the UN but for the developing countries to understand in the field will be quite difficult, a jargon which may be very easily understood by New York but at the field level this might create problems for understanding in the developing countries.

While I make it very clear we are in favor of coordination in the field and there is a need for that, what we are afraid of is that in the implementation of that and our anxiety for coordination, it should be in an orderly way so that the equilibrium that exists at the present moment is not disturbed to the detriment of the interests of the developing countries.

Lastly, in the interest of the relationship of developing countries and the Organizations, the United Nations Agencies, and the relationship the Organizations have with their representatives and the Organizations themselves, in other words, the developing countries on the one hand, the relationship with the Organization, collectively and separately, and the relationship of the representative of individual Organizations and themselves, that should not be disturbed in a way that may be in the interest of coordination but disturbing to the detriment of development.

We know from our experience that in Bangladesh, coordination as at the moment done by the Resident Representative of the UNDP is quite happy and effective. As far as this Organization is concerned, its representative in Bangladesh has the best of relationships with the UNDP representative, and there is no problem of coordination and mutual help in the best interest of the country and the Organizations.

We also believe that the primary responsibility rests with the developing countries, and the countries themselves must have and should have the last word. No matter what kind of coordination the operating agencies may assume, they should not trade sovereign rights to the organisations themselves to coordinate.

From that point of view I believe FAO is cautious, although in the ACC it has been agreed on the Letter of Appointment of the single official that the terms of reference of this single official should be very clearly and distinctly spelled out. This jargon, "multi-disciplinary dimension in the sectoral development assistance programme must be clearly understood, not by people in New York alone, or people in Geneva alone, or in Rome alone, but it should be understood by the developing countries so that it is properly implemented in an orderly way.

In the statement of the Director-General on the Opening Day he dwelt at length on this subject, and his concluding sentences were: "Therefore we should be openly concerned about possible damage to our vital field action by excessive impractical coordination detrimental to the interests of developing countries themselves."

This is our concern, we very much want the activities of the agencies to be coordinated, and coordinated effectively, but it should not be done to the detriment of the interests of developing countries and development in those countries. As long as it is orderly and understood, we are all for the purpose of it.

S. A. PERVEZ (Pakistan): We have taken note of document CL 75/8. It is important for us in the Council to know of the changes and developments taking place in the United Nations system that are of interest to FAO. It is an obvious and imperative need, as almost every aspect dealt with by FAO is in one way or the other of inter-agency implication.

FAO has an important and effective role to play in the development of a new inter-agency strategy for the APs. The need for the establishment of a new economic order has been the subject of universal concern. Towards this end, also, inter alia, inter-agency relations and organisational restructuring assume importance, and need to be noted.

We are indeed grateful to the Director-General for taking care of this need and keeping us informed of developments in this regard through his report, and look forward to the detailed analysis the Director-General intends to submit to the Council in 1980 on recent trends and inter-agency relations.

G. HAVORD (United Nations Development Programme): Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to say a few words to the Council. In view of the lateness of the hour, I shall be as brief as possible. Unfortunately, I myself was only able to arrive in Rome today, but my colleague has been present throughout the Council so far and has informed me of the discussions which have taken place, and I would like to comment very briefly on one or two of the items which have been before you.

I noted - and the Administrator had the opportunity to note in New York - the favourable comments the Director-General made in his Opening Statement last Monday on the effective cooperation between UNDP and the FAO in many fields, and particularly in the exclusive economic zone of Fisheries. I would like to note here that the UNDP and FAO have been collaborating for many years in this as in other fields, and UNDP's financial contributions to a series of programmes in the Fisheries field over many years are well known to the Council.

The Director-General also made reference to the activity FAO has undertaken in order to deal with the recent outbreak of locusts in parts of Africa and the Near East, and I am glad to report that as the Director-General foresaw, the UNDP Governing Council has given its approval to the project which was put together by FAO and UNDP working in liaison to provide an additional sum of \$2.1 million to the programme, primarily for training of personnel at the national level and the regional level for developing more effective long-term coherent control and vigilance programmes, and for general technical support at the various centres which are dealing with the present outbreak, and which, hopefully, will continue to deal with the problem in the future.

In addition, the UNDP is providing from regional funds in the African region very shortly the sum of, I believe, \$345 thousand for additional support to this programme, and we also expect to be able to allocate the sum of about \$950 thousand from the special funds made available to UNDP through OPEC.

I would also like to mention, as yet one more example of the cooperation between FAO and UNDP on problems of immediate concern, the negotiations which are now proceeding between UNDP and the FAO for a series of regional projects in the field of prevention of post-harvest losses, which will be supplementary to the special programme in this field which is going forward. I could, of course, give many other examples, but do not wish to take up too much of your time.

I understand there was a very encouraging and forward-looking discussion on the subject of technical cooperation among developing countries. I need not elaborate on the interest the Administrator of UNDP has in this subject. As you know, he was Secretary-General of the Buenos Aires Conference, and an equally instructive and forward-looking debate has been going on, and continues, in the Governing Council of the UNDP in New York at the moment. The Administrator is discussing with the Council a number of specific measures which he is taking to strengthen the ability of the UNDP, working closely together with the agencies, in order to strengthen the permeation of the concept of TCDC as an integral part of programmes of the United Nations system in all developing countries.

I would like to refer briefly to the question of the proportion of the FAO executed programmes as a percentage of total UNDP resources. A number of references have been made to the fact that it appears the proportion of UNDP programmes implemented by FAO is falling, and this appears to have been so over

the last few years. FAO does remain by far the largest executing agency for UNDP, and is implementing very nearly double the proportion of the programme (I do not think this is quite true, perhaps, but it is nearly double the amount being implemented by the next-largest executing agent, which is the United Nations, and something between two and three times as much as the third-largest, which is the ILO).

When looking at this question, there are very many factors which have to be borne in mind. The number of agencies which execute projects financed by the UNDP has been growing in recent years; the promotion of a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary type have been more common.

We are encouraging, as is FAO and as are all the other organizations of the system, increased use of national resources, both human and material. The UNDP, as is well known, has established its own operational mechanism, OPE - the Office of Project Execution - and is executing a number of projects directly. At the country, regional, and inter-regional level, the operations of OPE have only the very smallest and extremely minor effect on the FAO's role as an executing agency; the total of OPE project executions in 1978 was \$44 million, of which only \$2 million were in the field of agriculture.

More important than all of these different factors is the increasing role of governments themselves, in determining their own priorities for UNDP assistance, and also the role of governments in the decision of which should be the executing agency. This decision is no longer made by UNDP Headquarters. It is made by governments in consultation with UNDP.

Another factor has been the rapidly increasing volume of business which FAO is conducting in the field which is financed by other voluntary sources of funds, such the multi-by programmes, trust funds, etc., and there is the impact which perhaps the Technical Cooperation Programme may have had. Not to continue this whole catalogue, I think there are very many factors which need to be borne in mind when looking at this problem, if it is a problem, and I would like to explore on my return to New York whether it would seem to be valuable or feasible for UNDP and FAO to consult jointly so that a rather more specific analysis of this situation might perhaps be available for the Conference of FAO next November.

I should perhaps say in this connection, too, that as you know, there is an increasing wish on the part of the developing countries and on the part of our Governing Council and the Governing Bodies of most of the agencies for an increasing role for governments in the execution of projects; and this matter, too, is being discussed in New York.

Questions have been raised as to what impact increasing execution of UNDP-financed projects will have on the role of agencies, and the Administrator has made it clear as recently as last week in debates in New York he envisages an extremely valuable and positive role on the part of specialized agencies in helping governments to build strength in the first instance to implement projects financed by UNDP, and also to assist them in the implementation of certain aspects of the UNDP-financed projects -perhaps in the procurement of equipment, perhaps in advice on sources of expertise, and so on.

This, of course, in dollar terms is the kind of assistance which will not be very costly, but I believe it will be absolutely vital to the successful development of an increased volume of Government execution.

Turning very briefly to the question of support costs, I have little to add to the very excellent and comprehensive statement on the current situation made earlier today by Mr West. Suffice it to say that the Administrator is very much concerned with this problem and its difficulties and complexities. Perhaps I should say a number of speakers in the UNDP Governing Council in the last few days have constantly referred to what some of them regard as the excessively high administrative costs of the UNDP activity as a whole, adding together UNDP direct costs, field office costs, support costs, etc. I believe, as Mr West said, this subject will continue to be examined with great care.

Finally, I would like to make a brief Reference to a study which is being initiated now by UNDP and the principal executing agencies together. This is an examination of the experience of country programmes so far. UNDP is working directly with the agencies represented on the Inter-Agency Task Forces at UNDP Headquarters, and FAO is also participating very fully in this examination. We are hopeful that this study, which will examine the strengths and weaknesses of country programmes and the importance of procedures and processes, successful or less successful, will contribute substantially to an improved approach to country programmes and to a more effective participation by the specialized-agencies as we approach the Third Development Cycle.

This study which is being focussed on UNDP agency experience we hope and trust will also form a useful input into the broader study of development which has been referred to in these discussions which is being undertaken by the Director-General of Development.

I said 'finally' but I do have one more point and that refers to the resident coordinator and his role. We have noted the concern expressed by the Director-General in his opening statement and subsequently repeated by a number of delegates in this Council, most recently by the delegate of Bangladesh, concern that coordination can be overdone. we could not agree more: of course coordination can be overdone; it can become an end in itself and as far as UNDP is able to avoid this, we will certainly do so, I think everybody here who has worked in development in any country at any stage of development is fully aware -as we are - that coordination of activities by different public agencies is always a problem in the most advanced and in the least developed of countries. And as a system providing assistance to governments in these efforts, we feel it behooves the United Nations system to be as sure as it can that its inputs are coherent and coordinated, and not duplicatory or divisive, or going in different directions.

As I am sure you are aware, the procedures which have been established through the ACC for the nomination and appointment of resident coordinators - appointment by the Secretary General - do provide for consultations to ensure that the official so designated does command the highest confidence of the entire United Nations system.

I was interested in the remarks of the delegate of Bangladesh that in that particular country everything is working reasonably well; that the Resident Representative is performing a useful and effective coordinating function, that he is working extremely well with the the representative of FAO. This is as it should be. If this were so everywhere there would be no need for any change in the system at all, but perhaps there are countries where what is happening in Bangladesh could be emulated and one would hope that the intention of this element of restructuring is to achieve precisely that.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais simplement faire quelques remarques qui reprendront celles qu'ont faites un certain nombre de délégués en ce qui concerne l'excellente coopération qui s'était développée et se développe entre les représentants de la FAO et ceux du PNUD. Nous nous en réjouissons beaucoup et ceci nous paraît être l'essentiel dans l'intérêt de tous.

Pour ce qui concerne la question des prêts de soutien, il semble à ma délégation cependant que le chiffre de 14 %,est un minimum et qu'il faudrait tout au moins s'y tenir.

Quant à la responsabilité de la coordination, je suis d'accord avec ce qu'a dit mon collègue du Bangladesh, un certain nombre d'orateurs et ce qu'a dit le Directeur général lui-même dans son discours. Il nous semble que les responsabilités de cette coordination doivent incomber avant tout aux gouvernements.

Maintenant, pour parler d'un autre excellent document qui nous a été soumis, qui est le document CL 75/18, nous voudrions dire que la délégation française se félicite également de la coopération qui se développe entre la FAO et le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement dans le domaine des ressources naturelles de l'environnement humain. Ceci nous paraît un problème extrêmement essentiel du monde moderne, et nous pensons que cette coopération ne peut qu'améliorer l'efficacité des actions menées par les deux organismes de la famille des Nations Unies. La mise au point de projets conjoints paraît du plus grand intérêt, en particulier dans les domaines de la dégradation des sols, de l'utilisation des matières organiques, de l'utilisation des sous-produits des récoltes, des études et de l'aménagement écologique, de la lutte intégrée contre les ravageurs et pour la conservation des ressources génétiques.

De nombreux projets indiqués dans le document CL 75/18 semblent intéressants.

La délégation française tient à souligner l'importance particulière de certains d'entre eux :

Projets terminés

0108-75-04	Lancement et coordination d'un programme mondial de coopération PNUE/FAO pour la mise
EP/INT/014	au point et l'application d'un programme intégré de lutte contre les ennemis des cultures.
0201-73-006	Réunion technique sur l'élaboration d'un programme international d'aménagement écologique des parcours arides et semi-arides en Afrique et au Proche-Orient.
0205-73-001	Consultation technique sur le programme mondial PNUE/FAO de lutte intégrée contre les ennemis des cultures grosses consommatrices de pesticides.

0207-74-002	Elaboration d'un programme visant à promouvoir l'utilisation des matières organiques comme engrais.
0604-75-002	Conservation des ressources génétiques animales.
1101-76-05	Aménagement écologique des parcours arides et semi-arides en Afrique au Proche-Orient et au Moyen-Orient (EMASAR) - Phase II.
EP/INT/027	
1108-75-05	
EP/INT/008	Conservation des ressources génétiques forestières.
0604-73-004	
EP/INT/004	Conservation des ressources génétiques végétales.
1108-76-02	
EP/INT/029	Conservation des ressources génétiques animales.

Projets "dans la filière"

Enfin, parmi les programmes envisagés, la délégation française apprécierait qu'une priorité soit donnée à ceux indiqués ci-après :

- Exécution et coordination du programme mondial de coopération PNUE/FAO pour la mise au point et l'application de la lutte intégrée contre les ennemis des cultures (suite du projet en cours FP 0108-76-05 (EP/INT/028).
- Carte mondiale de désertification à 1 : 5 000 000.
- Programme d'action international pour la conservation des sols et le recyclage des déchets organiques en agriculture.
- Programme multinational pour la mise au point et l'application de la lutte intégrée contre les ennemis du cotonnier en Amérique latine.

D. J. WALTON (Director, Office for Interagency Affairs): I do not think I need detain the Council at all because although a number of extremely interesting remarks were made, there were no specific questions addressed to the Secretariat and I do not think I need make any reply.

G. BULA HOYOS (COLOMBIA): De acuerdo con el calendario que adoptamos, el miércoles discutiremos el tema 10: "Preparativos del 20 período de Sesiones de la Conferencia". Este tema incluye el subtema 10.2: "Designación del Presidente y la Mesa de la Conferencia".

Muy respetuosamente preguntamos a Ud., señor Presidente, si tiene la intención de convocar alguna reunión de los Jefes de Delegación con usted como Presidente. Hacemos esta pregunta con el deseo de que no la considere usted inoportuna, ya que nuestro objetivo es el de disponer de nuestro tiempo en forma adecuada.

CHAIRMAN: This, then, concludes the debate on the whole of item 9 so far as it relates to the documents we have already dealt with but we will have one more item under this which we will take tomorrow, item 9.2.

The meeting rose at 17.55 hours

La séance est levée à 17h55

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.55 horas

council

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CL

CL 75/PV/13

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

13ª SESION PLENARIA

(19 June 1979)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13 sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

9. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest (continued)

9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun (suite)

9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común (continuación)

9.2 Joint Inspection Unit Reports

9.2 Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection

9.2 Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección

CHAIRMAN: As you will see from the Order of the Day we start with item 9.2, which is the Joint Inspection Unit Reports. The main document concerned is document CL 75/6. The Programme Committee also commented on it; therefore that document, with the paragraphs, is also shown: (CL 75/4 -paras. 2.171; 3.113-3.114). As you will see, the report is very straightforward. Therefore it is not necessary to call for any introduction. I now open the discussion on the Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on Glossary of Evaluation Terms.

Can we take it that the report is noted by Council and that the comments of the Programme Committee are accepted?

J. GODIN DIAZ (Colombia): Sobre el tema 9.2 - Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección, la Delegación de Colombia hará unos breves comentarios acerca del documento CL 75/6.

Como es costumbre cuando discutimos estos Informes, nuestra declaración se referirá particularmente a las observaciones del Director General de la FAO en relación con los problemas que hace la Dependencia Común para que los adopte un glosario de términos de evaluación. Observamos que este trabajo corresponde a una de las recomendaciones que ya había tomado la Dependencia Común de Inspección del Informe que elaboró en 1977 sobre la evaluación en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

La delegación de Colombia considera acertada la intervención de la FAO al haber tenido oportunidad de examinar el borrador de este informe y comprobar que muchas de las sugerencias de nuestra Organización se incorporaron en el texto. Por lo tanto, la delegación de Colombia comparte la opinión del Director General en el sentido de que éste es un documento útil y podrá obtener general aceptación sin mayores dificultades.

L. V. BORGES da FONSECA (Brazil): This item does not require concrete measures from the report of this Council. However, my delegation would not like to refrain from expressing its opinion on this kind of work. The elaboration of a Glossary of Evaluation Terms is in the view of my delegation an extremely useful achievement for the work of the whole United Nations System, for the member states and for bilateral and multilateral institutions. This work will help to save the time of all those who make use of it.

Finally, I would like to say that it is with great satisfaction that we see a great many of FAO's suggestions taken into account in the JIC Report as well as a great number of definitions used by our Organization contained in the annex to the report. I would conclude by agreeing with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 43 and 44 of document CL 75/6.

CHAIRMAN: The report is noted and the comments of the Programme Committee and the Director-General are accepted.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS

14. Report of the Thirty-Seventh Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 7-9 May 1979)
14. Rapport de la trente-septième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 7-9 mai 1979)
14. Informe del 37º, período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 7-9 mayo 1979)

CHAIRMAN: The main document is CL 75/5. We also have the comments in the report of the Finance Committee,

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, à sa trente-septième session, a examiné les questions suivantes: Procédures de création et de suppression des organes statutaires; amendements aux articles XXVI.9. et XXVII.9 du Règlement général de l'Organisation; amendements à l'Accord sur la protection des végétaux dans la région de l'Asie du Sud-Est et du Pacifique; révision de la version française des textes fondamentaux.

Pour ce qui concerne le premier point, Procédures de création et de suppression des organes statutaires, je voudrais faire les remarques suivantes: à sa soixante-quatorzième session, le Conseil, suivant les recommandations formulées par le Comité du programme à sa trente-cinquième session en novembre 1978, avait demandé aux Conférences régionales d'examiner soigneusement le fonctionnement des organes régionaux dans leurs régions respectives pour déterminer s'ils rendent des services efficaces aux Etats Membres et de recommander les mesures qui apparaîtront alors nécessaires; et de proposer à

la Conférence l'adoption d'une résolution qui donnerait des directives sur la création d'organes en

vertu des articles VI, XIV et XV et dont le dispositif pourrait être libellé comme suit: "Toute proposition de création d'un nouvel organe en vertu des articles VI, XIV et XV de l'Acte constitutif sera désormais accompagné d'un document préparé par le Directeur général et indiquant en détail les objectifs que vise la création de cet organe; la façon dont celui-ci s'acquittera de ses fonctions et les effets que sa création pourrait avoir sur les programmes en cours ou futurs; les incidences financières de cette création pendant l'exercice en cours et les incidences financières prévisibles pendant les exercices suivants". Le Conseil avait également demandé que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques examine aussi bien le libellé du dispositif proposé que la meilleure for-

mule pour l'incorporer aux Textes fondamentaux.

Enfin, il avait invité le CQCJ à examiner si des dispositions permettant de supprimer les organes devenus inactifs ou qui ont cessé d'être utiles pourraient être introduites dans les Textes fondamentaux.

C'est ce que nous avons fait, et nous avons préparé un projet de résolution. L'examen des articles pertinents en la matière est résumé dans les paragraphes 6, 7, 8, 9 et 10 du document CL 75/5 que vous avez sous les yeux. Le projet de résolution que nous avons étudié et préparé à votre intention et votre approbation est contenu dans l'Annexe du document précité.

CHAIRMAN: The subject is now open for discussion, including Appendix A which contains the resolution and needs Council decision.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like to congratulate the Council and also the CCLM who examined this problem which is of great importance. The list of other existing bodies is extremely long and many of them are really not performing active work any more. Therefore constant review by the Council to abolish some bodies would be very appropriate, or at least to replace them by *ad hoc* meetings, because bodies which have been established and do not meet for two or three years are really not useful.

As regards the establishment of new bodies and the continuation of existing bodies, I would like to raise one question. In recent years FAO established several bodies jointly with other organizations. I think this needs very careful examination, more careful than in the case of the establishment of a single body because if it is jointly established with some other organization it is extremely difficult to abolish it because it depends also on the will of the other body which is involved. Now, there are several bodies which have been jointly established with other organizations but which do not take directives from FAO and even do not report to FAO. They are working as quasi completely independent bodies and with very, very little connexion with FAO at all.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Malta. I am sure the CCLM and the Legal Adviser have thought of the points you made. Perhaps if other members do not wish to take the floor, I will take the Chairman of CCLM or the Legal Adviser to respond.

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Nous avons envisagé la question de la suppression des organes inutiles et si vous lisez attentivement le document pertinent, vous pouvez constater, au paragraphe 20, que nous avons examiné ces problèmes très soigneusement et nous avons dit que le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a jugé approprié de recommander des procédures permettant de mettre fin à l'expiration de tels accords et de supprimer les organes créés en vertu de leurs dispositions lorsque les participants n'ont pas fait le nécessaire pour mettre fin à l'accord, bien que l'organe en question soit devenu inactif ou ait perdu son utilité.

Nous avons envisagé cette possibilité; elle est contenue dans le texte de la résolution que nous avons soumis au Conseil et je pense que le Conseiller juridique pourrait peut-être ajouter quelque chose.

CHAIRMAN: With these comments I take it that Council now approves the Resolutions to be submitted to the Conference.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRMAN: Chairman of CCLM, can you go on with the next point?

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Le deuxième point que nous avons examiné concerne les amendements aux articles XXVI.9 et XXVII.9 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, relatifs à la question du remboursement des frais de voyage supportés par les représentants des membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier pour participer aux réunions. Le Comité avait noté qu'actuellement, en vertu des articles XXVI.9 et XXVII.9 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, lus conjointement avec l'article XXV.6, le remboursement des frais de voyage des représentants des membres de ces comités est limité -comme dans le cas des représentants des membres du Conseil - aux frais de voyage aller et retour entre la capitale de leur pays ou, si les frais sont moins élevés, leur lieu d'affectation et celui de la réunion. Par conséquent, une partie des frais de voyage effectivement supportés pourrait ne pas être remboursée si le lieu d'affectation d'un représentant est plus éloigné du lieu de la réunion que la capitale de son pays.

A sa soixante-quatorzième session, le Conseil a noté que les représentants des membres du Comité du programme se trouvaient dans la même situation que ceux du Comité financier, mais que le Comité du programme n'avait pas examiné la question. Nous avons donc estimé opportun d'examiner la question à la lumière des opinions exprimées par le Comité financier et le Comité du programme, conformément à la décision susmentionnée du Conseil et de soumettre à l'examen de celui-ci les projets d'amendements libellés comme suit: "Les représentants des membres du Comité auront droit au remboursement des frais de voyage aller et retour régulièrement supportés pour se rendre, par la voie la plus directe, de leur lieu d'affectation au lieu où se tient la session du Comité". Ainsi, toute inégalité allait donc disparaître. C'est pour cela que nous recommandons à l'attention du Conseil le libellé que nous avons étudié.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador Borin. The amendment is now before Council for discussion.

It appears that Council accepts the amendment, and therefore, necessary action will be taken to amend the General Rules of the Organization as recommended by CCLM.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

CHAIRMAN: Chairman of CCLM, can you go on to the next point?

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Amendements à l'Accord sur la protection des végétaux dans la région de l'Asie du Sud-Est et du Pacifique. Les amendements proposés consistent à supprimer les mots "du Sud-Est" dans la dénomination de la "région de l'Asie du Sud-Est et du Pacifique", qui figurent dans le titre de l'Accord et dans son texte et à rebaptiser le Comité "Commission phytosanitaire pour l'Asie et le Pacifique".

Examinant les amendements proposés, le CQCJ a noté qu'il s'agissait d'une question de nomenclature et qu'il n'affectait pas la forme quant au fond. La nouvelle dénomination de la région ne modifie en rien l'Accord tel qu'il est défini et le terme "Commission" qui est proposé est conforme à la désignation des autres organes créés par des conventions et accords conclus en vertu de l'article XIV de l'Acte constitutif.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments? If not, then the Resolution which is recommended by the CCLM on this issue, which appears on page 6 of the English version of the text, is approved by Council.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Révision de la version française des Textes fondamentaux. Les experts ayant examiné le texte des versions française et espagnole des Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation avaient remarqué certaines imprécisions de langage. Après une étude approfondie faite par le bureau des interprètes et ayant écouté nos collègues de langue française au cours de la session du Comité, nous avons proposé certains amendements qui ne touchent pas à la substance des Règles fondamentales mais qui rendent plus claire la signification de certaines expressions. Nous recommandons vivement à votre approbation ces changements qui n'affectent en rien la substance des Textes fondamentaux.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the French version of these amendments to the Constitution? If there are no comments, I take it that the recommendation and the Draft Resolution on this matter are approved by Council.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

O.R. BORIN (Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques): Nous avons terminé notre rapport pour ce qui concerne la compétence du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ambassador Borin, for the very efficient work done by your Committee and the Legal Adviser which has led to these very speedy decisions.

We now go on to item 15, which is Other Constitutional and Legal Matters. There is a whole list of matters to be dealt with under this, and I would like to call on Mr. Savary to deal with this item.

15. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters:

15. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques:

15. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos:

15.1 French and Spanish Versions of the Agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development

15.1 Versions française et espagnole de l'Accord avec le Fonds international de développement agricole

15.1 Versiones española y francesa del Acuerdo con el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola

P. SAVARY (Directeur, Division des Publications): Il peut paraître étrange que ce soit le Directeur de la Division des publications qui présente la question d'un accord entre la FAO et le FIDA. Mais il ne s'agit pas de problèmes de substance, il s'agit simplement de problèmes de formulation, de problèmes linguistiques.

En effet, à sa soixante-douzième session, le Conseil avait adopté le texte de cet accord. Toutefois, la discussion s'est prolongée jusqu'à la dernière séance du Conseil, et au moment de l'adoption du rapport certaines modifications ont été introduites dans le texte qui avait été soumis au Conseil. Ces modifications ont été proposées pour la plupart en langue anglaise. Les membres du Conseil ont suivi et ont adopté ce texte en se fondant, soit sur le texte anglais, soit sur l'interprétation qu'ils en avaient entendue. Mais il n'y avait pas de texte définitif en français ni en espagnol.

C'est pourquoi le Conseil a demandé au secrétariat de la FAO de consulter le secrétariat du FIDA afin d'en s'entendre sur des textes qui soient mutuellement acceptables pour les deux secrétariats et conformes à la version anglaise qui avait servi aux négociations. Les deux secrétariats ont procédé à ces consultations et ont abouti au texte qui figure maintenant dans le document CL 75/15.

CHAIRMAN: This item is already explained. It is really a matter of language. If the Spanish and French versions which are now before us are accepted as corresponding to the English version which Council discussed and decided on earlier, then that is all that is required of us.

A. ECHEVERRIA ZUNO (México); Nuestra intervención tiene razón jurídica. Como está previsto en los documentos constitutivos tanto de la FAO como del FIDA, ambas instituciones deben hacer sus mejores esfuerzos para entenderse, para cooperar con aquellas de diversa naturaleza y ámbito en que resulte conveniente. Por tal circunstancia, como nos lo han explicado recientemente y lo hemos vivido ya por una larga temporada, en los respectivos órganos de gobierno de las dos instituciones se preparó | por los funcionarios adecuados el proyecto de acuerdo entre el FIDA y la FAO.

Como también todos recordamos, el texto en español fue aprobado en la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA durante el primer período de sesiones que se realizó en diciembre de 1977, y por otra parte, durante el 72º período de sesiones del Consejo se sometió a consideración. Recordamos que en el documento EB/77/E2 de fecha 22 de noviembre de 1977, la Junta Ejecutiva aprobó el Acuerdo, documento que también se circuló y se consideró en todos los idiomas oficiales reconocidos en el FIDA, y por virtud de la necesidad de realizar algunas afinaciones, el Consejo en su 72º período le pidió a la Secretaría de la FAO que realizara las consultas del caso para adaptarlo y buscar aquellas expresiones y contenido mutuamente aceptables. Queremos agradecer a ambas Secretarías por un permanente contacto, por un diálogo muy constructivo que ha permitido ir adelante y que en tal oportunidad se nos pueda presentar el documento CL 75/LIM/3, que entre las Secretarías de ambas Organizaciones han acordado. Subrayamos nuestro agradecimiento, pero al ser miembros muy interesados y fundadores de la FAO y del FIDA y gozando del honor de formar parte de la Junta Ejecutiva de la primera y del Consejo, queremos expresar alguna preocupación y por su conducto, señor Presidente, pedirle a la Secretaría de la FAO que nos diera algunos argumentos, algunos elementos, particularmente me refiero a la versión en español.

Sabemos que el texto del documento que se prefirió para ser firmado por el Director General de la FAO, así como por el Presidente del FIDA, fue el del inglés y que es el mismo texto, es decir, no hay entre ellos un sólo elemento que permita insinuar que son distintos, mientras que en el caso del español

el texto aprobado en la Junta Ejecutiva y el texto que tenemos ahora preparado por los trabajos que hemos mencionado, prácticamente no hay página en que no haya modificaciones; es decir, jurídicamente no hemos encontrado ni precedentes ni argumentos para que en el marco de la igualdad idiomática en que nos desenvolvemos, y que es pilar de las Naciones Unidas, para un idioma que es el que le interesa a mi delegación, los textos de un sólo convenio no sean idénticos. Esto quiere decir, además, que el texto en inglés fue traducido por vías distintas al español, lo que administrativamente y financieramente tiene otras consideraciones que en esta ocasión no quiero tratar.

Sabemos que entre las Secretarías de ambas Instituciones han hecho un esfuerzo y lo han mejorado; pero la Junta Ejecutiva del PIDA aprobó el texto original y no el que ahora se presenta al Consejo. No son idénticos los textos, aunque es cierto que algunas son mejoras lingüísticas; es cierto que hay un trabajo de carácter jurídico muy serio, es cierto que la segunda revisión la hizo un profesional en estos campos, pero esto no invalida nuestra observación de que no hay razón jurídica para que los textos no sean idénticos.

Esta es una preocupación, señor Presidente y por ello quisiéramos recibir alguna explicación. Nosotros no sabemos si este Consejo le va a pedir a la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA, de la que soy miembro, que corrija su edición de diciembre y tampoco sabemos si este Consejo puede posponer su decisión para el caso del español, ni tampoco si pudieran quitarse algunos párrafos y se resolviera esto que es un asunto serio y que la Conferencia a fin de año tomara la decisión por parte de la A0 sobre un texto idéntico como en el caso del inglés.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (Interpretation from Arabic): As a matter of fact what has been said by the delegate of Mexico applies to the Arabic texts as well. I believe that the Arabic text is one of the texts that should be recognized and approved by all Arab speaking delegations. Like texts in other languages this text has not been circulated and, like texts in other languages, even if there were no amendments, this text should have been circulated so that it could be studied and examined and so that we could give our remarks or make amendments, if any.

The Arab text is before me now, I was able to obtain it upon enquiring yesterday. I was told that this document was included in the Report of the Council's Seventy Second Session of 1977. This Report is before me now. There are some amendments in this Report. There are some phrases that are underlined and there are other phrases that have been deleted. This means that there have been amendments, that Arab speaking delegations should discuss and approve this text. As I have said before, this text

should have been circulated so that it might be studied.

May I be allowed to give an example from this document which is before me: I did not understand some of its items; for example, the second item in this document, Item 2. If you will allow me, Mr. Chairman, I will read this Item slowly in order to understand what is behind this: "The Organization shall assist on the request of the Fund or the Government concerned, developing countries in the preparation of projects to be submitted to the Fund." This is excellent: "upon the request of the Fund the Organization will assist" and "in the preparation of a project to be submitted to the Fund, the Organization will prepare it upon the agreement of the Fund." I do not know whether what I have now said has been literally translated into the other languages. Let me read it once more "The Organization shall assist upon the request of the Fund" - this is number one - "developing countries in the preparation of projects to be submitted to the Fund and in case of a project to be prepared specifically for submission to the Fund." What is meant by 'specifically'? Does it mean finally, or in a final form, for submission to the Fund? "Preparation shall be initiated by FAO". How can the FAO initiate with the agreement? "Preparation shall be initiated by FAO". How can this be done since this project has already been prepared? I do not understand what is meant exactly here. "The Fund may actively participate" etc. When can the Fund participate in such preparation? This is not clear at all in Arabic. The Arabic formulation is not clear at all: "should undertake preparation of the project". Is it the Organization or the Fund?

In the case of preparation, what is meant by "specifically for submitting"? What is the meaning of this phrase? This is one example before me, and I am speaking about the Arabic text, not about any other text.

I associate myself with what has been said by the delegate of Mexico because I do not accept the Arabic text before me, nor do I accept the agreement in Arabic until it is finally prepared. It should be submitted to my Government in order to be approved.

J. PILANE (Botswana): I just want to intervene on a point of order because we were on the point raised by the delegate of Mexico, and what has been raised by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, we don't have the document and we could not follow what he was talking about. Therefore, this procedure seemed to me somewhat unusual.

CHAIRMAN: The point is this, that the Council has received and considered the English version of the Agreement and agreed that it should be synchronized with the French and the Spanish version. What the delegate of Saudi Arabia is saying is that the Arabic version also needs the same exercise. Therefore the point you made really is not a point of order as such, because the Arabic text too has to be approved by Members of the Council who are Arabic speaking.

A.M. FASLA (Algérie): Je viens d'écouter ce qu'ont dit mes collègues du Mexique et de l'Arabie Saoudite. J'avoue que je n'ai pas encore lu la version française du rapport; il y a peut-être également des modifications qui ont été apportées par rapport au texte adopté par le Conseil d'administration du FIDA. Mais je voudrais faire une suggestion pour faire avancer nos travaux.

Je propose que les deux Conseillers juridiques des deux institutions puissent comparer les textes dans toutes les versions: anglaise, française, espagnole et arabe, de manière à éviter aux délégations qui sont membres du Conseil et qui viendront également à la Conférence, ainsi qu'aux délégations qui font partie du Conseil d'administration ainsi que du Conseil des gouverneurs du FIDA, d'avoir à subir les difficultés qui pourraient découler de différences entre la lettre et l'esprit de l'accord passé entre le FIDA et la FAO. Cela faciliterait notre tâche, car il serait absurde de voir qu'au niveau du Conseil nous approuvons un texte qui n'est pas le même que celui qui a été approuvé par le FIDA, alors que nous sommes membres de l'une et l'autre organisation.

Je voudrais donc que notre approche soit d'encourager les deux institutions qui se trouvent à Rome à comparer les textes. La première étape serait d'avoir les textes dans toutes les langues et de voir s'ils sont identiques, ensuite il faudrait essayer de rapprocher les points de vue s'il y a des divergences, notamment si les réactions des gouvernements sont différentes au niveau de la FAO et au niveau du Conseil d'administration du FIDA quant à l'esprit. Nous devons présenter une formulation précise et définitive de l'accord que nous examinerons au cours de notre prochain Conseil. C'est la seule voie à suivre, sinon, nous allons nous éterniser en contestations et en difficultés. Je crois que ce premier travail incombe au Secrétariat.

C. BATAULT (France): Je voudrais simplement dire que je me rallie entièrement à la proposition faite par le délégué de l'Algérie.

CHAIRMAN: In order to save time and not to engage in unnecessary debates, I suggest that Council adopts the proposal of the delegate of Algeria supported by France - and also I am sure by Mexico and Saudi Arabia - that we defer this matter and allow the two legal experts in the Secretariat to meet, and then we will have the item back at our next meeting or at some other convenient time.

P. SAVARY (Directeur de la Division des Publications): En réponse au problème soulevé par le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite, il se trouve que la Résolution 3/72 du Conseil n'avait pas, semble-t-il, prévu le cas de la version arabe et le Conseil a demandé au Secrétariat de la FAO et du FIDA de s'entendre sur ces deux versions, française et espagnole, mais n'a pas prévu le cas de la version arabe.

C'est une chose qui pourrait être entreprise.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I believe that a very brief explanation apart from the one already given by my neighbour, the Director of Publications Division, may be indicated.

First of all, as the distinguished delegate from Mexico pointed out, the Agreement was negotiated in English and signed in English. The Agreement itself does not contain any clause defining the question of the authentic or authoritative version. The presumption in principle therefore is that the version

in which the Agreement has been negotiated and signed would be considered as the authentic version. Nevertheless, since inter-agency agreements are normally subject to approval by the governing bodies of the organization that are parties to the agreement, it is clear that the various language versions should be circulated, and it is equally clear that there should be conformity between the various language versions.

I should like to point out that after the Council had approved the text and authorized the Director-General to sign the Agreement, the Agreement has been signed incorporating the amendments that were inserted by the Council. It has therefore come into force.

However, pursuant to Rule XXIV, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization agreements between FAO and other inter-governmental organizations are also subject to confirmation by the Conference. Therefore, this Agreement was put before the Conference at its last session.

The two versions on which the two Secretariats have agreed involved mainly a language operation. In fact, the Legal Offices of the two organizations have not been directly involved, since, according to what we have learned, no legal questions arose in the course of translation. The French and Spanish versions have now been submitted to you as requested at the Seventy-second Session of the Council. However, I believe that two other language versions which have not been so submitted, namely the Arabic, if appropriate, and the Chinese, could be submitted at a later stage.

I believe that since our translation services, those of IFAD and FAO, have found that the two texts now submitted to you are in conformity with the English text, we would find it somewhat difficult to start the job on these two versions afresh unless we receive specific suggestions or observations from members who do not find that these agreements are in conformity with the original English text.

If these are to be reviewed and resubmitted then we would welcome any observation or comment from members who find there is a discrepancy between the English and the French or Spanish versions.

As far as the IFAD constitutional procedures are concerned, I would suggest it would be improper for the Legal Counsel of FAO to make any pronouncement. The approval procedure according to the basic texts of IFAD is a responsibility of the IFAD Secretariat in consultation with the governing bodies of IFAD.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Legal Counsel. I think the points are quite clear. As the Legal Counsel said, perhaps it would help the two Secretariats very much if any comments on the Spanish and French versions which do not seem satisfactory to Council members could be sent in by the language experts. Also the Arabic and perhaps the Chinese versions can be dealt with accordingly. If the Arabic and Chinese versions have not been circulated, then they should be sent out so that all interested in the language group can look at them and submit what comments they feel should be incorporated in the text before resubmission.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): You have now given a reply to the question I wanted to ask, and that is that we should have the text before us so that we can study it. There would also be a legal aspect to this question, I believe.

The Agreement was signed on the basis of the English text. Now is the English version the only original authentic version which is our basis of reference for this Agreement? The problem does not concern only food aid or fertilizers. This is a very important matter which certainly calls for the interest of all governments, especially mine.

The question does not concern an ad hoc meeting, this is after all a brief agreement between the Fund and our Organization, and we are particularly interested in all that concerns IFAD. It is of the greatest interest to us, as is FAO.

So my question is, is the English version the only authentic text because it is the one which has been signed? Secondly, why have all the language versions been distributed except for the Arabic one? If only the English text is the authentic one then it would have been better not to have distributed this in the other language versions. If it is the only reference point then all member countries would have to accept it as such. If this was the case we would agree.

We would be ready to accept only the English text as the authentic version, and we would have no problem in referring to this English text. I think the other members of our delegation would not have any problem, or members of our Government, who could certainly refer to an English text if it is the only authentic one recognized by the Council and not the other language versions.

I do not know whether the English version meets with the approval of all English speaking countries, but with regard to the other question, are we going to refer to a text which is not clear?

With regard to Article II, I would like to know the opinion of the United Kingdom and the United States with regard to this particular example of it. How should we read this Article II, how should it be stated clearly? We must refer to the English version unless we have a literal translation from this English text, even though linguistically this may not be very beautiful.

However, it should be absolutely corresponding to the English text.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I heard the Legal Counsel say that in the Agreement it is not said whether the English version will be the authentic version. It is by inference he is saying that the English version will be the authentic version since it was signed in English.

My reading of it, that other languages like French, Spanish and Arabic are also official languages of this Organization and also of the Fund so that may be the reason it is not said in the Agreement that English will be the authentic version and my presumption will be that if, in this Organization and in the Fund other languages are also official languages all texts should be considered as authentic texts and it should be seen in that light, and the translations, which will not be only a language exercise, the translations should be done carefully, seen and examined by the Legal Sections of both the Organization and the Fund as suggested by the delegate of Algeria, shown to the members of this Council in various languages and so then it should come back to the Council for approval. My reading would be that since French, Spanish and Arabic are also official languages of this Organization and the Fund, the Agreement in all languages should be considered as the authentic versions.

C. BATAULT (France): Mon collègue et ami, le délégué du Bangladesh, m'a enlevé les paroles de la bouche; il a dit ce que je voulais dire mais je voudrais, toutefois, ajouter que je suis entièrement d'accord avec ce qu'il vient de dire et que je suis d'avis qu'en ce qui concerne le texte français, la traduction me paraît correcte. Je ne vois pas la divergence qu'il peut exister en le français et l'anglais.

LEGAL COUNCIL: Perhaps I have not made myself absolutely clear, and I shall try again although I would not like to repeat myself. What the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh said is correct. Due to the fact that the Agreement was negotiated and signed in the English language this is the text on which one will generally rely in case of interpretation. I also said, however, that in view of the fact that other languages are also equally official languages of the Organizations concerned and the texts are approved in these languages, the various language versions should in any event be consistent with each other, irrespective of the question whether there is one or whether there are several authentic texts. It is for this reason that when differences were noted between English on the one hand and the French and Spanish versions on the other, the Council itself, at the 72nd Session, asked that these versions be reviewed so as to bring them into line with the English text. This the two Secretariats have attempted to do and the result is before you.

As regards the Arabic version, I am not entirely certain of the version the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia is quoting from. Unfortunately I cannot read Arabic, but in Appendix H to the Report of the 72nd Session the text of the agreement as approved by the Council has been reproduced and in the English version of that text I cannot find any underlining or square brackets of the type that the delegate of Saudi Arabia was referring to. It may well be that even the text which was attached to the Arabic version of the Report of the 72nd Session of the Council is defective in one way or another. May I then repeat the suggestion I made before; if it is found to be defective by any Arabic speaking delegation the Secretariat would certainly welcome the possibility of examining in full, jointly with the delegations concerned, whatever provisions may be found to be wanting and a new version would then be issued. Of course, it would have to be done in consultation with IFAD, because, as was rightly pointed out by the delegate of Mexico, the governing bodies of the two organizations should approve exactly the same texts because it is one Agreement.

CHAIRMAN: I have just seen the Arabic text from which the Saudi Arabian delegate quoted and there are underlinings and square brackets, so I do not think we should pursue that any further, but the important thing is that there are still doubts and dissatisfaction with some of the other versions and the proposal which was made by Algeria still stands. If Council agrees we will put this back to the Secretariat to consult with the language groups, to consult with IFAD, both legally and linguistically, and put to us at our next meeting or when convenient a text which is acceptable to the various language groups. If this is agreed we will close this matter like that. Saudi Arabia, yes, no? He agrees. In that case we close the matter as I summed up and we move on to the next matter on the agenda.

15.2 Change of Title of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Far East, and of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East

15.2 Modification du nom du Bureau regional de la FAO pour l'Asie et l'Extreme-Orient et de la Conference regionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et l'Extrême-Orient

15.2 Cambio del nombre de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para Asia y el Lejano Oriente y de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Lejano Oriente

J. F. YRIART (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): Really this item needs no introduction. I think that the paper is clear. It is a question of the Council agreeing to a request by the Regional Conference and inviting our next Conference also to agree.

Though the paper needs no introduction, I would like to introduce the article. It has caught my attention by those who speak English that we should have said in the paper FAO Regional Conference For Asia and 'the' Pacific and FAO Regional Office for Asia and 'the' Pacific. So if you could consult, apart from the substance of the paper, whether you could agree to this grammatical amendment.

CHAIRMAN: This matter is open for discussion.

KONG CAN-DONG (China) (Interpretation from Chinese): As early as the Regional Conference held in Manila in August 1976 quite a few participating countries suggested that the Asia and Far East Region should be renamed the Asia and Pacific Region. After repeated deliberations and consultations the issue is now placed on the agenda on the current session of the Council.

The Chinese delegation believe that the new name of Asia and the Pacific Region not only faces the geographical characteristics of our Region but also ties in with the corresponding regional name of the other organs of the United Nations system. It is therefore an appropriate recommendation which we think should be submitted to the Twentieth Session of the General Conference for approval.

E. SUZUKI (Japan): Japan's delegation fully supports the changes of title of FAO Regional Conference and the Regional Office from for Asia and the Far East, to for Asia and the Pacific, knowing that the countries in the Pacific Region are already members of the Regional Conference, and it is natural for us to have, the title which reflects the real situation.

P. LAOWHAPHAN (Thailand): My delegation would like to reiterate our support as we stressed at the Regional Conference held in Manila in August 1976, that the formal use of this Regional Organization should be changed to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Conference for Asia and the Far East should be changed to Asia and the Pacific accordingly.

T. J. KELLY (Australia): This is the proposal which was initiated by our friends and colleagues in Papua New Guinea, which has the warm support of IFAD and the support of Australia and New Zealand and I warmly commend the proposal to the Council.

Mrs. S. SYAHRUDDIN: The Indonesian delegation fully endorses what has been said by our colleagues from Thailand.

CHAIRMAN: Then this proposal has the full support of Council. I would suggest that Council approves the proposed changes of title and allows the Legal Adviser and his staff to make the proper changes in the various constitution papers rather than now fix to say "the Pacific" etc. I am sure the Legal people will understand what to do. If that is agreed, then the necessary action will be taken.

15.3 Changes in Representation of Member Countries on the Programme Committee

15.3 Modification de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du programme

15.3 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en el Comité del Programa

CHAIRMAN: The next item on this agenda, item 15.3, does not appear on our main agenda at all, but it is necessary for the Secretariat to inform the Council of changes in the Programme Committee. As you will see from document CL 75/INF/7, certain changes have been made, and these have been reported to Council. This is just for information and I hope that members will not object to the fact that it is not our main agenda. If this is accepted, then Council has taken note of this information.

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

17. Date and Place of the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Council

17. Date et lieu de la soixante-seizième session du Conseil

17. Fecha y lugar del 76º período de sesiones del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: We now come to the next item, which is item 17, the date and place of the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Council - document CL 75/13. Are there any comments or any changes that you want? You will find the date outlined at the back of the document. If there are no comments, then, the suggested date and place in the document will stand.

This brings to an end our morning meeting. As we agreed yesterday, this afternoon will be left free for consultations concerning other items which need such consultations. We will meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 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 75/PV/14

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

14ª SESION PLENARIA

(20 June 1979)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.25 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième seance plénière est ouverte à 11 h 25, sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14 sesión plenaria a las 11.25 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry that it has been found necessary to delay our start. On our Order of the Day we have various items.

I would suggest that we take Item 16 before Item 10.2. We will take Item 10.1, then Item 16.2, and we will take Item 10.2 afterwards. I will explain why later on.

Before we start our work I would like to ask the Council to agree to perform a small ceremony in honour of Mr. Fortunescu, Chief of Protocol, who, as you know, is going to retire. Mr. Fortunescu has been with the FAO as long as any of us can remember and the services he has rendered to the Organization are tremendous. The ceremony will be very brief. I will ask the Director-General to say something and then the Dean of the Permanent Representatives, who is the Representative of Malta, and then after that Mr. Fortunescu, and a presentation will be made to him, and that will be the end of the ceremony. If you agree to this I will give the floor to the Director-General.

FAREWELL TO Mr. R.C. FORTUNESCU

DEPART DE M. R.C. FORTUNESCU

DESPEDIDA DEL Sr. R.C. FORTUNESCU

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Ce n'est pas sans regret que je dois informer le Conseil du prochain départ de M. Fortunescu, notre Chef du protocole, que nous connaissons depuis tant d'années et dont nous avons tous eu l'occasion d'apprécier l'aimable efficacité, le dévouement et l'inaltérable bonne humeur dans l'accomplissement de ses très délicates fonctions.

M. Fortunescu est, à vrai dire, un cas unique. Il est peut-être le plus ancien fonctionnaire international encore en activité, puisqu'il a dédié quelque 46 ans de sa vie au service de la Communauté internationale. Forestier de formation, c'est en 1933 qu'il entra à l'Institut international d'agriculture, à Rome, pour se transférer ensuite au Centre international de sylviculture. Il rejoignit la FAO en 1947 comme fonctionnaire technique de la Division des forêts, où il occupa différents postes jusqu'en 1959. A cette date, il passa à la Division de l'information du Département des relations publiques et des affaires juridiques. De 1961 à 1964, il fut Assistant coordonnateur de la Campagne mondiale contre la faim. En 1964, il fut transféré au Bureau de liaison et protocole, dont il prit la direction en 1966, il y a treize ans.

Ayant atteint la limite d'âge en 1974, il devait prendre sa retraite à ce moment-là et le Conseil se souviendra de lui avoir rendu hommage en juillet 1974. Toutefois, les qualités et l'expérience exceptionnelles de M. Fortunescu ainsi que son dévouement, m'ont amené à le prier de conserver ses fonctions durant quelques années encore.

Je sais que tous ceux qui ont eu comme moi, le privilège d'apprécier la courtoisie de M. Fortunescu, ainsi que ses remarquables aptitudes linguistiques et que sa vaste culture littéraire et artistique, comprendront la raison de cette décision.

Malheureusement, il a maintenant pris lui-même la décision de se retirer définitivement et je pense que le Conseil voudra se joindre à moi pour lui exprimer nos très vifs remerciements pour sa longue carrière, tout entière consacrée à l'entente internationale et au développement, et pour lui adresser, ainsi qu'à Mme Fortunescu, nos vœux les plus sincères de bonheur et de prospérité durant cette retraite si bien méritée. Mais je suis sûr qu'il continuera à demeurer très actif durant cette retraite.

APPLAUSE

APPLAUDISSEMENTS

APLAUSOS

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I think this applause speaks more eloquently than hours of words. All the same I will give the floor to the delegate of Malta.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your kind words and for giving me the floor. In the name of the permanent representatives to FAO I wish to thank most kindly the Director-General for his extremely nice words with which he underlined Dr. Fortunescu's merits and also his personal regrets that one of the most faithful officers of the Organization is leaving.

Dr. Fortunescu was with FAO from its very beginnings, first in Washington and later in Rome, when the Organization's Headquarters transferred here. He is one of the most popular officers of the Organization. He knows everybody and he is known by everybody who has to deal with FAO or who has any relations with the Organization.

In his own career, during these last years he occupied the post particularly suited to him and to his excellent and exceptional qualities as Head of Liaison and Protocol of the Organization. In this position he was in charge of liaison with permanent representatives. During this period, in his function he succeeded in making the corps of permanent representatives a real and I daresay a strong unit. I am sure that I am speaking in the names of all the permanent representatives when I say that we like him and are very grateful to him for everything he did to facilitate our tasks, and in this way helped us to know FAO better and to become true friends of the Organization.

It has often been said that the permanent representatives have a dual function: they represent their governments to FAO but they have to also represent the Organization to the countries which they represent.

We like Dr. Fortunescu very much. His friendliness, his frank and open personality, his good humour and his kindness to everybody made him really one of everybody's friends. Like the Organization itself, we will miss him very much. We wish him a peaceful and happy retirement and hope that he will not forget the many years he spent with FAO and his numerous friends among the representatives.

As a token of the gratitude and affection we have for him, we wish to give him a small present to remind him of all of the friends he is leaving in Rome. We asked a noted personality to hand him this present, Miss Mireille Musso, who does not belong either to FAO nor to the permanent representatives but who is appreciated and liked by everybody, and I ask her to hand this small present to Dr. Fortunescu.

APPLAUSE

APPLAUDISSEMENTS

APLAUSOS

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Malta. I would now like to give the floor to Dr. Fortunescu.

R.C. FORTUNESCU (FAO Staff): Mr. Chairman, thank you for first of all for giving me the opportunity of saying a few words of thanks, and let me start by quoting the young lady who said that she had long ago forgotten how to blush. I do not know what to say. The tributes were very wonderful, they were not all merited, but let me accept them not on my behalf but on behalf of a profession I represent, that of the international civil servant, as one of which, as you heard, I have had a long and if I may say chequered career, which started at the old International Institute of Agriculture to which I came through long family tradition in international institutions and which took me through pleasant, sometimes very exciting periods, such as my stay in Berlin during the "open season" from 1940 to 1945, then to Washington and back again to Rome, and may I say that I have loved not every minute but most of the time.

It was really a career where I felt that it was worthwhile staying and doing. I learned a number of things, among which I would like to say that there are certain requirements for an international civil servant. First of all, he must be very patient. If it does not happen this year, it will happen next year, in five years, in ten years, and in my forty-six years I have seen a great change, a great advance, in the position of the international institutions. Once they were tolerated. They are perhaps not tolerated now, but at least one listens to them, and that is already a very great advance.

Let me add that there is another requirement, and that is faith, faith in the ultimate justification of trying to establish international relationships, of getting to contribute even the smallest bricks to an edifice of international understanding. I hope it will be a great edifice. I was privileged to be there in one of the not earliest but early stages, and I only hope that it will become possible in future years to look back at our time and say this was a time in which the foundations, the basis was laid to something which I think is very worthwhile and in which I had profoundly to believe when sometimes things were getting a bit perhaps not only sticky but also boring and routine, because as someone has once said, all great things are not made only of great moments but also of routine tasks.

And now I realise that I forgotten one of the cardinal requirements of an international civil servant, who should be dedicated but never take himself too seriously.

May I say another word. I did not thank you for this, but I was told that vengeance is something, as the French say, "La vengeance est un plat qui se mange froid", so if you will allow me, I shall have the pleasure of savouring what is in this package, the pleasure of seeing it sometime later. Thank you, and, Mr. Chairman, may I apologise.

APPLAUSE

APPLAUDISSEMENTS

APLAUSOS

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Preparations for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

10. Préparation de la 20ème session de la Conference de la FAO: (suite)

10. Preparativos del 20º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO: (continuación)

10.1 Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference

10.1 Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire de la Conference

10.1 Organización del período de sesiones y programa provisional de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Now we will resume our agenda with Item 10, Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Agenda for the Conference. The document is CL 75/11. This does not required any intervention, and normally it is a very simple subject, because the Secretariat, the Director-General and his colleagues have followed all the routines which have been followed for many years, but I have a request from two delegations to speak already; first is the delegate of Saudi Arabia and the second is the delegate of Egypt.

Now, I am sure that the delegates must have guessed what these two Distinguished Delegates want the floor for, because it is an open secret that in one of our regions, which is the Middle East Region, there are some tensions and disagreements over certain things, which seem to have nothing to do with FAO but which seem to spill over into debates all over the place, and perhaps I would like to appeal to the delegations, the two Delegates particularly and to all members of Council, to refrain from bringing long debates into this matter, for the simple reason that Council duty is to make the necessary arrangements and provisional agenda for the Conference, not to discuss the agenda as such and not to take decisions on matters which do not relate to Council responsibilities.

It is therefore necessary for us to bear this in mind, and also to bear in mind that this matter seems to be primarily one for the Middle East region which they should ideally solve themselves within. the countries concerned. However, if it has to go up to the Conference, well then it will have to go to the Conference in whatever form the parties want.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I am grateful to you for having given me the floor as Chairman of the Near East group of countries and also as representative of my own country in this Organization. Allow me, Sir, to take the floor on behalf of the vast majority of members of this same group.

We always try to create an atmosphere of serious cooperation as regards the implementation of the objectives and principles on the basis of which the regional office of the Near East was set up, along with regional offices which depend on our Organization, the FAO. Those who are watching the work and activities of this group in all fields, and especially in technical cooperation projects between the countries of the region - and those who are taking note of this - I am sure, will fully understand the developments and progress achieved in the interests of the people of our region, and we are very proud of this.

We would like to assure this august council of the fact that we shall continue to do our utmost to create fruitful technical cooperation within this region, and we wish to maintain this efficiency which is characteristic of the work of our regional office in the international framework.

When you tackle this question of the preparation or arrangements for the Twentieth Session of the Conference, under this heading we should like to add a further item to the agenda, which is "Transfer of the Regional Office of FAO for the Near East from its present location". Furthermore, we are sure that the Director-General of our Organization will prepare a far-reaching and complete study of this matter. There is no denying that we can be sure he will pay close attention to this and he will then introduce this study during the Conference so that the Conference can adopt the various decisions as it deems fit.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): First of all, I would like very much to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor, and I would like at the very outset to assure you that out of deference to your prestigious chair and to your great country my delegation would have, at any cost and in any event, carried out its mission and its task with the due civility, collectiveness and in the civilized manner that behoves such an Organization, but I would like also to thank you because you gave me a very good starting point with which to begin my case.

When you were introducing the two speakers, my colleague for Saudi Arabia and myself, you said the subject to be discussed had nothing to do with FAO, and you rightly said so. This is my whole case, and I am quoting the Chairman, no less, in proof of what I am going to say. Therefore I would like very much for you, Mr. Chairman, and the delegates, to bear with me and give me a little time because what I am going to discuss is not only a very important matter to my Government but also for all of you. It is not a regional matter. It transcends regionism, and it concerns each and every one of you, because what is going to happen to the regional office in the Near East, in Cairo, might very well happen to the other regional offices in Latin America, Asia or Africa. So it is a matter of concern, and should be given due discussion and consultation. I would like to ask you to give me your ears with an open mind. Do not take it for granted that this item does necessarily belong to this Council group, and does necessarily have to be recommended by this Council, in order to go to the Conference. No. What I am going to say is to convince you first, that it is not necessary that it should be so, that there are other measures the delegate of Saudi Arabia could take - he could take his item directly to the Conference without having to come to you first.

My delegation would like to register its opposition and objection to the procedure suggested by the delegate of Saudi Arabia. This representative is requesting the Council to approve his delegation's desire to include an item on the next Conference's provisional agenda which in turn requests the Conference to study the advisability of the transfer of the Organization's Near East regional office from its present seat which is from Cairo, Egypt.

Nov; I suppose that this request is made on the strength of Rule II, paragraph 2 (b) of the General Rules which says: "The provisional agenda for a regular session shall include items approved by the Council after consultation with the Director-General•"

Let me ask the Council, then, how is this requirement that the Council approves after consultation with the Director-General being fulfilled? First, what is the Council to approve? What are you being asked to approve in the first place?

All that you are being asked by the delegate of Saudi Arabia is to put your stamp of approval - without study or appraisal - on transmitting to the Conference as an item on its agenda a request for the transfer of the Near East Regional Office from Cairo.

Rule XXIV of the General Rules specifies that the Council shall take decisions "on matters that need not be submitted to the Conference ..." Since the delegate himself specifically desires to include this item on the Conference's agenda, he is in fact asking you just to transfer the item to the Conference as if the Council were just a mail box.

Never mind what you might think about the substance, the importance, the dangers or the pitfalls -never mind all that. You just approve the inclusion on the Conference's agenda, no matter what you may think of the substance of the issue. I submit that this is not just or fair to the Council or my delegation. You can all see distinctly through the apparently innocuous allusions constituting the requested item.

It is much too important to be rubber-stamped by the Council and yet purport to carry its official seal of approval, no study having been done and no appraisal having taken place.

This is a heavy responsibility. Let me ask the Council why it does not leave this responsibility to the Conference itself, in accordance with Rule II, paragraph 5, and Rule II paragraph 7 of the General Rules which would still make it possible for any delegate or country to include an item on the Conference's agenda without engaging the Council's responsibility or carrying its stamp of approval?

Rule II, paragraph 5 says "Any member.... may, not less than thirty days before the date fixed for the opening of a session, request the Director-General to include specific items on the agenda (of the Conference). These items shall be placed on a supplementary list which shall be despatched to member nations not less than twenty days before the date fixed for the opening of the session, and shall be presented to the General Committee for recommendation to the Conference."

Rule II paragraph 7 along the same lines makes it possible for any delegate to include any item on the agenda in the same way, but it asks the Director-General to present a detailed and studied comment to the Conference. So much the better.

I submit there is no real purpose being served by bringing this item to the Council, at least no objective, technical or other purpose having to do with the functions and nature of this Organization. There is another more direct way for the sponsors of the item to take it to the Conference.

But on the other hand, there are pitfalls and dangers if this Council allows itself to be drawn into this obviously highly politicalized item without an objective study, and without the required technical consultations called for and the required objective discussion this should lead to.

On this basis alone the Council is fully justified in asking the sponsor of the item to resort to Rule II paragraph 5 and Rule II paragraph 7.

I submit it is a much safer course and a more dignified and justified approach to leave this request entirely to the decision of the Conference, in accordance with Rule II paragraph 5 and Rule II paragraph 7, to include it or not, in its agenda on its merit. As you are well aware, Sir, the item under consideration deals with the Organization's relationship with a State based on an agreement signed by this Organization and a Member State.

This is another important thing to bear in mind. You are fully aware, Sir, that according to the Organization's Constitution and General Rules. the Council is not required, it is not obliged, to deal with this request, since it is the Conference and not the Council which is primarily responsible, and I underline 'primarily'. It is the Conference and not the Council which is primarily responsible for agreements, and especially agreements about regional offices. The item under discussion, without going into too much detail, deals with one of those agreements. It purports to cancel it or discontinue it because obviously you can not transfer the Regional Office from its present seat without such a step being taken* Let me give a few examples from the Constitution to clarify my point.

Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution are devoted entirely to conventions and agreements between the Organization and Member States or international organizations. They make it very clear that it is the Conference of FAO which has the privilege and the authority of agreement and convention-making on behalf of this Organization. Where the Council is so empowered, it is specifically restricted by the provision that it is to be "under rules to be adopted by the Conference" and provided that the Council action should be taken by two-thirds of the membership of the Council concurring.

Now, Article X of our Constitution about regional liaison offices says: "There shall be such regional offices and sub-regional offices as the Director-General, with the approval of the Conference, may decide." Not a word about the Council, Sir.

It is therefore obvious that on matters pertaining to the Conference's jurisdiction, such as agreements on regional offices, where a Conference decision is needed. Rule 24 of the General Rules assumes a special relevance in my appeal to the Council to let the Conference alone handle this matter. Rule 24, as I have said, enjoins the Council to "make decisions on matters that need to be submitted to the Conference." You are aware, of course, that the delegate of Saudi Arabia has requested its inclusion on the provisional agenda of the Conference.

A study of the Constitution and General Rules about the role and function of the Conference and the Council, besides the importance of the item under review - an importance which transcends its apparent innocuousness - should convince the Council that its wisest course of action should be to ask the sponsors of the item in question to take their item directly to the Conference, in accordance with Rules 2.5 and 2.7.

Let me adduce further reasons and justifications for this suggested line of action. For the Council to approve this item according to Rule 2.2 (b), that is, endorse it and send it to the Conference carrying the Council's seal of approval, the Council should have had before it, (a) proper consultation with the Director-General, as specified in the above Rule, and preferably a detailed technical study; (b) proper discussion of the merits of this case; and (c), a convincing case presented by the sponsors, based on objective and technical reasons which should be in line with the functions and objectives of our Organization and which should prove that the item, if carried to its logical conclusion, should enhance the efficiency of this Organization.

Nothing of that sort has happened. We all know the real reasons behind the sponsor's apparently innocent request. As you yourself, Sir, have said, they have nothing to do with food security or agricultural prosperity. My delegation is not going to refute or expose those real motivations at this stage, in deference to you, Sir, but reserves the right to do so at the proper time. Suffice it now to say that their reasons for raising this item are, to say the least, and to put it very mildly, of a one-sided political nature. They have nothing to do with the standards and criteria which guided and still guide the Director-General and this Organization in selecting seats for regional offices.

Why should the Council therefore silently put its seal of approval on such a request and send it on to the Conference? Why not leave it to the Conference to make its own political decision on an obviously political item?

For the Council to accept the sponsor's wishes, for the Council to impart its approval or endorsement to this item, will be tantamount to accepting to mix regional politics of a highly suspect and dubious nature with the serious business of food security and agricultural prosperity. I do not believe that the Council should want to do that, Sir. Better leave it to the political organ of this Organization to handle it in its own way.

Obviously, to accept the argument that each time there arises a quarrel or a dispute between certain states in a region, and the State which hosts the seat of the regional office, these States try to get the FAO to accede to their request to transfer that seat, to accept this argument is to create a dangerous precedent in international organizations. Never before has a regional seat of any organization in the United Nations System been transferred, at least for political reasons, or for any other reasons as far as I know. To accept this trend is to open the flood gates to a new brand of intellectual imposition, of political dictate over the serious business of this Organization and similar ones.

Again, I say, this is not a regional matter that should interest Near East Member States alone; it is an issue which might create world-wide repercussions and precedents. It is therefore a matter of principle.

How many members of this Council in Africa, Asia or Latin America, may come to confront a similar

future threat when they happen to have their political differences with some of their neighbours who may try to penalize them or intimidate them by seeking to transfer regional offices from their capitals? Where is this going to take us? Do we not all have our passing short-lived political misunderstandings in all areas of the world? Are we to transfer regional offices around according to passing whims and caprices and to shifting alliances or shifting sands? What happens when relations, after six months or a year, have reverted to normal? Do we put the regional offices back to the place that had originally been chosen according to criteria of efficiency and of objectivity?

The FAO Near East Regional Office in Cairo has been there for the past thirty years. Egypt has been a good host, a good member of FAO. It has offered and still does and will continue to offer, all its technical, administrative and political facilities to FAO, its Regional Office and to all Members of FAO at large.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Egypt, can you please restrict yourself to the question of the place in the agenda only, without now going into details on how long it is there and what it is doing, etc.?

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt) : With all due respect, I was trying to convince the delegates of the advisability of not placing this item on the agenda, for the reasons I was adducing. At any event, if you will bear with me for the next four or five minutes, I will be done. So please bear with me only four or five minutes more, because as I have said, this is a very important subject to my Government and I think even to everyone round this Council table. Thank you, Sir; I will carry on.

Above all, Mr. Chairman, and fellow members of the Council, I beseech the Council to be fair to itself by not rushing head-on to endorse or approve the inclusion of this item on the next Conference agenda because this may turn out to be not the intention of the Conference. Then, be fair to Egypt also, a founding member which has been a good host to the Regional Office for the last thirty years, which is ready and willing to put all its resources at the service of FAO and its Regional Office, as well as all the Member States which make up its membership, political differences notwithstanding. So, I do not penalize Egypt by putting the stamp of approval 'sans connaissance de cause' on this item. You can still be fair to the sponsors and you still would not deprive them of the chance to take their item to the Conference where they themselves want it to be discussed in the first place, by letting them make use of Articles 2.5 or 2.7 of the General Rules.

In the light of the foregoing, I formally present to the Council my delegation's formal proposal that the Council adopt the following decision, which I am going to read out, with your permission, Sir; and would you please instruct the Secretariat to come out and pick up copies of this same draft that I am going to read and which comes in English, French, Arabic and Spanish, for the purpose of facilitating the task of this Council. The draft resolution I have in mind reads as follows:

"The Council, having taken note of the request by certain delegations that the Council approve the inclusion on the Provisional Agenda of the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference of an item relative to the transfer of the FAO Near East Regional Office to another capital, decides that no Council action is required at this juncture."

I want to avoid the Council losing further precious time; I want to avoid undue lengthy rebuttals and recriminations. You have listened to the delegate of Saudi Arabia's request to include the item on the Provisional Agenda of the Conference. You have heard my case, and you have been seized of my official proposal. To save the Council further loss of time and wrangling, I now also, with your permission, Sir, move officially the closure of the debate on the request of the Saudi Arabian delegate; under Article 23 of our General Rules, after the procedure has been carried through, I ask you, Mr. Chairman, respectfully and formally, to submit my proposal to the voting of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to correct what I think is a misunderstanding. You kept on saying that I said from the Chair the matter was not for the Council. What I said was that this matter has come on from something that took place outside FAO, not with our involvement but it is spilling over into all organizations and therefore I think this should be put right; I am not saying this matter has nothing to do with FAO. I hope that is clear.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): With all due respect, Mr. Chairman, I took down your words at the very beginning and they were "nothing to do with FAO". So, if I am mistaken - if it is not your intention to have said so - I am willing to let go and not insist on this point. But nevertheless, I am very thankful to you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I did say... I said what has happened is nothing to do with that but it is spilling over to everybody, but what we are concerned with now is the proposal by Saudi Arabia that we should include an item on the agenda for the Conference. Now the delegate of Egypt in his intervention did not contest the fact that the Conference can discuss this matter and so far as I can see, and in order to limit the discussions, we have two alternatives. Egypt is not in agreement with the proposals by Saudi Arabia. Now, Saudi Arabia is speaking on behalf of certain countries of the Region and they have the right to put their points to Council on the agenda. There are two ways or three ways of doing this and it would appear to me that Saudi Arabia have taken one way of doing it, which is in our rules, and Egypt now is saying that Saudi Arabia should do it in another way, that it should not bring this matter to Council but it should go straight to the Conference. Now, I from the Chair cannot tell Saudi Arabia what to do, or Egypt what to do, or any Member of the Council what to do. It is a matter on which those which propose and those who oppose will either come to an agreement or a consensus will be taken in Council on those proposals. There is no question of gagging a debate because every member has the right to make their proposals and for the other Members to make their counter proposals and therefore if Council would agree we will boil down the problem to either Saudi Arabia should put it now or they will agree to accept the Egyptian proposal that they should go straight to the Conference. Now if Saudi Arabia say they do not agree then of course there is going to be some discussion and therefore I would like to give the floor to Saudi Arabia.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): When I took the floor at the beginning of my statement, I said that I was speaking on behalf of the large majority of the countries of the Near East Group. I am not speaking only on behalf of my country. I said that I was also speaking on behalf of my country which belongs to the Region and to this Group so after having listened to this political statement that has been made I think it is necessary for us to take account of the fact that there are several countries of the Near East Group represented in the Council and perhaps it would be wise to listen to the views of these countries in the Council so that the other Members of the Council can be clear about this.

Now with regard to our proposal concerning the transfer of the Regional Office, we have not asked for anything. we have only asked for this item to be placed on the agenda of the Conference. This is quite a normal request that we have a right to. We can ask for such a thing. We have not asked for this item to be discussed now. We know that the Council cannot take a decision on this matter, that is the transfer or the non-transfer of the Regional Office.

We have asked in a very clear manner that the question concerning the transfer of the Regional Office should be placed on the agenda on the coming General Conference. The General Conference of course will take the decision. Therefore I would like to stress the view which we have already expressed. This item should be placed on the agenda and I think we should listen to the other Members of the Council belonging to the Near East Group so that everybody can be very clear about this matter.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): A point of order. Under the General Rules of our Organization I formally move under Article 23 of our rules the closure of our debate on this request and if I may read out to the Council for its opinion it reads like this: "A delegate or representative may, at any time, move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Conference or the Council is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate. The Chairman may limit the time allowed to speakers under this paragraph."

With all due respect I have made a formal motion under Article 23 and I think it should be taken into account.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you delegate of Egypt. You are being very formal. I was once a member of this Council and if I were a member still I would have said that for any delegate to stop discussion of an issue when other people may wish to take the floor is probably preventing them from exercising their human rights. Now if it is the feeling of Council that we should stop the debate in accordance with that protest that is made, then of course we are governed by our own rules and regulations. Is it the wish of Council that we should stop the debate on this matter?

L.C.J. MARTIN (United Kingdom): I am not quite sure how many other members of Council are in the same position as I am, but certainly at the moment I am more than a little confused because I think there is probably not a single regulation that has not been quoted on this. I do not wish to be formal, I do not wish to ask you to rule strictly by the Constitution. I do suggest it might be a good idea to break for lunch.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I think your suggestion is a much better suggestion than either that of Egypt or Saudi Arabia! Iraq has asked for the floor.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Interpretation from Arabic): It was not my intention to take the floor on this item, despite its importance, had there not been an intervention from the delegate of Egypt. I did not think that the delegate of Saudi Arabia in his request would have got such a reaction in the case of the representative of Egypt. This question is one which the Council has to decide on. It is a very regional matter, it is purely a regional matter, it affects the countries of the Region. That is why these countries are unanimous the Arab nations would boycott.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

CHAIRMAN: Point of order and I now close the meeting for lunch.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.23 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 75/PV/15

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

15ª SESION PLENARIA

(20 June 1979)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that after lunch, tempers have cooled and better judgement will prevail, but before we go on with the item, I would like to inform Council that the delegate of Uganda has just been appointed Minister and member of the Cabinet of Uganda, and I would like to congratulate him on behalf of all of us that he has been appointed Minister in his country.

APPLAUSE

APPLAUDISSEMENTS

APLAUSOS

CHAIRMAN: Now, the next point of information I would like to give you is that we have with us the Vice-Minister of Poland, and if Council will agree, I would like to give him the floor to say a few words.

STATEMENT BY THE VICE-MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF POLAND DECLARATION DU VICE-MINISTRE DE L'AGRICULTURE DE POLOGNE DECLARACION-DEL VICEMINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA DE POLONIA

A. KACALA (Poland): First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving the opportunity to our delegation, which is in the capacity of an Observer, to take the floor at so important a session of the Council.

Our delegation has not participated in previous meetings. However, I would like to refer very briefly also to some basic subjects which have been under discussion, in particular the world food situation and the World Food Security System. The document CL 75/2, in our opinion, very accurately presents the food situation of the world.

Two conclusions deserve particular emphasis, namely, decrease of the rate of growth of food production, both total and per capita, in the Seventies in comparison with the Sixties, as well as still existing uncertainty as to the possibility of meeting the demand for basic food products in the coming years.

Since in the developing countries there is an increasing trend for the importation of grains, the production of which this year will presumably be a few percent lower than in the past year, an increase in prices and difficulties connected with it for the importing countries may appear. The available grain stocks without an International Grains Agreement do not ensure food security in the world, as is correctly emphasized in the FAO documents. In this situation, the renewed initiative of FAO aiming at setting up the World Food Security System in the form of the Five-Point Programme of the Director-General of the FAO should be welcomed with appreciation. Our delegation believes that in spite of all the difficulties in obtaining satisfactory solutions in a short time, it is absolutely necessary to continue efforts aiming at setting up an international system which would effectively protect the population of all countries from famine.

Concentrating attention and means on the development of plant and animal production in the developing countries is undoubtedly just, and the giving of a more practical character to the activities of the Organization allows hope for achieving successful results in this regard. A number of developing countries achieved considerable growth in food production in the Seventies, which indicates the existence of reserves and possibilities' that have not been used so far.

In the context of rapid population growth in many regions of the world, the initiative of FAO aiming at estimating natural resources on a world scale and potential possibilities of production development seems most valuable to us. This kind of study can be most useful for determining development trends of agricultural production, and the need for "registering" of stocks becomes the more important as many countries have not made any estimates of natural resources or have not had technical possibilities for carrying them out.

The Programme approved by FAO meets the most urgent needs of developing countries and should be continued. It seems, however, that equal attention and means should be given to the problem of both pre- and post-harvest losses.

As appears from the presented documents, FAO through the Investment Centre is carrying on large-scale activities aiming at assistance to developing countries in establishing investment trends and in obtaining credits for agricultural development.

In the opinion of the Polish Delegation, this form of activity is one of the most important in granting practical assistance to developing countries and should be further expanded. The development of agricultural production is connected with necessary institutional and social changes in rural areas,

particularly in the form of agrarian reforms. The calling of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development in July best proves the great importance that is attached to the matter both by the FAO and by the governments.

The Polish Delegation welcomes with satisfaction the fact that both in the programme of activities of the Organization and in the budget proposed for the years 1980-81, rural development programmes play a significant role. Regardless of the amount of the budget which will be finally settled at the Conference, it will be necessary to continue efforts aiming at the most reasonable use of funds and at limiting administrative expenses and others not directly connected with the development of agricultural production.

In conclusion, I would like to say that in the opinion of the Polish delegation the priorities of operation of the Organization for the years 1980-81 are fixed in the right order, and indications are that our Organization will play an evergrowing role in solving the problems of world agriculture and food economy.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Vice-Minister of Poland.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Preparations for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

10. Préparation de la 20^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO: (suite)

10. Preparativos del 20 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO: (continuación)

10.1 Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference

10.1 Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence

10.1 Organización del período de sesiones y programa provisional de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: Now we will go back to our discussion, and I would again like to appeal to members to respect the dignity of this House and conduct the debate in a cordial and calm manner so that we can get through the work without bitterness and as speedily as possible. It is quite clear to me that from now on for the remainder of this particular item we have to go strictly by our Rules and Regulations. Therefore to start with I would like to give the floor to our Legal Counsel to review what is happening so far as our Rules and Regulations are concerned, and to outline the steps that lie ahead of us.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I shall attempt to do what you have requested, namely: first to explain the present state of the debate on the item under discussion as far as this is relevant for the application of the Rules governing the procedure of the Council.

Under Item 10.1 of the Council Agenda (may I open a bracket here and invite your attention to the fact that on document CL 75/11 there is a misprint. It says item 19, but it should be Item 10.1), the Council is at present discussing the paper I have just referred to entitled "Arrangements for the Twentieth Session of the Conference". I might add that as you may see on the first page of the text, this document is presented as a draft document for the Twentieth Session of the Conference, and will therefore be presented to the Conference under a different cover sheet, subject to any amendments that the Council may decide to adopt with regard to this draft document.

At the debate this morning, if my understanding is correct, the first speaker, the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia, proposed an amendment to a particular section of the document under consideration, namely to the provisional Conference agenda. He suggested that an additional item be inserted which, if my notes are correct, reads: "Transfer of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East from its present location." After that proposal had been made, the distinguished delegate of Egypt made two proposals, one a substantive proposal which I believe I do not need to read out because the delegate of Egypt has circulated it, and a procedural motion by which he moved for the closure of the debate.

In accordance with the provisions which are applicable to this particular situation, motions of procedure have precedence over substantive proposals. That does not mean that the substantive proposals are discarded. It does mean, however, that if the procedural motion is carried, no further debate may take place on the substantive proposal.

Rule XII, paragraph 23 of the General Rules of the Organization, which are applicable also to the Council - because the Rules of Procedure of the Council declare Rule XII of the General Rules applicable - reads as follows: "A delegate or representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Conference or Council is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate. The Chairman may limit the time allowed to speakers under this paragraph."

As I see it, there is a possibility for two speakers to oppose the motion for closure, and you are entitled, Mr. Chairman, to set a time limit, if you consider it appropriate, for the length of the interventions of any speakers opposing the motion for closure. After that, the motion has to be put to a vote.

As I said at the beginning, the item under discussion - and this is the word used in General Rule XII, paragraph 23 which I have read out - is "Arrangements for the Twentieth Session of the Conference." The closure of the debate, if it were decided by the Council, would mean that no further debate could take place on other parts of the document before you. You may perhaps wish, then, to put the question to the Council, whether the Council agrees that the draft document goes forward to the Conference once the substantive question which was raised has been decided.

Finally, I should like to point out that two substantive proposals have been made. The first proposal was made by the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia. If a vote were required, in the event that the Council should decide on the closure of the debate, the first vote to be taken would be on the first proposal that has been made for amending the provisional agenda of the Conference. The second proposal, which was made by the distinguished delegate of Egypt, would have to be voted on in the event that the proposal of the delegate of Saudi Arabia were not carried. If it were carried, then no vote would be required on the proposal made by the delegate of Egypt, because paragraph 26 of Rule XII provides that "Where the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another, the latter shall not be put to the vote".

I shall be glad when the time comes, and if necessary, to explain this further, but it may not be necessary. I hope that what I have just said has clarified the procedural situation. Thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Legal Counsel, this is very clear.

We do not want to waste any more time on debates. We have a proposal by Egypt that debate on this item should be stopped, and you just now heard what the Legal Adviser said. I would therefore like to call on two speakers who are against closing the debate on this matter to speak very briefly so that we do not waste a lot of time, since Council members are also eager that this matter be resolved in the light of our own Rules and Regulations and not in hot debates, since we are governed by rules and regulations.

If this procedure is agreed, I give the floor to the delegate of Iraq. Yes, delegate of Egypt?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I had asked for a point of order even before this session began and I gave the request to the Secretary-General of the Council.

The point of order I wanted to make was two-fold. My delegation is aware only that one form of proposal has been made to this Council. It was made formally and was announced formally as a formal proposal, whereas no other delegation had formally made any motion, neither formally for distributed any paper for it or formulation. No formula is known for any other motion except that provided by the Egyptian delegation. So far as I know, it is the only official motion made to this Council. It therefore has priority over any other motion that is thought to have existed. I am aware that the Saudi Arabian delegate took the floor before me but he expressed a wish and not a formal proposal and did not submit any formulation for such a proposal. I think this should be clear to our distinguished Legal Counsel.

The second part of my point of order. - -

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Egypt, we are discussing your own point of order which says you want to suspend the debate. Please let us take one thing at a time, let us put the matter to the House in accordance with our Rules and Regulations.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): Only one moment, to explain to our distinguished Legal Counsel, Sir: when I made the motion for the closure of the debate, I did not mean the closure of the debate on item 1(a), namely the whole Provisional Agenda. Far from it, of course: I said, very specifically, the closure of the debate on the request of the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia and not the closure of the debate on the whole Provisional Agenda of the Conference. This should be made clear, it is very important.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The distinguished delegate of Egypt made two points. I shall take the last one first. He said that his motion for the closure applied to the proposal made by the delegate of Saudi Arabia; it did not apply to the whole item before the Council. As I said before - and I quoted paragraph 23 of Rule XII - it is stated that a representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion. There is no provision regarding a partial closure but you may, in due course, if necessary, wish to put to the Council whether the Council is ready to agree and the mover is also ready to agree - which I take it he is - to discuss questions arising out of this document, other than the Provisional Agenda of the Conference.

The second point is whether or not a proposal or formal proposal was made by the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, I do not speak Arabic and I could not hear the original of his statement but, according to the notes which I took, he formulated the precise wording of the item that he proposed for inclusion in the Conference Agenda. No distinction is made between formal or informal proposals in the Rules of Procedure of the Council or in the General Rules of the Organization, and an oral formulation is generally accepted. If the Council feels that it should be circulated, the Council may request it; but there is no mandatory provision in our Rules whereby a proposal to the Council - and I am speaking of the Council, not of the Conference - has to be circulated in advance.

CHAIRMAN: The position is now clear. The first thing we have to decide on is that the Council may wish to limit the suspension of debate, the closure of debate, only to the point raised by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, and as the delegate of Egypt seems to agree to this, if the Council agrees, then we shall limit the vote to suspend the debate only to that point, so that the other arrangements in document CL 75/11 can go ahead. After that, depending on the vote on the suspension of debate, we will take the next step.

I will now give the floor to a speaker against the suspension. Delegate of Iraq, if you are against, I give you the floor; if you are for it, there is no need.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of our delegation I would like to declare my opposition to the closure of the debate on this subject. As you know, Mr. Chairman, this is a subject which has not been debated or discussed, so how can we vote on something which is submitted for discussion and which has not been discussed?

On the other hand, the delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not go into detail on the reasons which led him to ask for the transfer of the Regional Office in Cairo. In a manner which is contrary

to reality, and with a good deal of detail, the delegate of Egypt gave arguments which are not in keeping with reality and truth. This question which is submitted to the Council for its decision is, in my opinion a regional question which only concerns the countries of the Region, who have unanimously felt that leaving the Regional Office in Cairo would not be of service to the Region, and they need the services of the Regional Office. Eighteen Arab countries have cut off diplomatic and economic relations with the present host country for reasons you are all quite well aware of, and we informed the Director-General of this break in diplomatic relations some two months ago, by letter.

I will not be long; allow me, if I may - because you let the delegate of Egypt speak for more than half an hour - -

CHAIRMAN: All I am saying is: be brief. Delegate of Egypt, will you please allow other people to speak? Delegate of Iraq, be brief, that is all I ask.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): The work of the Regional Office has been frozen and has come to a standstill; I am sure the Secretariat can confirm this. We have come here, and even before the meeting of the next Conference, so that this item could be included on the Agenda. This Regional Office can be transferred to whichever other country is decided upon, but we ask that the Director-General carry out a study which we are presenting to the Conference, so that a decision can be taken. We firmly feel that it is our right to include this item on the Agenda of the Conference and that any country has the right to express its opinion when the question is presented and particularly when this request is presented to the next General Conference. No-one has a right to keep eighteen Member Countries of this Organization from saying what they feel on this question. This would be simply a way of obstructing the work.

I think we must consider the work of the Organization and what would be most beneficial to it.

Finally, I want to draw the attention of this august assembly to the fact that our boycotting of the Regional Office at its present headquarters in Cairo will be a permanent boycotting on behalf of the Arab countries, no matter what are the conditions and the situation. You can ask those responsible for the Regional Office in Cairo, you can ask Mr. Jum'a and the countries of the Region, about his recent trip. He came as an independent visitor and not in his quality of Director of the Regional Office. We shall never let him present recommendations on behalf of this Regional Office.

In conclusion, we have tried to speak objectively - contrary to the delegate of Egypt - so all those who are opposed to the will of these countries will have to assume the responsibility of their decisions, and this would simply put a stop to all activities of this Regional Office, with all the consequences that this would have for all the countries of the Region.

CHAIRMAN: We have one more speaker against, as briefly as possible, and then we will put the point.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I, too, am against the motion whether we should come to a closure of the debate, as the delegate of Iraq has said. We have not started discussion of this item, so how can we bring it to a close? The delegate of Egypt has made a proposal, and then he has asked that we close the debate. In our view, that means that it is a closure of the debate on the proposal that I myself made as well: the closure of the debate on the views which should be exchanged here in this meeting.

I do not wish to revert to what has already been stated by the delegate of Egypt, because he spoke at length, but I would like to recall that he said that the countries which presented the proposal - and we know very well that our group has come forward with a proposal on this particular item of the Agenda - he said that the countries which made the proposal on the transfer of the Regional Office and this item on the Agenda, wish to impose their will, to dictate their will, to this august Council. We are asking who is trying to impose this will on the Council? Everyone knows that we never try to impose our will on the Council or elsewhere. On the contrary, we have always been willing to listen to the constructive opinion of others in these discussions on specific items. What we are asking is who is trying to impose their will on this item on the agenda? Who is imposing their will so that we cannot discuss this item at the proper moment, and I stress the word proper moment, and all this is done before we start a discussion, before we can convince the Council of the need to listen to the different opinions and the views of the Legal Counsel on the rules and procedures. This really runs against the purpose which the delegate from Egypt states. The delegate from Egypt is against a very fundamental principle, free and democratic discussion.

All we ask is that there be an item included and placed on the agenda so that we can prepare a study for the general Conference so that the general Conference can in due time accept this item for its agenda or reject it. We are simply asking that a study be prepared but it will be the Conference who make the final decision. The Conference will start whether it is going to accept or reject our point of view. We only ask the Council to make a decision on this point, to rule on this point. To submit this to the Conference does not mean that the Council supports the placing of this item on the agenda, that it be in agreement on the topic which will be placed on the agenda, as the delegate from Egypt has tried to imply.

I shall not be lengthy on this particular item. We are against the closure of this item. We appeal to the delegates of the Council regardless of their opinions on this specific item. We would like to see that there be a possibility for all to speak in a free and democratic way, as it has always been in this Organization, as it has always been at FAO.

In our view, and I think it is the opinion of all the members of the group of the Near East, we feel that all the delegations have a right to express their points of view and this is what we ask of you.

CHAIRMAN; We are going to vote but before we do this I would still like to ask the Legal Counsel to explain to us what kind of voting methods there are so that we do not make any mistakes on our rules and regulations.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The normal way of voting in the Conference or in the Council is by show of hands.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to put the question that the debate on the proposal by the delegate of Saudi Arabia to include an extra item on the agenda be stopped. Those for stopping the debate please show your hands. Those who wish to continue the debate please raise your flag. Those who are abstaining?

Vote by show of hands

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada



CL 75

75th Session of the Council

15th Plenary Session

Wednesday, 20 June 1979

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

FIRST Vote on
 Vote sur CLOSURE OF DEBATE ON PART OF ITEM 10.1 PROPOSED BY EGYPT
..... Votación para

1	Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	44	4	Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	13
2	Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	13	5	Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	19
3	Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	12			

☐ Adopted
Adoptée
Aceptada

☒ Rejected
Repoussée
Rechazada

20 June 1979
.....
Date
Fecha

B. Linley
.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El Oficial de Elecciones

CHAIRMAN: By one vote Council has decided to continue the debate.

We have an open agenda item and I think in order to streamline our work we should take the proposals put in the document before us, discuss those and then after that we will take the proposal by the delegate of Saudi Arabia and discuss it and those for and against can then express their views. If this is agreed we will discuss what is contained in the main document for arrangements for the next Conference document CL 75/11. The discussion is open on that document.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): As regards the agenda and the time schedule for the Twentieth FAO Conference we have two technical remarks. First, concerning the agenda, although we continue to fully support the Conference decision that the agenda should be as short and concise as possible we miss the highlighting of one important item singled out as such, that is the prevention of food losses. This programme, which has already been successful in its initial phase is of special importance and merits therefore even greater attention. It is, in our view, as important as the suggested items 6.2, 6.3 or 17. By doing so one can expect that the countries themselves as well as the multilateral and bilateral donors, will put more emphasis on this task of utmost importance.

My second point concerns the time schedule. In the document it is suggested that Commission II first deals with the Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81, that is agenda item 11. Only then the review of the current programme of work, agenda item 12, and of the field programmes, agenda item 13, are scheduled. We feel that we should revise that order and start with a discussion of the current Programme of Work and of the field programmes as we expect relevant conclusions from these deliberations for the next Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more members wanting the floor? If not, I will ask the Director-General to respond to the points made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We are going to discuss, as part of the Programme of Work and Budget, our future activities on prevention of post-harvest losses. We can accommodate easily the delegate of Germany by taking this opportunity to provide information on the progress achieved during the first biennium. I think such procedure would be preferable since we could thus discuss what has been going on during this biennium together with what we propose to do for 1980-81. I suggest therefore to leave the two things together, instead of discussing this under a separate item, item 7, which will be dealt with under another Commission, Commission I. This would only be a different way to consider the very same subject which the delegate of Germany would like us to discuss. We would prepare a document describing the experience we have acquired during this biennium and it would be discussed there. This is my reaction to the first comment or proposal which has just been made.

As far as discussing the review of field activities before the Programme of Work, this is a matter in which we have only followed the decision of the previous Conference, which expressed the wish to start immediately with the most important item, which is the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, and to discuss later the Review of our activities in 1978-79. We would have no problem as Secretariat, but some delegations might not be able to stay for the whole period of the Conference and would want to address themselves to the most important issue. Our next Conference may therefore also wish to discuss first the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81.

CHAIRMAN: I hope the delegate of Germany is satisfied with the explanation.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Yes, with regard to my first suggestion, having heard the explanation given by the Director-General concerning my second point, if he feels that it would not be convenient to discuss first the current Programme with its shortcomings and so on, and then in drawing conclusions from that discussion bring quite a lot of experience to the discussion which then follows on the forthcoming Programme, then, we have no difficulties in going along with the present proposal but to us it would have been more logical to discuss first the present programme and the field programme and from the conclusions drawn from that discussion then have had the discussion for the forthcoming programme, but if we are alone with our view on that we have no problems in accepting, as others around the table, the proposed arrangement.

CHAIRMAN: I will now ask for discussion of the point raised by the delegate of Saudi Arabia that an addition should be made to the Draft Agenda for the Conference.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt) : Before we come to the vote on the motion presented by our distinguished friend the delegate of Saudi Arabia, I would like to make a formal amendment according to Rule XII.26 of our Rules.

I would like to move the following amendment to his motion. The motion reads "transfer the Regional Office for the Near East to another site". My amendment is this: delete the word "transfer" and replace it by the words "study the activities of", so that it should read "study the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East", and the last words "to another site" should be deleted.

Under Rule XII.26 this amendment should be voted on before the motion itself. With your permission under Rule XII.6 and XII.6.9 (b) I move formally that this should be decided by a secret ballot.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Egypt, who is much more familiar with the Rules than I am. I will therefore ask the Legal Counsel to guide us again on the points raised by the delegate of Egypt.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The distinguished delegate of Egypt has moved an amendment to the original proposal of the delegate of Saudi Arabia. This, under the Rule which he has cited, he is entitled to do. However, both the amendment and the original proposal are now open for discussion. The question of voting and the method of voting I believe is not yet ripe. But it remains on the table if and when a vote should be taken.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think Egypt is any more objecting to a debate, because earlier on Council voted to have a debate.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I am not of course. I cannot object to a debate now that the Council has overruled my end of the debate motion. But I have moved formally that my amendment be voted upon when the time comes for voting on the motion. I have formally moved that a vote by secret ballot take place on my amendment and this should be registered for future reference when the time of voting comes.

CHAIRMAN: We will ask you how Council wants to vote when we get there. First, let us take it step by step and let us discuss the issues before us which are now quite clearly set.

J. G. KHARAS (Pakistan): Pakistan as a member of the Near East Group fully subscribes to and supports the proposal placed before the Council by the Chairman of the Near East Group, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia. We agree with the arguments put forward that this proposal merits close and serious examination. It is precisely for this reason that we would like the Council to agree to the proposal of including the item proposed by Saudi Arabia on the Agenda of the Conference. This would enable the Director-General to undertake a detailed study of the proposal. This in turn would enable the Conference to consider the matter carefully and take a decision on it. On the other hand, if we were to follow the procedure as outlined in Rule II.5, which appears on pages 22 and 23 of the English version of the Basic Texts, 1978 edition, the Conference would surely be deprived of an analytical assessment of the proposal. One way or the other the Conference would be faced with this issue. We therefore feel that it would be much better if you were to agree to the inclusion of this item on the agenda now so that the various ramifications of the proposal are placed fully before the Conference. In view of this we also do not agree with the amendment suggested by the delegate of Egypt.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): We would like to repeat and reiterate what has been said by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, the addition of a new item to the Agenda of the Conference dealing with the transfer of the Regional Office for the Near East, and we oppose the amendment formulated by Egypt on this proposal.

We listened with great attention to the discussions which took place. There is a parallel here which can be established between two United Nations Organizations who have dealt with the same subject at approximately the same time and geographically near one another. Despite these two facts the attitudes are very different indeed. The first attitude was one of wisdom and democracy, whereas in the second case it is the feelings which have decided and democracy was not as effective as it might have been.

I would like to name the World Health Organization and the decision taken there at the Conference of the World Health Organization, where the decision was taken on the transfer of its regional office to another headquarters so that this office could be free in carrying out its activities. I say that this decision was taken in May in Geneva this year and it is quite natural that the second attitude I mentioned is that which we are seeing here during this Council Session. The same countries take part in the meetings, it is the same discussion which is taking place, and even though the regional office of the World Health Organization is much larger than the regional office for FAO, despite this fact the General Assembly of the World Health Organization felt that it was the duty of its Members to include the activities which were of interest to them on their Agenda. They also realized that the transfer of the regional office of the World Health Organization depends on the decision of those countries who make up the region and we expected the Council of FAO to deal with this question in the same way and according to the same procedure and with the same understanding, particularly since we are now meeting under better circumstances than was the case with the General Assembly of the World Health Organization.

We propose that this item be included on the Agenda of the Conference well in advance of the meeting and we make this proposal within the Council Session, which is the Body which prepares the coming General Conference. Therefore we feel that we could take a careful look at our attitude and our position on this question so that this meeting will not set a precedent in obstructing the work of the Organization and obstructing the democratic activities of our Organization.

I think the Council took a very honourable stand in regard to the transfer of the Regional Office for Latin America. The Secretariat can correct me if I am wrong, but I think at that time the Council was not opposed to the transfer of the Regional Office for Latin America when this proposal

was made. Therefore I wonder what is the usefulness of a Regional Office if the Member Countries cannot work and cooperate with it. How can this Regional Office work effectively without the participation of the 18 Member Countries? What in fact is the future of this Regional Office? Will its activities remain at a standstill? Will we continue this type of useless expenditure? These are the questions I would put to you, Mr. Chairman.

H. MOKHTARI (Algérie): En tant que membre du Conseil, ma délégation voudrait faire part de sa position concernant cette question.

Je -voudrais rappeler que cette question a déjà été abordée suivant la procédure normale prévue par le -règlement de notre Organisation. En effet, cette question a déjà été soumise au Comité du programme qui a émis son avis dans les par. 2.175 à 2.177 du document CL 75/4. Le document CL 75/4 est bien un document soumis à l'examen de notre Conseil et notre Conseil est donc habilité à débattre de cette question.

En ce qui concerne le transfert du bureau régional de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient, nul n'est mieux placé que les pays concernés et utilisateurs pour apprécier son opportunité. Il s'avère que la grande majorité des pays du Proche-Orient sollicitent ce transfert afin de permettre à ce bureau de fonctionner normalement d'autant plus que ce transfert, de l'avis même du Comité du programme, n'affectera pas le programme régional de la FAO.

Notre Conseil ne peut que constater cette situation. Aussi, ma délégation appuie fermement la proposition du délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite et ma délégation s'oppose à l'amendement proposé par le délégué de l'Egypte.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (interprétation de l'arabe): Avant de traiter de la question quant au fond, je voudrais ici faire allusion à la conférence assez longue qui nous a été faite par l'Ambassadeur d'Egypte, qui a essayé de donner des leçons aux membres du Conseil sur la procédure et le règlement général de l'Organisation. Nous l'en remercions sincèrement, mais je vous avoue que les raisons soulevées par l'honorable délégué de l'Egypte ne sont pas très claires, peut-être parce qu'il n'a pas parlé sa langue maternelle ou parce qu'il a essayé de tourner autour du pot. Il a cherché à s'appuyer sur certains articles et certains paragraphes de manière assez vague, et je voudrais demander à la présidence de prier le Conseiller juridique de nous donner des explications en ce qui concerne le droit, pour chaque délégation au Conseil, d'inscrire un point à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale. Je crois qu'il est du droit de toute délégation d'inscrire un point à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. Mais quand 18 pays membres demandent cette inclusion, n'en ont-ils pas le droit? Monsieur le Président, quand vous donnerez la parole au Conseiller juridique, il lui faudra nous expliquer certains de ces articles. Il a d'ailleurs répondu pleinement à nos aspirations et il a éclairé notre lanterne.

Nous sommes en train de discuter du transfert du bureau régional de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient dans lequel participent 24 pays de la Région. Permettez-moi de vous rappeler que ce sont les pays membres qui ont la possibilité d'évaluer l'activité du bureau et de juger de l'utilité de son siège et de l'efficacité de ses activités. La grande majorité des pays membres du Proche-Orient pense que dans l'intérêt général de la FAO, dans l'intérêt du développement agricole dans les pays de la région, il est nécessaire, pour éviter que les activités du bureau soient gelées comme elles l'ont été dernièrement - et la situation ne fait que s'aggraver étant donné le cadre politique - donc la grande majorité demande à la FAO le transfert du bureau régional. Elle ne le demande pas au Conseil, elle le demande à la Conférence. Donc, cette grande majorité demande au Conseil d'inscrire ce point à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale qui l'appuiera ou le repoussera. Tout ce que nous demandons c'est l'inclusion de ce point à l'ordre du jour et c'est notre droit le plus absolu.

Je ne peux que rappeler ici à la Présidence et aux honorables délégués qu'il y a un précédent dans l'histoire même de notre Organisation. Je rappelle que certains de nos amis d'Amérique latine, dans une période déterminée, pour des raisons que je ne veux pas citer ici, ont voulu le transfert du bureau régional de l'Amérique latine. Le Conseil leur a laissé le choix. Les pays de la région ont discuté de la question. Si, après mûre réflexion, ils ont décidé de ne pas transférer le bureau, ceci les concerne, et ne concerne pas le reste des pays membres.

Je suis persuadé que les honorables délégués, membres du Conseil, qui appartiennent aux autres régions, comprennent notre attitude, et qu'ils sont d'accord avec nous pour l'inclusion de ce point de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. De toute façon, c'est aux pays de la région, donc aux pays du Proche-Orient, de décider de cette question.

Aussi, je prie les honorables délégués du Conseil d'accepter la proposition du délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite, à savoir l'inclusion de ce point à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence générale, qui est la seule instance en mesure de décider de cette question. Tout ce que le Conseil peut faire en ce moment c'est de recommander à la Conférence générale d'étudier la question pour décision.

J.A. BAKER (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor, and I will be very brief because it is, I think, a painful and awkward issue for members of the Council who are not from the region concerned. It is really an issue, I think, which most of us would be more comfortable discussing if there was a unanimity of view in the region concerned. There may be a strong majority in that region with a certain viewpoint, but without unanimity of view in that region, it seems to us that this Council lacking full details would have difficulty assenting to an agenda item for the Conference which suggests transfer of a regional office from a member country which has given that office good support in accordance with a formal agreement with the FAO approved by the Conference.

Following this discussion this morning and this afternoon, it seems we have made a little progress; we have got from what appeared to be a confrontation to some possibility of compromise. Right now, instead of a proposal to close debate or to take no action, we have before us a proposal which would have the Council putting an item related to the Regional Office for the Near East on the Agenda of the Conference but would do so in what appears to my delegation to be a neutral manner.

The amendment offered us, as I understand it, would permit us to support having an item on the Agenda on the general subject of the Regional office. If this amendment carried, then the Agenda item is added and at the Conference all sides have ample opportunity to present their views, and what is I think perhaps more important for many of us is that we will have the benefit of a better background of information and viewpoints about the different possibilities for that office on which to form a

judgement. At the present time, I do not think my delegation has that information and I do not think many of us do. Thus, through this amended proposal the Conference, which is a body actually more comparable to the World Health Assembly mentioned here earlier than is this body and which is a body more authoritative with respect to agreements with Member Governments, would become the place where decisions, discussion regarding this item would take place.

In my view, that course of action, yielding to the wish of the majority of the States of the Region to have this item on the agenda but doing so in a manner which is completely neutral as to the outcome of that future discussion seems to offer, the best exit from the present situation, which I think has possibly negative consequences for the Council.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for letting me address this item, and I appreciate your very capable and calm and procedurally accurate pursuit of this matter.

CHIN FENG-CHU (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation has listened very carefully to the interventions of all delegates who have taken the floor so far. As is known to all, China enjoys good relations with all Arab countries. The Chinese Government and the Chinese people have always supported fully the just struggle of the Palestine and Arab peoples. It is our sincere hope that the Arab countries and peoples unite and exert efforts necessary to achieve a proper solution of the Middle East problem and seek a solution that is in the interest of the Arab people.

The Chinese delegation therefore is not going to take any position on the question under discussion.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no more speakers before we come to vote, because this has been called for, I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to respond to two points, one made by Lebanon first, then the one made by Egypt, on the procedure for voting, because if we have the Lebanese explanation for the Lebanon point, it will follow we are going to vote and that is related to what Egypt has put forward, and we wish for the explanations from you before we vote.

LEGAL COUNSEL: In my already long introductory statement, I did not want to go into the details of

the statement made this morning by the distinguished delegate of Egypt who, as you know, quoted a number of provisions of the General Rules of the Organization and of the Constitution. The provisions which he quoted were correctly quoted. In particular, he pointed to the three possibilities that exist for including an additional item in the Agenda of the Conference, the one which is under discussion now, namely, a proposal by the Council for inclusion in the Agenda, secondly, the one dealt with in paragraph 5 of Rule II concerning inclusion in the Provisional Agenda at the request of one Member State, notified to the Director-General at least thirty days before the opening of the Conference session, and thirdly, inclusion at the request made by one or more States at the opening of the Session of the Conference during the debate which requires qualified majority vote by the Conference.

These three possibilities exist. As regards the second one, perhaps I might say that the Conference is sovereign in adopting its agenda; therefore the proposal made under the second alternative, namely that of a notification by one member sent at least thirty days before the opening of the Conference, does not mean that the Conference is obliged to include the item in the agenda. The Conference is sovereign, as I said.

I do not think I would like to take a position on the other points because they do not seem to be strictly relevant, and I do not want to take the Council's valuable time. However, as regards the second point you raised, as I stated earlier, Mr. Chairman -and this remains valid - when a proposal is made at the Conference or at the Council by a delegation, another delegation may move an amendment. The amendment, as the distinguished delegate of Egypt rightly pointed out, has to be voted first.

I have had a close look in the meantime at the amendment put forward by the distinguished delegate of Egypt, and my impression is that it transforms the original proposal in a rather radical way. Instead of a transfer to another location, what is suggested in the amendment is a study on the activities. All that remains of the original proposal are the words "of the Near East Regional Office". I believe that it could be argued with some good reason that this is not really in the nature of an amendment but rather in the nature of a new proposal. This is my view, and it is up to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Council, to take a final decision on the nature of the proposal or the proposed amendment made by the distinguished delegate of Egypt.

Perhaps I might add one sentence, without wishing to be understood as in anyway interfering in the substantive aspect of the debate. Several delegates who spoke have requested that a study be prepared for the next Conference in order to enable the Conference to take a position» as the distinguished delegate of Egypt said, "en connaissance de cause" on the matter which is to be discussed by the Conference. It might be argued that some sort of study, as requested by the delegate of Egypt, would have to be made in any event, even if the proposal made by the delegate of Saudi Arabia were to be accepted.

N. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I do not intend to take up much of your time, Mr. Chairman, or the time of the Council, you have already been too kind.

I humbly beg to differ with my colleague, the Legal Counsel, when he alludes to the possibility that my amendment may be counted as of an opposition nature to the motion. I argue along different lines: I say my amendment does not run counter to the first motion, it just amends it, as is provided for by Rule XII, paragraph 26, which says an amendment can be done by an addition or a deletion of the motion.

What I have done is delete somewhere and add somewhere else. I have not gone against the first motion at all. My amendment, as a matter of fact, can still provide for the first motion to take effect and does not run counter to it at all. If my amendment is carried, it will still be possible for the movers of the first motion to argue their case in the Conference once it is on the Conference agenda. It does not run counter to it, it does not preclude it, it even allows for it. It just satisfies the original movers and satisfies me in equity and justice.

When I moved it, I was aware of the fact of it being in the nature of a compromise amendment and not one to counter or preclude the first motion, it adds to it to make it more acceptable, both to their delegation and to mine. They can still argue it in the Conference. That is why I need it in a spirit of conciliation and compromise, and I hope this will be accepted by delegates.

I have also moved that when it comes it will be done by a secret ballot. The nature of this discussion has been of a very volatile, heartwarming and political nature and I wanted to avoid offending the Council's sensibilities and giving reasons for embarrassment, and I have moved also for the sake of conciliation of all people concerned that this should be done amicably and as secretly as possible.

CHAIRMAN: Actually the temperature has come down a lot. Can you read out to Council the whole of the amended version, please?

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I will be honoured and happy to oblige. The original motion should have read something along these lines, because no one of us has it in writing.

CHAIRMAN: I asked you just to read the amended version.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): "Study the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East". That is all.

CHAIRMAN: Is that the whole proposal you are putting as amended? Or can you read everything?

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I will be very happy to present two amendments, as a matter of fact, if it makes it easier for the other party. One will be "Study the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East", and the other will be by adding a few more words: "Study the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East with a view to enhancing its efficiency".

CHAIHMAH: Thank you, delegate of Egypt, but you have to decid© which one you want.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I think it is possible for me to move two amendments, it is possible in practice, there is nothing against one delegation moving two amendments. I am doing this in a spirit of conciliation, and I leave it to the Council. I wanted to avoid this kind of practice and I do not enjoy myself. Many among the delegates here know this kind of amendment was being discussed yesterday among the delegates concerned. It was proposed as a compromise solution to avoid this kind of clash, and I hope the decision can be approved and amended by the Council. Either one will suit me fine. I move them both, one after the other, so that they both can be voted upon as amendments to the original motion, so the Council can pick and choose.

CHAIRMAN: It is always good to have two strings to your bow, but in case one breaks do you not think it would help me very much if I could put to the Council one clear-out proposal of Saudi Arabia and one amendment by Egypt, rather than two amendments by the same person?

M. SANIR AHMED (Egypt): It would be more politic to stick to the longer version: "Study the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East with a view to enhancing its activities". In this way it should be possible for someone to propose to drop the ending and leave it as it was at first. If someone does not like the end, then they can move to block it altogether.

CHAIRMAN: We will leave that for the other people, but we have now got the order. Thank you delegate for Egypt.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Indeed, we wonder where we stand now. We have a majority which requested the opening of the debate, and we thank them with all sincerity and wholeheartedly. This indeed reflects their dedication to the spirit of democracy that prevails in all international organizations.

As I have said, we opened the debate in order to discuss the proposal submitted in our name in our capacity as the Middle East group, and which I tabled in my capacity as chairman of that group. We ask that this item be added to the agenda. The majority of those who have spoken after we reopened the debate supported our point of view and I wonder what the final decision will be.

With respect to the proposal tabled by His Excellency the Ambassador of Egypt, I would say that you can fully realize, Mr. Chairman, that this excludes all that had been tabled in the name of the Near East Group, regardless of whether we add or delete one word here or there. If we were to consider this with a spirit of wisdom and reflection, we would find that the tabled proposal recommends a consideration of activities of the Regional Office. What will the Head of the Organization do here? And we all know that he is working until very late hours. This is a clear prejudice to all the efforts being exerted by the Director-General in trying, day by day, to be closely aware of the activities of every regional office. But if I speak in terms of submitting a survey or a study on the activities of the Regional Office for the Near East, then I can say that the Director-General can here and now present such a report. He is totally efficient; we are proud of him and we shall never prejudice his power and possibilities.

As for the other final addition, to enhance the efficiency of the Regional Office, it is the Council that can enhance this efficiency. There are now eighteen countries dealing with this and now they have decided not to cooperate any more with the Regional Office. Hence, how can we request the Conference to enhance the efficiency of that Regional Office? How could its efficiency be enhanced? Therefore I beg that the situation be looked upon in a manner that will reflect the opinion of the majority, the point of view of our Near East Group and the point of view of friendly nations on the subject.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you would agree that we suspend our meeting for about ten minutes so that we may at least consider the proposals which are said to have been submitted to us.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Saudi Arabia, for the proposal that we suspend the meeting for some time for consultations. This is welcome; I think it is a very good trend. But if you agree, what I would prefer to do is to suspend this until tomorrow morning. Then we will take the two remaining items.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): I am not going to oppose your decision, Mr. Chairman, but I must say that if we are going to suspend it until tomorrow morning, then I would ask, on behalf of democracy and justice, that the Members present here who have abstained during the vote - it may be that their abstention was due to certain factors, that they have not, for example, had specific instructions from their governments, etc. - I hope in the meantime they may be able to contact their governments so that they can have their governments¹ instructions on the subject, so that if we are once again to vote - if a vote is inevitable - then they will be able to vote yes or no.

CHAIRMAN: Of course, the point of delaying until tomorrow morning is to give an opportunity not only for personal contacts but also for those who may wish to contact their home countries to do so; and I think that is a very good thing.

Now then, we shall suspend debate upon this until tomorrow morning but we will go on first, to take item 16.2 which is Appointment of Member Nations to the FAO Staff Pension Committee. The relevant document is CL 75/19 and there is a very small summary on the front of the document which I need not read to you.

VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)

VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

16. Any Other Business (continued)

16. Questions diverses (suite)

16. Otros asuntos (continuación)

16.2 Appointment of Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee

16.2 Nomination des membres du Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel de la FAO

16.2 Nombramiento de miembros del Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO

W.A.F. GRABISCH (República Federal de Alemania): El documento como tal ya explica todos los detalles por los cuales nosotros tenemos este punto en nuestra Agenda.

La delegación de la República Federal de Alemania se complace en proponer como Nuevos Miembros del Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO a la distinguida señora Doña Mayra Ivankowich de Arosemena, Representante Permanente Alterno ante la FAO y el señor R.W. Harrold, Representante Alterno de Canadá ante nuestra Organización.

Los dos son bien conocidos entre nuestros Foros, por su trabajo eficiente y por su dedicación. Abrigamos la esperanza de que una vez nombrados cumplirán el mandato que el Consejo les otorgue.

C. SENNING (Sweden): I know that the two candidates who have been nominated are well qualified and will fulfill their functions in an excellent manner. It is therefore a pleasure for my delegation to second their nomination.

CHAIRMAN: Proposals have been made by the Federal Republic of Germany and seconded by Sweden for the appointment of two Members to the Committee. If there are no comments, then I take it that the proposal has been accepted and the two candidates have been appointed by Council.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Preparations for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

10. Préparation de la 20ème session de la Conférence de la FAO (suite)

10. Preparación del 20o período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO (continuación)

10.2 Nomination of the Chairman and Other Officers of the Conference

10.2 Designation du Président et des autres membres du Bureau de la Conférence

10.2 Designación del Presidente y la Mesa de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: As most members of the Council may remember, this item is always dealt with in a private meeting of Heads of Delegations. I would, therefore, like to invite all other members of delegations as well as the Observers to leave the room. At the same time, this means that this afternoon's session of the Council is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16.40 hours

La seance est levée à 16 h. 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.40 horas

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CL

CL 75/PV/16

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

16ª SESION PLENARIA

(21 June 1979)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.05 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 h 05 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16 sesión plenaria a las 11.05 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Preparations for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

10. Préparation de la 20^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO: (suite)

10. Preparativos del 20º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO: (continuación)

10.1 Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference (CL 75/11) (continued)

10.1 Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence (CL 75/11) (suite)

10.1 Organización del período de sesiones y programa provisional de la Conferencia (CL 75/11) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Yesterday we adjourned discussions on a section of proposals on the arrangements for the Provisional Agenda of Conference. Council, I think quite rightly, agreed to discuss the matter. The discussion was opened not only for formal debate but also for dialogues. We allowed yesterday afternoon and overnight and we thought perhaps better counsel would prevail and that some solution might be found, and I hope that this is so. Therefore we will resume discussion of this subject and conclude it as soon as we can without disrupting the House, without emotional voting and so on, if at all possible. But if it becomes necessary and absolutely essential, then of course I will divide the House. The subject is now open for discussion.

A. ECHEVERRIA ZUNO (México): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente; le agradezco la oportunidad que me da para hacer uso de la palabra en la reanudación de nuestros amigables intercambios sobre este tema.

Nuestra delegación ha seguido atentamente el debate; no hemos estado ausentes y conocemos los datos y las informaciones que en torno a este tema se han comunicado y se han manejado.

Siendo este un asunto del Consejo y con un profundo ánimo de colaborar y conociendo detalladamente la actual situación, mi delegación se siente facultada muy cordialmente para hacer un llamamiento a todos los distinguidos delegados, y de manera muy particular al señor Embajador de la Arabia Saudita que ha sido un vocero de su grupo, así como a nuestro buen amigo el señor Embajador de Egipto. Lo hacemos por que este fenómeno se ha desarrollado de manera muy particular y quizá sin precedentes en este Consejo, por lo que los invitamos a un fraternal esfuerzo de flexibilidad y de comprensión. Ninguna otra cosa nos convence, si no que el entendimiento entre las partes sea la norma, y también estamos convencidos que la voluntad de las partes se encuentra orientada en éste y en ningún otro sentido.

Tomamos una amigable iniciativa y proponemos un compromiso, del que estamos convencidos que todos lo recibirán con simpatía y gozará de unánime apoyo. Lo formulamos, señor Presidente, a sabiendas de que de esta acción saldremos positivamente.

Concretamente, y estando fundamentados también en algunas de las palabras que usted, señor Presidente, ha pronunciado en torno al procedimiento de la votación, recordamos por una parte la necesidad de que en la Conferencia que se celebrará a fines de este año se avoque el asunto y, por otra parte, una propuesta concreta que hay de que se estudie detallada y meticulosamente este asunto y que las conclusiones se registren en un documento. Señor Presidente, sugerimos que el tema al que hacemos referencia se denomine de la siguiente manera: "Examen del estudio comprensivo sobre el funcionamiento de la Oficina Regional de la FAO para el Cercano Oriente, considerando la solicitud de diversos países de la región, relativo a la necesidad de reexaminar su actual ubicación".

En aras de la precisión y sabiendo de la propias limitaciones de quien habla y con objeto de ayudar a los distinguidos delegados que usan el inglés por idioma de trabajo, le pido autorización, señor Presidente, para leer este mismo texto en inglés y así también pudiéramos certificar, una vez más, su contenido y traducción.

"Examine the comprehensive study of the functioning of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, taking into account the request of some countries from the Region, related to the necessity of re-examining its present location."

Debo subrayar que este planteamiento, este compromiso al que hemos hecho un llamamiento lo hacemos bajo un profundo convencimiento de que esté Consejo lo recibirá positivamente.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mexico, for this very instructive and comprehensive proposal which seems to take into account the feelings of the two sides.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We also join the appeal made by the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico and also the appeal made by you, Mr. Chairman. It was very painful for us to see that you had to call for a division of the Council yesterday. In this House, which is dedicated to the benefit of the hungry and malnourished, we feel an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship is a must. I have been working in this House for the last three years and never has there been an occasion where we had to call for a division. We had always worked in an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship, an atmosphere of cooperation, never in an atmosphere of "take it or leave it". We feel that we are in a position to see things from an objective perspective.

We feel that today, after a night's sleep, we have acquired more wisdom and reason. Towards the end of the day yesterday, some spirit of compromise was demonstrated. We feel that both parties should come half way as brothers to meet, never expecting one or the other to come more of the way than the other. It is necessary that both parties should come half way as brothers and that is the spirit we find in the proposal of the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico. Here lies a solution where both parties could accommodate while protecting the points made by them yesterday to meet in a spirit of compromise and spare this august House from another painful exercise.

In that spirit, Mr. Chairman, we again appeal and join the appeal of the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico to both the parties to agree to this compromise formulation suggested by Mexico. Mr. Chairman, the distinguished delegate of Mexico was not reading it at dictation speed. If you allow me I will read the suggested proposal of Mexico at dictation speed: "Examine the comprehensive study of the functioning of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, taking into account the request of some countries from the Region, related to the necessity of re-examining-its present location". It says "some" in a spirit of compromise, Mr. Chairman, without making a judgment of how many.

We feel this formulation will be acceptable by our brothers from Egypt as well as our brothers from other Arab countries sitting in this Council as members. We appeal to them to accept this formulation.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Everybody knows, as you know, Sir, that we have not decided to belong to this Organization fixing as an objective for ourselves the launching of challenges. This is not according to our nature, neither does it belong to our tradition. Everybody knows, Mr. Chairman, that the countries that belong to this group are countries that belong to this Organization and that also belong to other international institutions. They belong to all these Organizations with the conviction that their presence can contribute to participation in an honest and sincere manner to the information of the international community. These are countries that participate endeavouring to bring a contribution so as to bring something to the lands tilled by these people so that wheat can grow there.

We have presented this proposal - and I would not really like to use this word "proposal" - but I would be allowed to say the request that we have submitted to you, Mr. Chairman, is only the expression of a legitimate right; not only our right but the right of everyone in the international community.

We would have liked for this Council to reply and to react with wisdom and in a clear manner and with conviction. We would have liked to see this reaction of the Council to the technical questions that have arisen and that induced us to make this proposal, to make this request*

Since this suggestion that has been made has been made by a dear friend who belongs to a dear group, to a group dear to everybody, not only to the Near East countries, and since we have always shown that this regional group sincerely collaborates with the other regional groups, collaborates, I am saying, while the majority of member countries that belong to it is not presenting a request, be it directly or indirectly. As you know, we collaborate and we are willing to give a hand, even if we are also developing countries, and we know that the world is suffering from poverty and malnutrition, and in our large majority we have not asked for anything yet, and since we do not wish to expand any longer on this question, and to show you and everyone that we always want to demonstrate that we have a spirit of collaboration, so as to show you how sincere we are and to give you such proof, Mr. Chairman, I can on behalf of the Near East countries say to you, Sir, that we accept the solution that has been presented with the hope that everyone will accept it so that we put an end to these discussions that after all will only bring us to a situation which would be too extreme, which would prevent us from working.

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I would like to thank the delegate of Mexico and our colleagues from the Latin American Group for trying their best to find a compromise. In their wish to speedily arrive at such a compromise, they thought it fit to consult the Arab Group, the sponsors of this original motion. They failed to consult with me, however, and my opinion was not asked on the compromise they made.

Therefore I seek the Council's indulgence and your permission, Sir, to break for just two or three minutes while you all remain seated. I would like to have a word with the Latin American Group over their compromise solution which I had not seen before it was made in this room.

CHAIRMAN: A request has been made by Egypt to suspend the meeting for a few minutes for consultation, and it is only right that he should ask for this consultation if he wishes. If Council, will agree, I will suspend the meeting for five minutes.

A. ECHEVERRIA ZUNE (México): Antes de que Ud. suspenda nuestros debates para que se realice la consulta que se ha propuesto, yo quisiera subrayar que la intervención que tuve hace algunos minutos fue en nombre de nuestra Delegación, por lo que las referencias que se han hecho al Grupo al que pertenece mi país, no tienen la precisión del caso.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Mexico, for this explanation. Delegate of Egypt, do you insist?

M. SAMIR AHMED (Egypt): I think there is all the more reason to ask for this break in order to have a word with the delegate of Mexico, and whomsoever wishes from the Latin American Group, if they would like to join us outside for a few minutes.

CHAIRMAN: If Council will agree, before further discussion I would adjourn for five minutes - and then when we come back I have on my list Venezuela and Argentina.

The meeting was suspended from 11.35 hours to 12.15 hours

La seance est suspendue de 11 h 35 a 12 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.35 a 12.15 horas

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. The five minutes have been very elastic, and since now it is almost lunchtime we will adjourn the meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.15

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

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CL

CL 75/PV/17

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

17ª SESION PLENARIA

(21 June 1979)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17 sesión plenaria a las 14.50 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: We will now resume our discussion on the remaining item, on Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference.

If you recall, we closed for lunch and during the lunch hour consultations, contacts were made and have been made which in all probability make the task of Council easier because it may now be possible to reach some compromise which may satisfy all sides.

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP (continued)

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM (suite)

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA (continuación)

10. Preparations for the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference: (continued)

10. Préparation de la 20ème session de la Conférence de la FAO: (suite)

10. Preparativos del 20 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO: (continuación)

10. 1 Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Agenda for the Conference (CL 75/11) (continued)

10.1 Organisation de la session et ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence (CL 75/11) (suite)

10.1 Organización del período de sesiones y programa provisional de la Conferencia (CL 75/11) (continuación)

A. ECHEVARRIA ZUNO (México): Nuestra intervención al principio de esta sesión es para dejar constancia de nuestro agradecimiento en la tarea que nos fue encomendada para realizar consultas. Ha sido una satisfacción para nuestra delegación haber podido, con carácter de absoluta neutralidad, presentar una propuesta que haya permitido llegar a una conclusión satisfactoria como usted, señor Presidente, lo acaba de anunciar.

Esta muestra de confianza para nuestra delegación mucho nos honra y nos compromete.

Como usted sabe señor Presidente, hay un acuerdo tácito para que sea nuestro amigo, el señor Embajador de Francia, quien haga la presentación.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Mexico, for the initiative which you personally embarked upon to resolve this problem.

C. BATAULT (France): Je suis très heureux de pouvoir dire à tous ceux qui sont ici que nous avons aujourd'hui un nouvel exemple de l'esprit de conciliation qui préside aux travaux de notre Organisation et qui lui permet d'atteindre une efficacité remarquable dans une atmosphère de coopération et d'amitié à laquelle je crois que nous pouvons tous rendre hommage.

Grâce à l'initiative du représentant du Mexique, que nous devons tous remercier très chaleureusement, une négociation a pu être menée à bien et, ayant servi si je puis dire, d'honnête courtier entre les deux parties, on a bien voulu me prier de lire le texte du compromis auquel nous sommes arrivés et qui, je crois, est, très honnêtement et en toute franchise, satisfaisant pour tout le monde. Si vous le permettez, je vais d'abord, puisque je suis le délégué de la France, vous en lire la traduction française, ensuite vous lire en anglais le texte original qui a été rédigé dans cette langue.

Voici d'abord la traduction française: "Examen d'une étude exhaustive préparée par le Directeur général sur les activités et le fonctionnement du bureau régional de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient, prenant en considération les opinions exprimées au cours de la soixante-quinzième session du Conseil, par certaines délégations, y compris l'examen de son emplacement".

Maintenant, je vais vous lire le texte authentique en anglais sur lequel un compromis a pu être réalisé: "Examination of a comprehensive study prepared by the Director-General on the activities and functioning of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East, taking into account the views expressed during the Seventy-fifth Session of the Council by some delegations, including the examination of its location".

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, le texte sur lequel nous nous sommes mis d'accord.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL (interprétation de l'arabe): Monsieur le Président, il va de soi que j'ai suivi avec la plus grande attention le débat qui s'est déroulé hier et aujourd'hui. La question débattue est en effet d'une importance capitale tant pour la FAO que pour les pays de la région du Proche-Orient. Par définition, le secrétariat est neutre. Il l'est resté au cours du débat sur cette affaire, et il le restera en toutes circonstances. Il agira en fonction des instructions que le Conseil lui donnera et, si on le lui demande, il ne manquera pas de préparer un rapport détaillé comportant tous les éléments et tous les aspects qui permettront à la Conférence de prendre toute décision qu'elle estimera appropriée.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais, en terminant, vous assurer que ce qui importe avant tout, à mes collègues du secrétariat et à moi-même, est de préserver l'intérêt général et celui des pays de la région, et de maintenir l'efficacité des activités régionales.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia)(Interpretation from Arabic): First of all, I would like to express my thanks to our colleague who is head of the Mexican delegation, since he has been the key that has opened the door of democratic dialogue. Furthermore, in expressing my deep gratitude I wish to thank the Ambassador of France who has followed on this way of diplomatic dialogue. As we have already said, this is an issue of utmost importance, this is an issue of great technical importance, and after having heard the working of this proposal as read by the Ambassador of France and having listened with great attention to what has been said by the Director-General of this Organization, on behalf of the Group I represent I cannot but express my agreement to what has been stated and presented by the Director-General of this Organization.

We all place trust in the Director-General, and he will certainly prepare this study which we expect from him. However, there is one request I would like to make, that we reach an agreement, and that the words expressed by the Director-General of FAO appear in the report of our Council.

Y. WALI (Egypt) (Interpretation from Arabic): I wish to thank the Chairman of the Council and all the delegates present, and the Director-General, for the exchange of the opinions and the discussions which led us to come to this proposal which is satisfactory for the delegate of Egypt.

CHAIRMAN: We have now found a solution acceptable to all parties, and I am sure Council Members will also accept the text read out by the delegate of France, together with the explanation given by the Director-General - which of course will form part of our Report.

I would like to thank everybody for this cooperation, because it has not been easy. Yesterday it looked as if the FAO Council would fall apart, because I have never seen the Council divide so many times in one day. But good sense has prevailed, and we are back to our normal good relations and good cooperation and give and take, and this matter has been resolved without a vote. I would like to thank you all for this, and especially the two sides who have been good enough to see each other's point of view and compromise. I thank you all for this.

This concludes Item 10.1 We have already done 10.2, and we will proceed with the rest of our Order of the Day, which is the Adoption of the Report.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 1

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1

Members have had several Revs, now, 1 - 4. Rev. 1 and 2 were circulated a very long time ago, then Rev. 3 and 4 today, so that we have plenty of work to do. I would now like to start on this particular part of our work. Perhaps we should wait for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to take his seat.

We will start with Rev.1, Introduction, paragraph 1, and first of all I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have the pleasure and the honour to present the Draft Report in the form in which it has been circulated to all Members of this Council. It has been in circulation for some time now, and I am sure all of you have had the opportunity of going through it.

All I would like to say at this stage is that this is not my Report only, it is the Report of the Drafting Group, and I would like to express my gratitude to all the Members who helped me in drafting this Report. In that sense, it is not my Report, it is the Report of the Drafting Group.

CHAIRMAN: We will now go back to the Report, and in Introduction, we have Items 1 and 2, and I put to you paragraph 1 - 6 on the first page.

PARAGRAPH 1

PARAGRAPHE 1

PARRAFO 1

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Je voudrais émettre une proposition afin de faciliter nos débats. Il s'agit du rapport dont nous avons pris connaissance, c'est-à-dire l'ensemble de la première et seconde partie. La troisième et la quatrième partie ont été distribuées ce matin. En ce qui concerne la première partie, je suggérerais, pour gagner du temps, étant donné que les pages 1 et 2 concernent les questions de procédure et qu'à partir de la page 3 il s'agit de la déclaration du Directeur général, que l'on adopte globalement la première partie du rapport, si cela est possible.

CHAIRMAN: Is this supported by Members?

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Yo creo que nuestro Consejo ha trabajado bien; tenemos una larga tradición de analizar cuidadosamente cada uno de los temas que nos han sido sometidos durante sus sesiones y creo que sería más razonable continuar con el mismo procedimiento que hemos seguido hasta ahora de tratar párrafo por párrafo, sin perjuicio de que cuando usted, señor Presidente, lo estime podamos juntar tres o cuatro párrafos que traten sobre el mismo tema.

CHAIRMAN: If this is the consensus, then we will go back to the first page and take paragraphs 1 - 6 and over to paragraph 7 on page 2. If there are no comments on this, these paragraphs are adopted.

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

Paragraphs 3 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 and 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 et 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 27 PARAGRAPHERS 11 à 27

PARRAFOS 11 a 27

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En le párrafo 11 deseamos sugerir una enmienda al final de este párrafo 11.

En las últimas dos líneas se diría como sigue: "para la evaluación de los esfuerzos realizados hacia la consecución de los objetivos del Nuevo Orden Económico e Internacional".

En esencia, proponemos que se diga "esfuerzos realizados" en vez de "progresos registrados" porque creemos que todos estamos de acuerdo en que no se ha obtenido ningún progreso.

P. MASUD (Chairman Drafting Committee): If I understood the proposed amendment correctly, it would read: "for assessing the efforts made towards the objectives of a New International Economic Order." I would still prefer my original formulation, or the formulation of the Drafting Group: "for assessing progress towards the objectives of a new International Economic Order". The delegate of Colombia said there had been no progress. We are not saying that there has been any progress; it is just assessing the progress. If there has been no progress, then we will state later on that there has been no progress.

Therefore, under those circumstances, I do not see the necessity for amending this at this stage.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Nosotros tenemos una enmienda o aclaración en los párrafos 11, 12 y 13, pero por ahora como estamos en el párrafo 11 tal vez nosotros, que estamos muy cerca de nuestro colega de Colombia, teníamos precisamente, una propuesta muy similar a la de él; es decir la propuesta del delegado de Colombia la hacemos nuestra y la apoyamos porque consideramos que lo que estamos evaluando son los esfuerzos, no los progresos, que no dudamos que pueda haber alguno; si los hubiera habido pudieran ser resultados precisamente de ese esfuerzo del análisis que pretendemos hacer. La delegación de Cuba apoya la enmienda hecha por el distinguido delegado de Colombia.

Q.H. RAQUE (Bangladesh): We feel that the present formulation would be in the right perspective. After all, we are not going to assess efforts; we are going to just state the progress in concrete terms| whether negative or positive, to see whether there has been any progress either in positive terms or in negative terms. Let me give a concrete example: the resource flow for agriculture has increased from 4 billion to 5 billion, or decreased to 3 billion. We are not going to assess what efforts have been made by the countries concerned to increase or decrease it. What we are concerned

with in fact is progress.

The present formulation is in the right perspective. If we are going to assess efforts made by various countries or organizations, we are at a loss. We are not concerned with efforts but with concrete results, I therefore agree with the best wisdom of the very able Chairman of the Drafting Committee: the present formulation will be in the right perspective, and I hope the delegates of Colombia and Cuba will see that we are in fact going to assess the progress, whether it is negative or positive, and not the efforts made.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It has just been brought to my notice that in the Spanish version it reads "for assessing progress made towards the objectives of a New International Economic Order" whereas in the English version it says "for assessing progress". The word "made" is not included in the English. I therefore hope that with that explanation, and bringing the Spanish text into line with the English text, there will be no problems,

G. BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Creo que la aclaración que acaba de hacer el señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción y la intervención de nuestro distinguido colega de Bangladesh aclaran el asunto y propondríamos que la redacción de esa frase dijera así: "para la evaluación de los posibles progresos, de los posibles progresos hacia el logro etc",

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am sorry, but that suggestion does not help things at all. In fact, it takes us a step backward: "for assessing possible progress". What possible progress could you assess? The targets are there, as has been very ably explained by the delegate of Bangladesh, We see that progress we have made as against those targets, and this is what we are trying to do here. I hope the delegate of Colombia will reconsider his suggestion.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): The word "possible"¹ will prejudice the issue. Everything is possible; 3 billion or anything is possible, so "possible" would really not fit in. I hope the delegate of Colombia will see that and agree to the present formulation.

O. BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Habíamos recogido el término "posibles" justamente porque esa palabra fue sugerida por el colega de Bangladesh pero en aras de la conciliación no tenemos inconveniente en que se ajuste el texto español al texto inglés, o sea, que se diga solamente "progresos", eliminando la palabra "registrados".

CHAIRMAN: We adopt paragraph 11.

P.A.MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): He estado leyendo el texto en inglés del punto 12 y también el texto en /?/. Nos parece que en el texto español la primera frase se leería mejor si nosotros ponemos las palabras que están en la tercera línea, "los países en desarrollo" ponerlo al final de la frase como está en inglés; es decir, en el párrafo español voy a leer lo que dice: "el Consejo estimó que, pese a la mejora de los suministros mundiales de alimentos, gracias a las cosechas generalmente buenas de 1978, la situación alimentaria en los países en desarrollo seguía siendo incierta, si no frágil". Nosotros proponemos, tal y como está en el texto inglés, que la idea está más clara que en el /?/, las palabras "la situación alimentaria de los países en desarrollo" vaya al final de la frase.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The suggestion is well taken. If the delegate of Cuba so desires, we could read out the Spanish which could be brought in line with the English text. We have the ~~amendment~~ here but it is entirely up to him. He can rest assured it will be done.

P.A. MORALES GARBALLO (Cuba): Párrafo 13. Nosotros, igualmente, queremos referirnos al texto inglés. En el texto inglés en la línea quinta dice "it strongly endorsed"; en el texto en español dice "El Consejo corroboró sin reservas". Nos parece que lo que dice el texto en español y el texto inglés no guarda relación ninguna; es mejor seguir lo que dice el texto inglés y decir: "El Consejo respaldó firmemente", que nos parece que sería una traducción correcta al español de lo que aquí aparece en inglés.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The delegate of Cuba is right. The amendment will be made and the Spanish text brought in line with the English text.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Perdona, señor Presidente, si lo hago trabajar macho.

Nosotros queríamos ir al párrafo 14. Aquí se dice en la línea tercera que había sido "de un tres por ciento aproximado". Nos parece que el número correcto es 2.9, que es como se señala en la página número 2 del estudio exhaustivo realizado por la FAO. Nos parece que seríamos más exactos si hacemos la referencia exacta a lo que plantea el estudio de la FAO.

Eso en primer lugar. Además, en la línea 10 del texto en español dice "no iba a alcanzarse". Nosotros, al menos en español, pensamos que debe decir, como igualmente dice el estudio de la FAO, "que no se alcanzará", y nos parece objetivo porque han transcurrido casi 102 meses del Segundo decenio y nos quedan solamente 18 meses por concluir el Segundo decenio y es muy difícil que en el resto de los meses que nos quedan se vaya a alcanzar una tasa de crecimiento de más del 5 por ciento. O sea, nos parece, por tanto, que en la línea décima en lugar de decir "no iba a alcanzarse" debe decir "no se alcanzará".

CHAIRMAN: These points you made will be taken care of and corrected as you have asked.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): A small point in paragraph 16, in the fifth line, could we say that "the World Food Programme for 1979/80 was still about a quarter below the target of US \$950 million".

THE CHAIRMAN: That will be taken care of.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Eh el párrafo 22 después de la primera línea: "caneaba preocupación también el resurgimiento del proteccionismo para los productos elaborados", entre la palabra "proteccionismo" y "para los productos elaborados", propongo agregar "no sólo para los productos agropecuarios sino para los productos elaborados" por ser este un tema que se expresó en el Consejo y no es solamente la preocupación por los productos elaborados sino también por el proteccionismo en los productos primarios agropecuarios.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I did not quite get the amendment but I did get the intent. If the Council has no objection to that, I personally would have no objection.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el mismo párrafo 22, proponemos que las primeras tres palabras de ese párrafo que dice: "causaba preocupación también" se diga "el Consejo condenó el resurgimiento del proteccionismo..."

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): To the best of my recollection nobody condemned this and therefore it will be a little difficult for me to include this condemnation at this point. Of course, concern was expressed, and very deep concern, for this resurgence of protectionism, but I frankly do not recall it being condemned by anybody.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know why the Columbian delegate is so militant today! We do not condemn things, really, do we. No.

Srta. C. DOMINGUEZ D. (Panamá): Eh el párrafo 22, en la segunda oración que se inicia en la línea cuarta del texto en español, donde dice "se hizo hincapié en la necesidad de una mejora del acceso", se incluyan "de los productos provenientes de países en desarrollo" y continuaría "a los mercados", y se incluye "de los países desarrollados" y seguiría entonces "Como requisito previo para el logro del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional".

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It would be very ungallant for me not to accept this suggestion, therefore I personally would have no hesitation in accepting the suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: If Council also accepts it, this proposal by Panama will be included.

F. GERBASI (Venezuela) : Una pequeña enmienda en el párrafo 22 además de la ya incluida de Argentina. En la segunda línea de ese párrafo 22 dice: "para los productos elaborados y semi elaborados de los países desarrollados". Debe decir "en los países desarrollados" porque el proteccionismo sabemos donde está dirigido.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Venezuela is not bilingual but trilingual, he speaks French also, so if I draw the attention to the English text he will find what he is saying is reflected in the English text. It is only a problem between the Spanish and the English text and the Spanish text will be brought in line with the English text.

CHAIRMAN: Venezuela, do you agree?

F. GERBASI (Venezuela): Escuché parte de lo que dijo el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, pero ayer mismo en el Comité de Redacción le indicábamos que existía una falta de coincidencia en muchas partes de la versión final del informe entre el texto inglés y español. Tal es el caso que estamos comprobándolo aquí por una serie de intervenciones. Quizá valiera la pena que la Secretaría hiciera una revisión exacta de las traducciones del inglés a las versiones a los otros idiomas.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): That will be done. I can assure the delegate of Venezuela that a note has already been made of this and careful attention will be paid to the fact that both texts are in line with one another.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Paragraph 2.3 is a little confusing as to whether we are talking about TCDC or ECDC and in the middle of it, where we have referred to the Director-General's convening a technical consultation, there I know that to be TCDC and I think that maybe that is all that is needed for clarification.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is a technical consultation on ECDC, Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries. It is reflected correctly.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I really put up my flag to ask for some clarification on paragraph 22. I was not quite sure of the English text of the Panamanian amendment to the second sentence. Could I have that again please?

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I will read it out for you. This would be the second sentence in paragraph 22 "In this context, the need for improved access to products coming from developing countries to markets of developed countries was stressed as a prerequisite," etc.

CHAIRMAN: Is that all right?

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): No. I was a little surprised. I could follow the first part of the amendment but I was not quite clear why in respect of markets, it was limited to developed countries. I thought there were very good expanding markets in the developing countries and I cannot see really why those three words should be included.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It would take a long time to explain why this was necessary but I am sure Mr. Peckham knows why it is necessary, but nonetheless it was a suggestion made by the delegate of Panama and I thought it would contribute to the text in the sense that it would make it more comprehensive and it was in that spirit in which it was accepted.

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think that is just why I was a little concerned about this because I think we all know perfectly well the problem of protectionism and we all know well the need for improved access for products from developing countries, but what I cannot follow is that such improved access, if you have an expanding market in perhaps a relatively rich country, why that should be limited. It is a matter of categorizing countries. I should have thought the openness of markets and the avoidance of protectionism was far more important than just restricting this to the developed countries.

CHAIRMAN: Are you opposing the suggestion of the Panamanian delegation?

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am suggesting that after the word "markets" at the top of page 7 of the English text the additional words, "access to the markets of developed countries" are not necessary.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I do not wish to get into a debate with Mr. Peckham but he would realize that there are very few developing countries which have protectionist tendencies and therefore it is in that context, and you would see this sentence starts with "in this context" and therefore the suggestion made by the delegate, of Panama becomes relevant. There are developing market economies by all means there are, there is not dispute about that, but very few. I personally know of none who have these protectionist tendencies and therefore it is not worth while mentioning it here.

CHAIRMAN: I see lots of flags. I hope we do not start another long debate. United Kingdom, will you drop the point? Thank you very much. The United Kingdom has dropped the point and therefore we go on with Colombia.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre la enmienda que habíamos propuesto a la primera frase del párrafo 22, con todo el respeto que yo siento por el distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción, puedo remitirlo a las Actas para que vea la intervención de la delegación de Colombia. Dijimos enfáticamente, con toda claridad, como lo hacemos siempre, que condenábamos el proteccionismo. En igual sentido se expresaron varias delegaciones. Podríamos poner "varias delegaciones condenaron el resurgimiento del proteccionismo". Esto corresponde a los hechos y puede constatarse en las Actas.

CHAIRMAN: If you just wanted to make the point, or you want to insist on the "condemned" - you are not insisting.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo insisto en que si no es aceptable nuestra propuesta original, que se diga entonces "varias delegaciones" porque lo hicimos varias delegaciones, condenamos el resurgimiento del proteccionismo.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The delegate of Colombia has referred to the minutes and he has said that while speaking he condemned - I could count one, but he has referred to several. I wonder which other countries did that. I know a lot of countries expressed general concern, but condemning it is an entirely different matter. It is in that context that I say we should stick to the existing text.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think the delegate of Colombia will go into a long argument on this.

P.A. MORALES CARVALLO (Cuba): Quería referirme al párrafo 23. Realmente con respecto al párrafo 23 no tengo ninguna enmienda y ninguna propuesta, pero al igual que una delegación que nos precedió en el uso de la palabra sobre este mismo párrafo, si no lo entendí mal, aquí se habla por ejemplo de que "El Consejo señaló que en el quinto período de sesiones de la UNCTAD se habían logrado algunos progresos en ciertos sectores" y continúa. Ni delegación no conoce todavía los resultados de la V UNCTAD celebrada en Manila. Es muy difícil para mí, en particular, sumarme precisamente a todas las aseveraciones que aquí se expresan. No dudo de que sea así, pero mi delegación no tiene instrucciones de mi Gobierno, y soy franco al expresar esto. Es muy difícil aceptar este paquete completo de cosas con respecto a la V UNCTAD que repito, no quiere decir que lo ponga en duda. No dudo de que haya sido así, pero como estamos nosotros discutiendo cosas concretas, mi delegación no se ha referido a esto, ha oído pocas delegaciones y no puedo hacerlo mío este párrafo, del que no dudo. Esa era la idea que quería expresar.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I see a lot of logic in what the delegate of Cuba says. In fact I recall that in introducing the subject Professor Nour Islam said it was rather too early to assess the outcome of UNCTAD V and if there has been any progress it has been rather limited. On that I think the point made by Cuba is very valid.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Could we say then, "The Council noted that at the Fifth Session of UNCTAD little progress had been made", or "limited progress" as pointed out by the delegate of Bangladesh, which would be in line with the introduction to this subject by Professor Islam.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We accept that it could be said that the Council noted that it was a little too early to assess the outcome of UNCTAD V and according to a preliminary assessment very limited progress has been made. We could accept a sentence like that.

CHAIRMAN: I think this is an editorial question now. The points made by Bangladesh and Cuba are taken.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): J'ai l'impression que beaucoup de délégués n'étaient pas à Manille. Personnellement, j'étais à cette conférence. Je dois dire qu'en ce qui concerne le paragraphe qui dit: "En ce qui concerne le protectionnisme (je lis le texte français), la GNUCED V a abouti à un accord sur un programme d'action en vue d'ajustements structurels, etc.". Ce texte est repris intégralement de la résolution qui a été adoptée par cette conférence. Cette résolution est entre les mains du secrétariat et il peut vous en être donné lecture certainement.

D'autre part, il y a eu des divergences fondamentales entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement qui ont donné lieu à deux déclarations distinctes concernant le résultat de négociations commerciales multilatérales. Quant au protectionnisme et à l'ajustement structurel, la résolution a été adoptée par les uns et par les autres et il serait tout de même excessif de dire que dans ce domaine peu de progrès ont été réalisés. Ces progrès existent. Evidemment, chacun peut avoir une appréciation différente, mais il convient de reprendre ce qui est exactement dans la résolution sur le protectionnisme et l'ajustement structurel. Encore une fois, les lignes: "la GNUCED V a abouti à un accord sur un programme d'action, etc.", c'est exactement le texte de Manille.

D'autre part, je dois dire que la discussion a ouvert à nouveau un peu le débat sur l'amélioration de l'accès aux marchés des produits des pays en voie de développement vers les pays développés et, comme certains l'ont dit, au contraire cela s'appliquerait à tout le monde. C'est une réouverture des débats qui a eu lieu à Manille.

Je ne pense donc pas que nous puissions ici, à Rome, arriver à des conclusions différentes que certains pourraient trouver meilleures que celles auxquelles nous avons abouti à Manille et je crois qu'il faut laisser le texte comme il est.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I will attempt a compromise and suggest that we should say, "The Council noted that while it was too early to assess the outcome of UNCTAD V, a preliminary assessment indicated that little progress had been made in a number of fields", and then the paragraph goes on to read as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Is that generally acceptable? Good.

G. BULA HOYOS (COLOMBIA): Sobre lo que pasó en la UNCTAD, creo que el colega de Francia puede tener razón, y no nos opondríamos a que se transcriban los textos originales de Manila, pero en cuanto a lo que pasó aquí en el Consejo, creo que podría arreglarse la situación encabezando el párrafo 23 de la siguiente manera: "el Consejo fue informado". El Consejo fue informado en el 5º período de sesiones, y seguir igual. Me parece que ésta es la situación real.

CHAIRMAN: I thought we had come to a consensus on what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee read out on this particular issue.

H. MOKHTARI (Algérie): Je viens d'écouter le distingué représentant de la France. Dans la deuxième partie de son exposé, il a demandé que le par. 22 reste tel quel et qu'on ne tienne pas compte de l'amendement de la distinguée représentante de Panama.

Je ne sais pas si ce paragraphe est remis en question ou s'il est maintenu avec l'amendement qui a été proposé.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 22, the point was raised by the United Kingdom against the Panama intervention and the United Kingdom does not insist on the point made, so paragraph 22 is all right. The delegate of France spoke on paragraph 23 and when I asked the House Members if they agreed to the amendment read out by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in line with what Bangladesh and Colombia said there was no argument about that either. So we have now settled paragraph 22 and 23.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Quería referirme al párrafo 23. A mi delegación le satisface la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Colombia en el sentido de agregar la palabra: "fue informado". Nos parece una solución adecuada.

Mi delegación, a este respecto, se encuentra en una situación de desventaja y tampoco hemos recibido instrucciones de nuestro Gobierno.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We could say, "The Council was informed that at the Fifth Session of UNCTAD little progress had been made in a number of fields and many basic issues still remained to be resolved", instead of the earlier suggestion. If that is not acceptable, then either of the two. But I must point out that we are now discussing basic matters and not matters purely relating to drafting.

CHAIRMAN: Would you repeat the first formulation that you read after the intervention of Bangladesh?

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): "The Council noted that while it was too early to assess the outcome of UNCTAD V, a preliminary assessment indicated that little progress had been made in a number of fields and many basic issues still remained to be resolved".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Cette formule ne correspond absolument pas à ce que nous avons été amenés à débattre, et en tout cas cette formule n'a jamais été envisagée au Comité de rédaction.

Il y a une chose que l'on a su ici au cours des débats, ne serait-ce que par l'exposé du secrétariat sur les événements récents, qui a mis le Conseil au courant des travaux de la cinquième ONUCED et de ses résultats. Cela est noté dans le procès-verbal préparé par le secrétariat: "Le Conseil a noté qu'à la cinquième session de la CNUCED quelques progrès ont été faits dans un certain nombre de domaines". On ne précise pas exactement quels sont ces domaines, mais je suis bien obligé de dire, que ce soit par exemple dans le domaine des transports maritimes, que ce soit dans le domaine du fonds commun où il y a eu de nouveaux progrès, que ce soit dans le domaine du protectionnisme et de l'aménagement structurels, il y a eu des progrès, et donc ce qu'on a dit ici est exact: "La cinquième CNUCED a avancé dans plusieurs domaines". Et puis, on ajoute: "Mais de nombreux problèmes fondamentaux restent à résoudre". On en mentionne un certain nombre, c'est-à-dire le protectionnisme, la coopération entre les pays en voie de développement, les produits de base, les pays les moins avancés, tout cela présente de l'intérêt pour le secteur alimentaire. Il y a certainement des problèmes et des progrès à faire, et cela est bien dit dans le rapport. Puis on revient sur le protectionnisme et l'on utilise une formule qui reprend mot pour mot ce qui se trouve dans la résolution sur le protectionnisme.

Je peux accepter l'amendement de la Colombie: "Le Conseil a été informé..." car il y a des informations sur tous ces points. Mais le reste du texte ne doit pas être modifié.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have a slight advantage over France because I have the introductory statement by Professor Nour Islam here, and he said, "The Conference will be aware" - and I am reading from his statement - "that the Fifth Session of UNCTAD has just concluded in Manila. It is too early for a full assessment of its outcome", and this is exactly what we are endeavouring to reflect in the amendment that I have just proposed. I see absolutely no reason why there should be objection to a statement of fact, and therefore I would once again request that the proposal that I made be accepted, Sir.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Si he entendido bien la propuesta del Comité de Redacción representa una aceptación por parte del Consejo de una evaluación aunque sea preliminar. La delegación de Colombia no puede aceptar esa fórmula porque aquí no se ha hecho ninguna evaluación ni definitiva ni preliminar. Podemos aceptar el texto presentado por Francia, pero solamente que se diga que el Consejo fue informado, porque ésta es la realidad.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I can agree with the last speaker, but the point I wanted to make is that I am hoping that at this stage of taking the report we were not going to go over the whole discussion which took place in Manila. It seemed to me that rediscussing this was a waste of time. There are views either with the preamble just stated, but I cannot agree that the word "some" in the first line should be replaced by the word "little". That is not my understanding nor that of my Government.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We would prefer to leave the text as it stands and we congratulate and commend the Drafting Group for having done such an excellent job to try to reflect accurately the outcome of our proceedings, but we could equally accept the proposal and say that the Council was informed and so on but the changing of "some progress" into "little progress", this we would not like very much.

I must also say that we do not think that the access to markets is an issue which only concerns developed countries, that is, I am referring to paragraph 22. We do feel that it also concerns trade amongst and between developing countries if my understanding of the New International Economic Order is correct.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think we should go back into debates, as the United Kingdom said. The Drafting Committee spent many hours on this and I am sure that all language groups were represented.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh) : On paragraph 23 I see Colombia's point that we can say "The Council was informed." Then let us take from the statement made by Professor Islamd, "It is too early" and it is not "some" or "little". The word he used is "limited". He used the words "limited progress".

Saying "The Council was informed" and then say "It was too early to assess the outcome of UNCTAD V, but according to preliminary assessment, limited progress has been made in some fields, although many basic issues still remain to be resolved," and we start with "The Council was informed", I feel will reflect it correctly, and I feel this will be more acceptable to Colombia, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

CHAIRMAN: Now, with this then we have accepted paragraphs 18-23, and we go over the page to paragraphs 24 to 27.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I did not intend to intervene on the earlier paragraph, but on paragraph 24 I do have a point. In the third sentence there is a reference to IPS, and the sentence reads, "It urged donor countries to substantially their contributions to IFS", etc. As it reads, this is an appeal to those countries that are contributing to IFS and I do not think that was intended. I think the appeal was a general appeal to all donors, so I think the wording at the moment is a little defective and I think it could be improved by simply making this, "The Council urged donor countries to contribute to IFS and expand their fertilizer aid", etc., but that is the point. I think this is too limited at the moment, I think this is a purely textual thing in the previous sentence, the sentence reading, "It noted with concern that although phosphate fertilizer prices had tended to decline in recent months, those of nitrogen and potash were rising." I think if you have a semi-colon and then say, "and moreover, that the contributions", etc. it is just a little improvement.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am very grateful to the United Kingdom for the first amendment. It does improve the whole sentence.

As regards the second point would it be satisfactory to him if we say "all donor countries"? This would mean all and not simply donor countries. It would enlarge the scope of the donor countries.

CHAIRMAN: These are acceptable then.

C.S. RANGACHARI (India): I have a slight problem with the second sentence of paragraph 24. I believe there is a factual inaccuracy here which needs to be corrected. India had pointed this out at the Drafting Committee but we were reassured that this was factually correct. I refer to the sentence starting with "It noted with concern that although phosphate fertilizer prices had tended to decline in recent months". I submit this is not correct. The position is that the prices of all three fertilizers, that is, phosphate, nitrogen and potash have been rising, and I feel that the sentence should be redrafted to read, "It noted with concern that the prices of all major fertilizers were rising and that", etc. I have checked up the position this morning with the Secretariat and I have been told that this would be in order, Mr. Chairman.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Secretariat was present when we were drafting this also. I wonder why they did not point it out at that time. It would have been more appropriate had they done so, but apparently India checked up his facts and figures and we can take his word for it and say that all prices of three major fertilizers are rising. I have no problem with that.

CHAIRMAN: May I say that the Secretariat will check and put the correct thing because it is better to be factual and this is a matter of just fact. Are there any more?

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I have a question in connection with paragraph 24. The last sentence where it refers to "It urged", and then it goes on to say "so as to reach an annual level of 1 million tons of nutrients called for by the Seventh Special Session of the UN General Assembly," I do not recall a specific reference to the Council taking a decision with that particular target.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This was mentioned by a number of delegations including my own. We specifically referred to the target called for by the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and we heard no contrary views to this and therefore it was presumed that the Council has accepted this point of view.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I accept your explanation. My concern was, however, that at no time had it been posed as something which the Council was asked to reach a decision on.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, usted me perdonará, pero no he podido seguir su velocidad; tenía una pequeña pregunta en el párrafo 25; a usted le sorprenderá, pero su velocidad es mayor que la mía, no sé si es posible que haga uso de la palabra.

En el párrafo 25 se dice: "el Consejo señaló que los compromisos oficiales de asistencia externa para la agricultura y la alimentación habían aumentado apreciablemente en 1977 y era probable que siguieran aumentando en 1976". Es decir, "y era probable que se siguieran aumentando en 1978". 1978 ya pasó; se podría decir que "es probable que hayan aumentado en 1978", al menos en el texto español tiene más sentido porque el año 1978 ya pasó.

P. MASUD (Chairman Drafting Committee): Could we say "and were likely to have risen in 1978"? - I get the point - "and were likely to have risen".

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Il y a un point que j'aurais dû noter, et que nous aurions dû tous noter au Comité de rédaction, ce point se trouve au par. 25. On lit dans la dernière phrase qu'il faudrait que les "besoins annuels d'aide alimentaire, estimés à 8 300 000 000 dollars." ... Mais si je me souviens bien il ne s'agit pas de l'aide alimentaire mais de l'aide à l'agriculture en général car l'on n'a jamais parlé de ce chiffre pour l'aide alimentaire elle-même. Il y a quelque chose qui est à revoir.

P. MASUD (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): In the English text, it says "external assistance". It is a typographical error in the French text where it says "food assistance".

Paragraphs 11 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 27, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 28 and 29 approved

Les paragraphes 28 et 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 y 29 son aprobados

Paragraphs 30 and 31 approved

Les paragraphes 30 et 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 y 31 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, première partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 12

PARAGRAPHS 1 à 12

PARRRAFOS 1 a 12

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): En el párrafo 2, al final de la tercera frase, del texto en español, correspondiente a la novena línea donde dice "no sustituía al nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre los cereales que incluiría disposiciones adecuadas", acaso yo agregaría: "y jurídicamente vinculantes sobre reservas, precios, ayuda y seguridad alimentaria".

Para la frase siguiente me parece que hay una contradicción. Yo creo que lo que se dijo por parte de algunas delegaciones al discutir el Plan de Acción es que algunos elementos del Plan de Acción podrían ser fácilmente utilizados por la Conferencia de Negociación; pero si decimos como dice el texto español que "servirían de complemento al nuevo acuerdo internacional" creo que nos apartamos de lo que se dijo en el curso de las deliberaciones.

Por lo tanto la propuesta de mi delegación es que en lugar de "El consejo" se diga: "Algunas delegaciones hicieron notar", por que eso es exactamente lo que sucedió.

P. MASUD (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I did not get the first amendment quite clearly, but the second one which is stated in the English version "The Council noted that the Plan included certain elements which would be complementary to a new International Grains Arrangement" and so on. To the best of my information, the Council did say this, and it would be difficult for me to change "The Council" into "A few delegates".

If I could have the first amendment a little more slowly, I could comment on that.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): La frase anterior a esta en el texto español, la frase que comienza: "El Consejo compartía la opinión del Comité en el sentido de que el Plan de Acción, que tenía carácter voluntario, no sustituía al nuevo acuerdo internacional sobre cereales que incluiría disposiciones adecuadas", hasta acá es todo igual; ahora yo agregaría "...y jurídicamente vinculantes sobre reservas, precios, ayuda y seguridad alimentaria". En esta última parte sólo se agrega la palabra "seguridad".

Con respecto a lo que acaba de señalar el distinguido representante de Pakistán y Presidente del Comité de redacción yo recuerdo perfectamente, y he revisado las actas de las sesiones, y ha habido muchas delegaciones, o varias, o lo que el quiera descifrar, que se han expresado en el sentido de que el Plan pueda servir como complemento, pero no hay en ningún caso ninguna decisión de que el Consejo haya adoptado que el Plan sirva como complemento. Eso es una cuestión que no ha sido establecida por el Consejo y no debe figurar de esa manera.

De todas formas, señor Presidente, estoy dispuesto a cualquier comentario que haya sobre el particular.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): C'est bien parce que j'avais eu cette impression que j'approuve ce que vient de développer le délégué de l'Argentine. Au Comité de rédaction j'avais proposé une formule plus neutre et permettant de garder le mot "le Conseil". J'avais dit: "le Conseil a noté que le Plan comprend certains éléments qui pourraient servir de complément." Malheureusement cette suggestion n'a pas été retenue, (j'étais en minorité, et j'ai dû m'incliner.) Je continue cependant à penser que d'une part ce n'est pas le Conseil unanime qui a noté ce fait et que de toute façon certains de ces éléments peuvent servir de complément mais ne serviront pas obligatoirement de complément.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Me parece que es adecuada la observación formulada por el distinguido representante de Francia y estoy dispuesto a aceptar que "el Consejo tomó nota" siempre que en lugar de poner "servirían" que significa prácticamente una implicación, se diga "podrían servir". Sería muy difícil para el Consejo prejuzgar sobre lo que se decida en la Conferencia de Negociación. Si se pone "podrían servir" no tengo ningún inconveniente en aceptar la formulación de que es el Consejo el que hizo notar esto.

N.M. MAPELA (Zaïre): Je tiens à préciser qu'en fait nous nous sommes déjà exprimés en Plénière sur ce texte. Ce texte reflète donc les débats. Si donc l'on veut changer le texte, j'aimerais poser une question. Plusieurs délégations, de nombreuses délégations, se sont déclarées d'accord sur ce texte: "Certains éléments qui serviraient de complément au Plan". Y-a-t-il une seule délégation qui s'y était opposée? Il n'y en a pas eu. Je suggère donc qu'on laisse le texte tel qu'il est.

P. MASUD (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): With reference to the first amendment proposed by the delegate of Argentina, regarding adequate stocks, price and food security provisions, there can be no problem, this is perfectly acceptable.

As regards the second, the Council noted that the Plan included certain elements which would be complementary. As has been pointed out by the delegate of France, there has been lengthy deliberation on this. There is one provision which would be complementary: for instance, building up stocks would be complementary to the international grains arrangement and complementary to the Five-Point Plan of Action. There are numerous others also which I could quote, therefore why should we say "might".

I think this has been stated by the delegate of Zaire, and this has been corrected accordingly.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Dans un débat sur un sujet de cette nature, il faut faire bien attention aux choses. Certains délégués disent, effectivement, "telles mesures serviront de complément" ou "serviraient de complément". D'autres qui étaient intervenus précédemment ne vont pas réintervenir pour citer ce que Monsieur Untel a dit, ou non; auparavant ils ont fait part de leurs conceptions générales du Plan et de ses rapports avec le futur Accord sur les céréales et donc ils ont aussi exposé leur position qui, forcément, n'était pas véritablement la même que celle des autres délégués. Ils ont bien dit qu'ils étaient favorables au Plan sur la sécurité alimentaire. On ne peut à partir de là dire que, parce que trois ou plusieurs, même dix ou vingt, ont déclaré que tels éléments serviraient de complément, en conclure que le Conseil tout entier dit "cela doit servir de complément". Lorsque nous disons que cela "peut servir de complément", c'est juste par rapport à l'ensemble des opinions exprimées.

On a parlé, je crois que c'est vous ou le Président du Comité de rédaction, de la constitution du stock pouvant être un complément à l'Accord. C'est vrai et c'est faux à la fois. C'est vrai dans la mesure où des pays qui ne seraient pas liés par la Convention seraient amenés à constituer des stocks. Mais, pour les principaux pays exportateurs et en définitive c'est sur eux que repose la question de la sécurité alimentaire au point de vue des céréales, de par l'accord qui sera négocié, ils seront amenés et obligés juridiquement à constituer des stocks. A ce moment-là le Plan d'action, n'aura pas été un complément, il ne serait un complément que pour ceux qui ne seraient pas liés par la Convention mais pour les autres c'est la Convention qui fait foi.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to appeal to Members, especially Members of the Drafting Committee, not to bring back their former arguments. Our task is to adopt the Report which is submitted to us, and therefore Members should make short amendments or insertions or inclusions rather than go back to the argument pro and con of why this was in and so on. This would keep us here until next week.

I appeal to Argentina now to make a concrete proposal for the second part, as he has done for the first part which has been accepted - a concrete proposal which can then be debated, and we can proceed.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Señor Presidente, tenga la plena seguridad que la intención de mi delegación es colaborar a tratar de obtener un texto que sea lo más ajustado posible y tratar de ir en busca de un consenso; por eso no tenemos ningún inconveniente en que quede que: "El Consejo toma nota", pero de que el Consejo tomó nota de que el Plan incluía algunos elementos que "podrían servir", porque no está dicho que van a servir; tal vez algunos elementos sirvan y otros no sirvan; dejemos que la negociación sea la que disponga si sirven los elementos que complementarían, pero no vamos a prejuizar sobre lo que va a determinar la Conferencia de Negociaciones.

Por otra parte, en ultimo caso, no es cierto que el Consejo tomo nota de que ha habido muchas delegaciones; y en cuanto a lo que dijo nuestra delegación de que algunas delegaciones dijeron y otras no contestaron no es exacto porque en el curso del Consejo, como claramente lo dice el párrafo 8, ha habido otras posiciones.

Tratamos de obtener un texto que sea aceptable para todos.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I find myself in a difficult situation. I really see the point being made by the delegates of France and Argentina but I think there is a misunderstanding. We are not thinking of this Plan as being integrated into the Grains Arrangement; we are thinking of this Plan as independent of the Grains Arrangement, not as being a substitute for it. There are certain elements in this Plan which are in fact complementary to the gambit of discussion for the International Grains Agreement, and we all know what this gambit is. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee was fortunate enough to be representing the country in his negotiations and it is rightly said that stock-building and the IMF, and mainly the point on collective self-reliance of the developing countries themselves, as we emphasize, are complementary elements. If that is so, how is it going to prejudice? The arrangements have their gambit of discussion. How is it prejudging, if we have elements there which are complementary? What is the difficulty in saying that? May I bring home this point, if the delegate of Argentina agrees: we are not prejudging the gambit in any way. Like the fifth point, we correctly emphasize it is complementary.

Therefore, in that sense, if it is acceptable to the delegates of France and Germany, we would be happy. It is factually correct and we know the gambit of discussion of the International Grains Arrangement, and these elements are not there. I do not know if I have been able to convince my very good friend from Argentina and my colleague from France.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Monsieur le président, dans votre commentaire après l'intervention du représentant de la France, je me suis rendu compte que vous m'avez coupe l'herbe sous le pied. Effectivement, je pense qu'il ne faut pas reouvrir ici le débat sur cette question. Le texte tel qu'il est libellé n'a pas un caractère obligatoire. Le délégué de la France a dit tout à l'heure - et je respecte son opinion - que certains éléments pouvaient et que d'autres ne pouvaient pas servir de complément au nouvel arrangement. Le texte tel qu'il est libellé n'est pas libellé au futur mais au conditionnel, on dit bien "serviraient". Par conséquent, je pense que ceci répond au souci de la France. "Le Conseil a noté (il n'a fait que noter, il n'a pas pris de décision) que le plan comprend certains éléments qui serviraient de complément à un nouvel arrangement". Il n'a pas dit "qui serviront". Je voudrais en appeler à la sagesse du délégué de la France et du délégué de l'Argentine pour qu'on puisse avancer dans nos travaux.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would not wish to enter into the substance of the matter. It does occur to me that a possible way out would be simply to change the word "would" into "could". There is a subtle distinction between a conditional "would" and a more conditional "might". If we just change one letter at the beginning of that word and made a "would" into a "could", it might save a lot of problems.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Mr. Peckham has made it sound very easy, but "would" and "could", to the best of my recollection, mean entirely different things in a different context, and therefore I would still request that the sentence be retained as it is. I had the good fortune - or I would say the bad fortune - of being one of the negotiators at Geneva. A question was raised there, for instance: how much would the developing countries stock, how much would they hold, under the International Grains Arrangement? Various countries gave various figures and the total came to a somewhat insignificant amount. If this Plan were adopted and countries started holding stocks under this Plan, would it not help the International Grains Arrangement, when it met again, in that the developing countries would then be in a position to say: look here, now we have got more stocking facilities and we will be able to hold more. In that case it would thus be complementary to the International Grains Arrangement, and, as has been pointed out by the delegate of Bangladesh, this in no way prejudices the negotiations. It is in no way a substitute for the negotiations and, most of all, it is a voluntary Plan. The distinction has been brought out by the delegate of Argentina himself where he speaks about "legally binding stock, price and food aid provisions".

There is therefore no overlap in the two; they are different and that must be understood. In that context I would again request that this be allowed to stand' as it is. I would make a special plea to my colleague from France who so ably helped me in the Drafting Group, who so ably assisted me with this, and not go on to say "might" and "would" and so forth.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je ne veux pas insister, mais je peux formuler une proposition qui tiendra compte du point de vue des uns et des autres. Ne peut-on pas dire: "Le Conseil a noté que le Plan comprend différents éléments (au lieu de certains éléments) qui, selon le cas, pourraient servir (ou serviraient) de complément à un nouvel arrangement international". Car vous avez des éléments qui peuvent servir dans le cadre du nouvel Accord et puis vous en avez d'autres; par exemple on a noté l'appel lancé au FMI; ce sera là un élément nouveau qui servira véritablement de complément. Mais par contre le stockage lui-même en général - je ne dis pas le stockage pratiqué par les pays en voie de développement - est effectivement un véritable élément complémentaire qui servirait; par contre, les politiques de stockage déployées dans le cadre de l'arrangement par les pays en développement ne peut servir de complément. Vous voyez la nuance.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The key word of the whole sentence is "certain" elements. We are not talking about all elements, not even specific elements; we are just saying "certain elements". There may be just one or two; two have already been quoted by the delegate of France. I would therefore suggest that the text be allowed to stand as it is. I am sorry to insist on this matter but we did work very hard on this and I feel quite strongly about it.

CHAIRMAN: Will the delegate of France agree?

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): La proposition que je viens de faire est pourtant très claire, elle ne supprime pas les mots "certains éléments", elle dit: "différents éléments". Ces différents éléments dans certains cas peuvent servir de complément, enfin certains peuvent servir de complément, alors que d'autres servent véritablement de complément. A ce moment-là, je crois que tout le monde a satisfaction et je ne vois vraiment pas en quoi je complique la position, je tiens compte des situations des uns et des autres.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Apoyo totalmente lo que acaba de decir el distinguido representante de Francia y me inclino también por agradecer al señor Peckham, representante del Reino Unido por la traducción al inglés de la enmienda que yo había propuesto inicialmente, que era simplemente reemplazar la palabra "servirían" por "podrían servir". Este es un elemento condicional que es de extrema importancia. Los países productores, los países exportadores han aceptado cualquier tipo de compromiso con tal de llegar al Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, con tal de apoyar todo lo que sea cualquier medida tendiente a reforzar la seguridad alimentaria, que comprendemos perfectamente, pero que, de ahí a obtener que un consenso sea expresado sobre un tema del que ha habido consenso, mi delegación no escá, de acuerdo. Debo señalar que hay una diferencia de matiz entre el idioma inglés y el español, /?/ en español se dice que "servirían de complemento", se está prácticamente hablando como de un nuevo instrumento; en cambio en el inglés es bastante más suelto el texto donde dice "which would be complementary to a new international Grain Arrangement". Por eso yo creo que si bien estaría dispuesto a aceptar una formulación como la expresada por el delegado de Francia, también estaría dispuesto a ir hasta un poco más allá si me pudieran poner en lugar de "servirían" "podrían servir de complemento" porque es una cuestión que va a ser la negociación y esto no impide sino que ayuda a que sirvan.

Q.M. RAQUE (Bangladesh): I am sorry if I seem to be a little obstructive. It is very difficult to argue with a friend, and particularly a good friend. I always tell Mr. Peckham that we have been learning English from Mr. Peckham for 230 years, and I am still learning! And the replacement of the word "would" by "could", I think, in this context - as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said correctly - would change the meaning substantially. The delegate of France himself agreed that there are certain elements in the Plan which would be complementary. I heard the translation in English; would be complementary. But his objections is to the word "certain" elements. He wants the word

"different" elements. If that is the problem, I think we could accommodate that and still retain the word "would". I would really be sorry to see the word "would" replaced by the word "could" because it is complementary, "certain elements".

If, to accommodate the delegate of France, the word "certain" could be replaced by a more appropriate word, we could go along with that, but certainly not replacing the word "would" by "could".

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I do not often say very much, and when I do say something I try to keep it as short as possible. But I must express my dissent about being 230 years or more old! There is an English expression about teaching grandmother to suck eggs. I do not think I have ever attempted to do so in this assembly, and if I may just make it abundantly clear, I did say I was not entering the substance of the matter; I made a suggestion and it is for the Council to consider it. If it does not think the suggestion is workable, fine. It was a perfectly neutral offer, but I hope Mr. Haque does not feel I am too inhibited from time to time, even with my advanced age, to contribute occasionally!

CHAIRMAN: I think the points you made are well taken.

D. VUJIVIC (Observer for Yugoslavia): I really do not like to interfere in this matter as an Observer. I have tried my best to keep out of the discussion and give every chance to the members of the Council to solve the problem, but here I feel it is really necessary to say that I fully agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee about the significance of this matter. If we just quickly read through the Plan of Action, we find at least seven points the new International Grains Arrangement has nothing to do with, and those are supplementary and complementary elements. I think it should be recognized also in the report by the Council.

For example, we see IMF provision, the International Emergency Food Reserve provision which is quite specific and has nothing to do with the Grains Arrangement; then, Food Security Assistance Scheme which is an FAO scheme; then the whole Chapter V, with four elements.

So you have at least seven elements and it is sufficient to say several, or some, or various, or whatever you like, to replace that word but the word "would" I think must be in, if not then it is a failure of the Council to recognize the effect. How could the grains arrangement as it is said here "as envisaged in the negotiating conference" solve the problem, all these measures, self-reliance of developing countries or Food Security Scheme or similar things. So we have just to recognize a fact.

CHAIRMAN: Of course it is not usual for observers to intervene but we thank you for the explanations.

S. AIDERA (Sénégal): Je crois que la proposition du délégué du Bangladesh est acceptable et je voudrais l'appuyer. On remplacerait donc le terme "certains" par "différents" et je crois que le délégué de la France y trouvera satisfaction dans la mesure où la restriction dont il parle sera incluse dans "différents". On aura par conséquent: "Le Conseil a noté que le Plan comprend différents éléments qui serviraient de complément au nouvel arrangement" et on maintiendrait le terme "serviraient" toujours au conditionnel.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic) : It may be that the Arabic text could help you to solve the problem. In the Arabic text the sentence reads as follows: "The Council noted that the plan included certain elements which could be considered as complementary to a new international grains arrangement." You could say that the Council noted that the plan included certain elements which would serve as compliments to a new international grains arrangement. I think we would have to establish and try to make certain that the Arabic and French texts are equal. This is not a substitute to the new international grains arrangement but it is a substitute solution we use until the new international grains arrangement is established. So that I would suggest "The Council noted that the plan that certain elements which are considered as complementary to the new international grains arrangement..."

CHAIRMAN: I think we have more or less exhausted all the ideas coming on this and I would like to ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to sum up and perhaps put a final version which we can adopt.

CO. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Lamento mucho abusar de la confianza suya sobre este tema, pero es un tema muy delicado e importante para mi país. Por lo tanto, quisiera que no quede ninguna duda sobre la posición del mismo; si yo acepto que "el Consejo tomó nota de que el Plan serviría de complemento al Nuevo Acuerdo Internacional" yo no estaría cumpliendo con las instrucciones que tengo de mi Gobierno. Pero, en aras de tratar de encontrar una fórmula de compromiso, me pregunto si sería aceptable que en el texto inglés donde dice "which would be complementary", se pusiera "which would possibly be complementary". Eso sería el máximo hacia el cual podría andar y si eso es aceptable, no hablaré más sobre este tema.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As regards the first one about "certain" and "different", we can drop both of them. We can say "The Council noted that the plan included elements which" and here comes the problem. Now the delegate of Argentina has said that it should read "which would possibly be complementary" to a new international grains arrangement". On the one hand we have his suggestion, on the other hand you have just heard the observer from Yugoslavia listing a number of elements which are complementary. Now what do we do? Do we, in order to accommodate a certain point of view, distort reality, or do we just go on record as having stated what should be stated and under those circumstances I would be constrained to be of the view that "The Council noted that the plan included elements which would be complementary to a new international grains arrangement as envisaged" etc.

K.R. HICHAM (Canada): I wonder if we might not get over this hurdle by going back to what I think was an original. Argentinian proposal which would accommodate members of the Council who believed or had in fact stated that the plan could, that the plan would, that the plan might or did not say anything, simply by leaving the sentence the way it is in the original and starting it off with "some Members of the Council". I do not think that we would bind anybody to the conditional or not conditional, or to being party to the statement.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I have listened with attention to the various interventions made on this sentence and I was just wondering whether the inclusion of some words between "which" and "would" would solve the question. And this would be "The Council noted that the plan included certain elements which in the view of the majority would be complementary". I was just wondering whether this could be a compromise solution.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Simplemente deseo ejercer el derecho de respuesta a lo que acaba de expresar el representante de Pakistán y Presidente del Comité de Redacción sobre la observación formulada por Yugoslavia. Los siete elementos mencionados por el observador de Yugoslavia forman parte, a juicio de los países que negocian un acuerdo internacional de cereales, de un paquete total y no debe separarse. Digo esto para que no haya duda sobre la posición de nuestro país en mantener aspectos que pueden ser objeto de negociación internacional dentro de su contexto.

Con respecto a la enmienda propuesta por el representante de Filipinas, mi delegación acepta cualquier tipo de modificación que sea constructiva, pero que tenga en cuenta la posición de mi delegación. En principio la apoyamos.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As regards what the Philippines has said, it would be a contradiction in terms. In the first place we say "The Council noted..." and then we go on to say "The majority". Well, if the majority is of the view, then the Council is of that view and normally that is so. But I would again appeal to my colleague from Argentina to relent a little here because, as I have explained earlier, this in no way hinges upon future negotiations and it does not in any way hinder anybody from taking a position in the negotiations because this plan, as it has been stated so many times, is voluntary. It is not a substitute for the international grains arrangement. Therefore, it should be kept apart, the two should be kept apart. It is just coincidental that certain elements of this plan, the grains arrangement, have a bearing on one another but the two are separate and different and they should be construed as such,

CHAIRMAN: I think the essential point is that the two are different. Now if in any way this can be brought out clearly then all this argument and counter-argument would really not arise. If in the mind of certain delegations the two are linked by saying certain elements are complementary, etc., then I think a way should be found of not linking them so that there is no mistake about it.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya la propuesta de Filipinas y consideramos que esto sería aceptable para todos, así podríamos pasar a los párrafos siguientes.

O.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): It is difficult to speak at this juncture, whether the elements are complementary or not is factual. To bring in the element of majority or minority would not be appropriate because it is factual. In that context I would say that it is better to accept the last suggestion of Argentina than to say majority, which would possibly give room for pre-judging. The delegate listed several elements which are complementary and you have not really said the views of the majority or the minority, the minority did not say that they were not complementary, so that that element would not be appropriate to bring in here. But if my colleague from Pakistan, who is now the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, agrees, with his permission we can agree on the strict construction of my friend from Argentina. I do not know if my colleague from Pakistan has any other formulation.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Actually we had not intended to intervene on that paragraph but we could possibly go along with what was suggested by Argentina. We could also go along with "in the view of the majority". I had another proposal to make before. I was just thinking perhaps it could help us if we could for a moment leave this paragraph and go through the rest of the paragraphs because in the next paragraphs we would see some clarification about the different positions that have been taken in our discussions. But as the matter stands we could go along very much with the proposal made by Argentina.

CHAIRMAN: We are discussing paragraphs 1 - 4 so any of those paragraphs can be taken.

P. MASUD (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): I have tried to accommodate all points of view and I will continue to endeavour to do so. Could we say that "The Council noted that the plan included certain elements which were possibly complementary to a new international grains arrangement as envisaged in the negotiating conference which had been adjourned" etc. etc.

CHAIRMAN: Right. I think this probably has done it. I see that Argentina and everybody agree.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Usted dijo, señor Presidente, que la discusión estaba abierta del párrafo 1 al 4. Yo quisiera hacer una pequeña enmienda al párrafo 3. La última palabra de este párrafo 3, dice: "objetivos". En inglés aparece con la palabra "targets". A nosotros nos parece que es mejor, que quedaría mas claro si ponemos en lugar de "objetivos", "metas".

Si no hay inconveniente sugeriríamos: "metas convenidas".

P. MASUD (Chairman of the Drafting Committee): If I have the amendment right Cuba is proposing "International assistance was still falling short of requirements and agreed targets." This was debated during the course of the meeting of the Drafting Group and it was felt that there are two types of targets, those which are agreed and those which are not agreed. So if we were simply to say targets it would be a wider term and cover more than agreed targets, because there are a few agreed targets but there is a large number of targets. I could quote one or two, which might raise problems, therefore I will not. For instance, the target of the Manila Communiqué on the World Food Council is not agreed to by some parties but it is a target nonetheless.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Estamos de acuerdo en que queda la palabra "metas". Con respecto al apellido, dadas las dificultades no insistimos.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Half way down paragraph 3 we have some difficulty with the the Arabic text, it is not very clear. We have a false start in the second sentence, which was divided in two. But this has only to do with the Arabic text. Then at the start when we read, "The Council expressed its preoccupation" the text in Arabic is not right. I think that should be taken care of so that it has the same meaning as the other texts. I think that the first sentence should continue after "developing countries" and not have a full stop there.

CHAIRMAN: That will be taken care of.

Paragraphs 1 to 11, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 12, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 12, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 12, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 13 to 37 PARAGRAPHS 13 a 37 PARRAFOS 13 a 37

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I found a little difficulty following the last clause of the first sentence of paragraph 14. This says, "The Council stressed the importance of FAO's role in promoting agricultural and rural development at the international level..." It is the words "and the need for more responsibility and capacity" which cause me a little difficulty. As they stand they are a little vague. I do not know whether we could have some clarification on whether they are necessary.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am very grateful to the delegate of the United Kingdom for having pointed this out. We could simply say "The Council stressed the importance of FAO's role in promoting agricultural and rural development and the need for more responsibility and capacity at the international level". Would that be satisfactory?

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): No, I think that does not really answer the point. I am not quite sure what is meant by "more responsibility and capacity". If it was a financial capacity, that I could understand. But as it stands at the moment, the need for more responsibility and capacity, that is a nice general statement and we would all agree every time that there is a need for greater responsibility at international level and every other level. But as it stands that is a woolly statement. I think we should either clarify it and make it clear or drop those words.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is to drop the words.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I too noted the ambiguity of the second phrase there. Hence I wonder if we could just have a period after "at the international level". There are many other things that Council noted and agreed to. I am not sure that adds much to it.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If that is the wish, I have absolutely no objection to that. I defer to that suggestion.

MRS. A. BERGQVIST (Sweden): My delegation would like to suggest a reshuffling of the wording in paragraph 17, the last sentence. We suggest that it should read "The Council also suggested that FAO establish training centres for post-harvest technology, including simple field and home technologies with special emphasis in the training of women". The present sentence gives the impression that women are just to be trained in simple field and home technologies, and this is not the case I am sure.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I totally agree with that. The proposal of the delegate from Sweden is totally acceptable to us.

C.O. KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): En el párrafo 18 en la segunda frase se dice lo siguiente: "Asimismo, insto a la FAO a intensificar aún más sus esfuerzos en favor del desarrollo rural, en particular... " y aquí viene mi enmienda "...teniendo en cuenta las recomendaciones que adopte la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural".

De esta manera me parece que es más adecuado al lenguaje teniendo en cuenta que la Conferencia Rural aún no ha tomado ni adoptado ninguna recomendación.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I seem to be at loggerheads with my colleague for Argentina on almost all matters. To the best of my recollection this was not said. "Taking into account" is the same as "following up"; I see no difference at all. We said, "It urged FAO to further intensify its efforts in favour of rural development, particularly in following up relevant recommendations of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development". What has been proposed is, "particularly taking into account relevant recommendations of the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development". I am sorry about this, but we seem to have got out of the wrong side of the bed today, Sir, we seem to be disagreeing with each other all the time.

C. O KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina): Yo creo que lo que se dijo en el Consejo es instar a la FAO a intensificar sus esfuerzos en favor del desarrollo rural.

Eso es lo importante, pero es mucho más apropiado decir "que teniendo en cuenta la recomendación que adopte la próxima Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural" a una especie de imposición a la FAO a cumplir recomendaciones pertinentes, que es un lenguaje mucho más duro; es un lenguaje que no corresponde, pero si el representante de Pakistán prefiere ese lenguaje no tengo inconveniente en aceptarlo.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It has just been brought to my notice that in the Spanish text it says "implementing the relevant recommendations" whereas in English it says "following up" which are two entirely different things. So the Spanish text will be brought into line with the English text and I am sure that this will satisfy the delegate of Argentina.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): En ce qui concerne ce dernier point, il faudrait également harmoniser le texte français avec le texte anglais, car là aussi on parle de "mise en oeuvre".

CHAIRMAN: I am sure this will be done. We now come to paragraphs 23 to 26.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I am glad we are taking these paragraphs together, because my point is whether it is necessary to include the second part of the first sentence of paragraph 25, which concerns a recommendation to include nutrition in the agenda of COAG in 1979. I find this just a little difficult to believe, when in fact the previous paragraphs refer to the decision taken at COAG and agreed by the Council in paragraph 24 that nutrition should form part of the standing responsibility of COAG. I think there is probably a typing error. At least at first sight I cannot see why we need the words "and had recommended to include nutrition" down to the end of that sentence.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Paragraph 24 is a little different from paragraph 25 in the sense that in paragraph 25 we are endorsing the views of the Programme Committee and in paragraph 24 the Council agreed that food and nutrition should be a standing item on the agenda. Therefore in that way duplication has apparently occurred, but since the Council did endorse the views of the Programme Committee we have to endorse it so.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I quite follow that explanation but I think it is rather muddling to have it there and it has been overtaken by paragraph 24. I think it would be better just to leave out that part of the sentence.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am afraid I do not agree with that. We can switch paragraphs, make paragraph 25 paragraph 24 and make paragraph 24 paragraph 25, which would cover all concerned.

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): I did not quite keep up. Let me just check with you with the simple expedient of putting paragraph 24 after paragraph 25 and then see whether this is related as it might be to paragraph 26. I guess it would now be 24; we are really referring to the Council endorsing the Committee's views and then the rest follows after that.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. We now go on to 27 to 31. If there are no comments, adopted. Paragraphs 32 to 37.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): We are agreed that COAG is a very important Committee, and we would like to strengthen it, and therefore I would like to add at the end of paragraph 37 a sentence which would read as follows: "It was further suggested that COAG should encompass its complete term of reference." It means that COAG should cover all fields of activity of the Organization which are in its terms of reference.

CHAIRMAN: Well, this is not related to the work of the Drafting Committee, but is this accepted by members?

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): I think I understand what Malta is driving at. I was in and out of the COAG meeting but I recall our delegation working in fact with the delegation of Malta on several points amongst those which are covered in paragraph 37 to try and strengthen, form up a little better the COAG Committee, and I would like to support his proposal.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee will make a small addition as suggested by Malta in a language that will merge with the rest.

Paragraphs 13 to 37, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 37, ainsi amendes, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 37, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 44

PARAGRAPHS 38 à 44

PARRAFOS 38 a 44

M. KRIESBERG (United States of America): Just a minor note: I believe in paragraph 38 the reference to "covering the period" should mean covering a period which is a year, since this is the Fourth Annual Report. I suspect that the month of October should be April. In other words it would be the date April 1978 to the date May 1979.

CHAIRMAN: This will be checked and put right.

Paragraphs 38 to 43, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 38 à 43, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés Los párrafos 38 a 43, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 44, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 44, y compris la résolution, est adopté El párrafo 44, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 44, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 44, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé El párrafo 44, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 45 to 49

PARAGRAPHERS 45 à 49

PARRAFOS 45 a 49

L. V. BORGES DA FONSECA (Brazil): We would like to suggest an amendment to paragraph 48 consisting in adding a new phrase after the "FAO programmes" in the fourth line of the English text. That new phrase would read as follows: "a more active role of FAO's Country Representatives in giving complete information to local authorities in order to help increase the participation of developing countries

in technical meetings."

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have not exactly got where this is to be inserted, Sir. If it is to be inserted in the first sentence, "The Council endorsed the measures taken by the Director-General to intensify efforts to promote TCDC namely: the establishment of a focal point in DDF, the inclusion of TCDC in various parts of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 improved use of country capabilities in FAO programmes", and if the insertion is to come over here, then we shall ; have to have a semi-colon and then "a more active role of FAO's Country Representatives in giving

complete information to local authorities in order to help increase the participation of developing

countries in technical meetings" and then "and the promotion of TCDC at the Regional and Country level". Am I correct, Sir?

CHAIRMAN: Yes.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There is actually a typographical error on page 21 of the English text in the fourth line. It should read "governments concerned" and not "concerned governments".

CHAIRMAN:

Paragraphs 45 to 49, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 45 à 49, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés Los párrafos 45 a 49, así enmendados, son aprobados"

Draft Report of Plenary - Part II, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie II, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 17.25 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 25

Se levanta la .sesión a las horas 17.25

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 75/PV/18

Seventy-Fifth Session

Soixante-quinzième session

75° período de sesiones

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

18ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 June 1979)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours B. Shaib, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15 sous la présidence de B. Shaib, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas bajo la presidencia de B. Shaib, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE III

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE III

CHAIRMAN: Yesterday we completed the first and second parts of our report and now we will continue with Part III.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 9

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 9

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 9

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Au paragraphe 3 du texte français, il est dit ceci: "Le Conseil note en outre que, en cherchant à stabiliser les prix à un niveau rémunérateur pour les producteurs et équitables pour les consommateurs, la Commission a également adopté un modèle de contrat à long terme pouvant servir de guide aux divers pays".

Je ne sais pas si c'est une question de tradition, mais il me semble que ce texte français reflète quelque chose qui me paraît étrange. Je me demande si la Commission a vraiment dans son mandat le pouvoir de chercher à stabiliser le prix des denrées. Pourrait-on m'éclairer là-dessus?

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The point raised by the delegate of Belgium is a point of substance, not merely of drafting. I just spoke to him a little while ago and he did point this out to me: is it within the terms of reference of the Commission to pursue such objectives? Could we then say that "The Council further noted that in pursuing greater price stabilization, the Commission had also adopted" and delete "at prices remunerative to producers and equitable to consumers." This has been done: the Commission had adopted a model long-term contract for the convenience and benefit of those countries who possibly do not have the expertise to deal with such matters, and it has been very clearly stated that this is just a model contract and it is not to be followed in all cases, but simply - as I have said - to those countries who may like to avail themselves of this facility.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique): Il me semble que le but de ce système qui est mis sur pied par la Commission est d'éviter les inconvénients qui résultent de l'instabilité des prix ou des mouvements des prix, pour les pays en voie de développement. Je crois que c'est cette idée qu'il faudrait incorporer dans le texte du paragraphe. Je n'ai pas encore un texte précis à proposer, mais on pourrait peut-être dire: "Le Conseil note en outre que, en cherchant à éviter les inconvénients pour les pays en voie de développement de l'instabilité des prix des engrais, la Commission a également adopté un modèle...".

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): That is a very helpful suggestion. We could go along with that and say something like: "The Council further noted that in attempting to avoid the harmful effects of price fluctuations, the Commission had also adopted" etc., or words to that effect. We could work it out and present it a little later; I accept the idea.

RAMADHAR (India): I would like to suggest an amendment to paragraph 1, just one sentence after the existing paragraph 1, on the following lines: "It was also suggested that Commission should meet more frequently if the situation so warrants." I am suggesting this because I remember very clearly that my delegation made this suggestion, and if I recall correctly there was support for it.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It was suggested that this should be done and this is exactly what the delegate of India is asking for, and it says: "It was also suggested", so I do not see any harm in accepting it and I personally feel no reluctance in doing so.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Quiero proponer un pequeño cambio en el párrafo 2, en el primer renglón donde dice: "El Consejo elogio la labor realizada por la Comisión, que ha contribuido a asegurar, etc.". Para poder ser un poco mas coherentes con la realidad, ya que los precios aún siguen aumentando, y poder también reconocer la labor que realiza la Comisión, propongo que en lugar de las palabras "que ha contribuido a asegurar", lo pongamos en futuro, porque todavía no se ha llegado a asegurar a los países en desarrollo un abastecimiento suficiente.

Propongo que se diga así: "El Consejo elogió la labor realizada por la Comisión para tratar de asegurar a los países en desarrollo un abastecimiento suficiente de fertilizantes a precios razonables y estables". O sea, "para tratar de", esto sería el cambio que yo propongo.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have noted the suggestion made and we could put it in this way: "The Council commended the work of the Commission in endeavouring to ensure adequate supply". "In endeavouring to ensure" would, I think, cover the concern expressed by the delegate of Mexico.

Regarding the suggestion made by the delegate of Belgium, we have the following formulation: "The Council further noted that in order to obviate the disadvantages to developing countries resulting from price fluctuations", and then the paragraph goes on to read as it is, and we delete the words "in pursuing greater price stabilization at prices remunerative to producers and equitable to consumers".

CHAIRMAN: Does the delegate of Belgium agree to the formulation that has just been read out? Yes? Thank you.

If there are no other objections, I take it that the paragraphs 1 to 9 have been approved.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I wish to ask you if you could allow me to go back to paragraph 8. It is one word which I wish to change in paragraph 8.

CHAIRMAN: You want to go back to paragraph 8. Very well.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): I would like to propose in the last sentence, "to ensure the continuation of the IFS" it should be "the continuity".

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am sorry, that my English is not too good but in any case I do not see the difference between "continuation" and "continuity" but I would be willing to accept "continuity" in deference to my friend from Malta.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know, perhaps we could ask Mr. Peckham!

A. J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I should have to dissociate myself from that suggestion!

CHAIRMAN: This point will be taken and you can sort out what you want.

I. MOSKOVITS (Malta): Of course it was my delegation which made the proposal and of course it is correct that "one delegation proposed" but after the meeting several delegations told me there are others of the opinion, so I am wondering whether it should read as it is or "Some delegations proposed".

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The private communications between Member delegations cannot be reflected in the Report, so I would request that it should be allowed to stand as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Malta, do you agree? Yes.

Paragraphs 1 to 9, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9, ainsi amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 10 to 53

PARAGRAPHES 10 à 53

PARRAFOS 10 a 53

CHAIRMAN: We go to Item 11, Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Antes de presentar algunas enmiendas a varios párrafos de este tema 11, quisiera decir en primer lugar, que expresamos nuestro reconocimiento a la excelente labor hecha por nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción y sus colegas. Sin embargo, la delegación de Colombia considera que este tema 11, como usted mismo señor Presidente lo anoto, ha sido el asunto básico de nuestras reuniones. Nos preocupan una serie de "tomó nota" que aparecen en la casi totalidad de todos los párrafos iniciales de esta sección, basado en esas consideraciones quisiera hacer la primera propuesta sobre el párrafo 10, y luego me refiriría más adelante a otros párrafos. En el número 10 proponemos que se diga lo siguiente en la primera frase: "El Consejo acogió con satisfacción la declaración introductoria del Director General y de las presentaciones, etc.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Mr Bula Hoyos has had longer experience in the FAO than I have and he has also more experience of drafting. I have never come across this, "The Council listened with satisfaction". We could say that "The Council welcomed the introductory statement of the Director-General", deleting the word "noted". Would that be satisfactory to the delegate of Colombia?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, yo podría estar contento; pero creo que el Consejo expreso satisfacción por la declaración que se hiciera y casi todas las Delegaciones manifestaron esa satisfacción en sus intervenciones, no obstante acepto la formula del Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Si usted me lo permite, señor Presidente, podría pasar al 11.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, you do.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 11 encontramos de nuevo las palabras "tomó nota". Yo creo que se trata de una declaración muy importante que se hizo aquí. Deberíamos decir: "El Consejo

compartió la declaración del Director General". Hacemos esta propuesta porque en la segunda frase del párrafo 11, como podemos ver, aparece ya el firme apoyo que a esos puntos ofreció el Comité Plenario de la Asamblea General; sería un poco incomprensible que en un párrafo que se exprese el apoyo a unos órganos de Naciones Unidas, nuestro propio Consejo se limite a tomar nota.

Antes de hacer la propuesta traté de leer con toda atención el contexto total de esta parte del Informe, en el párrafo 50 encontré la afirmación de que "hubo unanimidad acerca de las estrategias, prioridades ", pero creo que el párrafo 11 no será redundante con el párrafo 50, sino que reforzará ese párrafo.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : I am very grateful to the delegate of Colombia for having suggested this. It does improve the text. I will be very glad to accept it provided the Council also agrees.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Colombia have you finished?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tengo otros puntos todavía, sobre los párrafos 13 y 14. Como se han suprimido de los párrafos anteriores los términos, "tomó nota", en el párrafo 13 podríamos dejar en esta ocasión el "tomó nota", pero suprimiendo la palabra "también". El Consejo tomó nota, suprimiendo la palabra "también". Después me refiriré al párrafo 14.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, go on.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 14, también dentro del mismo espíritu afirmativo, podríamos decir: "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con el informe de su período de sesiones conjunto de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas sobre la conclusion, etc.".

En realidad todos manifestaron satisfacción por los trabajos que han hechos esos dos Comités y estuvimos de acuerdo con sus conclusiones.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If I have the amendment as proposed correctly, paragraph 14 would read "The Council agreed that the conclusion in the Report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees concluded that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget had followed the approved format" etc

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I refer to paragraph 14, the last line in which the sentence begins "The consensus of the Committees had been to recommend", after the word "Committees" I would like to insert a comma, then to insert the words which appear in the Report of the Joint Committees, and I quote "That one Member dissociating himself" then continue "Had been to recommend" etc. This brings this Council Report into conformity with the text of the Joint Report of the Committees on Finance and Programming.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This point was raised by the delegate of the United States of America when we were drafting this Report and if you note, at the end of this paragraph there is a footnote which says CL 75/4, paragraph 1.2 - 1.5, which is the Report of the Joint Sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees, where the position as stated by the delegate of the United States of America is included. This is in conjunction with it, so that this matter is put in its correct perspective, this paragraph reads along with the Reports of the Joint Sessions. So the position of the United States of America is fully covered. However, this proposal which is made would need the deletion of this footnote. It is a fact that the United States did reserve its position in the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. But in his intervention during the Council he did not state it so categorically as he had done in the Joint Session of the two Committees. It was because of this reason that we have added the footnote. I have the Verbatim before me and if you like I can read out the relevant portion, but I am sure he already has them.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is necessary to read the Verbatim but on the points you made I will now give the floor to the United States again.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I take the point of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee but would observe here that the footnote as it appears does not explain what it is that is textually contained in the footnote. The footnote for the reader could refer to anything at all with respect to this paragraph. The reader would not know whether it is a footnote that refers to dissociation, or an association, or a reservation, or whatever. My very strong preference is merely to make explicit in this paragraph what was explicit in the Report of the Committees on Programme and Finance, meeting jointly, so that the reader of the Council Report will then have before him the whole of the proceedings in that Committee, then deleting the footnote as the Chairman points out as being no longer necessary.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think there should be any difficulty, after all, it is in the Joint Report, to reflect it here also.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In view of the insistence of the United States delegation this sentence would then read "The consensus of the Committees, with one Member dissociating himself, had been to recommend" and we would delete the footnote. I hope this meets with his approval.

RAMADHAR (India): I wanted to speak on the amendment suggested by the United States but if you have already agreed to adopt paragraph 14 I should refrain from it.

CHAIRMAN: No, we have finished with that new. There is no need to go back to that.

RAMADHAR (India): Then I would like to suggest a question of procedure. I think it would be appropriate if something is suggested by a Member, before you ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I think you should ask the other Members before that. I think it would help in the discussion.

P. HALIMI (France): Je vous remercie. Il s'agit toujours du paragraphe 14. Je suis d'accord avec le Président du Comité de rédaction lorsqu'il a accepté l'amendement des Etats-Unis demandant de mentionner le fait qu'un membre du Comité s'était dissocié des conclusions de ce Comité. Mais alors je demande ce que signifie l'amendement proposé par la Colombie, amendement qui dit que le Conseil est d'accord avec les conclusions. De quelles conclusions s'agit-il? Les conclusions de la majorité ou les conclusions d'un membre qui s'était dissocié de l'ensemble? Je crois qu'il vaut mieux en revenir au texte. Nous avons eu une discussion sur ce paragraphe et je pense qu'il serait préférable de revenir à l'ancienne rédaction.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We are talking about two different matters. In the first part we talk about the Council and in the second part we talk about the Committees. I would suggest that this be allowed to stand as it is.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A la atinada explicación de nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción quisiera agregar algo más para el delegado de Francia. La primera frase del párrafo 14 se refiere al hecho de que el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con los Comités del Programa y Finanzas sobre el hecho de que el resumen se ajustaba al formato aprobado, era claro y conciso. La parte final del párrafo 14 se refiere al nivel del presupuesto.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was just going to say the same thing, that the first sentence referred to the former, whereas the consensus referred to the level of the budget. So these are two different things. There can be complete agreement on the first and a dissenting voice on the second.

CHAIRMAN: With these amendments we adopt paragraphs 10 to 14. We now come to paragraphs 15 to 19.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I was a little mystified about the first sentence of paragraph 15. It may be necessary, but it strikes me in view of the discussion on the last paragraph that paragraph 15 might start more satisfactorily with the agreement noted in the second sentence. In other words, I doubt whether we need the first sentence of paragraph 15.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would be willing to go along with that and start paragraph 15 with "The Council agreed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget" but the delegate of India may like to say something on this because he did request earlier that the floor should be given first to members.

CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to members when I see their flags, but I did not see any flag.

RAMADHAR (India): Since I was a member of the Drafting Committee and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee knows my views on this, that is why he referred to that. There is special significance in the first sentence. It shows that there was a very detailed and comprehensive discussion on the subject, it was not discussed by two or three members, but almost all the members participated in the discussion, they applied their mind to the whole subject. With that in view I request the delegate of the United Kingdom to agree to allow this to remain.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would propose that the words of the delegate of India begin with "There was a thorough discussion on the subject and all but two participated in the discussion". That would be a more positive way of putting it.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I think the representative of the Philippines has made my point. "All but two" would reduce the effectiveness of the paragraph. I still adhere to my view that if the Council agreed that is the decision of the Council. I think it diminishes the effect of what you have to say if you condition it by "all but two" or something to that effect.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I will try to put together all the proposals that have been made. Could we say "After a thorough discussion, in which all but two members of the Council

participated, the Council agreed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget " " ? If that meets with the approval of the House I would be quite happy.

CHAIRMAN: United Kingdom, would that be all right?

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): Yes.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Je voudrais présenter non pas un amendement de fond, mais un amendement de forme au paragraphe 15.

Dans la deuxième phrase de ce paragraphe, il est dit: "Le Conseil convient que le Sommaire du programme de travail et budget pour 1980-81 est la pierre angulaire de toutes les activités de la FAO, est bien préparé, bref, clair " Je voudrais scinder la phrase et mettre un point, ce qui donnerait:

"Le Conseil convient que le Sommaire du programme de travail et budget pour 1980-81 est la pierre angulaire de toutes les activités de la FAO. Il est bien préparé, bref, clair "

Il s'agit donc simplement d'un amendement de forme dans le texte français. Le fond demeure.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is indeed a valid reaction and I find it perfectly acceptable. What Senegal is suggesting is that in paragraph 5 the long sentence should be split into two, and then it would read "The Council agreed that the Summary Programme of Work, and Budget 1980-81 was the cornerstone of all of FAO's activities. It was well planned, brief, clear and to the point," etc. I have no problem with it.

RAMADHAR (India): If we accept the amendment of Senegal, the sense of the whole sentence is completely changed. The sentence as it is says that "The Council agreed that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1980-81 was the cornerstone of all of FAO's activities, and Council also agreed that it was well planned, brief, clear and to the point." There is an agreement of the Council that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was well planned, brief and clear. If we accept the amendment it means that it is not the view of the Council but the document is of course well planned, clear and to the point, but Council is not saying that.

CHAIRMAN: It is only the French text, and that will be put right

CHAIRMAN: Are there any more interventions on paragraphs 15 to 19? Then these paragraphs are adopted. Now we go to paragraphs 20 to 27.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): With regard to paragraph 21, it is said that the Council think that consideration should be given to increase delegation of authority to Country Offices and to Regional Offices, while others stressed that no further increases should be provided to Regional Offices. I think this paragraph does not reflect the ideas, which were to increase the authority of the Regional Offices, and it was proposed that such an increase of authority should be studied. Therefore I think that this paragraph is not very clear and that we should make it clear that some felt that the authority of the Regional Offices should not be increased.

As to paragraph 22, it is stated that the Council welcomed the fact. We have a term in the Arabic text which I think is not adequate. "The Council welcomed the fact that the need for new posts had been rigorously evaluated and that in most cases proposals have been accepted for only the highest priority needs...". The text is not clear either in the Arabic or the English. How can we not accept the proposal for high priority needs? I think we should say that new posts should be rigorously evaluated before being created.

V.S. BLANCO DELGADO (Me'xico) : Solamente un pequeño cambio que afecta únicamente al español y es en el párrafo 25, en el segundo renglón, segunda palabra: cambiar la letra "p" por la letra "m", es decir que en vez de decir "podesto" se diga "modesto".

CHAIRMAN: I give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on the points raised by Saudi Arabia.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As regards the point raised on paragraph 21, instead of saying "Others stressed that in their opinion...", we could say "Others, however, were of a contrary opinion", simply that, and delete the rest of the sentence. This would mean that it was suggested in this connexion that there should be increased delegation of authority; others, however, felt differently. This is my suggestion regarding paragraph 21.

As regards paragraph 22 I feel that as it is drafted in English it is quite clear that new posts had been rigorously evaluated and the proposals had been accepted only where they were absolutely essential and that was done by diminishing posts in a lower priority area, with the result that only four additional posts were proposed for Headquarters. So, as far as paragraph 22 is concerned, I would request that it be allowed to stand.

Regarding paragraph 25, there is admittedly a misprint in the Spanish text which will be corrected.

CHAIRMAN: Is the delegate of Saudi Arabia satisfied? Good.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We would prefer this last sentence of paragraph 21 to be left as it is. If we accepted the proposed change it would mean that there were others also against the delegation of authority to Country Offices, and that is not the truth. I think we should keep this separate as it stands. Some of those who spoke were only against an increase being provided to Regional Offices. I would prefer not to mix the two things up and to leave the text as it stands, if this could be accepted by the delegate of Saudi Arabia.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think there is much reason in what the delegate of Germany said. Two things are referred to in the previous sentence and I very much doubt that the opinion expressed in the last sentence referred also to Regional Offices and whether they were referring to increases in the budget or increases in the delegation of authority. I would like clarification on this matter.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Could we then say "Others, while supporting increased delegation to Country Offices, were of the opinion that no further increase should be provided to Regional Offices"? This would clarify that you support increased delegation to Country Offices.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestra delegación podría aceptar la redacción formulada por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, pero si nuestro recuerdo es acertado tenemos la impresión de que no se insistió mucho sobre la inconveniencia de aumentar las atribuciones también para las Oficinas regionales. Si eso es así, ¿no sería mejor suprimir totalmente la última frase del párrafo 21?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would have difficulty in accepting that, but I am very happy with the wording proposed by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN: I think we will accept the last formulation by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. We have now adopted paragraphs 20 to 27. We go on to paragraphs 28 to 36.

Mrs. A. BERGQVIST (Sweden): My delegation would like to suggest an amendment to paragraph 29. We would like to add a sentence which I will read out. "A request was also made that there should be a review of the number of country offices, taking into account, inter alia, the possible coverage of such offices of two or more countries". This point was raised by my delegation in the general intervention and it has also been raised in the Programme Committee.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Sir, this, as pointed out by Sweden, is a request from one country and we could see no objection in it being reported, although personally, I feel it is a little premature to start reviewing when we are already setting up. In any case, it is entirely in your hands.

H. BAEYENS (Belgique). Je voudrais simplement dire que la Belgique a fait également la même observation.

O.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): We feel that this question of a review of the country offices at this stage is very premature. This is a formative stage, and in our intervention we said that the additional offices that we are thinking of for the next biennium would be inadequate, in our view, and in that context we feel that it is premature to think of a review of the country offices. We could think of it in the next biennium. At this stage it is certainly premature when it is being built up.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps Sweden did not mean a review as such but a review of the policy to accredit one man in more than one country.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I believe my recollection is correct when I say that the U.S. delegation in the proceedings here also associated itself with the view expressed by Sweden, as concurred in by Belgium, and I would like to record here my concurrence also with the proposed language addition suggested by Sweden.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): To think of accrediting a representative to more than one country and to have thinking like that I believe is something which cannot be said, because you never know whether it is possible or not; even for the countries to be accredited is sometimes difficult. If you leave out the last part of the sentence, only a question of review, "a request was made for a review of the country offices", that is all, period, but not the second part.

RAMADHAR (India): I think this word "review" means also some thought of evaluation. I remember that in the Drafting Committee this point was raised, and the Director-General or his representative was kind enough to explain that in some cases the Organization itself was examining whether one representative should be accredited to more than one country, and I think in some cases it was being done, so I do not know that it would be appropriate to put it here in that way, but for the delegates who have raised this question we can say "The decision was made regarding the possibility of accrediting one country's representative to more than one country".

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I would just like to observe that this wording of the proposal by Sweden is very mild. I do deplore that at this our final stage of acceptance of the report we enter into discussion of substance. It seems to me that this is a perfectly reasonable suggestion on the part of Sweden which has support. I cannot really see why we should open the debate if we cannot make further progress.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Two contrary views have been expressed, one suggesting that there should be a review with a possibility of examining whether one office could cover two countries, and the contrary view is that it is premature and that this had already been explained in the Programme Committee by the representative of the Director-General.

I would personally be inclined to find a wording which would be acceptable to both those countries which would like to have this inserted and those countries which would like it left out, but before I do that I would like to have a little time so that I can work on this thing.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippines during the discussion of this item mentioned that this could be left to the discretion of the Director-General for the time being. Therefore, we want if possible for this to be reflected in the sentence that would be at the end of paragraph 29.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): I would like to speak in support of what our colleague from the United Kingdom has said. All we have got from Sweden is a request that a point that it made during the debate be recorded in the report of that debate, that is all. Whether it is right or whether we agree is almost beside the point. They are asking that the point they made during that debate be recorded. I do not see how we can question it.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is very much controversy on this, really, to take our time like this. This can be recorded. If Council agrees, we will go ahead.

P.A. MORALES CARBALLO (Cuba): Quiero referirme al párrafo 39. El párrafo 39 dice "El Consejo acogió con gran satisfacción y ratifico la prioridad concedida al desarrollo rural"; nosotros consideramos que sería más adecuado decir "ratifico la prioridad concedida a la Reforma Agraria y al Desarrollo Rural" y pensamos que hay un argumento sólido y es que la Conferencia Mundial será sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Cualquier opinión en contrario será prejuzgar los resultados de la propia conferencia. Vamos a reunimos para hablar de esto y concentrar la atención aquí, desde el punto del Consejo en uno de esos aspectos, me parece que es un poco prejuzgar los resultados de la propia conferencia. Nuestra propuesta sería pues "a la Reforma Agraria y al Desarrollo Rural".

P.A. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There is a lot of logic in what Cuba has said because the Conference would be dealing both with agrarian reform and rural development. It therefore should state both these aspects and the sentence could then read, Sir, "The Council strongly welcomed and endorsed the priority given to agrarian reform and rural development expecting that this priority", etc.

S.I. ALMANNAI (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): There is a mistake in the numbering of the paragraphs in the Arabic document, because paragraph 43 comes after 35 and it should have come at the end of page 8. I just wanted to point it out.

CHAIRMAN: I have been assured by the Secretariat that this kind of editorial mistake will be adjusted and corrected.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): A small point: I think that paragraph 47 would read a little better if it came before 46. Indeed, the two might be put together so that paragraph 46 would start by the Council welcoming "the greater emphasis given to rural community development within the forestry programme" and continuing with "and agreed", etc.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is a logical point.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): My point relates to paragraph 51. If one reads that paragraph, one notes that we have been speaking there throughout the paragraph of "some members", "these members", "a few countries". Now, with this in mind and to make the rendition of what I am about to say faithful to what a few countries said, I would propose the following change in the last line of paragraph 51. Where we say the words "would have preferred", I would propose the following language by way of substitution: "continued to advocate", then continuing on with the rest of the paragraph as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Unless the others want to speak on this point, we would like to clear this with the Drafting Committee.

RAMADHAR (India): I am not very clear; if you could ask the U.S.A. to repeat the amendment, because he put it in such a way that it was not clear to me.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America) In paragraph 51, the last line, on page 8, instead of the words "would have preferred", at the end of that line I would propose deleting those words and substituting in there these words, and I quote: "continued to advocate", the balance of the paragraph remaining unchanged.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am just going to check in my own notes to see whether there was the expression of this view. I agree that this paragraph is attributed to a number of countries, and the only problem I would have is to find whether this was actually said. If the delegate of the United States could help me by referring me to his verbatim, where he stated this, I would be extremely grateful so that we could adopt this and carry on.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I cannot find this verbatim text for the precise words "continued to advocate." I am searching for the language which would characterize the position taken by perhaps five Members of the Council during the debate which would characterize their position on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

The language we agreed to me suggests that, having agreed, one drops one's objections and participates in the whole of the consensus. I do not think the verbatim transcript would support this. It supports the proposition that five countries used the words "reserved position", "undecided", and the general posture assumed by them is characterized by the words "continued to advocate."

I am proposing here simple phraseology which would characterize those countries who were reserved at the end of the debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget when the consensus was invited and taken. These reservations were still in the record.

I. TAKI (Japan): I feel that according to how our delegation spoke at the Plenary Meeting this part does not exactly reflect the defects. I do not want to make a new proposal, but I feel that the amendment made by the delegate of the United States maybe more in line with what we would like to propose about the correction of this part.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que en los párrafos 51 y 52 se han reflejado muy adecuadamente las tendencias que se manifestaron en nuestros debates sobre el nivel del presupuesto. Creemos que no sería constructivo ahora abrir un debate, sobre todo por quienes han sido miembros del Comité de Redacción. Esto pondría en dificultad a los demás miembros del Consejo. Por tanto, proponemos que el párrafo 51 conserve su redacción actual.

CHAIRMAN: What we are trying to do is to find a formulation rather than go back to debates. This is what the United States said.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): Just to speak in support of the United States amendment, as seconded by Japan, "continued to advocate" does in fact reflect our position as well.

I see in the Verbatim Record, and I will read it: "We have suggested a figure of 2 percent per annum," and that would fit the wording here which we are proposing, and which suggests a reduction from the budget proposal.

RAMADHAR (India) : I agree with the delegate from Colombia that paragraph 51 fully reflects the trend of discussions. There would be one problem in accepting the amendment suggested by the United States. When he said "continued to advocate" this means these countries had advocated this in some forum, and are again continuing to advocate the same. I do not know if it was Canada in the Finance Committee or the United States in the Programme Committee where they advocated this. These two countries probably did advocate this earlier.

This word "continued" would definitely have this kind of implication, so we have to be very careful about that.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think the delegate of India has said what I want to say, "Continued to advocate" or "advocated"? I do not know when this advocacy started, but we would have no problem in accepting the amendment of the United States delegation. Although that delegation did not use exactly this wording, it does characterize their position, which is well known to us.

For the sake of accuracy, however, maybe it should be "advocated" instead of "continued to advocate."

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, this solves the problem very nicely. We shall now give the floor to Saudi Arabia for another matter, not this particular one.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Paragraph 48, Mr Chairman. I believe this has been repeated in 52 and 59, and I do not know whether it would be appropriate to put it here in this position because the other paragraphs deal with matters which do not have anything in relation with paragraph 48.

I do not know whether we could delete this paragraph 48, because the same thing has been repeated in 52 and 59.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have gone through paragraph 52 and it does not refer to or have any bearing on paragraph 48 at all.

Paragraph 59, however, does mention IFAD and formulation of Funds-Initiated Projects. Here you are discussing another subject, and therefore while discussing two subjects you may come across the same thing.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia)(interpretation from Arabic): I believe that paragraph 48 in the Arabic text is as follows: "The Council expressed satisfaction about the continuing growth in investment activities and the fruitful cooperation between the Investment Centre and financing agencies, including IFAD..." etc. This is the Investment Centre which is the same subject referred to by the paragraph starting at 54.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Of course there could be a repetition in these two paragraphs which have been referred to by the delegate of Saudi Arabia. However, I should like to point out that during the general discussion of the Budget, there was indeed a mention of the priorities in the different fields.

There was a mention about the priority in Forestry, there was a mention about the priority in Fisheries. If you mention the priority in Investment here, it would seem during the general discussion of the Budget there was no expression regarding the priority which should be given to Investment.

For the purpose of recording, my delegation would prefer to retain paragraph 48, since this is a record of what actually happened during the debate.

CHAIRMAN: Delegate of Saudi Arabia, do you wish to insist?

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (interpretation from Arabic): Paragraph 48 does not refer to priorities. There is no reference whatsoever in paragraph 48 to the Council expressing satisfaction about priorities, there is only reference to the fruitful cooperation between the Investment Centre and the financing agencies. That is all the paragraph is about, I do not find any reference in paragraph 48 to priorities.

I am not against retaining the paragraph, but wish to avoid repetition.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the delegate from Saudi Arabia has agreed that both paragraphs should be allowed to stand.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): A small point - paragraph 43 in the English text, the last line of the paragraph -I would like to suggest that this should be changed. "Strong support was given to the Director-General's initiatives to assist countries in taking full advantage of their Exclusive Economic Zones". I would like to make more of this, drop the word "their" and replace it with the words "Fisheries in their Exclusive Economic Zones".

CHAIRMAN: Does the Chairman of the Drafting Committee wish to add anything to this?

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): No, thank you.

Q. H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): In paragraph 52, the last but one word, the last "a" to be replaced by the words "an absolute", because "absolute" is the word used by all delegates who expressed their preference for the higher budget level. "... as an absolute minimum" - the word "a" to be replaced by the words "an absolute".

V. S. BLANCO DELGADO (México): Creo que el párrafo 43, en su última frase, donde dice: Se apoya decididamente la iniciativa del Director General de apoyar a los países plenamente sus zonas económicas exclusivas, queda reflejado exactamente como sucedió en el debate, porque nosotros hablamos de un aprovechamiento pleno de las zonas económicas exclusivas.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I will have to consult my notes on this, but we do talk about world demand for fish protein and limited exploitation or over-exploitation, and in that context perhaps what was suggested by the delegate of Canada was appropriate. But now a new dimension is being added to this by what has just been said by the delegate of Mexico, so if I could just check my notes regarding what Mexico said, then I will be in a position to give you a reply.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): My proposal to include the word "fisheries" was to make sure that we keep the text within the mandate of the FAO, to make sure that we are talking about supporting countries in the food, agriculture and fisheries aspects. In fact, the Mexican comment makes me realize that even better clarification should be possible from that sentence if we include the words "developing countries" in between the words "assist" and "countries". If you permit me to read the sentence: "strong support was given to the Director-General's initiatives to assist developing countries in taking full advantage of fisheries in their exclusive economic zones."

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not want to waste the time of the Committee, but I must point out that our comprehensive programme for assisting the countries to develop their EEZ does encompass all countries. There will be joint ventures; there will be an inter-country approach, etc. So I would think it more accurate to keep to "countries" and not to single out the developing countries.

I also wish to draw to the attention of the distinguished delegate of Mexico the fact that the initiatives I am now going to take next November and, in fact already in October at the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) will be intended to assist in the development in fisheries resources. There are other resources in the exclusive economic zones, but FAO cannot provide assistance for developing other resources, such as mineral resources, for instance. I think, therefore, that the text will be more accurate, if it stands as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General. I think this clarifies the position and the proposal made by Canada. The original one is accepted.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): What I am proposing here is a new paragraph 53 which would be a paragraph of one sentence only, with paragraph 53 in the report before us becoming paragraph 54. My proposed new paragraph 53 would read as follows:

"The Council noted that the Director-General had found that the views expressed by the delegations will be very useful in the formulation of the complete Programme of Work and Budget."

That then becomes paragraph 53 in its entirety with paragraph 53 renumbered to be paragraph 54.

CHAIRMAN: You are not advocating the deletion of the present paragraph 53 which now becomes 54? Because we do not want any misunderstanding; you want paragraph 53 to become paragraph 54 and the paragraph you have just read to be 53?

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): That is correct.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): I think we are trying to do something here which has never been done. It is not for the Director-General to understand something; it is for the Council to give directions to the Director-General. We have never done this in the Council, in the report for the Director-General to assume something or to do something. It is for the Council to give directions and advice and instructions to the Director-General. If you read the formulation "the Director-General had found" the Director-General is not supposed to express his views in the reports of the Council, is he? It is the Council which gives advice, instructions, to the Director-General as to what he should do. I would be grateful if the delegate of the United States would clarify this.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): I think the transcript will show us that the Director-General addressed himself to the question of the views expressed by the Members on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and an adequate phraseology with respect to what he said, summed up in one sentence, would be about what I gave it. I myself find nothing untoward or improper in the Council noting what the Director-General said on this subject as a sort of conclusion of the entire debate. I do not think we have to put in the report all of the Director-General's remarks on this subject. I think it would be useful for the Council to note that the Director-General addressed himself to the point more or less in the terms which I formulated. I do not think it is at all improper.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not know what the delegate of the United States is driving at in suggesting this sentence. I have no problem in accepting it. I have said this in my summary but, as we say in French, "vous serez déçu"!

CHAIRMAN: I do not think we should pursue this; this is not a drafting matter. The United States of America made this proposal and it is acceptable and I think we should leave it at that.

RAMADHAR (India): I have the same doubts the Director-General has expressed as to the implication of this sentence. The Council has reached a consensus on the Programme and the level of the budget and the strategy. What other things is the Director-General taking into consideration while formulating the detailed proposal? Is he not going to keep them in conformity with the consensus of the Council, or is he going to pay attention to statements made by delegates? I am not very clear about this. By retaining this amendment are we going to help the drafting, or have a compact and neat draft, or ask the Director-General to pay attention to every intervention made by the delegations and then have a detailed proposal for the Conference?

CHAIRMAN: I want to appeal to Members not to start a debate. This proposal made by the United States of America is not in the Drafting Committee's work, and I do not think the United States has any hidden ulterior motives about it. The Director-General accepts it; I do not think we should pursue this any more, if Members agree, please.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Solo quiero saber cuál es la suerte que va a correr la propuesta de Estados Unidos. ¿Se va a aceptar o no?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is accepted.

K.R. HIGHAM: (Canada): I am sorry to be so slow, I was waiting for that other item to clear up. I too have some difficulty with the final paragraphs of this part of the report because I need to be sure they incorporate the reservation that we had. In fact, I think the Chairman or the Drafting Committee in total have done an excellent job in putting together a very sensitive and very difficult part of our report, and it is perhaps a little finicky of me to ask for a little more refinement, but I need to be sure that our position, as well as that of some of the other delegates, I think, is quite clear throughout the paper. I am particularly worried about the new paragraph 54, that is, the old number 53 in our text, and would like to suggest - if I am correct is it this paragraph which is summarizing the closing remarks by the Chairman at the end of the budget? Is that it?

CHAIRMAN: I will give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee because the Chairman's remarks do not necessarily form part of the report, because the report is the total assessment of what the Council said.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Paragraph 54 is the summing up of the various positions as outlined in paragraph 51 which gives the position of some countries. In paragraph 52 it gives the position of an overwhelming majority. In the new paragraph 53 which gives the views of the Director-General, and in paragraph 54, we finally come to the end of the debate, and, in coming to the end of the debate, we have followed your last remarks, Sir, on this subject. I may be a little lengthy, Sir, but you will excuse me because this will probably help in clarifying matters.

You say in your last remarks - I will just quote the relevant portion - "The overwhelming majority thought they wanted a higher budget but they agreed to go along with what had been proposed by the Director-General, and a few reserved their views for later on. Also, one or two wanted a lower level but this was not done simply to bring down the Programme or to criticize the Director-General or the Organization for the way it is conducting its work. No, these hesitations are the result of circumstances beyond the control of delegates which I am sure will be sorted out at home and, when the Ministers come, there will be complete unanimity. What the Council has done" - this is the relevant portion - "is to give the Director-General and his staff by consensus permission to go ahead and prepare a detailed Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 to be presented to the Conference, as proposed by the Director-General in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. I am very glad that the outcome has been what it is and not what it used to be."

After that the Secretary-General took the floor and explained various documents which were to be considered on the following day.

This paragraph 54 is a very careful and considered reflection of the views of the Council, as summed up by you, Sir; I would therefore make a very fervent appeal to all that since we have come such a long way, we have covered 53 paragraphs, there should be no problems with the 54th. I realize that some countries do have problems, but these problems are more than adequately reflected in paragraph 51 and, with the suggestion made by the United States of America which now advocate a reduction or postponement of a certain proposed expenditure, I think all concerns are covered, Sir. This was considered very carefully and closely by the Drafting Committee. They spent a lot of time on this paragraph and I would request that it not be reopened here and let it stand at the moment.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think the purpose of Canada is to reopen another debate.

K.R. HIGHAM (Canada): I will do my best not to open another debate. I agree first of all, that the wording of this paragraph is very close to interpreting the feeling of Council. I am concerned because particularly it is the concluding paragraph and as you said, summarizes what the Chairman said in summary and you read it and it was quite correct I think. Because it is a concluding paragraph and summarizes a summary I am most concerned that it reflects the full content of the Report before us and I wonder if instead of proposing any changes to that paragraph, which I would like to avoid, we add, we lift out a sentence or phrase from the Chairman's summary which would read, it would be the last sentence of that paragraph, "A few reserved their views for later on". That is a direct lift from the Chairman's summary and it would satisfy my purpose entirely.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As I explained earlier this does amount to the opening paragraph and it would not be a correct reflection of what was said. The whole idea revolves round the word "consensus". Then you have paragraph 51 which gives one point, but if you have paragraph 52 which gives another point of view, obviously there were two points of view, but paragraph 54, which was previously 53, then sums up what was actually concluded by the Council and this is the conclusion of the Council and if we were to say "a few reserved their decision" then I am sure there would be a lot of reaction from the others and it would just go on and we would go through the same exercise that we have gone through in the Drafting Committee and have the same position as we had in the discussions.

Q.H. HAQUE (Bangladesh): The Chairman of the Drafting Committee brought out the Webster Dictionary in the Joint Meeting of the Financial and Programme Committee. I do not have either Webster or Chambers to explain the word "consensus". In the Verbatim in your concluding observations read out by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, the horse was before the cart. That means a few reserved the position for later on and you say that first and then you came to the conclusion. Your concluding remarks were consensus.

The proposal of Canada is trying to put the cart before the horse. You talk of the consensus and then put the cart before the horse - that would create difficulties. I am afraid it might open a lengthy debate and in fact I feel that after paragraph 51, paragraphs 51 and 52 where you accommodate the views of the overwhelming majority who wanted to see a higher level and for the sake of the consensus they accepted the present level, and then to talk of "some reserved for later on" would be too dangerous and it might reopen the whole debate in this Council, and I would appeal to Canada not to put the cart before the horse at the end. You had rightly done so, putting the horse before the cart, by talking about the views of some, which is accommodated in paragraph 51, and then you talk of the views of the overwhelming majority in paragraph 52: then you came to the consensus rightly putting the cart behind the horse. Let us not change this sequence which will create serious difficulties.

R.C. BREWIN (United States of America): My delegation has tried to be restrained in not insisting within each and every point where the level of the budget is discussed, but words such as dissociation and reservation and opposition and so on be inserted. Nonetheless, in several of the paragraphs which preceded paragraph 54 we have, at appropriate places, noted an advocacy of a different position from the prevailing views and it seems to me perfectly just and fair for the final summing up paragraph, dealing with the whole of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, to reflect what was earlier said by those five or six delegations who took a different view. I do not think the few words added by the delegate of Canada in any way distort the record of the proceedings. Rather I find it in every sense faithful to what happened. All we are recording here is what happened and what happened is as the delegate of Canada formulated, to wit, "A few reserved their views for later on", later on being quite obviously in the flow of the events in the Organization, action by the Conference. So that I do not find that the sentence suggested by the delegate from Canada is in any way a distortion or an unfaithful rendition of what in fact happened.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is the task of the Drafting Group normally to render as faithfully as possible what happened. After you had summed up there were no reservations to your summing up and that is the crucial matter, and you summed up in a certain way and there were no reservations to that. Had these delegations any reservations to your summing up I am sure that they should have-if they have not done so - stated on the floor of the House that they have reservations to your summing up. Now if we read the paragraph as it stands at the moment it would mean that after you have summed up or after this has been accepted, "taking into account the views expressed, the Council reached a consensus" -- there are "views", but the "consensus", puts the paragraph in a wholly different light and which in my mind is not a faithful rendering of what happened.

G. BULA HOYOS: (Colombia): Señor Presidente, si seguimos con atención la declaración última hecha por el distinguido colega del Canadá nos pareció entender que a él le preocupaba el solo hecho de que en este informe se consignaran las reservas de aquellas delegaciones que se manifestaron en favor de poder expresar su opinión definitiva en ocasión ulterior. Creo que ese fue el punto esencial del colega del Canadá.

A nuestro juicio, esa preocupación del Canadá está ya contenida en la segunda frase del párrafo 51. Allí se dice: "Esos miembros indicaron que no podían expresar una opinión definitiva hasta que no tuvieran la oportunidad de examinar ... etc". En esas condiciones el párrafo 53 es perfectamente coherente con el párrafo 51. En el párrafo 53 se pide al Director General que siga adelante con la preparación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Cuando esa versión definitiva este terminada, o sea en la Conferencia, las delegaciones que ya expresaron reservas en el párrafo 51 tendrán ocasión de volverse a expresar sobre ese documento.

Creo también que el párrafo 53 refleja exactamente los debates, porque entendemos que todos los miembros del Consejo, inclusive los que hicieron reservas sobre el nivel del presupuesto, estuvieron de acuerdo con las prioridades y con la orientación política y programática del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto; de manera que no consideramos procedente que se debilite la conclusión de un debate tan importante con la reiteración de una reserva que ya está contenida, como fije, en la segunda frase del párrafo 51.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think paragraph 54 would reflect what actually happened because the Chairman summarized the debate exactly by those words and he was not apparently opposed by anybody. I do not see anybody opposing his summation of this and I think it would be inappropriate to make the reservations now when the debate is finished. If nobody opposed the Chairman when he made his summation in this way that we should have the right to oppose it now. After all, if the reservations are made in a general way like this, we think it would be a distortion of what really happened during the debate because the reservations were not made in a very general way, they were made in a particular way and the reservations were made in the way they have been put in paragraph 51 and to repeat it in a general way like this, it would seem there were other reservations than those that have been expressed in paragraph 51. I therefore appeal that paragraph 54 be allowed to remain as it is.

CHAIRMAN: I think Council is beginning to take a fixed position which we used to have long ago. Now when we discussed this everybody had a say. In fact, all members except two spoke and those who were not present were not attending. Therefore, we had a complete record of what everybody said and I listened to everybody very carefully and therefore what we want to do now is to see how the different views are reflected in the report and as pointed out there are certain paragraphs which reflected the views.

Now when we come to paragraph 54 perhaps it may help members to take note of the beginning which says "Taking into account the views expressed". Now, I was not in the Drafting Committee but it would appear that the Drafting Committee must have taken into account differing views and the Director-General has not been told not to prepare the Programme of Work and Budget. It is quite clear that delegations have reserved their position etc. etc. All this has been reflected. He will go ahead and prepare the Programme of Work and Budget. It is still open to those members who wish to change their position, one way or another, to do so, so perhaps Canada may consider and withdraw the amendment proposed so that we can complete this meeting as soon as we can. Otherwise we just go back into strong positions and there will be no solution to it.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you for giving me the floor at this juncture, Mr. Chairman. As I see the problem it is as follows: I feel confident that the majority of the members of the Council would have liked me to prepare a full Programme of Work and Budget for 1980-81 with a higher level of budget. However, as a compromise they have requested me to prepare a full Programme of Work and Budget at the same modest level I had proposed, in order to obtain the consensus of those four or five countries who were advocating a lower level. I am ready to accept whatever the Council decides on this matter. But I wanted to explain the background to this consensus, which is that the overwhelming majority found my proposals to represent an absolute minimum. I think that it is as a compromise that to request me to develop a programme at the same level, hoping that, by doing so, the few Member Countries who had not been able now to express a final decision would accept to join with them in requesting me to develop a full Programme of Work and Budget on the basis of the summary, I have presented.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director-General. Of course, as I have repeatedly said, this is nothing new, this happens at every budget. So if you want a long debate we can go on with it but we know what the outcome will be. Can I appeal to Canada?

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): You are making it very difficult for me, because you make it sound as though I am being unreasonable. In fact what I am trying to convince you of is that we thought that the Chairman's summing up was a very good summing up. We did not protest it simply because it included those words, and this paragraph 54 does not include those words - "A few reserved their views for later on". I proposed them to incorporate our position, thinking that it was the formula that would be most easily accepted by the Council. There are one or two ways of going about it. What worries me is that the wording in paragraph 54 as it stands suggests participation of my delegation and some others in a consensus to instruct the Director-General to go ahead on the basis of the proposals in his summary and I am not in a position to be able to participate in such a consensus.

Therefore I proposed your words, Mr Chairman, "A few reserved their views for later on". If it is not agreeable to the Council to incorporate those words, then another formula might be - and it is up to you to decide if it is more easily acceptable - that the first sentence should read "Taking into account the views expressed, Council reached a consensus, with reservations on the part of some countries" or "one or two countries". But it seems to me that would be more negative than my proposal, which I thought was fairly conciliatory wording.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Canada. You have made a concrete proposal now.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I suggest a compromise. Paragraph 51 in the English text, the first line on page 9 should say "These members were unable to express a firm opinion and reserved their position on the proposed level until such time as they had had an opportunity to review carefully the full Programme of Work and Budget proposals..." and then let the last part stand as it is. I think there could be no better guarantee and no better solution to the problem.

K. R. HIGHAM (Canada): I am in agreement if everyone else is.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, delegate of Canada. I hope other delegates will thank you.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): First I would like to draw attention to the fact that there is a slight difference in paragraph 53 between the French and the English texts. In the English text it says "and agreed" whereas in the French text it says "à un consensus" and c'est une différence. I wonder if we could overcome this problem if you just dropped the two words "and agreed", saying "the Council reached a consensus that the Director-General should proceed with the preparation..." and so on. I think perhaps that could be one way of finding a solution.

C. BATAULT (France): Dans un esprit de compromis, qui est en train de devenir une de mes spécialités, j'avais l'intention de faire une proposition; mais, en définitive, je me rallie à la proposition faite par le Président du Comité de rédaction.

Ceci dit, il semble en effet, comme l'a souligné le représentant de l'Allemagne, qu'il y ait une différence de signification entre le texte français et le texte anglais.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The French and the Spanish texts will be brought into line with the English text. I request the delegate of Germany that since the delegate of Canada has expressed his satisfaction with the proposal made just now it would be agreeable to him also.

S. AIDARA (Sénégal): Nous ne savons plus où nous en sommes. Les amendements pleuvent d'un peu partout. Le Canada avait accepté, me semble-t-il, la proposition du président du Comité de rédaction. Je vois qu'il y a un nouvel amendement et je ne comprends pas exactement où se situe la modification. Le problème est très important pour nous et nous aimerions savoir où se situent exactement les modifications apportées au paragraphe 51.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I thought you were speaking on something else. Everything is agreed now. The formulation given by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has been accepted by Canada and everybody, and the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has dropped his suggestion. It means that we have now adopted with the amendments and addition paragraphs 43 to 53 of our report.

Paragraphs 10 to 53, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 53, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 53, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 54 to 93

PARAGRAPHERS 54 à 93

PARRAFOS 54 a 93

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to propose the addition of one sentence after the fourth sentence of paragraph 61. The proposal would refer to the FAO bankers' programme. I will give the exact line after giving the reason for this. The reason that I am giving for the insertion is that in paragraph 54 we say that the Council fully endorsed the views and recommendations of the Programme Committee set out in paragraphs 2.148 to 2.163 of its report. The proposal that I would ask to be included is in paragraph 2.160. Furthermore, the point I would like to make was mentioned by the delegate of India yesterday and no one seems to have opposed him, in PV-11, page 5, in the fifth paragraph, wherein he mentions that point. The sentence I would like to propose is this "In this connexion it was felt that the bankers' programme was in a special position to help developing countries build up this capacity, since two thirds of its members were national development banks, most of which were increasingly being required by their governments to invest in the agricultural sector".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to this?

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The delegate of the Philippines has read out from a PV, which is a verbatim record, what India said. I will have to consult my notes to see if anybody opposed this idea, but to the best of my recollection nobody did. Under those circumstances and if the Council agrees I have no objections.

CHAIRMAN: I see no objections.

A.J. PECKHAM (United Kingdom): I have a point on paragraph 59. At the end of paragraph 59 the last sentence includes a clause that I take it the Council urged both organizations - that is, FAO and IFAD - to strengthen their cooperation still further. There is, I think, a slight implication in that that things might not be what they should be. Therefore to avoid that implication I would like to suggest that the sentence about FAO and IFAD being natural partners complementing each other should stop there. We should put a fullstop after "complementing each other" and we should reword the rest of the sentence, so that the new sentence reads "The Council urged that this partnership should be consolidated and strengthened" or just "consolidated". It is just to avoid that implication.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): If I have the amendment right the last sentence of paragraph 59 would read "FAO and IFAD were natural partners, complementing each other. The Council urged that this partnership be consolidated". If that is the amendment I personally have no objection subject to the approval of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections, then the amendments of the United Kingdom and the Philippines are accepted and paragraphs 58 to 62 are adopted with the amendments.

W.A. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): A little alteration would be necessary to paragraph 64, that "The Council supported FAO's intention". Now the Council is FAO, so I wonder if it should read "The Council supported the Director-General's intention" or "the FAO Secretariat's intention to obtain greater uniformity". I think as it stands it sounds to me, at least, inaccurate.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The suggestion is extremely useful, and we could say "the Council supported the Director General's intention to obtain greater uniformity". I am very grateful to Germany.

G. GAMO-KUBA (Observateur pour le Congo): Je n'oserais pas intervenir sur les décisions du Conseil, mais si j'ai des instructions de mon gouvernement pour dissiper un malentendu, j'espère que vous ne m'en voudrez pas de faire cette déclaration. Depuis le début du Conseil, nous ne sommes pas intervenus bien que les sujets nous intéressaient.

Au paragraphe 72, pour ce qui est des contributions du Congo, je voudrais mentionner que j'ai déjà pris contact avec les autorités compétentes car il s'agissait de dissiper un malentendu. Les recherches ayant été faites, je puis dire que les contributions du Congo ont été versées intégralement, y compris celles de l'année 1979. Ce matin même, j'ai eu mon ministre au téléphone, et je crois que la FAO sera saisie officiellement d'ici à cet après-midi pour dissiper ce malentendu. Je crois que celui-ci est dû au fait que ces contributions ont été remises au représentant de la FAO au Congo qui, lui, a pensé que ces contributions concernaient l'engagement pris par le Congo pour l'établissement de la mission FAO. Ce malentendu devrait être dissipé et un autre chèque est déjà au Trésor congolais. Mon ministre même a contacté le Directeur général à Tunis et lui a donné la certitude que nos contributions étaient éponnées depuis un mois. Je voudrais que cela soit consigné et mon ministre le confirmera quand il viendra à Rome.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Président du Comité financier): Vous avez bien deviné que ce n'est pas en qualité de délégué de la Tunisie que j'interviens mais en tant que Président du Comité des finances. Je voudrais tranquilliser mon collègue, le délégué du Congo, et lui rappeler que dans son introduction concernant les contributions, le président du Comité des finances a bien attiré l'attention du Conseil sur le paragraphe 7 du document CL 75/LIM. 1 qui concerne le Congo et a bien précisé qu'il est fort possible que des démarches aient été entreprises par certains pays mais qu'en raison du retard des transmissions des avis bancaires l'Organisation n'a peut-être pas reçu la confirmation de ces envois. Je voulais donner cette précision.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Chairman of the Finance Committee. I think the Observer for the Congo has taken note.

Paragraphs 54 to 78, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 54 à 78, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 54 a 78, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 79, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 79, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 79, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 80 to 86 approved

Les paragraphes 80 à 86 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 80 a 86 son aprobados

Paragraph 87, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 87 y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 87, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 88 and 89 approved

Les paragraphes 88 et 89 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 88 y 89 son aprobados

Paragraph 90 including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 90 y compris la résolution est adopté

El párrafo 90 incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 91 to 93 approved

Les paragraphes 91 à 93 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 91 a 93 son aprobados

Paragraphs 94 and 95 approved

Les paragraphes 94 et 95 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 94 y 95 son aprobados

Paragraph 96 approved

Le paragraphe 96 est approuvé

El párrafo 96 es aprobado

Paragraph 97 approved

Le paragraphe 97 est approuvé

El párrafo 97 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, troisième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHERS 1 á 8

PARRAFOS 1 a 8

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): This hopefully could be my last intervention, and I just have a little amendment to propose. Perhaps in paragraph 1, one should insert after the words in the second line "in November" the words "for its information". The reason I am proposing this is because the document on the front page said that the document was for the information of the Conference and the Council, and my delegation therefore had no instruction to speak on the subject, so it would just bring this paragraph in line with the documentation which we had before us. I do not think it should cause any difficulty to anyone around the table.

P. MASUD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I sincerely hope that it will not be the last intervention of the Federal Republic of Germany and that he lives to make many more interventions.

I am in perfect agreement with him and we would insert over here "for information with a supplement bringing it up to date".

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi, amendés sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8, así enmendados son aprobados

Paragraph 9 approved

Le paragraphe 9 est approuvé

El párrafo 9 es aprobado

Paragraph 10 approved

Le paragraphe 10 est approuvé

El párrafo 10 es aprobado

Paragraphs 11 to 20, including draft resolutions, approved

Les paragraphes 11 á 20, y compris les projets de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 20, incluido los proyectos de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraph 21 including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 21 y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 21 incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 22, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 22, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 22, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 23 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 23 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28 approved

Le paragraphe 28 est approuvé

E1 párrafo 28 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 29 and 30

PARAGRAPHERS 29 et 30

PARRAFOS 29 y 30

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 29, en la segunda frase, tal vez convenga decir el Director General y el Delegado de Malta, Decano del Cuerpo de Representantes, porque hoy todos sabemos que el colega de Malta es el Decano; pero tal vez estos informes pueden tener importancia informativa para el futuro.

Paragraphs 29 and 30, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 29 et 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 y 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, quatrième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary - Part V, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, cinquième partie, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte V, es aprobado

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, je ne vous retiendrai pas outre mesure et je serai aussi bref que possible. Mais je faillirais à mon devoir et à mes sentiments si je ne vous exprimais pas mon appréciation pour les décisions que vous avez prises, et ma gratitude pour les encouragements que vous m'avez adressés au cours de cette session. Ai-je besoin de vous le dire? Je suis très fier de cette Organisation. En disant cela, je pense surtout aux Gouvernements membres, qui sont responsables de l'esprit qui anime le travail de notre Organisation. C'est cet esprit, si caractéristique de la FAO, qui régit tous nos débats.

Je voudrais mentionner, plus particulièrement, les déclarations sérieuses, responsables et constructives, qui ont été faites par un très grand nombre de délégations de toutes les régions, sur des sujets aussi importants que la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, les Politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, la Coopération technique entre pays en développement, et le Résumé du programme de travail et budget.

Monsieur le Président, je pense également à l'esprit qui a animé les débats et les décisions. Même sur un sujet qui était d'une nature particulièrement émotionnelle pour un certain nombre de pays, le Conseil a amplement démontré son désir d'un dialogue franc et démocratique, sa compréhension envers les positions parfois radicalement différentes, et sa volonté de les rapprocher dans toute la mesure du possible. Je suis extrêmement heureux que l'esprit de conciliation et de concorde ait finalement prévalu. Cet esprit, qui a guidé vos travaux, sera d'un très grand soutien pour mes collègues et pour moi-même, au cours des prochaines semaines qui seront particulièrement chargées.

Monsieur le Président, très bientôt nous serons, en effet, confrontés à l'immense défi politique et logistique que constitue la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. La Conférence mondiale constitue une tâche écrasante, aussi bien pour vous, Messieurs les délégués, que pour nous. Mais je suis sûr que nous l'affronterons avec sérieux et efficacité. Et nous en sortirons avec un programme d'action bien déterminé, sur la base duquel les gouvernements nationaux et la Communauté internationale pourront s'attaquer à la pauvreté et à la faim dans les zones rurales.

Avant et près la Conférence mondiale, d'autres réunions d'une grande portée internationale se tiendront, et j'aurai le privilège d'y représenter notre Organisation. Il s'agit notamment du Conseil économique et social, et de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la science et la technologie.

Cela nous amènera à la vingtième session de notre Conférence, dont l'ordre du jour sera particulièrement chargé. Y figureront des questions aussi bien anciennes que nouvelles, notamment celles dérivant de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, au seuil des deux dernières décennies de ce siècle, prenons la résolution de continuer à donner au monde cet exemple de coopération internationale concrète et efficace. La dernière génération du siècle n'en attend pas moins de nous. Ne la décevons pas!

Monsieur le Président, avant de terminer, permettez-moi de vous exprimer mes remerciements les plus chaleureux pour la patience, la sagesse, la clairvoyance et le tact dont, une fois de plus, vous avez fait preuve tout au long de nos débats. Ces qualités se sont révélées précieuses dans les moments difficiles, pour préserver l'unité, l'unité sacrée du Conseil!

Je voudrais aussi remercier les trois Vice-Présidents pour leur contribution au succès de notre session.

Mes remerciements vont également au Président et aux Membres du Comité de rédaction, dont le travail consciencieux nous a permis d'adopter aussi aisément notre rapport.

Un dernier mot enfin. Je souhaite bon voyage et bon retour dans leurs familles à tous ceux qui sont venus de leurs pays et bonnes vacances à ceux qui auront la possibilité d'en prendre.

Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General.

On behalf of all of you, I would like to thank the Director-General and his colleagues in the Secretariat for making this Council a very pleasant one. Without the wonderful supervision, the documents, brief introductions, all the information that we had, and very efficient secretarial services, we would never have finished this meeting on time, because we did have very heavy items which needed long debates; but because of well-prepared documents, the balancing of views in documents and so on it has been possible for us to complete our work. I would like to thank you and your colleagues for all that,

On behalf of myself and the three Vice-Chairmen I would like to thank all of you for the patience you have shown with us. Sometimes we might have tended to stop you from speaking, both delegates and observers, but what we did was done in the interests of other members, because when you are speaking - I know, having been a delegate myself - you think you are the only one and it is the duty of the Chair to protect other members who are subjected to intolerable conditions. Therefore, whatever we did to stop you from talking, please take it that it was not intended to stop any one particular person but was in the interests of the Council as a whole.

What is perhaps most important to us in the Chair is the manner in which we resolve our problems - the problem of the Budget, the problem of the Director-General's Five-Point Plan of Action, the Food Security Plan, the problem of the Near East Regional Office, and so on. This has shown the Council has continued to be mature and to listen to each others point of view, and to yield to the interests of the Organization as a whole.

I would also like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Drafting Committee for the wonderful work they have done, because adopting the Report is one of the nightmares of a Chairman. If a report is badly written, then we can spend two days here, but thanks to the very efficient way in which the Committee operated, we were able to adopt it in record time.

I would like to thank you all, and hope you get back home safely, and we will meet again at the next Session.

This Seventy-Fifth Session of our Council is now closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas